

Volume 44 Number 2

Houston Geological Society

LOUISIANA

October 2001

TEXAS AND DEEPWATER

Structural Styles of Passive—Margin Deepwater Provinces

International Explorationists Dinner Meeting

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TEXAS

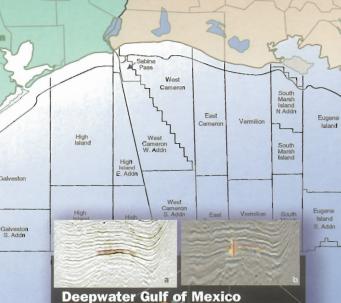
Shanghai Field, Wharton County

Ewing, et al

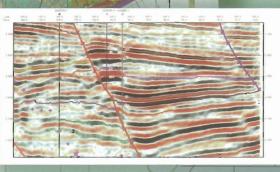


Late Jurassic of the East Texas Basin Norwood and Brinton

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SHANGHAI



Mustang Island E. Addn

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Houston Geological Society

October 2001

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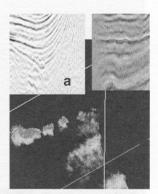
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A collage of illustrations featured in this month's Bulletin.

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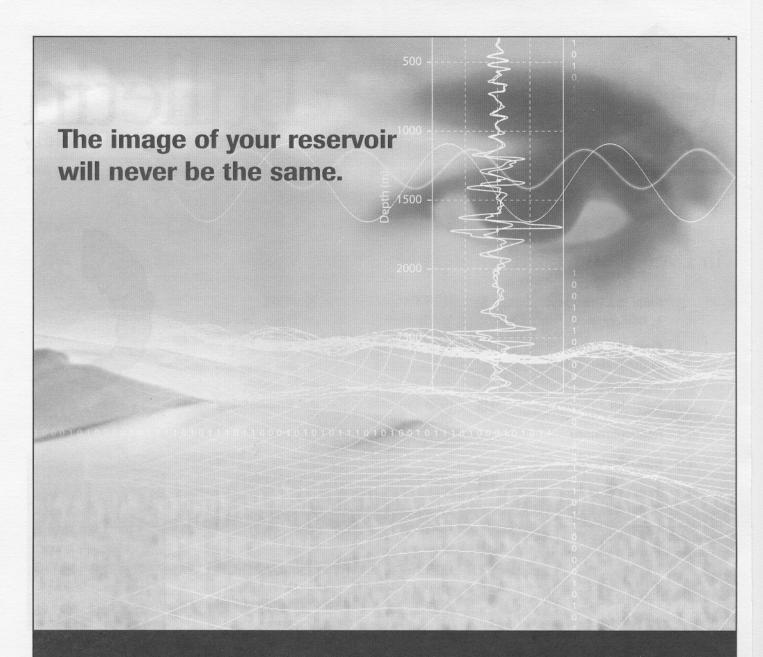
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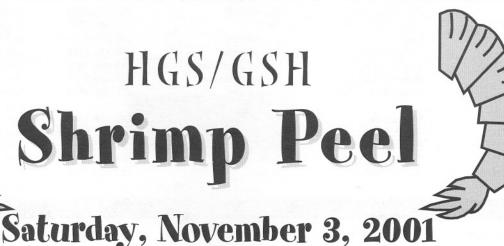
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by Paul F. Hoffman

The Climate Change Debate

Our government and the governments of many other countries are engaged in deliberations on the subject of climate change. Ideally, our government's use of public resources will reflect the will of her citizens, yet very few citizens possess meaningful knowledge of the variability of Earth's climate and the factors that govern its change. We members of the Houston Geological Society, on the other hand, have been formally educated in the study of the Earth, a great many of us with advanced degrees. We are therefore far better equipped than most citizens to judge the various assertions advanced in this debate.

As members of HGS, and as citizens of our various countries, we have a responsibility to do more than just judge the merits of this debate. We have a responsibility, stated in the HGS Constitution, as one of the express purposes of our society, "to disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information". This is pertinent to the climate change debate. As citizens, we have a responsibility to bring information that we have, which is pertinent to public policy, to the attention of our fellow citizens and to do what we can to ensure that policy makers and lawmakers act in ways that reflect full recognition of such information.

We discharge these responsibilities best if we take steps to remain fully informed on the science. AAPG has done us and those actively involved in the debate a great service publishing "AAPG Studies In Geology #47"—Geological Perspectives of Global Climate Change. I heartily recommend that everyone read this book, or at the very least its opening chapter: "Introduction and Overview". This chapter, by the way, is available online at: http://www.searchanddiscovery.com/documents/gerhard/index.htm . There is simply no reason for any of us to go another day with less than a basic command of the factors that influence earth's ever-changing climate. I also recommend that you read past President Jeff Lund's article on global warming found on page 34 in this issue.

Once armed with up-to-date knowledge, let's share this as generously as possible. How many of us have talked about this subject during the past 6 months with neighbors or in-laws, or with our kids' high school or college-age friends? Too often I hear misinformation repeated in ignorance. It should not go unchallenged when we know better, whether it is uttered by our neighbors or by newspaper editorial-writers. It can be downright entertaining to point out some of the amazing facts about our Earth's history to someone who's recently begun to worry about a potential 4-ft. rise in sea level!

One way in which HGS is already disseminating geological information is through its Earth Science Week activities scheduled October 6–14. The work of our Earth Science Committee has grown into an exceptional program with broad appeal. Its past events have been very well attended and will undoubtedly be again this year. I encourage all of you to attend at least one of these events. If the spirit moves you, contact the leadership of this committee (contacts on page 3 of the Bulletin) and lend a hand. Let's us HGS members do our part to open wider that great big Earth Science window on the world.

My congratulations to John O. Hastings, Mark E. Gregg, and Charles T. Bukowski, Jr., whose paper, "Developing an Exploration Tool in a Mature Trend: A 3D AVO Case Study in South Texas", presented at our January 2001 Lunch Meeting, was selected as the Best Paper for 2000–2001.

I hope all of you had as much fun as I did with our Executive Board foursome at the HGS Golf Tournament. Sincere apologies to anyone we may have injured with errant tee shots!

If you don't already have the Shrimp Peel on your calendars, mark it down now—Saturday, November 3. Make your reservations now. IF THE THIRD TIME REALLY IS A CHARM, we'll be on the infield at the Sam Houston Race Park to watch the horses run. See you there! \Box



HGS Bulletin Instructions to Authors

All materials are due by the 15th of the month, 6 weeks before issue publication. Abstracts should be 500 words or less; extended abstracts up to 1000 words; articles can be any length but brevity is preferred as we have a physical page limit within our current publishing contract. All submissions are subject to editorial review and revision.

Text should be submitted by e-mail as an attached text or Word file or on a clearly labeled diskette in Word format with a hardcopy printout to the Editor.

Figures, maps, diagrams, etc., should be digital files using Adobe Illustrator, Freehand, Canvas or CorelDraw. Files should be saved and submitted in .eps (Adobe Illustrator) format. Send them as separate attachments via email or on a diskette or CD if they are larger than 1 MEG each, accompanied by figure captions that include the file name of the desired image. DO NOT EMBED them into your text document, they must be sent as separate files from the text. DO NOT USE POWERPOINT, CLI-PART or Internet images (72-DPI resolution) as these do not have adequate resolution for the printed page and cannot be accepted. All digital files must have 300-DPI resolution or greater at the approximate size the figure will be printed.

Photographs may be digital or hard copy. Hard copies must be printed on glossy paper with the author's name, photo or figure number and caption on the back. Digital files must be submitted in .jpg or .eps format with 300-DPI or greater resolution at the printing size and be accompanied by figure captions that are linked by the file name of the image. The images should be submitted as individual e-mail attachments (if less than 1 MB) or on CD or zip disk.

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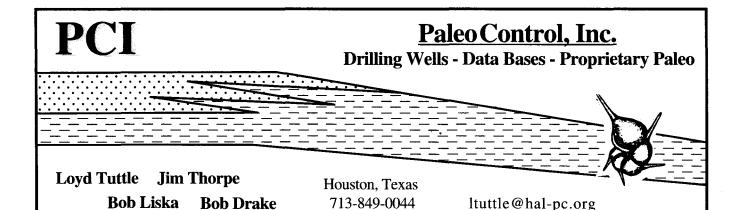
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by Wendy Hale-Erlich

Letters to the Editor can be sent to bulletin editor@hgs.org

On Being the Monster

This month in the United States we will celebrate the shortening and cooling of the days with Halloween, when kids dress up as ghosts, ghouls, or cartoon characters, parading through the night in search of candy and the thrill of a slight scare. Monster costumes are a common theme for Halloween; however, in our society monsters come in many forms. Modern American culture continues to create monsters out of groups and industries viewed as waiting to take advantage of an opportunity to do harm to the general public for their own self-interest. These may be groups that serve a vital role in society, which few would seriously consider eliminating. Such groups as lawyers and, currently, electric power companies come readily to mind. These groups have been portrayed as "monsters" at society's door, viewed as seeking treats but returning only tricks or worse.

The oil and gas exploration and production industry, in which many of our members work, has in my view been made into another one of these monsters. Self-serving politicians, some nongovernmental organizations and the media continue to portray the oil and gas industry to the general public as consisting of heartless monsters out for nothing more than money at the expense of the environment and everyone else, even their own employees. A recent example is the movie "Proof of Life" last year. Can you remember seeing a balanced portrayal of the industry or its people recently? While the industry wears that monster mask, the credibility of its geoscientists is impaired and we consequently have diminished impact on the critical issues of the day.

To balance this monstrous image, the importance and value of the oil and gas industry should be publicly restated in a dialogue that probably best begins with each one of us. One way of stating this value to those outside the industry is to look at life spans. In the industrialized nations, life spans have lengthened from an average of about 45 years at about 1900 to about 70 years now. At the highest level, this has come from the increased wealth of these nations, and that wealth was derived from the increased productivity provided by our low-cost hydrocarbon fuel economy. Enhanced societal wealth led to improvements in health care, sanitation, food production and transportation, education, and safety, many of which were ultimately transferred to the world at large. Literally billions of people are alive today as a result of benefits from the hydrocarbon-based economies. When I am challenged on some aspect of the oil and gas industry's monster image, I don't hesitate to point this out. Restating the value the oil and gas industry continues to bring to society is long overdue.

Internationally the burning of fossil fuels is widely regarded as a major driving force in the current climatic warming cycle, or global warming, discussed separately by Paul Hoffman and Jeff Lund in this issue. Kathy Shirley's August 2000 AAPG Explorer article summarized the need for moderation and reasoned debate on this subject, which is already strongly polarized. The oil and gas geoscience community has much to contribute to this debate, but the monster image of the hydrocarbon industry undercuts the credibility of almost anyone who works in it. As an example, our assessments of exploration opportunities on a worldwide basis depend on an understanding of climate change as it applies to depositional systems. Oil and gas geoscientists recognize that there have been more than 20 major glacial and interglacial episodes during the last 750,000 years, and that these fluctuations in ice volume have driven deepwater sedimentation patterns in many areas. More recently, the Little Ice Age rippled through Europe for 500 years, from the mid-1350s to the mid-1850s, when the current warming phase began (before CO₂ resulting from human activity became significant in the atmosphere). These shifts were driven by the interaction of forces we cannot yet even clearly model, let alone attempt to

Editors's Letter continued on page 16

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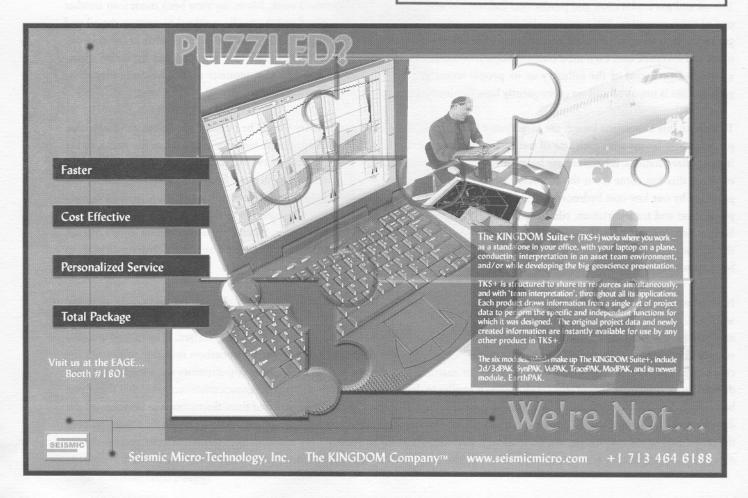
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Petroleum Systems of Deep Water Basins: Global and Gulf of Mexico Experience

GCSSEPM FOUNDATION 21st ANNUAL BOB F. PERKINS RESEARCH CONFERENCE, December 2-5, 2001, Houston, TX

The rims of deep water basins have yielded large volumes of oil and gas in areas like the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea. As the new century unfolds, these reserves are being depleted and the deep, distant centers of productive basins around the world have begun sounding the siren's call. Last year, we presented Deep Water Reservoirs. This year we will expand on the theme and talk about basin framework, structural-thermal-depositional basin evolution, and salt-fluid-hydrocarbon sediment interactions. All papers will be presented in a poster format; because of time constraints, we will select the most significant work for oral talks. All authors will be writing expanded abstracts or complete articles which will be published on a CD.

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Louis Liro', Kimberly Cline', Dan Knupp', and Mary Kadri2

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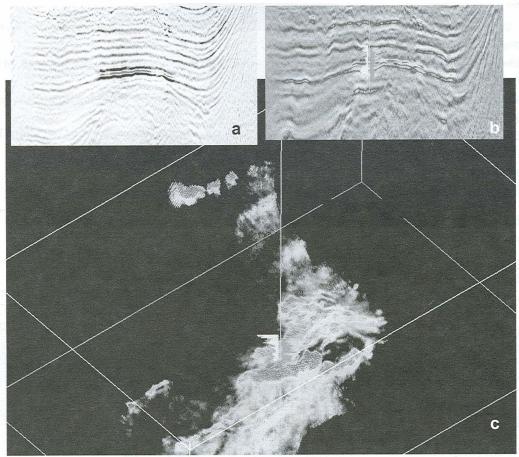


Figure 1: Well log correlation and attribute co-rendering, deepwater Gulf of Mexico field. (a) Strong amplitude observed on vertical section of conventional (amplitude) data can be compared with (b) AVO fluid factor data and well control and (c) visualized view of these attributes away from well control.

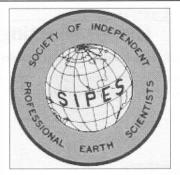
Workstation Visualization Techniques and Workflows: Examples from the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico

Abstract

All phases of the upstream petroleum industry, from wildcat exploration to field development, now benefit from massive amounts of available data. Seismic interpretation in particular benefits from 3D seismic data volumes that nearly blanket the entire offshore Gulf of Mexico. Depth migration of seismic data has advanced to the point where the interpreter can literally treat views extracted from a three-dimensional seismic volume as a "digital outcrop".

Armed with these data and well control for calibration, it is now possible to rapidly quantify stratigraphic mapping, seismic facies analysis, and fault definition. By interactively decimating the data through opacity and subvolume detection techniques, individual fairways and prospects can be described and evaluated. Co-rendering amplitude with other seismic attribute volumes allows rapid calibration to well data and identification of attribute combinations that effectively delineate exploration and production

General Dinner Meeting continued on page 11



Getting More Hydrocarbons Out of Reservoirs: Advances in Formation Evaluation Analysis

HOUSTON CHAPTER SIPES SEMINAR

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Shell Auditorium in the Tunnel beneath One Shell Plaza, downtown Houston 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

David P. Murphy, Shell Technology and University of Houston: High tech advances in formation evaluation, logging while drilling, mudlogging analysis.

Ron Bonnie, Halliburton: Direct measurement of fluid volumes using NMR logs, low resistivity pay, heavy oil, MRIL logs, LWD, predicting fluid flow using logs.

Neil Stegent, Halliburton: Case studies in Oklahoma and Carthage field, Texas. Using Sti-MRIL logs to save money on completions and get better production rates after frac jobs.

Gerald Markowitz, Texaco and David Gillis, Schlumberger: 3D visualization and depth migration of Vermillion Bay salt dome Iberia Parish, LA, using well logs, borehole geophysical tools to predict velocity.

Alf Klaveness, consultant: 3D seismic while drilling: borehole geophysics.

Course notes include CD-ROM with color presentations of all speakers.

\$50.00 for members* by October 8

\$75 for non-members by October 8 \$90.00 at the door (*Members in SIPES, HGS, SPEE, GSH, HAPL, SPE Gulf Coast, SPWLA Gulf Coast, API Houston)

Send your name, address, phone number and check to: SIPES Houston Chapter 811 Dallas, Suite 829 Houston, TX 77002 Questions? Call B. K. Starbuck @ (713) 651-1639







November 12-14, 2001 - H.E.S.S. Club, 5430 Westheimer, Houston

The current course has already been given to over 130 people and is designed for geoscientists, engineers and managers who wish to enhance their knowledge of deepwater clastics and improve their understanding of these complex reservoirs. The 2 1/2, day course will cover the following topics:

- Deepwater Processes
 Effect of Seafloor Topography
 Fan Terminology
 Tectonic Settings of Submarine Fans
 "Fill & Spill" Model
 - Sequence Stratigraphy in Deepwater Environments Use of Biostratigraphy Facies Types & Sedimentary Structures from Core Submarine Channels & Channel Complexes
 Submarine Canyons
 Sheet-Sand Systems
 Channel/Levee Systems
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 - · Slumps and Slides · Debris Flows & Megabeds · Sedimentary Remobilization · Reservoir Modelling · Paleocurrent Indicators
 - Seismic Examples and Seismic Pitfalls Lessons Learned During Exploration and Development

· Slope & Salt Withdrawal Mini Basin Trapping Styles · Gulf of Mexico Plays & Exploration History · Practical Exercises

Course Times: Nov 12th: 8:30am-5pm (registration 8-8:30am), Nov 13th: 8:30am-5pm. Nov. 14th: 8:30am -12 noon Course fee includes: • Comprehensive course notes • 3 Continental breakfasts • 2 Lunches • Refreshments REGISTRATION FORM Name of Attendee: Check enclosed for \$950.00, payable to "Cossey & Associates Inc." Company Address: Please invoice the following person for the amount of \$950.00: City Please mail completed form to: State/Zip Name: Cossev & Associates Inc. Company: Tel P.O. Box 270866 Address: Houston City: email TX 77277-0866

Refund Policy: A full refund, less a non-refundable registration fee (\$150) will be given if written cancellation is received by October 11th, 2001. No refunds will be issued after October 11th. Substitutions from the same company are allowed.

General Dinner — continued from page 9

parameters, providing effective input to reservoir characterization (Figure 1).

The essence of modern data visualization is the opportunity to view many classes and types of data rapidly and seamlessly in a machine-independent manner. The use of 3D visualization is independent of user interpretation, maintaining objectivity in the project evaluation. 3D visualization also retires the "2D paradigm", where all interpretation and data presentation occurs on paper, poster, or monitors. Data visualization, while commonly portrayed in large visualization rooms employing expensive hardware, begins rather with the simplest question of "what if...?" in the interpreter's mind as he or she works at more conventional workstations. The key to visualization is to translate that question rapidly into a working model, which can be constructed and evaluated in realtime by a technically integrated staff. Visualization allows for rapid evaluation of work programs; it is now possible at the onset of a project to review the data, identify prospective regions or reservoir trends, assess key technologic challenges, and determine an efficient work direction, all in the course of an afternoon.

We demonstrate these techniques by displaying workflows and examples from 3D prestack depth-migrated seismic volumes in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and other deepwater basins. Examples of full-volume description of allochthonous shallow salt bodies, use of supra-salt sediment geometries to unravel complex shallow salt remobilization history, identification and 3D mapping of channelized and fan-form sediment intervals, and mapping of probable field extent utilizing calibrated seismic attributes will be displayed in both images and animations.

Biographical Sketch

Lou Liro is a senior geologist for Veritas Exploration Services in Houston. He has over 20 years of experience in exploration and field development. Prior to Veritas, Lou worked in geophysical and geologic research units, domestic and international exploration, and international development for a major oil company. His specialties are reservoir stratigraphy, salt tectonics, and petroleum systems evaluation. He has published and presented over 50 papers on sequence stratigraphy, salt tectonics, and workstation visualization and has taught courses in sequence stratigraphy and basin evaluation.

For more information contact Mr. Liro at Veritas DGC, 10300 Town Park, Houston, Texas 77072, telephone: 832 351-8950, fax 832 351-8775, and e-mail louis liro@ veritasdgc.com. □



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HGS Emerging Technology
Dinner Meeting

by Jeanne Perdue Senior Technology Editor, Harts E & P Magazine Jperdue@chemweek.com

E-Business: What's the Big Deal?

Abstract

The author will discuss the benefits and advantages of the various kinds of e-business web sites, including:

- · e-procurement sites
- · acquisition and divestiture auctions
- · workflow efficiency applications
- · virtual collaboration via the Internet
- · knowledge management
- · e-learning, and
- · application Service Providers (ASPs)

The surviving dot-coms in the upstream oil and gas sector will be compared to the dot-bombs, and forecasts and quotes from major e-business players will be shared. A list of handy e-business Web sites will be given as a handout.

Biographical Sketch

JEANNE PERDUE is Senior Technology Editor of *Harts E&P* magazine. After receiving her BS degree in chemistry at the State University of NY at Albany, she went to work for Texaco in the Bellaire research laboratories testing oils and rock cores. Jeanne ran her own technical marketing company called JuMPstart Ventures prior to



joining Hart Publications in 1996. Jeanne has been very active in the Society of Petroleum Engineers. She was the first woman to be appointed Review Chairman for the *SPE Reservoir Engineering* journal, she helped develop the SPE MasterDisc CD-ROM and SPE Magic Suitcase, and she currently chairs the Gulf Coast Section's Community Services Committee. □

Volunteers Needed! Be a GCAGS Judge!

The GCAGS needs your help judging oral sessions and posters at the 2001 Annual Convention in Shreveport Oct. 17–19. This important function determines the winners of the A. I. Levorson Award as well as the winners of the best presentation and poster. Judges are invited to a complimentary breakfast at which they will receive instructions and materials. All that is required is observation of the papers or posters in your session, completion of a straightforward judging form, and submission of those forms to the Awards Committee. The committee will compile the scores and the winners will honored at next year's convention. Just check the appropriate box on your preregistration form, and the Awards Committee will contact you to determine your preference for the session(s) you are interested in judging. Every effort will be made to place judges in the session of their choice. Likewise, out-of-town judges will be be scheduled on Friday afternoon unless they so request. Your participation will be both rewarding and appreciated!

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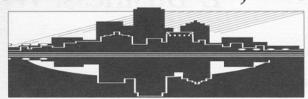
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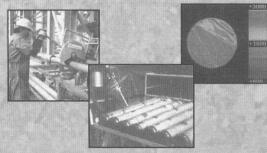
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International Explorationists Dinner Meeting

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by Mark G. Rowan, Rowan Consulting, Inc., Boulder, Colorado

Structural Styles of Passive-Margin Deepwater Provinces

Abstract

assive margins with salt or overpressured shale layers typically undergo gravitational failure above the weak detachment. The deepwater, distal provinces are dominated by contractional tectonics that balances proximal extension and downdip translation of the overburden. Failure is driven by a combination of gravity gliding above a basinward-dipping detachment and gravity spreading of a sedimentary wedge with a seaward-dipping bathymetric surface. Continued deformation is driven primarily by shelf and upper slope sedimentation, which maintains the bathymetric slope and the resulting gravity potential, and by increased basinward tilting. Deformation is retarded or halted by distal thickening of the overburden caused by the folding itself or by lower slope and abyssal sedimentation. Differences in deepwater deformation along various passive margins, such as the northern Gulf of Mexico or offshore west Africa, can be explained in part by differences in sedimentation, loading subsidence, thermal subsidence, and cratonic uplift.

Salt is a viscous material with no effective strength, whereas shale is a frictional material whose strength depends on the amount of overpressure. This rheological difference has several important ramifications. First, salt-cored folds are generally symmetrical with only minor faulting, whereas shale-detached foldbelts typically comprise asymmetric fault arrays with multiple detachment levels. Second, deformation above salt usually occurs immediately, beneath only a thin overburden, whereas shale-based deformation does not happen until there is a sufficient thickness of sediment to create overpressured conditions. Third, the location of salt-cored folds is controlled by the basinward pinchout of the salt, the toe of the slope, and thickness variations within the original salt layer, whereas the location of shale-detached deformation depends largely on the variable build-up and release of overpressure over time.

Salt can also reduce the gravity potential of the failing margin in other ways. The bathymetric slope can be decreased by proximal subsidence into salt and distal inflation of salt. The inflated salt, as well as existing diapirs or salt walls, can be squeezed laterally, thereby accommodating significant shortening. This, in turn, drives further diapirism and/or lateral salt extrusion. Extruded salt may amalgamate to form extensive salt canopies, so that subsequent gravitational failure may take place largely on shallow, allochthonous detachments rather than on the autochthonous salt level.

Biographical Sketch

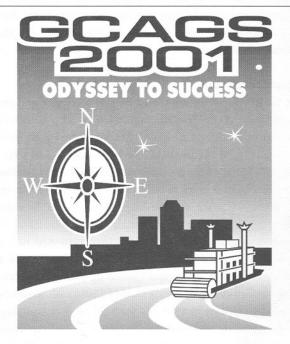
MARK G. ROWAN is an authority on salt tectonics and the instructor for AAPG's "Practical Salt Tectonics" school, and is a consultant in Boulder, Colorado. Mark received a BS from CalTech in 1976, an MS from U.C. Berkeley in 1982, and a PhD in structural geology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991. He spent 3 years at Sohio Petroleum Co. in Denver (1982-1985), 4 years at Geo-Logic Systems in Boulder (1985-1989), and 3 years at Alastair Beach Associates in Glasgow, Scotland (1989-1992). He then returned to the University of Colorado, and in 1996 he was appointed a Research Assistant Professor and headed up a large industrial research consortium investigating Gulf of Mexico salt tectonics. Mark left this position in 1998 and founded his own company, where he consults and teaches for industry and conducts research on salt tectonics. He is widely published, having authored or co-authored over 40 papers and 75 abstracts.

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modulate. If we cannot model the natural climatic drivers, we are not ready to make critical decisions about the importance of the manufactured ones. More study is needed to bring us to the stage where we can make these decisions. The reality is thatwe could have a major sea-level rise or fall regardless of what the human-generated component of atmospheric CO₂ is doing. If we are not successful in moderating this debate, we risk being silent partners in the implementation of extreme measures to reduce human-generated atmospheric CO₂ at the expense of the global economy, with the distinct possibility that such measures cannot at the end of the day change an inevitable climatic shift already in progress. Weakening the global economy just when its strength is needed to provide societies with the flexibility to respond to inevitable climatic change may affect the survival of our societies and our species.

I hope the geoscience community will help to strip away the monster mask that has been placed over the face of the oil and gas industry. This industry, like most others, has had its polluters, its selfish promoters, its sorry individuals and events. But on balance the world is a better place now than it would have been without the driving economic improvements the industry has fueled. We can and should make improvements every year. We have vital perspectives to contribute in a critical world debate. Let's work to make them effective.



51st Annual Convention

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (Society of Sedimentary Geology)

October 17–19, 2001 Shreveport, Louisiana

Hosted by the Shreveport Geological Society

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So point your compass toward Shreveport this October and join us in sharing your odyssey for knowledge and achievement. Hope to see you at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17, for the Opening Session, immediately followed by the Icebreaker Reception.

- To register: Contact the AAPG Convention Department at one of the numbers below to have a registration form sent to you or visit www.aapg.org for a downloadable registration form and fax it to (800) 281-2283 (U.S./Canada only) or (918) 560-2684 or mail it to the AAPG Convention Department at the address below
- To exhibit: Contact Sarah Alexander, AAPG Exhibits Assistant, at phone (888) 945-2274 ext. 692 (U.S./Canada only) or (918) 560-2692, fax (918) 560-2684, or e-mail exhibits@aapa.org
- For more information: Contact the AAPG Convention Department at P.O. Box 979, Tulsa, OK 74101-0979 or 125 W. 15th St., Tulsa, OK 74119; phone (888) 945-2274 ext. 617 (U.S./Canada only) or (918) 560-2617; fax (800) 281-2283 (U.S./Canada only) or (918) 560-2684; or e-mail convene@aapa.org

Monday, October 22, 2001

HGS North American Explorationists Dinner Meeting

Westchase Hilton • 9999 Westheimer Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 Preregistered members; \$30 Nonmembers & Walk-ups

Make your reservations now by calling 713-917-0218 (5-0-4) or by e-mail to Joan@hgs.org (include your name, meeting you are attending, phone number, and membership ID#).

by Edward M. Norwood' and Lise Brinton'

¹ Clayton Williams Energy, Inc., Midland, Texas ²Geological Consultant, LithoLogic, Inc., Denver, Colorado

Reexamination of Late Jurassic Reef Building in the East Texas Basin: A Maturing Gas Play

Abstract

In 1993, Marathon Oil Company drilled the MOC Poth #1 near the western margin of the East Texas Basin. The well was completed in an Upper Jurassic reefal buildup approximately 350 feet thick. This outstanding gas well discovery kicked off a new gas play in a basin with a long history of extensive exploration. The depositional model in use at Marathon for its several reef discoveries can now be reexamined using additional information provided by 100 wells during 7 years of exploratory drilling. Workers can now focus on the identification of conditions favoring optimal reef growth and porosity development in Upper Jurassic reefs.

A faulting episode at or near the end of Upper Jurassic Gilmer (Cotton Valley) time dislocated the carbonate ramp and effectively reshaped the shelf margin and basin. The topography created by this faulting event proved advantageous for reef growth and facilitated clastic sediment bypass into adjacent synclinal troughs. Evidence indicates that this faulting episode post-dated deposition of the Gilmer (Cotton Valley) Limestone and predated any significant Bossier deposition. Seismic data shows slide blocks composed of Gilmer Limestone were carried basinward. Deposition of the Lower Bossier shows no evidence of disruption by this décollement faulting but does exhibit draping over fault toes of Gilmer blocks.

Derivative maps of paleogeographic surfaces were generated to identify the trend of the reef tract. They also served to underscore the value of sediment traps that protected coral reefs from the influx of clastic sediment shed from the nearby shelf. The highly developed, thickest, microbially bound, coral dominated, reefal buildups are positioned near the western margin of the East Texas Basin.

In 1998, Clayton Williams Energy, Inc. reinvigorated and expanded the Jurassic Reef play by stepping out 35 miles southwest of Marathon's Riley Trust discovery to drill a successful reef wildcat. The limits of the play have yet to be defined.

Biographical Sketch

EDWARD M. NORWOOD attended Potomac State College and West Virginia University, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from WVU in 1956 and 1957. He has worked as a petroleum geologist for 43 years in the employ of several companies including Phillips Petroleum Co., Pennzoil Company, and more recently Marathon Oil Company and Clayton Williams Energy. Ed's range of experience spans several regions, including the Alaskan North Slope, the Appalachians, California, the Gulf Coast and the East Texas basins.

Call for AAPG Delegates

Are you interested in helping set the direction for AAPG? Perhaps you should consider submitting your name as a candidate for election to the AAPG House of Delegates.

The local delegation representing Houston meets at lunch on the first Wednesday of each month (September–June) to review membership applications. Delegates should be prepared to attend the House of Delegates meeting at the annual AAPG national convention. As part of AAPG's governing body, the delegates vote on issues critical to the AAPG. These issues include amending the constitution and bylaws, which are the fundamental governing rules for the society.

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HGS Luncheon Meeting

by Thomas E. Ewing, Venus Exploration, Inc., San Antonio, Texas

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Petroleum Club, 800 Bell (downtown) Social 11:15 a.m., Lunch 11:45 a.m.

Cost: \$25 Preregistered members; \$30 Nonmembers & Walk-ups

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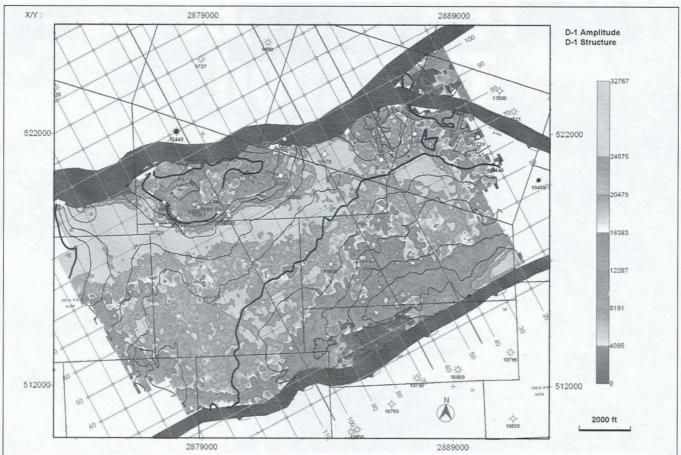


Figure 1. Time-structure and amplitude, D-1 reflector, Shanghai Field area. Contour interval 0.010 seconds (about 40 ft). Highs spots are downthrown closures and dim.

Shanghai Field, Expanded Upper Yegua Trend, Texas Gulf Coast: Unexpected Reserves and a Distinctive Fault Style Defined by 3D Seismic

As presented in 3-D Seismic Case Histories from the Gulf Coast Basin: GCAGS, 1998, p. 283-299.

Abstract

A 3-D seismic survey resulted in efficient drainage by a directionally drilled well of a previously unrecognized, 80-acre structure on trend with 1980s production from Upper Yegua reservoirs at Shanghai Field.

Upper Yegua deltaic sandstones form a wedge that thickens into the Shanghai Fault. The top of the wedge (D-1) forms a series of downthrown closures transitional to rollover anticlines, with normal southward dip to the south. The base of the wedge (E-1) dips north into the fault, but is upturned into the main fault in various places, forming a series of "flaps" with apparent normal drag. The D-1 highs overlie the E-1 flaps. The structures were

continued on page 21

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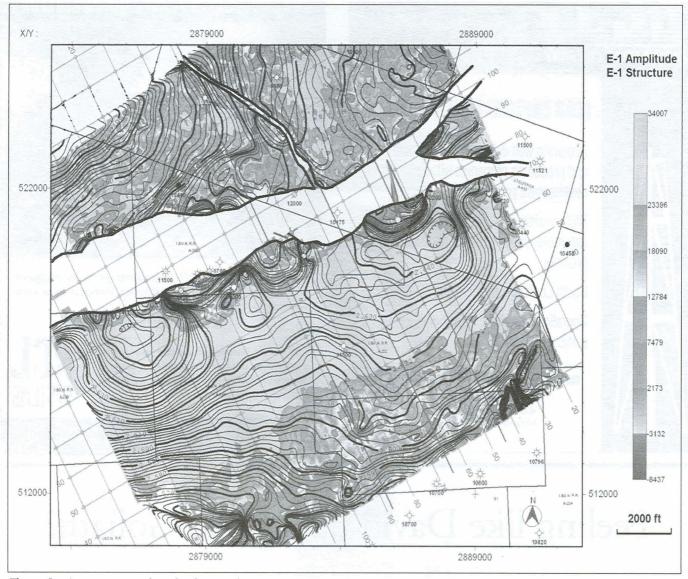


Figure 2. Time-structure and amplitude, E-1 reflector, Shanghai Field area. Contour interval 0.002 seconds (about 8 ft). High spots are southeast-dipping flaps and dim.

formed by differential movement along the fault plane—differential stickiness—during and after Upper Yegua deposition.

History

Shanghai Field (Wharton County, Texas) lies in the Jackson-Wharton Fairway of the Expanded Yegua Trend (Ewing and Fergeson, 1989, 1991).

Ladd Petroleum and Venus Oil developed four stacked Upper Yegua reservoirs at Shanghai Field (D-1 shallowest, D-3, D-5 and E-1 deepest) in 1985–1986 (Hart and others, 1988; Parker and Swenson, 1989). Eleven completions in six wells yielded 24.6 BCFG and 814 MBC from some 250 acres.

In December 1986, Ladd discovered Shanghai East Field in the same Upper Yegua sandstone sequence downthrown to the

Shanghai fault, two miles east of the original field. Two wells were drilled. The first well was completed in the E-1 sandstone and the second well produced from the D-series sandstones. The two wells produced 3.3 BCFG and 196 MBC by the end of 1994.

Venus discovered Lower Yegua gas pay beneath the old field in 1993. To develop the Lower Yegua, Venus acquired with others a 9.8-square-mile 3D seismic survey. As a by-product, we found a new untapped 80-acre structure. We also identified the structural style of the Shanghai Field and can speculate on its origin.

Shanghai Field Structure

Seismic reflectors at the shallower D-1 and deeper E-1 levels clearly define the Yegua 25 wedge of deltaic sediment downthrown to the Shanghai Fault. At D-1, the field shows a weak rollover closure but is primarily a downthrown closure. The D-1

continued on page 23

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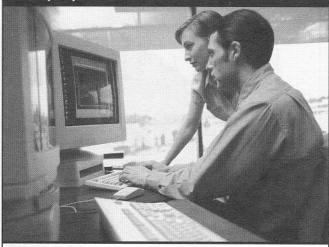
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"peak reflector" dims in association with production (Figure 1). At E-1, distinctive flaps of upturned sediment underlie the shallower closures, coming out of a tight syncline lying near the fault (Figure 2). Where there is a productive field, the E-1 shows a dip reversal from reverse to normal dip adjacent to the Shanghai Fault (Figure 3). Between fields, the E-1 dips directly back into the fault with no reversal (Figure 4). The E-1 reflector also dims within the productive area. The intermediate, thick D-3 and D-5 sandstones show strong amplitude related to the original gas-water contact.

The Henry Closure

Seismic characteristics identical to the productive Shanghai Field were found on a small (80-acre) structure less than a mile east along the Shanghai Fault between Shanghai Field and Shanghai East field. The structure appears to be identical though smaller than the Shanghai Field (downthrown closure at D-1, flap at E-1) and similar to the Shanghai East Field. Bright spots related to fluid contacts in the D-3 and D-5 zones were imaged, as well as dim spots in the D-1 and E-1 (Figure 5). The structure migrates along the fault plane, so that a vertical well could not efficiently develop the four anticipated pays. Therefore Venus planned a directional well which would penetrate the sandstones at an angle of 50° from the vertical.

The #1 Henry well discovered 314-368 ft of gas column with 52-127 ft of high-quality net pay distributed in five zones at the

depths predicted from the seismic survey. The well is anticipated to produce over 4 BCFG and 300 MBC.

Origin of the Upper Yegua Structures

The Shanghai chain of fields form a distinctive series of downthrown closures within the depositional wedge of the Upper Yegua, underlain by flaps of sharply tilted rocks in the lower part of the wedge. In the flaps, dip is a sharp normal drag, compared with the reverse drag nature of the wedge base elsewhere. This implies that the expansion of the Yegua 25 section is lowest over the structural crests and greatest between and downdip of these crests.

Gulf of Suez normal faults show a similar evolution from local normal to regional reverse drag (Gawthorpe and others, 1997). In areas where expansion takes place without the fault penetrating to the free surface, normal drag develops as a "growth fold" over the buried fault. When and where the fault penetrates to the surface, the usual reversed-drag develops, with thickest accumulation occurring against the main growth fault.

The same mechanism may apply at Shanghai. Along parts of the fault during Upper Yegua deposition, the fault "stuck" and did not break the seafloor, and overall subsidence due to the regional faulting formed a growth fold, now seen as flaps of normal drag sediments. Later, these imperfections were smoothed out, and reverse drag formed the main wedge of Upper Yegua sediment.

continued on page 25

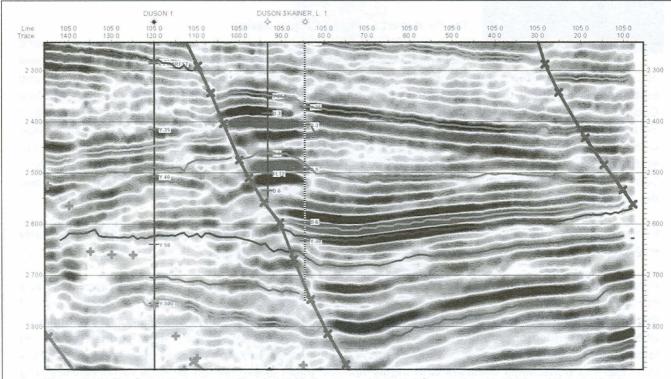


Figure 3. Dipline from 3-D survey over Shanghai Field, showing productive E-1 flap, overlying D-1 high and D-3, D-5 bright spots at the GWC.



University of Houston Department of Geosciences

University of Houston Geoscience Alumni Association

JOHN DEWEY will address the HGS International Group at the Third annual Robert E. Sheriff Lecture, November 19th



John F. Dewey, renowned authority on plate tectonics, will be the featured speaker at the third annual Robert E. Sheriff Lecture Series on November 19th at the Westchase Hilton. The lecture series is sponsored by the University of Houston Department of Geosciences and UH Geoscience Alumni Association in association with the Houston Geologic Society International Group. Dr. Dewey's topic is "Transtension in arcs and orogens."

In addition, there will be posters and presentations on current thesis and dissertation research activities of UH graduate students. Get a quick synopsis of presentations from the AAPG, GSA, SEG, GCAGS and AGU conventions and meet the next generation of geoscientists from UH.

The Dr. Robert E. Sheriff Lecture Series:

Dr. Robert Sheriff has had a long and distinguished career in industry and academia. He was chief geophysicist at Chevron and a senior vice president

at Seiscom Delta before coming to the University of Houston in 1981. He has authored, co-authored and edited several widely used books for exploration and production geoscientists, including: Applied Geophysics, Geophysical Methods, Reservoir Geophysics, Exploration Seismology, Problems in Exploration Seismology and their Solutions, Seismic Stratigraphy and his Encyclopedic Dictionary of Exploration Geophysics. He has played an instrumental role in helping build the reflection seismology faculty and staff in the Geosciences Department at UH to the largest in the nation. Dr. Sheriff contributes very generously in both time and funding to student and programmatic causes within both the Geoscience Department and the Allied Geophysical Lab.

He has recently contributed funding for two graduate student endowed fellowships at UH and has generously endowed the Robert and Margaret Sheriff Chair in Exploration Geophysics.

In recognition of Dr. Sheriff's many contributions to the University, the applied petroleum community and the geoscience profession as a whole, the University of Houston Geoscience Alumni Association initiated the Sheriff Lecture Series in 1999. We are very pleased that this year's lecture, which continues to honor Dr Sheriff as an educator, scholar, and a proponent for the geosciences, will be co-sponsored by the International Explorationists Group of the Houston Geological Society. The purpose of the Lecture Series is to attract top geoscience speakers with highly relevant ideas to exploration geology or geophysics. The lecture on "Transtension in arcs and orogens" by Dr. John F. Dewey will be the third in the series.

Luncheon Meeting —

— continued from page 23

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Parker, R.W., and D.R. Swenson, 1989, Central Texas downdip Yegua Trend—an overview: in The Downdip Yegua—State of the Trend: Houston Geological Society, n.p. □

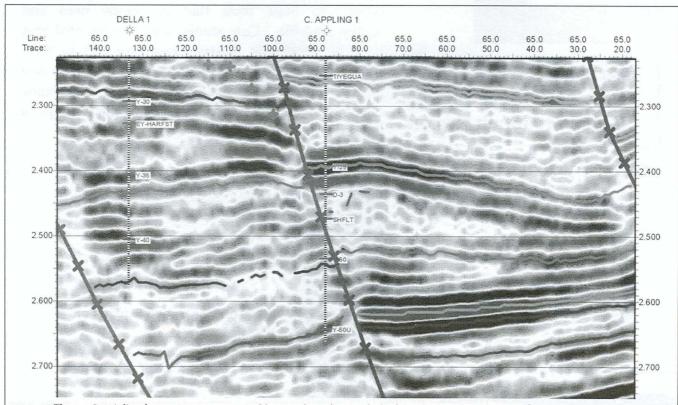


Figure 4. Dipline from 3-D survey over Ladd #1 Appling, showing lack of flap, high and production.

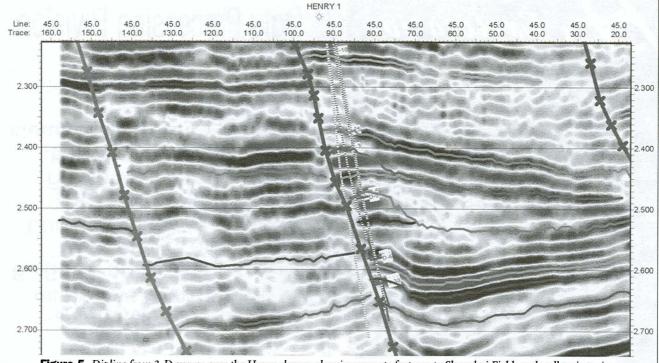
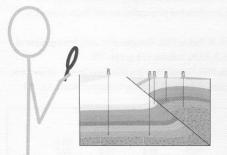


Figure 5. Dipline from 3-D survey over the Henry closure, showing cognate features to Shanghai Field, and well trajectories.



Structural Traps
and Fractured Reservoirs
of the Rocky Mountain Region

Structural Traps and Fractured Reservoirs of the Rocky Mountain Region, will be a forum to introduce and discuss new tools, techniques and case studies that have added valuable understanding to the region. Tools and techniques presented will range from workstation applications to basic tools that are easily used and readily available. Case studies will be presented that show new data that illustrate trap geometry in three dimensions. Presentations will be 30-minute talks and there will be poster sessions. A field excursion to examine examples of trap geometry and fracture relationships in the Denver area is anticipated.

October 1, 2001 - Denver, Colorado - At the Denver Marriott City Center

Sponsored by: Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists and PTTC

The following are some of the anticipated speakers

Eric Erslev,Colorado State University

Chuck Kluth, Chevron

Peter Hennings, Phillips

Steve Laubach, Texas Bureau of Economic Geology

Wayne Narr, Chevron

Don Stone, Sherwood Exploration

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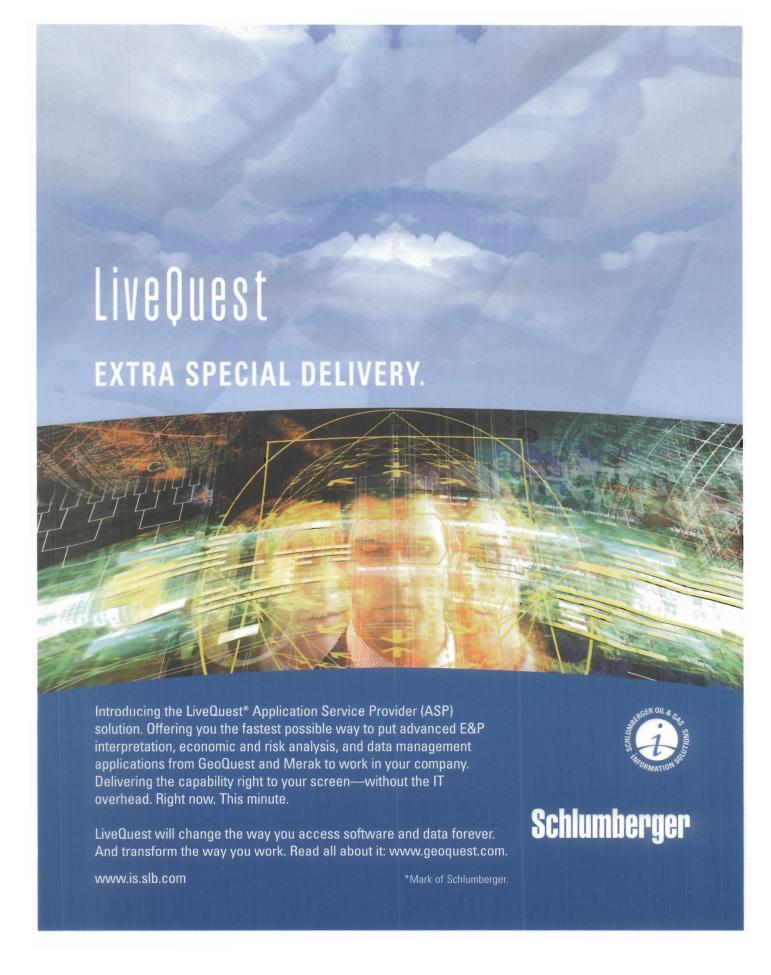
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October 2001

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Members Pre-registered Prices: General Dinner Meeting .\$25 Env. & Eng\$25 Luncheon Meeting .\$25 International Explorationists .\$25 North American Expl\$25 Emerging Technology .\$25 Non-members and walk-ups\$30	Note: If your mailing lal on it, your membership is your las	has expired and this	3
7	8 HGS General Dinner Meeting Louis Liro, Kimberly Cline, Dan Knupp, and Mary Kadri Workstation Visualization Techniques and Workflows:Examples from the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico See page 9		SIPES Seminar See page 10 ce Week—Oct. 8–14 ee pages 32-33
Earth Science Field Trip Spindletop Museum Field Trip Sunday the 14th See page 33	by Mark G. Rowan Structural Styles of Passive-Margin Deepwater Provinces See page 15 Deadline for submitting articles and advertising for the November Bulletin	16	GCAGS 51st
21	22 HGS North American Dinner Meeting by Edward M. Norwood and Lise Brinton Reexamination of late Jurassic Reef Building in the East Texas Basin; A Maturing Gas Play See page 17	23	West Texas (
28	29	30	31 HGS Luncheon Meeting by Thomas E. Ewing Shanghai Field, Expanded Upper Yegua Trend, Texas Gulf Coast: Unexpected Reserv and a Distinctive Fault Style by 3D Seismic See page 19

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GEOEVENTS

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4	5	Earth Science Day Earth Exploration Extravaganza at the Museum of Natural Science See pages 32
1 HGS Emerging Technology Dinner Meeting by Jeanne Perdue E-Business: What's the Big Deal? See page 13	12	Earth Science Field Trips "Beneath Your Feet" Field Trip Saturday the 13th See page 33
8 SIPES Luncheon Annual Convention,	19 Shreveport Louisiana	Reservation Codes Use these codes to make voice mail
Oct. 17–19 See pages 16		meeting reservations. Call 713-917-0218 Dinner Meeting (5-0-1)
5 ogical Society Fall Sympos	ium See page 38	Environmental and Engineering (5-0-2) International Explorationists (5-0-3) North American Explorationists (5-0-4) Luncheon Meeting (5-0-5) Emerging Technology (5-0-6) e-mail: joan@hgs.org

Reservations:

Reservations for technical meetings must be made or cancelled <u>by noon on the last business day before the event.</u> Voicemail and automated reservations are electronically marked with the date and time they are made. If you make your reservation by email, a reply is sent confirming it. If you do not receive one, **assume it has not been** made and try again. Once name tags and lists are prepared, no more reservations can be added even if they are sent.



New or Changed Locations



Upcoming GeoEvents

October 1

RMAG Symposium, Denver, Colorado see page 26

October 5

GSH Tennis Tournament,

October 24-26

West Texas Geological Society Fall Symposium, Midland, Texas see page 38

October 29

DAPL/RMAG/DGS Prospect Fair, Denver, Colorado see www.rmag.org

November 3

Shrimp Peel see page 4

November 8

HGS/SPE/HEC Luncheon, Denver, Colorado

November 12

General Meeting—Water on Mars: Its History, Likely Distribution and Implications for Future Exploration

November 14

HGS Class Investigations into Seismic Inversion see page 43

November 17-18

NeoGeos Beach Cleanup see page 39

November 19

3rd Annual Robert E. Sheriff Lecture see page 24



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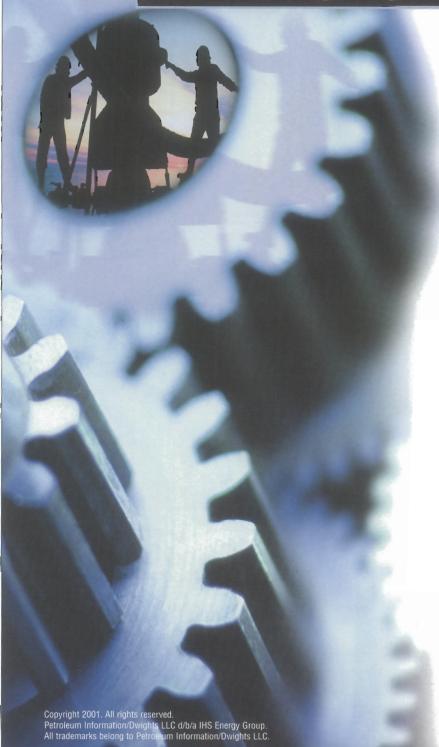
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The University of Texas at Austin establishes The John A. and Katherine G. Jackson School of Geosciences

John A. Jackson, a retired Dallas oilman and noted philanthropist, has given \$25 million to create the John A. and Katherine G. Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin. The new school will unite the Department of Geological Sciences, the Bureau of Economic Geology, and The University of Texas Institute for Geophysics, bringing together more than 100 faculty and research scientists. "The synergy expected from this partnership will ensure that The University of Texas at Austin maintains preeminence in education and research in the geosciences for generations to come," said UT Austin President Larry R. Faulkner.

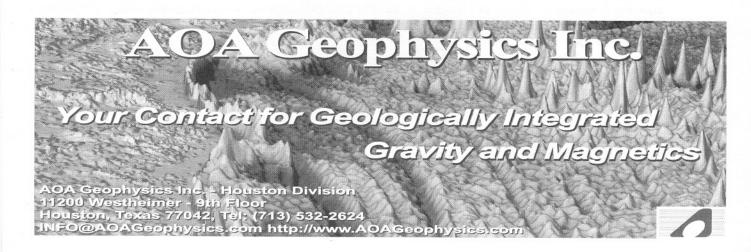
The UT Austin Department of Geological Sciences is one of the largest, most diverse, and highest ranked geoscience departments in the United States. Its 29 faculty and 11 researchers and lecturers are engaged in teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level, as well as conducting fundamental and applied research. The Department's doctoral program in stratigraphy and sedimentology is the top-ranked program in the country, and the paleontology, hydrogeology, and tectonics doctoral programs are ranked in the top 10 nationally. The Department is unique in geosciences because of its Geology Foundation-established by The University of Texas Board of Regents in 1953 to "promote the growth, progress and development of geological education, research and graduate study at The University of Texas"-which had assets of more than \$50 million before the Jackson gift. Mr. Jackson, who received his degree in petroleum geology from UT Austin in 1940, is an Honorary Life Member of the Geology Foundation.

The Bureau of Economic Geology, established in 1909, is the oldest organized research unit at UT Austin and enjoys an international reputation for excellence in energy and environmental research. Its diverse staff of 59 research scientists, representing the disciplines of geology, geophysics, petrophysics, and engineering, conduct basic and applied research worldwide. Research examples include salt

deformation, fractures, carbonate and clastic systems, multicomponent seismic analysis, coastal erosion, geologic mapping, water resources and quality, the unsaturated zone, and a variety of remote sensing applications. The Bureau also conducts long-term, integrated research projects investigating energy resources from the basin to reservoir scale, using state-of-the-art technology. The Bureau functions as the State Geological Survey, maintains an archive of all downhole geophysical logs from oil and gas wells that are submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas, and manages the largest public core repository in the United States.

Founded in 1972 by Maurice Ewing, one of the most highly acclaimed Earth scientists of the 20th Century, The University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG) is an organized research unit within the UT System. Its 28 research scientists investigate the dynamic geophysical processes that influence Earth's structure and climate. They also develop new mathematical models, data processing, and imaging techniques that are relevant to natural resource exploration and the assessment of geologic hazards. Recognized as a leading academic research group in geophysics, UTIG carries out research all over the world and conducts large-scale, multi-investigator, multi-institutional field programs. Most notable among UTIG's international collaborations is a long-standing involvement in scientific ocean drilling through the Deep Sea Drilling Project, the Ocean Drilling Program, and the planned Integrated Ocean Drilling Program.

The \$25 million endowment for the new school will help support research, especially in the areas of water, energy, and mineral resources. Funds will also be used for curriculum enrichment, graduate student fellowships, and salary support. This gift follows a donation of \$15 million for the renovation of the UT Geology building made by Jackson and his wife late last year.





Exciting Events Planned for Earth Science Week,

October 6-14

www.hgs.org/esw.html

New this year: Views of the Earth Symposium

The HGS Earth Science Week Committee

The Views of the Earth Symposium is a new event for Earth Science Week—it is an exciting opportunity to meet with leaders in the science and energy sector and to hear their ideas on and experiences in the many fascinating aspects of earth science! It will be held Saturday, October 6, 2001 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS). The symposium will begin at 7 p.m., following an informal reception at which the participants will be able to meet the speakers and visit with each other. The symposium will be a series of talks, including time for questions and answers. Dr. Neal Lane will lead off the evening. Dr. Lane is a professor at Rice University and a Senior Fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. Dr. Lane has served as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, and as Director of the National Science Foundation Arrangements are pending for two other speakers, a leader in the energy industry and a prominent geoscientist. For up-to-date details, see http://www.hgs.org/esw01.htm . Questions can be addressed to Janet Combes, (jmcombes@msn.com) .

This event is open to the general public as well as members of the HGS, and is FREE to everyone. Space is limited and reservations are required, see http://www.hmns.org/ or call the Museum's reservation line, 713-639-4629.

CALENDAR OF EARTH SCIENCE WEEK EVENTS IN HOUSTON

Join us for an enjoyable week as a visitor or a volunteer. Bring your family and friends!

Saturday, October 6, 2001, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (volunteers needed 10:30-2:30 and 1:30-5:30)

Earth Exploration Extravaganza at the Houston Museum of Natural Science—Weiss Energy, Paleontology and Cullen Mineral Halls. A day of family fun at the museum: Energy Passport contest, amazing demonstrations, special presentations and programs at the World Energy Theater, recognition of winners of a K–12 Earth Science contest. Free with Museum admission.

Saturday, October 6, 2001, 2:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremony for Houston's Earth Science Week in Museum of Natural Science Pendulum Hall. The HGS, the Museum and other participating societies (to date: Association for Women Geologists, Geophysical Society of Houston, the Gulf Coast Section-SEPM, Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Houston House of Delegates of AAPG, National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists, Society of Petroleum Engineers-Gulf Coast Section, Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, Texas Earth Science Teachers Association) are requesting that Mayor Brown issue a proclamation declaring Earth Science Week in Houston, to be presented during the opening ceremony. Free with Museum admission.

Saturday, October 6, 2001, 7:00 p.m. (volunteers needed for registration)

Views of the Earth: An Earth Science Symposium at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. *See description at top of this page.* Registration requested; free to all.

For more information on ESW events at the Museum contact Inda Immega , immega@swbell.net , or Denise Martin dmartin@hmns.org

Monday-Friday, October 8-12, 2001 (volunteers needed to talk at area schools)

We encourage all HGS members to give a talk in a local school of your choice or in response to specific requests to the HGS. For information contact Alison Henning: alison_henning@yahoo.com). Slide sets, rock and mineral trays, and other materials are available on loan through the HGS (information: aeberman@wt.net). You can get one free set of posters and other materials to donate to the classroom from the AGI (www.earthscienceworld.org/week/). The Houston Gem and Mineral Society also has rock and mineral sets to lend (lexyb@airmail.net or mineraldesign@aol.com).

Saturday, October 13, 2001

For the Metropolitan Association for Teachers of Science (MATS) fall conference at the HMNS, the HGS will sponsor a presentation and distribute Earth Science Week kits to the attending teachers. The MATS conference is a great opportunity for the HGS to reach out to area teachers, and this will be the fourth year of HGS participation.

Saturday, October 13, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (volunteers needed to assist as guides and in logistics)

"Beneath Your Feet" Field Trip to explore High Island geology: the salt dome, oil field story, the Pleistocene fossil outcrop, beach geology and ecology. This trip is a joint effort of HGS, the HGMS, and the HMNS. Registration requested (jmcombes@msn.com). Get there on your own. Free to all. See the following article on field trips. For more info: hgms_trips@hotmail.com

Sunday, October 14, 2001, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum – ESW visit. Get there on your own. Museum admission fee. See separate article on field trips. For more info: hgms_trips@hotmail.com

TWO Field Trips Announced for Earth Science Week 2001

- Saturday, October 13-Field trip to High Island Oil Field and McFadden Beach. Arrive on your own at any time between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a joint field trip given by Houston Geological Society, HGS NeoGeos, Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Houston Gem and Mineral Society.
- **Directions:** Take I-10 east from Houston, exit 828 at Hwy 124 (at Winnie), and drive south on Hwy 124 for about 18 miles. Stop at the leader's vehicle (marked with orange tape and signs) for a map of the stops.

We will have stops, staffed by geoscientists and museum personnel, to talk about "High Island", pumping jacks, area seismic, sedimentary structures on the beach, beach and nearshore ecology, Pleistocene fossils, and human impact on the beach. Bring water and lunch if desired, and dress appropriately for the weather. McFadden Beach has NO services.

Sunday, October 14–Visit **Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum,** Beaumont, Texas. Arrive any time between 1 and 4 p.m. **Directions**: for a map see www.spindletop.org.

There will be re-enactors and geoscientist docents to help you look back to the 1901 oil boom.

Sign up: Trips are free except for the Spindletop Museum admission on Sunday, but you need to register. E-mail jmcombes@msn.com, give your name and the number of adults and children coming. These are family-friendly activities. Further details will be posted on the HGS Web calendar, at www.hgs.org/coursidx.htm,

Neal Immega, Field trip leader Andrea Adams and Kelly Latter, NeoGeos chairs

by Jeff Lund, Global Climate Change Committee

Global Climate Change: One Geologist's Musings

A worldwide debate is occurring on the topic of climate change; commonly referred to as "global warming". This debate seems to focus on three questions: Is "global warming" really happening? If so, is human activity a cause? Finally what can be done about it? A quick review of articles in the popular press might lead one to the conclusion the debate has already finished. There are profound implications to the outcome of this debate. Political and economic impacts arising from this debate will effect all our lives and do so significantly.

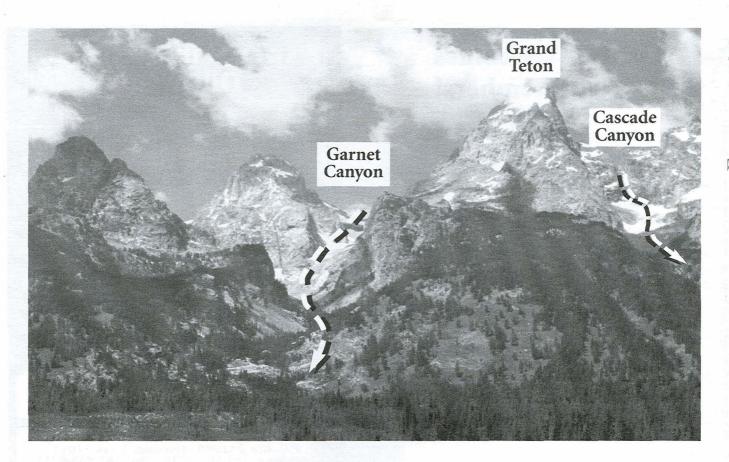
My musings and my reason for writing this article arise from a concern. I perceive this debate is occurring outside the context of basic knowledge about the Earth's history!

The concepts that the earth's climate changes and that sea level rises and falls, often seem new to nongeoscientists that I have talked to. The general public believes, I'm afraid, that rising sea level, as a possible future event, is a newly identified phenomenon revealed by Newsweek, Time and CNN! In contrast, for geoscientists these concepts are commonly accepted knowledge, indeed, basic in the day-to-day work of correlating strata, well logs and seismic reflections using the principles of sequence stratigraphy, paleontology, biostratigraphy and paleoecology.

As a geologist, I am often surprised at the response when I mention the most basic concepts of earth history to non-geoscientists. Carl Sagan coined a term, "demons in the darkness", in which he referred to the power of myth, pseudoscience and ignorance in our culture. A survey, cited by AAPG President Marlan Downey, in his address at the opening ceremony of the 2001 Denver AAPG Convention revealed that most Americans would rather attend a lecture on astrology than one on astronomy. I submit that debating "global warming" outside the framework of basic historical geologic knowledge is akin to allowing the "demon" of ignorance into the public policy arena, perhaps unintentionally, but hazardous for correct conclusions.

I feel strongly that we as geoscientists have to get more involved in discussions with our own acquaintances outside our profession about the global warming debate. We owe it to our society to find ways to express the range of Earth's climate variations throughout geologic time in ways our non-geoscience friends can understand, in order to give them perspective on the debate. Such discussions can take place anywhere, at the soccer field, the golf course or the cocktail party. I would like to share one of my most effective anecdotes for discussion of "global warming" here, hopefully to encourage you to help in the crusade to inject some basic earth history information into people's perspective as the debate goes on. I hope you agree! My anecdote involves a lesson I draw from geologic observations in two of the most spectacular places on earth, the Grand Teton mountain range of western Wyoming and southern Greenland. Places which have dramatic scenery and obvious differences, or, are they really so different?

I have been a student of the Grand Teton mountain range (Figure 1), south of Yellowstone National Park in western Wyoming, since my first visit during undergraduate years in college. One's appreciation of the Tetons increases with understanding of the natural processes, which have created its imposing beauty. The key geologic process, which has sculpted these granite peaks, is, erosion by glaciers! In fact, the Teton range is a world-class example of alpine glaciation, slow moving "rivers" of ice formed at high altitude, which flow slowly down slope with such enormous force they cut and shape solid rock. The remnants of the Teton glaciers still exist at high altitude. They can be visited, touched, and used as a water supply for hikers and climbers. When did sufficient ice exist in Wyoming to cause this amazing landscape to form? Geologic evidence, including dating of shells buried in the glacial outwash, indicates massive glacial activity peaked 25,000 years ago and ended only about 12,000 years ago, yesterday in geologic time! In fact, classic geologic studies tell us the Pleistocene epoch, about the last two million years, was a time of repeating cycles of glacier



formation, with advance and retreat leaving ridges of gravel, sand and silt at the foot of each canyon which trap spring water to form the beautiful lakes, such as Jenny Lake, at the foot of each canyon. There is evidence that ice existed on the valley floor of Jackson Hole as recently as 9,000 years ago.

Now I turn the conversation to a place where large active continental glaciers can be seen today, southern Greenland. Here actively flowing glaciers move to the sea, eroding the bedrock. The mountains of Greenland protrude through the ice sheets, often looking like islands caught between rivers of ice (Figure 2). The canyons being formed today in Greenland would look like the exposed valleys in the Grand Teton range if they were ever exposed. The point of all this is to illustrate, I hope clearly and dramatically, that only a few thousand years ago, Wyoming looked like Greenland does today. What caused the Wyoming ice sheets to melt? Certainly not CO₂ from fossil fuels, unless the mammoths were driving cars!

Anthropologists study the impact of climate cycles on the migration of Paleo-Indian people across the Aleutian land bridge. This bridge was formed as sea level dropped because so much water was being converted to massive glacial ice sheets. Fascinating accounts of this are detailed in *National Geographic* articles such as the October 1998 issue's "The Peopling of the Earth".

In fact, today's geoscientists, in both the academic and industrial worlds use a standardized reference scale of worldwide sea-level rise and fall, with sea level changing hundreds of feet periodically over the last few million years. This calibrated cyclic change in global sea level resulted as the volume of glacial ice varied. As the climate cooled, more ice formed and less water remained in the oceans, as warm weather melted ice, more water moved to the oceans causing a rise in sea level. The cyclical changes in sea level have occurred repeatedly over the last million years and are a one of the key processes in sequence stratigraphic models, which are employed by geologists in many applications, notably petroleum exploration.

My point?

It has been occurring in carefully documented cycles for tens of millions of years. Today, we are about 25,000 years into a warming cycle, which by all past evidence will be followed by cooling. Yes, strange as it seems, our beloved national parks could again be the sites of thousands of feet of ice like they were only yesterday in geologic time! The beautiful scenery of the present day mountains of Wyoming resulted from the past action of glaciers. The same processes, which are the key to understanding Wyoming's past, are happening today in Greenland, a beautiful example of the 19th century insights of pioneering geologists.

So, is there a global climate change? YES

Is this period we live in, a warming period? YES

What causes these dramatic cycles?

Many causes are possible including cycles of solar energy output,

continued on page 37



HGS Welcomes New Members!

New members effective September 1, 2001

Active

Douglas Beckman Hudson Biery Richard Bishop Keith Blair Richard Byrd Steven Carlson Josephy Devay Dennis Dull Clive Ferebee John Groce Robert Grote Gary Hall Kyou Kim Leonard Lind John McNeely Robert Menzie, Jr. Melissa Morse Scott Munsell

Kester Okpiabhele Rekha Patel Oscal Ramierz Kevin Stephens Mark Sun Dixon Van Hofwegen Elton Wolter

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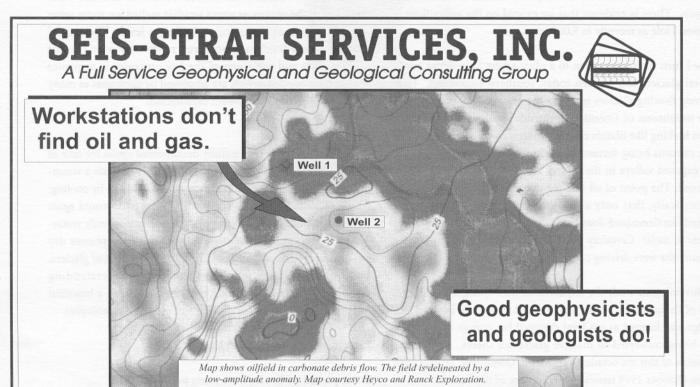


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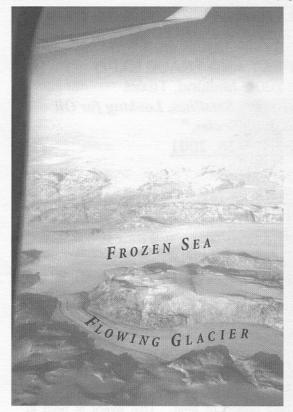


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changing climate as continents change position and atmospheric and oceanic circulation changes. We're not sure but scientific research continues.

Could human activity, such as a carbon dioxide release from fossil fuel burning be the cause?

Possible, but the industrial revolution began only 150 years ago! Human activity cannot explain everything. Tens of thousands of years in the final cycle of the current warming phase are unexplained if burning fossil fuel is the cause.

Is the concept of sea level rise or global warming a brand new phenomenon never before experienced on our planet, and only recently revealed to mankind in the popular press?

No, classic geologic studies identify worldwide sea level and temperature change as naturally recurring, well-established, plant-wide phenomena.

Does this change the perception being promulgated by politicians and the popular press and perhaps cause us to question human activity as the sole, indisputable "cause" of "global warming"? I Hope So!

Fellow geologists, let's participate and bring our insight to what should be a rational, open, scientific discussion of the evidence before profound policy is implemented! Have fun at your next barbecue or cocktail party!

Jeffrey Lund, Global Climate Change Committee

Climate Change 2001 Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has completed and published three of its four-part Third Assessment of Climate Change Report (TAR). The three volumes are entitled: Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis (Volume I); Impacts, Adaptations and Vulnerabilities (Volume II); and Mitigations (Volume III).

These reports, along with a Synthesis volume due out in September, are most likely to be extremely important to policy makers in evaluating the magnitude of, effects, and responses to global warming. They represent an international synthesis including information from more than 2500 scientific experts in 60 countries. The summary conclusions were read line by line and approved by over 100 United Nations and World Meteorological Organization member countries, who sponsored the IPCC and the reports. Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis (V.I) is most likely to be of the greatest interest to HGS members. Whether you agree with the conclusions or not, the scope and range of this report, and its likely impact on policy makers, makes it important reading for any HGS member interested in the global warming debate. A summary of the volumes can be found at the World Meteorological Organization Website: www.wmo.ch (choose Hot Topics from the menu, then choose World Climate News Vol. 19, June 2001, then see pgs.2,3,7-10. These are pdf files). The volumes themselves are available from the publisher, Cambridge University Press, or from online vendors.

-Editor





WEST TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2001 FALL SYMPOSIUM and 7th Annual PROSPECT AND TRADE EXPO

October 24-26, 2001, Midland, Texas
"The Permian Basin: Microns to Satellites, Looking for Oil
and Gas at all Scales."

2001 Fall Symposium – October 25-26, 2001

TWO FULL DAYS OF PRESENTATIONS

A sampling of papers to be presented (A full list of titles is available at www.wtgs.org/fallsymp):

- Upper Pennsylvanian and Lower Permian Stratigraphy and Porosity Distribution, Southwest Andrews Area, Eastern Central Basin Platform, Andrews County, Texas
- Pennsylvanian-Lower Permian Mounds and Reefs in the Permian Basin (West Texas New Mexico): Composition, Evolution, Distribution, and Reservoir Characteristics The Importance of Layering in Reservoir Characterization: South Wasson Clear Fork Reservoir, Gaines County, Texas
- Fracture Characterization using Rotary-Drilled Sidewall Cores: An Example from the Ellenburger Group, West Texas
- Effects of Meteoric Recharge on Cenozoic Migration of Petroleum, Wasson Field Area, Northern Shelf of the Permian Basin

Contact Tim Hunt at 915/684-4404 or the WTGS Office at 915/683-1573, Fax 915/686-7827, wtgs@usaonline.net

Prospect and Trade Expo - October 24, 2001

EXHIBITORS: WTGS EXPO 2001 offers you a unique opportunity in Midland to expose your prospect, property, specialized services, etc. to a large audience in a short period of time. This event is held in conjunction with the 2001 Fall Symposium and has drawn over 500 people in each of the past 6 years.

VIEWERS: Past exhibitors have included individuals and companies of all sizes presenting projects from the Permian Basin, Mid-Continent and Gulf Coast. Typically, 30+ prospect exhibitors have been present in past years. The EXPO is also a great networking occasion for all attendees.

Contact Russell Richards at 915/682-5241 or the WTGS Office at 915/683-1573, Fax 915/686-7827, wtgs@usaonline.net

2001 Apache Mountains Field Trip October 19-21, 2001, Begins/Ends in Midland, Texas

Shelf Deposits and More in the Guadalupian of the Apache Mountains, West Texas

"Not Your Average Guadalupian"

This field trip will be headquartered in Van Horn, Texas and will include areas on private land not normally accessible to geologists. Grayburg and Queen formation shelf deposits of the Permian will be the main focus of this trip. The Apache Mountains are the southwest (windward) shelf margin of the Delaware Basin. These outcrops have not been studied since the mid 1960s and are the best analog for the southern Central Basin Platform. They represent a very different setting and geometries from those seen in the Guadalupe Mountains. Come and see:

- A different Guadalupian geometry then typically seen in the Guadalupe Mountains
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Visit the WTGS Website at www.wtgs.org

NeoGeos Fall Calendar

Hello NeoGeos!

Stay tuned for details regarding the following upcoming events. More information will be sent out in our monthly e-newsletter. If you would like to receive the NeoGeos e-newletters, and are not currently on our distribution list, please send an e-mail request to neogeos@ev1.net and you will be added to the list!

NeoGeos are geoscientists who are relatively new to the geologic industries (petroleum and environmental); have less than 5 years of work experience after school; or those who have changed careers and are new to geology entirely. We now have over 225 NeoGeos on our roster, and we welcome you to join us if you fit these criteria. We meet for monthly socials, participate in HGS events, and host bi-monthly talks.

We look forward to seeing you at the following events:

October 6th—CVG Day at the HMNS—NeoGeos "Certified Volunteer Geologists" came out in full force last year to help out during the Earth Science Week Kickoff at the Houston Museum

of Natural Science. Please join us this year for this wonderful event. See the Earth Science Week write-up on pg. 32 for more information.

October 13th—Earth Science Week Field Trip—High Island—The NeoGeos will again be working as volunteers during the ESW field trip. See pg. 33 for the official announcement.

November 17 and 18—NeoGeos Beach Clean-up at Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi—The NeoGeos will be heading down to Corpus Christi to clean up beach pollution. This will be an overnight camping trip—see announcement on this page.

If you're interested in attending and helping out with these events, please let us know! Send your e-mail response to neogeos@ev1.net. Thanks for your continued interest in NeoGeos!



NeoGeos Beach Clean-up & Social BBQ

Come and make a difference to the pollution on one of Texas' most beautiful beaches!

- When-November 17 and 18.
- Where-Padre Island National Seashore, Corpus Christi.
- Come and pick up trash on one of the most remote beaches in Texas, camp on the beach and meet other NeoGeos at our beach BBQ.
- The plan is to drive to Corpus Christi on Saturday at 10 a.m. (aproximately 4 hours), set up camp, collect trash in the afternoon, have a beach BBQ in the evening, collect trash again early on Sunday morning. The rest of Sunday is yours to stroll along the beach, watch the wildlife (big birding country), kayak (available for rental just outside the park), windsurf (classes available in the park), returning to Houston by 8 p.m. on Sunday evening.
- What you need to bring—tent (if you have one), sleeping bag, any drinks you want (including water), a cap and sunscreen lotion.
- · We will provide hot dogs, burgers, and trimmings for the BBQ and cereals for breakfast.
- Transportation—carpooling with a percentage of your gasoline money reimbursed for cars with 3+ people.

To enable us to organize both the food and the carpooling we need to know who is interested in going on the beach clean-up weekend. Please send an email to Helena Griffiths (hgriffiths@shellus.com), or ring her at 713-245-7978. We will need to know if you need a ride, need space in a tent, or have special requirements.

For more information on Padre Island National Seashore, visit http://www.nps.gov/pais/index.htm.

This event is being sponsored by Shell Exploration & Production







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Remembrances

Since the last communication (July 10) from the HGS Remembrances Committee, our geological community has lost the following members:

Charles F. Brown, 68, died July 9, 2001. After serving in the US Air Force during the Korean War, Charles graduated from LSU with a BS in petroleum engineering. He was an active member of the Houston Geological Society and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. A donation will be made to the HGS Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

Jesse L. George, Jr. died July 24, 2001, at the age of 80. Jesse served his country in WW II in Europe before graduating in 1947 from Texas Tech University with a BS in petroleum engineering with a geology minor. He worked for several companies during his distinguished career including Texaco, Sohio, Rutherford Oil, and as CEO and Chairman of Deminex, U.S. Jesse was a former President of both the Houston and Lafayette Geological Societies and was active within the AAPG. A donation will be made to the Seton Highland Lakes Hospice of Burnet.

William C. Robbins, Remembrances Committee bill.robbins@totalfinaelf.com 713-647-3506

Free Resources at the Houston Public Library!

The Houston Public Library's Earth Science Collection is only as good as Houston could make it. That is due to hard work by the staff and by previous HGS Library Committees. The Library Committee was created to provide liaison with Houston Public Library (HPL). The principal purpose for the committee is to provide guidance and support for the "geological stacks", which started as publications bequeathed to HPL by several old-time big-name geologists. At about the same time HGS donated a fund to "Establish a Petroleum Collection" in HPL. As that purpose is now fully accomplished, that fund has been combined with other funds for the general use of HPL.

The Committee for many years was run by Eve Moody. Under her guidance the Earth Science Collection, originally the geologic stacks, was moved to open shelves for greater access by the geologic community. Over the years HGS contributed maps, books, and equipment to the library. HPL has developed a great collection of Geology and Petroleum Technology in the Business, Science and Technology Department. They have many E-logs and driller's logs, some available to the public there only.

Some other historically valuable material of interest to geologists is in the "Texas Room" in the Julia Ideson Building (the "old library").

Bill Champion, HGS Library Committee colbill088@aol.com

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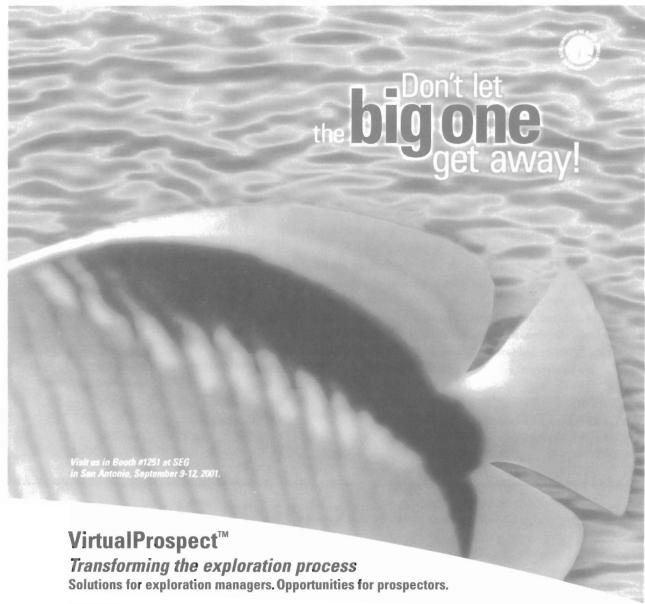
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Investigations into Seismic Inversion for Geologists

November 14, 2001

Auditorium, Shell Plaza 910 Louisiana–Houston, TX 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Are you concerned about being behind the learning curve of seismic inversion?

This seminar will begin by addressing basic questions concerning seismic data inversion: What is inversion? What is needed to perform inversion? How is it done? What are the advantages? When should this technology be used? What does it cost in time and money?

The seminar will proceed with presentations on the preparation of data, application at the project level, case histories, and a discussion of the future evolution of inversion. It will conclude with a panel discussion.

This course is intended to inform upstream professionals about the history, current status, and future of this evolving technology.

- \$ 75 Members* and full-time students, before November 9
- \$ 95 Nonmembers
- \$ 125 Registration at the door

*(Members in HGS, API Houston, GSH, HAPL, SIPES Houston, SPE Gulf Coast, SPEE Houston, and SPWLA)

To reserve a seat, send a check payable to "HGS" and the registration below to:
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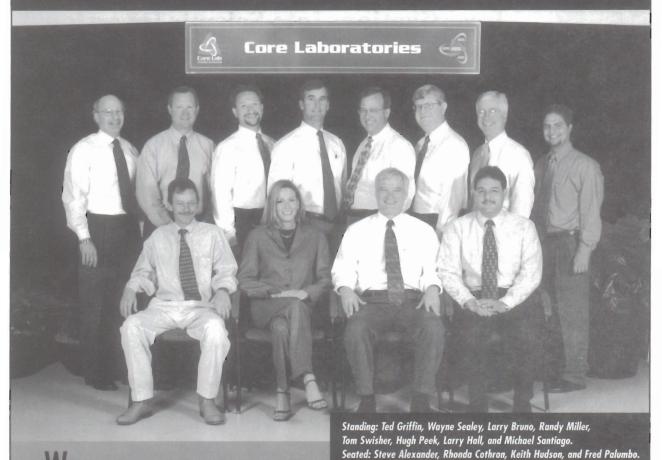
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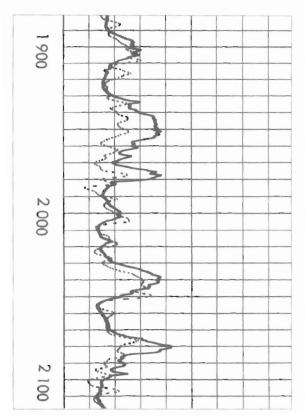
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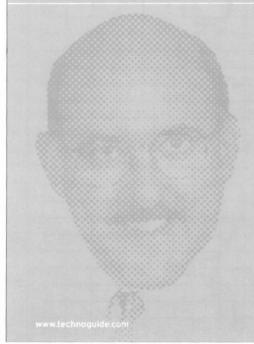
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HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

2nd International Symposium

DOING BUSINESS IN LATIN AMERICA Opportunities and Case Histories

January 22, 2002

Westchase Hilton 9999 Westheimer-Houston, Texas 8:00a.m - 4:00 p.m.

Are you interested in Latin America? Experienced speakers from small and large energy and technology companies will share their experience on keys to success in new ventures. A variety of case histories will cover the many ways to develop a successful business ranging from exploration to field redevelopment, including keys to overcoming technological hurdles, and cultural and environmental challenges. The rapidly changing roles of energy companies and governments, changes in economic and market dynamics will be discussed by industry leaders who are defining emerging business strategies.

- A series of technical posters and exhibits will complement the themes of the Symposium.
- A mixer will follow the seminar. (4-6 p.m.)

Meet the speakers, network with peers and meet government representatives.

- Proceedings Volume (sponsored by IHS Energy) includes speaker presentations on CD.

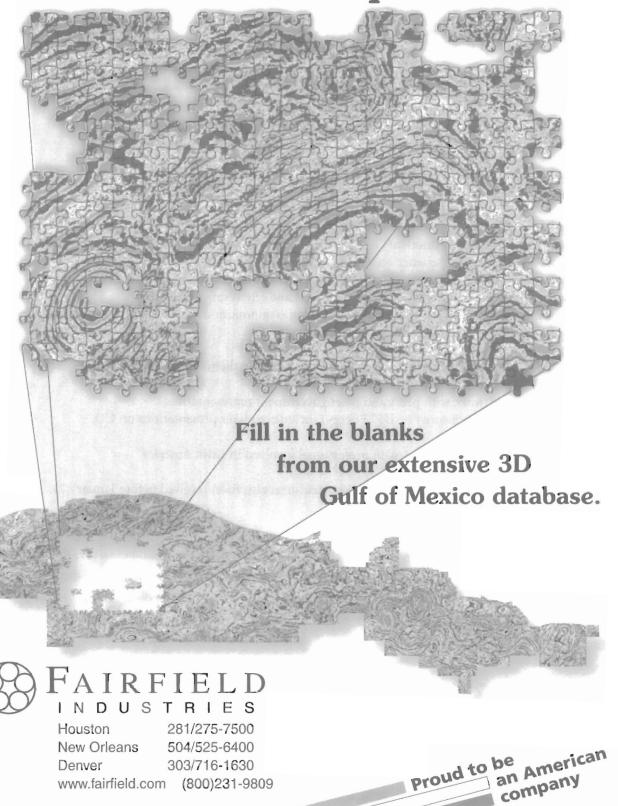
This course is intended for any upstream professional involved in Latin America

- Members* and fulltime students, (mail-in registration received before January 7)
- \$ 110 Non-members
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*(Members in HGS, API Houston, GSH, HAPL, SIPES Houston, SPE Gulf Coast, SPEE Houston, and SPWLA Gulf Coast)

To reserve a seat and Proceedings Volume, send a check payable to "HGS" with the registration below to: HGS, 7457 Harwin, Suite 301, Houston, Texas 77036, Attn: LA Int'l Symposium Company: _____ Address: State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: ____ Membership in: ___HGS ___GSH ___ API ___HAPL ___SIPES ___SPE ____SPEE SPWLA HGS/GSH Member No. Amount sent (US \$)_____ Thank you for supporting Continuing Education.

Missing a few pieces of the seismic puzzle?



HGA's Grand Opening

by Millie Tonn, President

Jazz Brunch evoking thoughts and sounds of New Orleans and entertainment provided by Pat Austin and her musical group, CLASSIC JAZZ, were the star features at our first meeting of the new year held at the beautifully updated Lakeside Country Club on Thursday, September 20. A sumptuous buffet of brunch delicacies was enjoyed by our members, their guests and new members. The latter two groups were introduced and given special recognition.

Pat Austin and her musical group put on a prime-time show for our meeting; and we want to give Pat an extra star in that she is not only a highly talented musician, but is also an HGA member.

The membership drive, which continues all year, is under way and is getting good response. We extend a hearty welcome and thanks to the following new members: Elizabeth Barrick, Melza Barr, Ruth Harrision, Latife Hyde, Lisa Lowenstein, Ruth Masters, Jean Stoneburner, and Genne Thornton. We welcome and encourage the spouse of any HGS member to join us for our activities. Membership application forms are included in the HGS Bulletin or can be obtained by calling Membership Chairman, Margery Ambrose at 281-497-3413.

HGA'S SOS Volunteers have spent many hours working at the HGS office assisting Joan Henshaw and Annette Mathers with processing the membership dues. Among those volunteering were Linnie Edwards, Lois Matuszak, Sylvia Morris, Val Oualline, Helen and John Thomas, and Myrtis and Gene Trowbridge. Our thanks and appreciation to them.

We were delighted to have had a group of HGA volunteers furnish assistance with the registration at AAPG'S APPEX, which was held August 27-29 at The Adam's Mark Hotel.

It might also be mentioned at this time that it is not too early to think about making plans to attend our upcoming December event, CHRISTMAS ON BROADWAY, which is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 12, at THE GREAT CAURSO DINNER THEATRE. All HGA/HGS members and their guests are invited to this much-acclaimed production that The Great Caruso presents during the holiday season. This event is very popular and draws a large turnout, so please consider making your reservations early. An invitation will be included in the November HGS Bulletin.

GeoWives

Expanding Horizons October Event:

October 9, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

Location:

The Indonesian Consulate on Richmond

Hosts:

Chairs Susan McKinley and Linnie Edwards. A discussion of Indonesian fabrics, lunch to follow at the Consulate cafeteria.

For more information contact Alice Cook 713-558-3267



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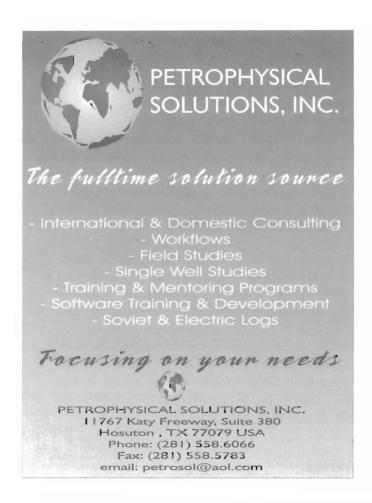
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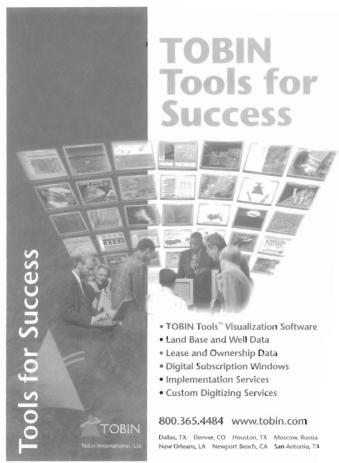
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Qualifications for Associate Membership (including students)

- 1) Be involved in the application of the earth or allied sciences; or
- 2) Be a full-time student enrolled in geology or in the related sciences.

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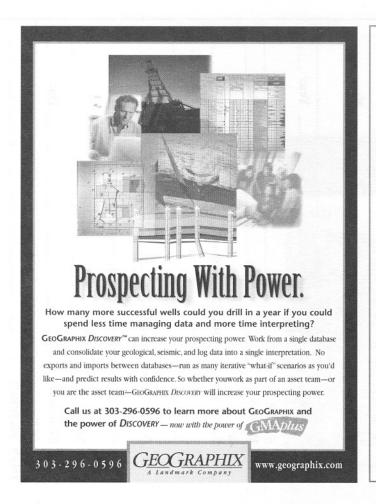
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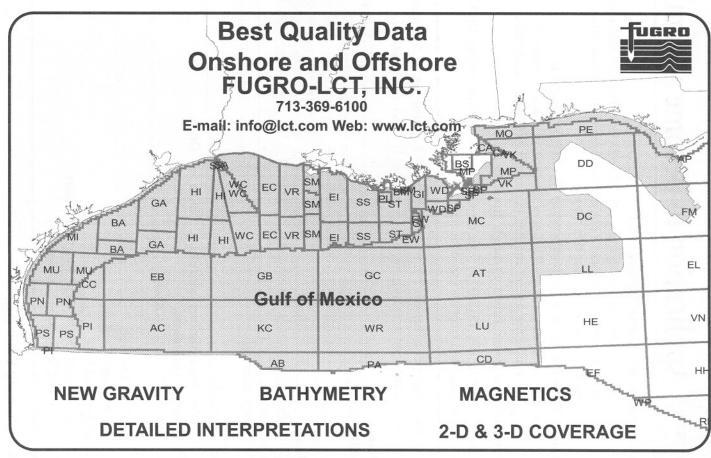
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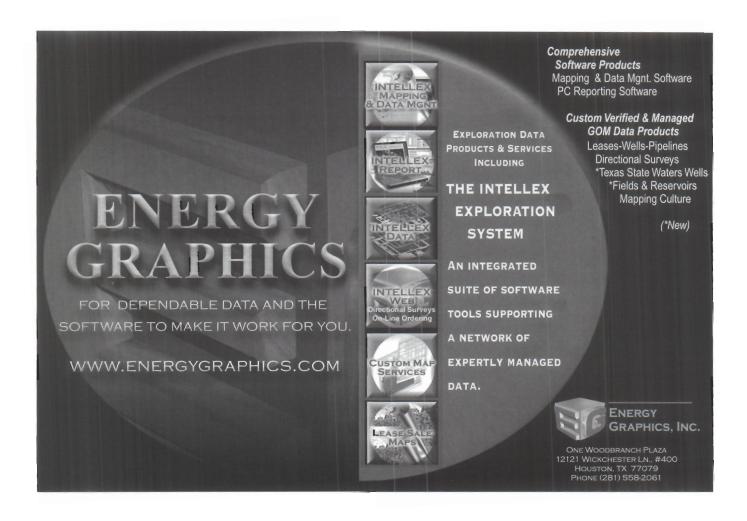
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