LIGNITE IN JACKSON (EOCENE), LAKE SOMERVILLE, TEXAS

HGS SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 12, 1977 (Evening Meeting)
Summit Club, First International Bank Building
Dr. M. Ray Thomasson
Vice-President-Exploration, McCormick Oil and Gas Co.
"U. S. and World Energy Outlook for the 1980's"
Social hour—5:15 PM, Dinner—6:15 PM, Meeting—7:00 PM
Reservations (telephone only, 223-9309) must be made or cancelled by Friday, September 9, 1977.

September 28, 1977 (Noon Meeting)
Rice Hotel, Grand Ballroom
James O. Lewis, Consultant
"Stratigraphy and Entrapment of Hydrocarbons in the San Miguel Sands of Southwest Texas"
Luncheon and Meeting—12 Noon
Reservations (telephone only, 223-9309) must be made or cancelled by Monday, September 26, 1977.
PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

The Houston Geological Society, 54 years old on August 8, is ready to embark upon another year, and it may be wise to remind ourselves that according to the constitution, the objectives of the Society are: (1) to stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for this area; (2) to disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information; (3) to enhance professional interrelationships among geologists in the area; and (4) to aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology. We strive to achieve these goals through the noon and evening technical meetings, the publication of the Bulletin, a continuing education program, field trips, the publication of timely books, and student loans.

This is a large professional group with over 2800 members, no longer concentrated in the downtown area, and it is difficult for many to attend both the noon and evening meetings. However, I think you will find it well worth the time and effort to attend at least some of the meetings. William A. Fowler, Jr., Second Vice President and Technical Program Chairman, is scheduling an excellent program covering a wide range of geological topics. By attending the meetings, you can enlarge your circle of professional acquaintances and, in addition to enjoying the camaraderie, the opportunity exists for the beneficial interchange of thoughts and ideas.

Another very important way in which to stimulate interest and encourage discussion is by means of the monthly Bulletin, which reaches all members. One of our goals for the Bulletin this year is to publish short technical articles by our members. Editor Chester A. Baird, one of his staff, Howard W. Kiatt, or I will be happy to discuss this with any potential author. Readership of the Bulletin is widespread. In addition to the far-flung membership, the Bulletin goes to many universities, research organizations, trade journals, and geological societies. A technical article or discussion in the Bulletin will place your name and scientific ability before an extensive audience.

A third way available to disseminate geological information is through the Continuing Education program. Under the able direction of Stewart Chuber, three outstanding programs were presented last year, and Dr. Chuber has plans for excellent programs this year. Participation in these programs is an excellent and inexpensive way to keep abreast of technical advances and new concepts in geology. Watch the Bulletin for announcements from the Continuing Education Committee.

Field trips are another important facet of the educational program. William F. Bishop and his committee are planning at least one field trip this year. There are many local and regional areas of geologic interest, and I recommend participation in the scheduled field trips to everyone, especially newcomers to the Gulf Coast Province.

Through its publication efforts, the Society utilizes another avenue in service to its members and the geologic profession. The latest book came off the press in June, 1977. Geology of Alternate Energy Resources in the South-Central United States, edited by Michael D. Campbell, is a significant contribution to the literature on the geology of uranium, lignite, and geopressured geothermal energy. This book should be in every geologist’s personal library.

The Society is active in aiding and encouraging academic training in the science of geology through the Academic Liaison Committee, Awards and Student Loan Committee, Boy Scout Committee, and the Houston Geological Society Scholarship Foundation. These topics will be discussed in a future column.

DEAN GRAFTON
President

SOCIETY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

October 10, 1977
Summit Club

October 11, 1977
Shrimp Peel, Knights of Columbus Hall
(see announcement)

October 19, 1977
Rice Hotel

EVENING MEETING—SEPT. 12, 1977

M. RAY THOMASSON—Biographical Sketch

Dr. Thomasson was born in Columbia, Missouri. He completed his undergraduate work and received a Master’s degree in geology from the University of Missouri. After 2 years in the Air Force as an intelligence officer, he attended the University of Wisconsin, graduating with a PhD in geology in 1959.

He joined Shell Oil Company in 1959 and was assigned to the Permian Basin for 4 years. While in Midland, Texas, he was president of the Southwest Section of the AAPG. In 1963 he was assigned to the Offshore Division in New Orleans, where he also taught two geology courses in the Tulane University night school program. During his tenure with Shell he held assignments as a geophysicist in the Houston Marine Division, Division Geologist in the New Orleans Marine Division, Manager of Geologic Research at Shell Development, Manager of Exploration Economics in New York, and Division Manager of the Offshore Division. In 1972 he moved to Head Office as Manager of Forecasting-Planning and Economics, and then to London in 1974 as Head of Strategic Studies at Shell International Petroleum Company. In 1976 he returned to Houston, Texas, as Chief Geologist of Shell Oil Company.

In February of 1977, after 18 years with Shell, Dr. Thomasson joined McCormick Oil and Gas Corporation as Vice-President—Exploration, with responsibility for expanding McCormick’s operations in new areas.

Dr. Thomasson is a member of AAPG, GSA, SEPM, WTGS, RMAG, NOGS and HGS.
U.S. AND WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK
FOR THE 1980’S (Abstract)
by Dr. M. Ray Thomasson

The results of an assessment of energy supply and demand for the United States and the world to the year 1990 can be displayed as balanced volumetric energy flows disaggregated over the primary sources and major consuming sectors. On the national scene some of the projections and conclusions are: (1) between now and 1990 the world demand for oil will grow at 3.2% average annual increase (AAI), while U.S. primary oil consumption will grow at only 2.0% AAI; (2) most of the energy to be consumed in the U.S. over the projection period will be supplied as domestically produced fossil fuels; (3) oil imports will increase to about 10 million b/d throughout the decade of the 1980’s, coming more and more from OPEC; (4) coal will supply an increasingly greater fraction of total U. S. energy consumption, primarily in the utility and industrial sectors; (5) new sources of energy will be developed, but before 1990 will have only a small impact on total supply; (6) nuclear power, although growing less vigorously than estimated in past projections, will be very important to the nation’s economy; and (7) the successful balancing of long-term U. S. energy futures is contingent upon U. S. ability to achieve significant reductions in energy-consumption growth rates.

On the international scene it appears that: (1) the majority of the oil reserves are in communist countries and the Middle East; (2) over 60% of the gas reserves are in communist countries; (3) the same statement generally is true for coal reserves; (4) the U. S. will have to compete with the rest of the world for the available inter-regionally traded oil, and the U. S. can only obtain that oil at the expense of other countries; and (5) two scenarios in which 10 and 20 billion bbl of oil per year of new reserves are added indicate the following: Optimistically, a potential supply gap will occur in the late 1980’s, pessimistically, a potential supply gap will occur in 1981. U. S. oil policy must accommodate these potential problems.

NOON MEETING—SEPTEMBER 28, 1977

JAMES O. LEWIS—Biographical Sketch

James O. Lewis received a BS degree in mechanical engineering in 1945, after his studies had been interrupted by service in the U. S. Navy from 1943 to 1947. Upon receiving his BS degree from the University of Kentucky, he immediately entered graduate school there and was awarded an MS degree in geology in 1949.

Upon graduation, Mr. Lewis was employed by Magnolia Petroleum Company. In 1950 he joined Pat R. Rutherford, Independent Producer. In 1955 he opened his offices as an Independent Producer. Mr. Lewis was certified as a Petroleum Geologist by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He has served on numerous committees and councils as both member and chairman. He toured as Distinguished Lecturer for the 1969-70 AAPPD Distinguished Lecture Series, served as President of the Technical Division of Professional Affairs in 1971-72, and has participated as a Visiting Petroleum Geologist since 1974. In 1963 Mr. Lewis became a member of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists; he served as President of the Houston Chapter for the 1964-65 term and as President of the Society in 1967-68. He was President of the Houston Geological Society in 1968-69, after having served as both First Vice-President and Treasurer, as well as chairman of various committees.

Mr. Lewis has published several papers on geology of the Gulf Coast and has given numerous lectures to various Gulf Coast geological societies.

STRATIGRAPHY AND ENTRAPMENT OF HYDROCARBONS IN THE SAN MIGUEL SANDS OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS (Abstract)
by James O. Lewis

The San Miguel section of the middle Taylor in the Maverick Basin of the Rio Grande Embayment is a series of overlapping sand bars striking NE-SW. Grain-size plots and core descriptions indicate that these bars developed in a shallow-marine shelf environment. There are as many as five cycles of sand sedimentation, all but one of which is producing. These sands have produced a cumulative of over 50 million bbl of oil since 1948. Over 30 million bbl of oil has been produced from stratigraphic-type fields discovered since 1970. Stratigraphic-type fields have produced over 90% of the total production. Structural traps resulting from differential compaction over volcanic necks account for the remainder.

Torch Field in Zavala County, where the trap is formed by a volcanic neck, and Sacatosa Field in Maverick County, where production is from a stratigraphic trap, are typical examples.

The depth and density of control as well as the subtle expression of the traps suggest that many prospective areas remain.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The HGS will present six (6) AAPPD Continuing Education Programs during the 1977-78 activity year. Three of the speakers have already been confirmed and schedules are being arranged for the others. The scheduled lecturers are: November 17-18 Dr. Donn S. Gorsline, "Geology and Geophysics of Continental Margins with Emphasis on Continental Borderlands and Deep Sea Fans"; March 16-17 Dr. Fred A. Donath, "Structural Analysis of Fault and Fracture Systems."

As before, the programs will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning in the Exxon Auditorium. Price and reservation data will be announced in later bulletins.

Other programs in the process of being confirmed are "New Stratigraphic Concepts" by Dr. R. J. Weimer; "Practical Geochemical Methods for Identifying Source Rocks" by Dr. N. J. L. Baily; and "Model Studies of Geologic Structures applied to Hydrocarbon Exploration" by Dr. J. K. Sales. If any HGS member has a special request for a Continuing Education Program he could make, the HGS office would be happy to pass the request on to the Educational Committee.
should contact Stewart Chuber at 658-8395 to make the request known.

STEWART CHUBER

NO LEGISLATION AFFECTING GEOLOGISTS IN AUSTIN THIS TIME

Despite an early flurry of apprehension, no legislation affecting geological scientists passed the Texas Legislature in the 1977 session.

The Texas Section of the Association of Professional Geological Scientists reports that the ad-hoc committee appointed by President Burt E. Hamric to investigate the need and value of two bills before the State Legislature met last spring with State Senator Walter Mengden, Jr. (R-Houston) and Art Kelly, his executive assistant, to discuss two bills being considered for introduction to the Legislature. One proposed bill would have amended the Texas Securities Act to exempt professional geologists under this act, and the other proposed bill was titled "The Earth Scientists Licensing Act." Representatives of the SEG were also at the meeting with Senator Mengden.

Senator Mengden informed the group he would not consider sponsoring the bill unless 80% or more of the geological scientists would be in active support of a licensing bill. Neither of the above bills was offered during the past session of the State Legislature.

SPEAKERS’ KIT

The AAPG Public Information Committee has compiled a Speakers’ Kit for use by geologists addressing audiences on the subject of energy. The kit contains 49 slides, in addition to other reference materials, and is intended to provide speakers with factual material on which to base their presentations.

Each affiliated society in the U. S. will receive one kit from the Association, free of charge, for loan to its members. Additional copies of the kits are available on a loan basis from Headquarters, or for purchase at $25 per kit (the cost of reproducing slides and printed materials).

HGS members interested in borrowing the kit should contact an HGS Officer. To secure a copy from AAPG Headquarters, either for loan or purchase, address AAPG Headquarters, P. O. Box 979, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

PECORA III SYMPOSIUM

The AAPG is the sponsoring society for the third William T. Pecora Symposium to be held in cooperation with the USGS and NASA. The subject of this symposium, to be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from October 30 to November 2, 1977, is “Application of Satellite Data to Petroleum and Mineral Exploration.” For further details contact Sherry Linville, AAPG, P. O. Box 979, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

Pertinent to the subject of this symposium is the recently published USGS Professional Paper 929 "ERTS-1, A New Window On Our Planet," edited by Richard S. Williams, Jr., and William D. Carter. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Price is $13.00 for the paper-cover edition. It covers all the earthly uses of ERTS-1 in a nutshell, and contains many image examples along with explanations. Every school and doctor's office should have one.

HGS ANNUAL SHRIMP PEEL!!

The HGS will hold its popular annual Shrimp Peel on Tuesday, October 11, 1977, at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 607 East Whitney. Arrangements have been made to move indoors in case of inclement weather.

Tickets will be $8.00 if purchased in advance or $9.00 at the door. Send your check for tickets with a stamped self-addressed envelope to the HGS office. Tickets will also be on sale at the September noon meeting and the October evening meeting.

HOUSTON AAPG DELEGATES REPORT

During 1976-77, the 21 members of the Houston delegation to AAPG met monthly for the purpose of considering membership applications and other items of Association business. During the year we processed 120 applications, an average of approximately 14 per meeting.

In addition to screening applications and accomplishing other routine items of business at monthly meetings, the delegation’s primary responsibility is to represent Houston area members at the House of Delegates meeting during the annual convention. This year Houston was represented by a full delegation at Washington, D. C. At the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday, June 12, the House approved a resolution establishing the Energy Minerals Division as a legal component of the AAPG.

In another important item of business, the House of Delegates elected new officers for the year. Clyde E. Harrison, a member of the Houston delegation, was elected Vice-Chairman. Other officers for 1977-78 are Harry A. Miller, Jr., consultant from Midland, Chairman; and J. Miller Gooder, independent from Ft. Worth, Recording Secretary.

For the year 1977-78 the Houston Geological Society, because of its increased size, will have 22 members in the House of Delegates. Listed below are names and telephone numbers of the Delegates.

Thos. D. Barber 622-1130
J. Denny Bartoll 228-6668
Marilyn J. Crane 656-3636
Richard G. Guerrero 659-3061
Jim B. Harris 658-8031
Clyde E. Harrison 658-8815
Howard W. Kiatta 237-9198
Morad Malek-Aslani 757-2769
Jack Donald McClelland 658-8413
Dalton Null 961-3051
William Gene Pittman 658-8190

We have applications for those interested in membership in AAPG and will be glad to receive any recommendations, suggestions, or comments any member feels should be brought to the attention of the House of Delegates or the Executive Committee.

While in Washington, members of the Houston delegation met with key members of Congress to discuss with them our evaluation of the Administration’s proposed energy program and to suggest certain important aspects for their consideration. Since returning from Washington, individual delegates have provided data to various members of Congress in response to requests made during our visits. The
general consensus is that any favorable impact we made was probably very modest. A rough box score of the 21 congressmen whose offices we contacted would suggest that 8 favored deregulation, 9 opposed it, and 4 were non-committal.

One hundred years after Colonel Edwin L. Drake found oil at Titusville, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission saluted his accomplishment stating, "His personal contributions to this achievement included a dogged persistence which refused to be discouraged by continued disappointments. . . ."

This could well be a proper benediction for our efforts in Washington. If the United States is to have a realistic and objective energy policy, the oil finders of today must have the same "dogged persistence" in spite of continued disappointments that characterized Colonel Drake's efforts 118 years ago.

THOS. D. BARBER
Chairman
1976-77 Houston AAPG Delegates

NEW ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION

The AAPG House of Delegates has voted to establish an Energy Minerals Division as a new technical branch of the Association. This action comes in recognition of both the emerging energy potential of earth materials other than conventional oil and gas resources and the growing involvement of petroleum geologists in exploring and developing these materials.

Loyd A. Carlson, President of the new division, said, "The division will emphasize programs and publications dealing with coal, geothermal energy, nuclear minerals, oil shale and tar sands in order to publicize and inform both AAPG members and the public of developments in these resources." The division already has 600 members. Other officers of the division are Warren Westphal, Vice-President, and Ruffin Rackley, Secretary-Treasurer.

AAPG—APGS RECIPROCITY

January 12, 1978, will end the 2-year period of certification reciprocity between the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Association of Professional Geological Scientists. Basically, this reciprocity means that, if you are an Active member of AAPG or a Certified Petroleum Geologist in the Division of Professional Affairs of AAPG, you can be certified by the Association of Professional Geological Scientists with a minimum of time and formality. Conversely, if you are certified by APGS and desire certification by AAPG under the reciprocity agreement, you can be accomplished expeditiously. Outlined below are the steps to follow.

(1) For an Active member of AAPG wishing certification by APGS: Complete the formal application for membership (sponsors are not required, as AAPG is your sponsor) and mail the completed application with a check for $35 to APGS. In Houston, you can get an APGS application form from C. A. Baird, R. E. Best, or S. W. Marshall.

(2) For a Certified Petroleum Geologist of AAPG wishing certification by APGS: Write a formal letter to the Executive Committee, APGS, P. O. Box 957, Golden, Colorado 80401, stating that you are a Certified Petroleum Geologist of AAPG and desire certification by APGS under the reciprocity agreement, and send this letter with a check for $30 to the above address.

(3) For those APGS members wishing certification by AAPG: Write a formal letter to AAPG, P. O. Box 979, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, stating that you are certified by APGS and desire certification by AAPG under the reciprocity agreement.

The above procedures can usually be accomplished in 6 weeks. If you are interested in being certified, we suggest that you start the process now. Being certified by either organization outside the reciprocity agreement usually takes a minimum of 6 months.

ANNUAL DUES

Dues notices were mailed to all members in August. Please take care of this obligation promptly so that we will not have to send out second notices in October. If you did not receive a dues notice, please notify the HGS office. As stated in the Bylaws, members not paid by November 15 will be dropped from the membership roll. We plan to publish a Membership Directory this year so it will be to your advantage to make certain that all data on your membership file card are correct.

ELEANOR M. HOOVER
Treasurer

APGS WASHINGTON UPDATE

The Association of Professional Geological Scientists has published the following report on the current status in Congress of legislation which affects geological scientists.


Alaska Wilderness Conservation, S 1500, Sen. Metcalf (D-MT); HR 39, Rep. Udall (D-AZ). This designates 217,000 sq mi of Alaskan lands as wilderness areas, parks, etc., without mineral resource evaluation prior to designation. APGS testified requesting full mineral evaluation prior to designation.

OCS Act, HR 1614, Rep. Murphy (D-NY); S 9, Sen. Jackson (D-WA). Hearings concluded, markup under way. APGS testified.

Surface Mining Bill, HR 2, Rep. Udall (D-AZ); S 7, Sen. Metcalf (D-MT). Passed House and Senate. APGS was successful in getting change in "authority" of geological scientists in the bill.

Earthquake Prediction and Hazards Reductions Act, S 126, Sen. Cranston (D-CA); HR 35 (now HR 6673), Rep. Teague (D-TX). Now being marked up by House committee on mines and mining. APGS provided testimony.

Energy Agency Reorganization, S 826, Sen. Ribicoff (D-NY), HR 4263, Rep. Brooks (D-TX). This is President Carter's proposal for a Department of Energy. Read your local newspaper for information on this. (John L. Kennedy, Engineering Editor for the Oil & Gas Journal, looked at this from one viewpoint in the July 4 issue, p. 18. Editor)

Energy Leasing Amendment of 1977, HR 5709, Rep. Udall (D-AZ). Hearings in progress. No companion Senate bill as yet. This amends the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to
disallow a person, corporation, or association controlling two or more deposits of energy minerals or engaging in two or more energy mineral processes from acquiring control of any lease or mining claim on additional energy minerals. APGS has requested time to present testimony.


**Natural Gas Act Amendments, S 256, Sen. Erda (D-WA):** Still requires fiscal 1977 funding.

**GUEST COLUMN**

by Dr. J. Brian Eby, Geologist

The Houston Geological Society moved into its 55th year listing a membership of 2870 geologists, engineers, geophysicists, and related explorers for oil, gas, and minerals. It is predicted that the membership will exceed the 3000 mark during this year. What problems face the Society in the next 12 months?

The worldwide status of the oil and gas industry today, and especially in our own country, is little short of chaos. We are told we are running out of oil and gas; we will have to move into the field of nuclear power before the end of the century. Exploratory drilling for oil on the Atlantic Coastal shelf is tied up until the environmentalists can win guarantees of absolute prevention of contamination of oceanic shore zone areas of our country. Where do we go from here?

Before we answer that question, let's recall the oil and gas situation in the United States just 50 years ago. The Houston Geological Society was founded August 8, 1923. The founding fathers, 73 in all, accomplished the task in a time of great stress in the oil and gas industry. I recall the situation as an oil and gas geologist on the United States Geological Survey from the years of 1920 to 1925.

During those years there was considerable propaganda by the U. S. Geological Survey that we (the U. S. A.) would be running out of oil and gas in 10 to 12 years. There was considerable difference of opinion among the U. S. Survey staff. The official published opinions of President Harding and Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall broadcast that the end of indigenous oil and gas in the United States was now in sight. My 5 years on the U. S. Geological Survey was spent in mapping oil, gas, and coal deposits; 1920 in Wise County, Virginia, 1921 in Utah, 1922 and 1923 in Northwest Colorado. During my first years in the West I worked under the direction of such well-known geologists as Frank Reeves, Edmund Speiker, and Taylor Thom. Their opinions were that oil and gas of the United States was far from exhausted. The oil discoveries of Spindletop, Texas, in 1901, and the early oilfields of Oklahoma were considered by many of the heads of our government as exceptional events.

When I arrived in Houston on Christmas Eve, 1925, the gloomy and foreboding oil and gas picture was disappearing in thin air. Geophysics was introduced in the Gulf Coast area early in 1924: first, the torsion balance, and second, the mechanical seismograph.

E. DeGolyer, Alexander Deussen, Wallace Pratt, L. P. Garrett, O. Scott Petty, Ludger Mintrop, and many others were the founders of the geophysical art of oil finding, using the torsion balance, the mechanical and electrical seismographs, to find hundreds of oil and gas structures.

This helped immeasurably to place the United States back in the business of home-producing its oil and gas needs.

In March of 1924, the Houston Geological Society invited the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Tulsa Oklahoma, to hold their 9th Annual Convention in Houston. Deussen served as General Chairman, and was aided by Pratt, Garrett, R. F. Baker, Donald C. Barton, Dilworth Hager, and E. T. Dumble. It was not only a bell-ringer for Houston, but caught the attention of important people in Washington and New York. I joined the Houston Roxana (Shell) Company in the Christmas season of 1924, and served as geological and geophysical coordinator for 5 years.

**REVIEW OF RESERVATION PROCEDURE**

The telephone reservation procedure will be continued this year. The reservation number is 223-9309. Please call in your reservations for the Monday evening meetings by noon on the preceding Friday and for the Wednesday noon meetings by noon on the preceding Monday. For those companies employing a number of geologists, we again ask that each unit or group designate one person to receive reservations from his colleagues and this individual should call 223-9309 with the reservation count. Please make a reservation if you plan to attend, and please attend if you make a reservation. Please cancel your reservation if unable to attend, and please do not attend without a reservation. We are confident that every HGS member will continue to cooperate.

**NATIONAL AAPG & SEPM CONVENTION**

The AAPG is soliciting papers for the 1978 Oklahoma City convention to be held April 12, 1978. Theme for the convention is "Generate in '78." Special sessions on the following subjects are planned: computer applications, energy minerals, petroleum geology, Mid-Continent geology, geology, foreign energy minerals, petroleum geology, Mid-Continent geology, geochemistry, and papers on other subjects of broad interest. Abstracts of papers, not to exceed 250 words (double-spaced typed original and one copy with the author's address at the bottom of the page), are to be submitted by October 1, 1977, to the AAPG program chairman, Thomas N. Capucille, 1500 City National Bank Tower, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. Papers given previously at regional, sectional, or national meetings will not be accepted.

**RMAG FIELD CONFERENCE**

The Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists announces the 1977 RMAG Field Conference and Symposium on "Exploration Frontiers of the Central Rockies," September 28 through October 1, at Snowmass at Aspen, Colorado. The guidebook will emphasize Oil and Gas Exploration in the subject area with additional papers on new techniques in the exploration for uranium, coal, and geothermal energy. Road logs are an integral part of the book, which is available at a prepublication price of $25.

**Houston Geological Society Bulletin, September 1977**

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The 3 years of 1929, 1930, and 1931 ushered three great oilfields into Texas history: the Van Field in Van Zandt County, the great East Texas Oilfield, and the Conroe Field of Montgomery County.

The offshore areas of Louisiana, and to a lesser extent, portions of the Texas Gulf shelf, were geologically and geophysically explored, and became the hunting ground for new oil and gas fields. Success was slow but sure. One of the Louisiana salt domes contains the largest known single occurrence of pure sulphur in the world and is being properly harvested.

Now come the fantastic problems of the present oil business—nationwide and worldwide. First and foremost, OPEC raised the price of crude oil produced and available from $2.59 per barrel to $5.12 per barrel on October 16, 1973, and on January 1, 1974, raised the price again to $11.65. This automatically forced a very substantial problem to the oil importers, the United States in particular, as the chief importer from the OPEC countries. Where or when will this problem go away?

Secondly, our home problems are enormous in solving the national programs that have been placed in force, and immeasurable in their effect on private enterprise. The policy of refusing the “old” oil the same money value as newly discovered oil is an odd dodge. Why should “old” oil be sold for below the price of “new” oil?

The United States policy of encouraging novices in the oil business to drill wildcat wells, without the slightest geological or geophysical prior exploration, should be corrected. Newly organized oil companies or partnerships should be investigated thoroughly before permitting the selling of interests or oil payments to the general public.

By next September the members of the Houston Geological Society, 3000 strong, should tackle the problems of our national and international oil relationships. Our Society represents every phase of the oil business—local, national, and foreign. Perhaps a special committee headed by your most eloquent and knowledgeable oil members should take the problems directly to Washington. It might be helpful.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTIONS,
AAPG & SEPM

First call has been issued for technical papers for the March 19-22, 1978, Salt Lake City meeting on the theme of “The Mountain West—Exploration Frontier.” New activity in the Hingeline and Basin-Range Provinces will be highlighted, as well as exploration for energy minerals other than oil and gas. Abstract requirements are the same as given above for AAPG. Mail abstracts to either M. Dane Picard, University of Utah, Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, or Terence L. Britt. 3280 Bernada Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117.

RECENT DEATHS

William E. Bassinger, 49, June 8, 1977, President of Buttes Resources International, Inc.


AAPG CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

On May 24, 1977, John Moody and Fred A. Dix, Jr., President and Executive Director of the AAPG, respectively, offered testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee in which they faulted President Carter’s plans for new oil and gas exploration incentives.

Moody told the panel: “We are faced with an energy availability shortage, and not an energy shortage.” The President’s proposed energy policy “... does not seriously address the problem of increasing energy supply. The most constructive things the Congress can do to encourage drilling are to improve the price and tax structures relative to the products of drilling, and to minimize the regulatory burdens under which those who drill for oil and gas must operate. The incentives should be tied to risk, not miles,” Moody said, referring to President Carter’s proposal to define hydrocarbon accumulations that would qualify for new oil prices as those being 2½ mi or more from a producing well.

Dix testified that portions of the Administration’s proposed incentive plan for hydrocarbon exploration are “geologically unsound” and would inhibit drilling of some productive wells. Dix called on Congress to support the “new oil” price for all oil and natural gas found by exploratory drilling and the development of a tax incentive for “rank” wildcatting. Dix said that, “Behind a dynamic national exploration policy are a price and a reasonable regulatory climate at both federal and state levels.”

CALL FOR PAPERS—
1978 GCAGS CONVENTION

GCAGS has issued the first call for papers for the 1978 GCAGS convention, to be in New Orleans on October 11-13. Two thematic approaches are planned for the technical papers. These are “Old Plays—New Pays” and “The Lights That Failed—significant, unsuccessful prospects.” The first category would involve productive sections with a traditional history of accumulation now offering new emphasis through downdip projections and deeper drilling, by the applications of state of the art geological-geophysical interpretations, and additional reserves through a better understanding of the reservoir characteristics and productive histories. The second category is an attempt to determine how a series of reasonable assumptions and judgments fell short of their objective of finding oil and gas. Potential authors should contact the Program Chairman, Mr. R. W. Boebel, 1608 International Trade Mart, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

LARGE ENERGY SUPPLIES REMAIN
TO BE FOUND AND DEVELOPED

Dr. V. E. McKelvey, Director, USGS, recently spoke before a group of institutional investors attending a forum sponsored by G. Tsai and Co. in Boston. His talk covered “The U. S. Outlook for Energy Minerals.” He stated that, by far, the greatest potential sources of natural gas are the “geo-pressured” zones underlying the Gulf Coast region, both on- and offshore. Limited investigations made of the region have led to estimates of as much as 50,000 to 80,000 trillion cubic feet of gas dissolved in water and as free gas above the water zone.

“This is an almost incomprehensibly large number,” McKelvey said, noting that “even the bottom of the range represents about 10 times the energy value of all oil, gas and coal.
reserves of the U. S. combined." He went on to say that "...in addition to the gas, the water itself represents a potential energy source available at pressures up to 10,000 lbs per square inch and at temperatures exceeding 300 degrees F, provided ways can be found to produce, use and dispose of it. We need to know more about this potential resource. We are far from knowing how to go about realizing its possibilities at the present time. The President's energy plan promises that such an assessment will be made." McKelvey also said that oil appears to be the least abundant of the fossil fuels, but undiscovered petroleum resources estimated at high confidence levels are adequate to justify vigorous exploration and development programs for many more years." (Emphasis added)

ENERGY ISSUES VOTED ON

The Houston Chronicle reports the following selected issues having been voted on the week of July 10.

**Offshore Reserves**—The Senate approved 52 to 46 an OCS Management Amendment allowing the Interior Department to commission exploratory drilling on the federally owned outer continental shelf for supply estimates of oil and gas reserves.

- Bentsen, Dem. - No.

**Energy Reserves Estimates**—The Senate voted 54 to 39 to authorize the President to coordinate the efforts of the Federal agencies in the independent gathering of reliable information on fuel reserves and to allow Federal exploratory drilling onshore and offshore for this purpose. (Emphasis added)

- Bentsen, Dem. - No.

The House approved 244 to 88 a bill requiring strengthened safety procedures in Mines.

- Eckhardt, Dem. - Yes.
- Gammage, Dem. - Absent or did not vote.
- Jordan, Dem. - Absent or did not vote.
- Krueger, New Braunfels, Dem. - Absent or did not vote.

MEMORIAL—WM. E. BASSINGER

William E. Bassinger died after surgery in Houston, Texas, June 8, 1977, on his 49th birthday. 

William was born and reared in Houston, Texas, and attended local schools. He was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Texas in 1951 and did graduate work at the University of Houston.

Known by many of his friends as Bill, William began his professional career in 1951 on a Soho Gulf Coast seismic crew and later worked for Rogers Geophysical Company and Berg Exploration Company.

In 1954 he joined Pure Oil Company and worked his way up through jobs of increasing responsibility to Chief Geophysicist of the Foreign Division where he was directly responsible for the planning and supervision of all foreign geophysical operations of the company.

After Pure's merger with Union of California, he was transferred to Bakersfield, California, where he was elected Vice President of the Pacific Coast Section of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

He left Union Oil Company to work for Buttes Gas and Oil Company in 1969. In 1972 he was named manager of International Exploration and Operations for the company. In 1973 he became President of Buttes Resources International and Vice-President of the parent firm, Buttes Gas and Oil Company.

His work with Buttes gained major concessions for the company in the offshore areas of Sharjah, Tunisia, Guinea, Yugoslavia and Nicaragua. He was responsible for the discovery of a number of oil and gas fields in the United States and for oil discoveries in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Among these discoveries was the Mubarek Field, offshore Sharjah, which to date has produced over 40,000,000 barrels of oil.

He enjoyed his work, was a brilliant organizer and planner, an avid reader, an innovator and one who demanded excellence. His work took him all over the world and he liked discussing his travel experiences with friends.

An innately shy person, his shyness was sometimes mistaken by casual acquaintances as unfriendliness, but such was not the case. His friends were life-long friends.

He is survived by his devoted wife and fine son, a family of whom he was most proud, a brother and his mother.

It seems tragic that a man of such capability should have his life end so abruptly in its prime, as I know as always he had made many well-laid plans for future projects and goals. He will be remembered by his many friends for his intellect and his achievements.

I knew him as a fellow student in high school and college, a professional and business associate and a co-worker, but most important as a friend. I'll miss him.

VIRGIL K. KRAUS
Houston, Texas
July 30, 1977

EDITOR'S NOTES

The editorial staff plans to do everything in its power to continue the enhancement of the Bulletin, which is the official organ of the largest local geological society in the world. First and foremost, we would like to offer a technical article every month. This requires your participation. It has been 15 years since HGS published Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Texas. I can't believe that there aren't many new oil and gas fields of interest out there somewhere which could be interesting material for discussion. We are thinking of articles on the order of 3 Bulletin pages including illustrations. The editorial staff will be happy to discuss manuscript requirements with any potential author.

In reviewing operations for the past 2 years with former editor Don Lane, it became readily apparent that many of you have an interest in seeing that information on various items is disseminated to the membership. We hope that you will continue this interest. We do request your cooperation in the adherence to certain procedures. All copy must be submitted to the editorial staff and not to the printer. All copy must be typed and double-spaced. This is the form required by the printer; any other style increases the costs astronomically since extra time is involved, and time is money. Also, the deadline for each month's copy must be strictly observed. Requests to have items published after copy has been set by the printer require insertion of the new material into the...
existing tapes (computers are involved) and rearrangement of the previously established layout—very expensive.

In summary, we will adhere to the following procedures:

1. Deadline for copy to be in the hands of the editorial staff will be the first of the month preceding publication; e.g., for the November number, copy must be received by October 1.

2. Copy not in manuscript form (typed and double-spaced) will not be accepted.

3. News of personnel changes will be limited to members of HGS.

4. In Memoriam articles will be limited to 400 words plus one picture, roughly one Bulletin column.

5. The editorial staff will be the sole judge of what will be published and, as Editor, I take responsibility for these decisions. Publication in the Bulletin will in no way constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the officers of the society, or the membership of the society.

Your comments and constructive criticism will be appreciated. We look forward to serving the membership.

C. A BAIRD
Editor

HOUSTON, TEXAS—1979

Dr. Anthony Reso, a research geologist with Tenneco Oil Company and a past-President (1975-1976) of the Houston Geological Society, has been named General Chairman of the AAPG-SEPM National Convention to be held in Houston, April 1-4, 1979. This convention is expected to attract the largest attendance in the history of these meetings.

Most activities of the convention will take place downtown at the Albert Thomas Center; the Hyatt Regency will serve as the Headquarters Hotel.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF HGS

R. C. Bowles
J. Ben Carsey
Stuart Kenneth Clark
Ira H. Cram
Morgan J. Davis
J. Brian Eby
Michel T. Halbouty

Marcus A. Hanna
Rufus J. LeBlanc
Wallace E. Pratt
Charles H. Sample
Martin M. Sheets
Fred L. Smith
Wallace C. Thompson

SUCCESSFUL FARMOUTS TAXABLE, IRS RULES

Internal Revenue Service ruling 77-176 says that the enhanced value of leases earned via the farmout drilling route will be treated as ordinary income both to the farmoutor and the farminee. For example, party X drills a successful well on a farmout from party Y and places the earning well in a 300-acre producing unit. Under terms of the farmout, X also earns 50% interest in the adjacent 10,000 acres. The increase in value to the adjacent acreage caused by the earning well is treated as ordinary income to party X. Party Y's adjusted basis will also be changed. Y, in addition to X, may also realize a gain and a consequent tax liability. When the adjacent acreage is drilled and produced, the products will again be taxed. (Courtesy Public Affairs Committee, New Orleans Geological Society)
PROFESSIONAL NOTES

The HGS proudly announces that two of its former presidents, Ed R. Turner and John J. Amoruso, have been elected as officers of the AAPG. Ed Turner has assumed the presidency of the AAPG and John Amoruso has begun a 2-year term as Secretary.

The following Societies announce their new officers:

CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
President George K. Fegan, Gas Prod. Enterprises, Inc.
First V. P. Carroll Putzier, Independent
Second V. P. Bill Maxwell, Harkins & Company
Treasurer Cliff McTee, Independent
Secretary Helen Klein, Gas Prod. Enterprises, Inc.

SOUTH TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SAN ANTONIO
President Ed C. Roy, Trinity University
V. P. Alvin Schultz, Tesoro Petroleum Corp.
Secretary Al Linscomb, Signor Corp.
Treasurer Don Urbanec, Independent

LAFAYETTE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
President Jack Campione, So. Louisiana Prod. Co.
First V. P. Charles Cutright, Entex
Second V. P. Francis Broussard, ARCO
Secretary Jim Montgomery, Amerada Hess
Treasurer John Harris, Entex

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
President Sarah Childress, Ensearch Corporation
First V. P. Les Aultman, Pruett & Hughes
Second V. P. Joe Fritz, Marion Corp.
Secretary W. S. Howard, R. L. Burns Corp.
Treasurer Don Turner, Union Oil

S. H. Ogier, named South Louisiana Regional Geologist, McCormick Oil & Gas Corp., Houston (658-8031).
J. B. Harris, named South Texas Regional Geologist, McCormick Oil & Gas Corp., Houston (658-8031).
G. Baxter Adams, Jr., has formed a new company, Sunbelt Exploration Company, Houston (654-9733), and retained Paul Kaminsky and Pete Suderman.


Tom A. McQuillin, named Senior Exploration Geologist, Ladd Petroleum Corp., Houston (629-8111).

Clayton S. Valder, Jr., Senior Staff Geologist with Amoco Production Company, Houston, won the A. I. Levenson Award at the 1977 Southwest Section AAPG Regional Meeting for his paper, “Gas Production from Tight Sandstones of Permo-Pennsylvania Age, Val Verde Basin, Texas.” Mr. Valder presented this paper to the Houston Geological Society on March 30, 1977.

Fred Marshall, formerly with Sun Oil in Houston, is now with Delta Drilling Company in Tyler, Texas.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

It takes about 66.6 quarts of water to get a 12 oz. beverage can and its contents to the supermarket?

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HGS, 1977-78 MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar Now

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
<th>NOON</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>12 - Summit Club</td>
<td>28 - Rice Hotel</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>10 - Summit Club</td>
<td>19 - Rice Hotel</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>14 - Summit Club</td>
<td>30 - Houston Oaks Hotel</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>No Meeting</td>
<td>14 - Rice Hotel</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>9 - Summit Club</td>
<td>25 - Rice Hotel</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>6 - Stouffers Hotel (jointly W/HAPL)</td>
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<td>6 - Rice Hotel (jointly W/GSH)</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>3 - Summit Club</td>
<td>26 - Houston Oaks Hotel</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>8 - Summit Club</td>
<td>24 - Rice Hotel</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>5 - Stouffers Hotel (Guest Night)</td>
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MEETING LOCATIONS AND PARKING INFORMATION

SUMMIT CLUB
First International Bank, Main at Jefferson.
Free Parking on Summit Club lot, Jefferson Street. Covered parking available one block south of bank building.
DO NOT PARK IN BANK LOT—YOUR CAR MAY BE LOCKED IN OR TOWED AWAY.

RICE HOTEL
Main and Texas.
Grand Ballroom—upstairs to second level. Special Parking Rate in Rice Hotel Garage, 506 Milam (one block west); tickets will be validated at meeting.

HOUSTON OAKS HOTEL
Galleria Post Oak, Consort II Ballroom.
Free Parking available in underground area off Westheimer.

STOUFFERS GREENWAY PLAZA HOTEL
6 Greenway Plaza East, Greenway Ballroom.
Free Parking at Edloe Street entrance.

PRICE SCHEDULE—HGS MEETINGS

(Subject to Change)

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RESERVATIONS—223-9309

Please make reservations for Monday evening meetings by the preceding Friday; for Wednesday noon meetings by Monday.
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>U. OF H. NOON SEMINAR</td>
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<td>CALL TODAY 223-9309 FOR HGS RESERVATIONS</td>
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<td>HGS EVENING MEETING SUMMIT CLUB 5:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>S. I. P. E. S. LAMAR HOTEL 11:30 A.M. HGS - AUX LUNCHEON RIVER OAKS C.C.</td>
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<td>U. OF H. NOON SEMINAR</td>
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<td>MESOZOIC GEOLOGISTS BRIAR CLUB NOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>CALL TODAY 223-9309 BY 10 A.M. FOR HGS RESERVATIONS</td>
<td>U. OF H. NOON SEMINAR</td>
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<td>RMAG 29 FIELD CONFERENCE &amp; SYMPOSIUM ASPEN, COLO.</td>
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<td>RMAG 28 LUNCHEON RICE HOTEL 11:30 A.M.</td>
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<td>RMAG 30 FIELD CONFERENCE &amp; SYMPOSIUM ASPEN, COLO.</td>
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<td>RMAG 1 FIELD CONFERENCE &amp; SYMPOSIUM ASPEN, COLO.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
NEW MEMBERS
June 2, 1977

BENSCOTER, DAVID G.
Geologist
Tamarack Petroleum Co.
5625 FM 1902 West #502
Houston, Texas 77069
440-9922
6000 Sun Forest #1902
Houston, Texas 77092
683-6018
U. of Southern California 1976 B.S. Geol.

BLAIR, ARTHUR JOHN
Division Geologist
Reserve Oil Co.
950 Security National Bank Bldg.
Houston, Texas 77006
960-5986
8106 Fern Brook
Houston, Texas 77042
784-9661
U. of Alabama 1966 B.S. Geol.
U. of Oklahoma 1968 M.S. Geol.

BRENNKE, JAMES C
Research Geologist
Shell Development Co.
P. O. Box 481
Houston, Texas 77001
663-2627
7480 Brompton Blvd #341
Houston, Texas 77025
681-4419
Augustana College 1972 B.A. Geol.
U. of Illinois 1976 M.S. Geol.

BROWN, JOHN M.
Mgr. Expl.-Eastern Gulf
Transco Exploration Company
P. O. Box 1396
Houston, Texas 77001
626-8100
#10 Shady Lane
Covington, Louisiana 70433
504-892-8339
LAVERNE
U. of Oklahoma 1969 B.S. Geol.

BUCHANAN, JEFFERY J.
Geologic Assistant
Sea Resources
3800 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, Texas 77004
960-1040
1006 Park Blvd Lane
Katy, Texas 77450
492-2857
ELEANOR
Wayne State University 1972 B.S. Geol.
1975 M.S. Geol.

CARTER, GARY D.
Geologist
Williams Exploration Company
845 One Allen Center
Houston, Texas 77019
658-1101
6010 Eim #902
Houston, Texas 77081
688-3554
U. of Texas at Austin 1976 B.S. Geol.

CURR/IER, JOHN D. JR.
Geologist
General Crude Oil
P. O. Box 2252
Houston, Texas 77001
651-9261
4503 E. Salvador
Houston, Texas 77066
444-6572
MARLA
Lamar University 1965 B.S. Geol.
U. of Oklahoma 1967 M.S. Geol.

DETMAR, JOHN THOMAS
Geologist
Texas Gas Exploration Corp.
P. O. Box 52310
Houston, Texas 77005
658-9661

EVERETT, JOHN R.
Chief Geologist
Earth Satellite Corporation
7222 47th St. (Chevy Chase)
Washington, D. C. 20015
301-652-7130
U. of Oklahoma 1962 B.S. Geol.
U. of Texas at Austin 1964 M.A. Geol.
1970 Ph.D. Geol.

HOLTERHOFF, FRANK K.
Geologist
Cities Service Oil Co.
P. O. Box 22082
Houston, Texas 77056
629-9700 Ext. 275
7222 Bellerive Dr. Apt. 1234
Houston, Texas 77036
784-4213
MARY
Ohio State 1974 B.Sc. Geol.
1977 M.Sc. Geol.

JAMES, C. L.
Reserve Oil Co.
950 Security National Bank Bldg.
Houston, Texas 77006
960-5986
8106 Fern Brook
Houston, Texas 77042
784-9661
U. of Alabama 1966 B.S. Geol.
U. of Oklahoma 1968 M.S. Geol.

BROWN, JOHN M.
Mgr. Expl.-Eastern Gulf
Transco Exploration Company
P. O. Box 1396
Houston, Texas 77001
626-8100
#10 Shady Lane
Covington, Louisiana 70433
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Mgr. Expl.-Eastern Gulf
Transco Exploration Company
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626-8100
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504-892-8339
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U. of Oklahoma 1969 B.S. Geol.

BUCHANAN, JEFFERY J.
Geologic Assistant
Sea Resources
3800 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, Texas 77004
960-1040
1006 Park Blvd Lane
Katy, Texas 77450
492-2857
ELEANOR
Wayne State University 1972 B.S. Geol.
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Williams Exploration Company
845 One Allen Center
Houston, Texas 77019
658-1101
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Houston, Texas 77081
688-3554
U. of Texas at Austin 1976 B.S. Geol.

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Geologist
General Crude Oil
P. O. Box 2252
Houston, Texas 77001
651-9261
4503 E. Salvador
Houston, Texas 77066
444-6572
MARLA
Lamar University 1965 B.S. Geol.
U. of Oklahoma 1967 M.S. Geol.

DETMAR, JOHN THOMAS
Geologist
Texas Gas Exploration Corp.
P. O. Box 52310
Houston, Texas 77005
658-9661

EVERETT, JOHN R.
Chief Geologist
Earth Satellite Corporation
7222 47th St. (Chevy Chase)
Washington, D. C. 20015
301-652-7130
U. of Oklahoma 1962 B.S. Geol.
U. of Texas at Austin 1964 M.A. Geol.
1970 Ph.D. Geol.

HOLTERHOFF, FRANK K.
Geologist
Cities Service Oil Co.
P. O. Box 22082
Houston, Texas 77056
629-9700 Ext. 275
7222 Bellerive Dr. Apt. 1234
Houston, Texas 77036
784-4213
MARY
Ohio State 1974 B.Sc. Geol.
1977 M.Sc. Geol.

LEE, BILLY W.
Petroleum Engineer
B. P. Huddleston & Co., Inc.
1430 Capitol National Bank Bldg.
Houston, Texas 77003
658-9248
2602 Westlawn #6-2
Houston, Texas 77063
708-9946
1973 M.B.A. Finance

OTY, JOHN W.
Chief Geologist
Anadarko Production Company
P. O. Box 1330
Houston, Texas 77001
526-5421, Ext. 217
3311 Fawn Creek Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77339
354-5752
KATHERINE
U. of Idaho 1955 B.S. Geol.

REID, WILLIAM M.
Geologist
Earth Satellite Corporation
7222 47th St. (Chevy Chase)
Washington, D. C. 20015
301-652-7130
Spruell Court
Kensington, MD 20895
301-942-1425
ALICE
Texas A & M 1965 B.S. Geophysics
1968 M.S. Geol.
1972 Ph.D. Geol.

RISEDEN, JON E.
Vice President
Howell Corporation
800 HNG Bldg.
Houston, Texas 77002
651-9661
10114 Shady River
Houston, Texas 77042
785-8438
ANNA

ROACH, JESS P.
Vice President
Ladd Petroleum Corporation
830 Denver Club Bldg.
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-292-2080
4084 S. Niagra Way
Denver, Colorado 80237
303-758-8217
MAXINE
U. of Texas 1941 B.A. Geol.

SMITH, DON W. (ASSOCIATE)
Attorney
Self-Employed
2222 Burke Dr., Suite 106
Pasadena, Texas 77504
949-8374
306 West Avenue
Pasadena, Texas 77502
473-0374
Marilyn
L.S.U. 1950 B.S. Geol.
South Texas College of Law 1973 J.D. Law

STEWART, ROBERT W.
Geologist
Moore & Moore
1800 St. James #308
Houston, Texas 77002
965-0752
10340 Briar Forest Drive
Houston, Texas 77042
780-8005
M.T. 1951 Ph.D. Geol.

U. of Texas 1967
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

JULY 1, 1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977 - ALTERNATE ENERGY RESOURCES - SOUTH CENTRAL USA.</td>
<td>(see note)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975 - HGS-GSH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY</td>
<td>$ 3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975 - DELTAS - MODELS FOR EXPLORATION</td>
<td>12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973 - A FIELD TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN COAST OF YUCATAN</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971 - ABNORMAL SUBSURFACE PRESSURE</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971 - HGS-GSH PHOTO DIRECTORY</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Note: This newest publication of the Houston Geological Society is sold at a single package price of $15.00 which includes postage, handling, and tax. The book consists of approximately 400 pages of text and illustrations on the geology of uranium, lignite and geopressed geothermal energy in the south-central United States. The handsome volume is designed for research and applied use by students, industry or government.

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Mail to HGS. Enclose check payable to HGS. All orders must be prepaid.
The Houston Geological Society was founded in 1923 and incorporated in 1975. Its objectives are to stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for this area, to disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information, to enhance professional interrelationships among geologists in the area, and to aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology.

The Bulletin is published monthly except July and August. Subscription price for nonmembers is $10 per year. Single copy price is $1.50. Claims for nonreceipt in the contiguous U. S. should be made within 2 months of the date of issue; claims from elsewhere within 4 months.

Communication about manuscripts and editorial matters should be directed to the Editor. Inquiries concerning advertising rates should be directed to the Advertising Chairman. Applications for membership in the Houston Geological Society may be obtained from the Society office, 806 Main Street, Suite B-1, Houston, Texas 77002.

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TELE: 617-536-0202
TELEX: 940-557
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. P. Akkerman</td>
<td>Geologist EXPLORATION Engineer</td>
<td>3425 Bradford Place</td>
<td>668-4327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review of Subsurface Data</td>
<td>Houston, Texas 77025</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Allen</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Consultant</td>
<td>933 San Jacinto Bldg.</td>
<td>228-9329</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Houston, Texas 77002</td>
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<tr>
<td>John L. Bible</td>
<td>Gravity-Magnetic Surveys Interpretations</td>
<td>236 Esperson Bldg.</td>
<td>222-6266</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Houston, Texas 77002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Lee Bick</td>
<td>Consulting Geologist</td>
<td>5865 San Felipe</td>
<td>(713) 789-8878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member of American Association Petroleum Geologists</td>
<td>Houston, Texas 77057</td>
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<td>Stewart Chuber</td>
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<td>652-2192 2301 First City National Bank Bldg.</td>
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<td>CONSULTING GEOLOGIST</td>
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<td>I. K. NICHOLS</td>
<td>Gulf Coast Exploration Geologist</td>
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<td>HENRY H. PHILLIPS</td>
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<td>7507 Linden Houston, TX 77012</td>
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<td>Petroleum Geologist &amp; Exploration</td>
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