

**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

# *e***BULLETIN**

**Volume 69**

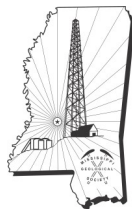
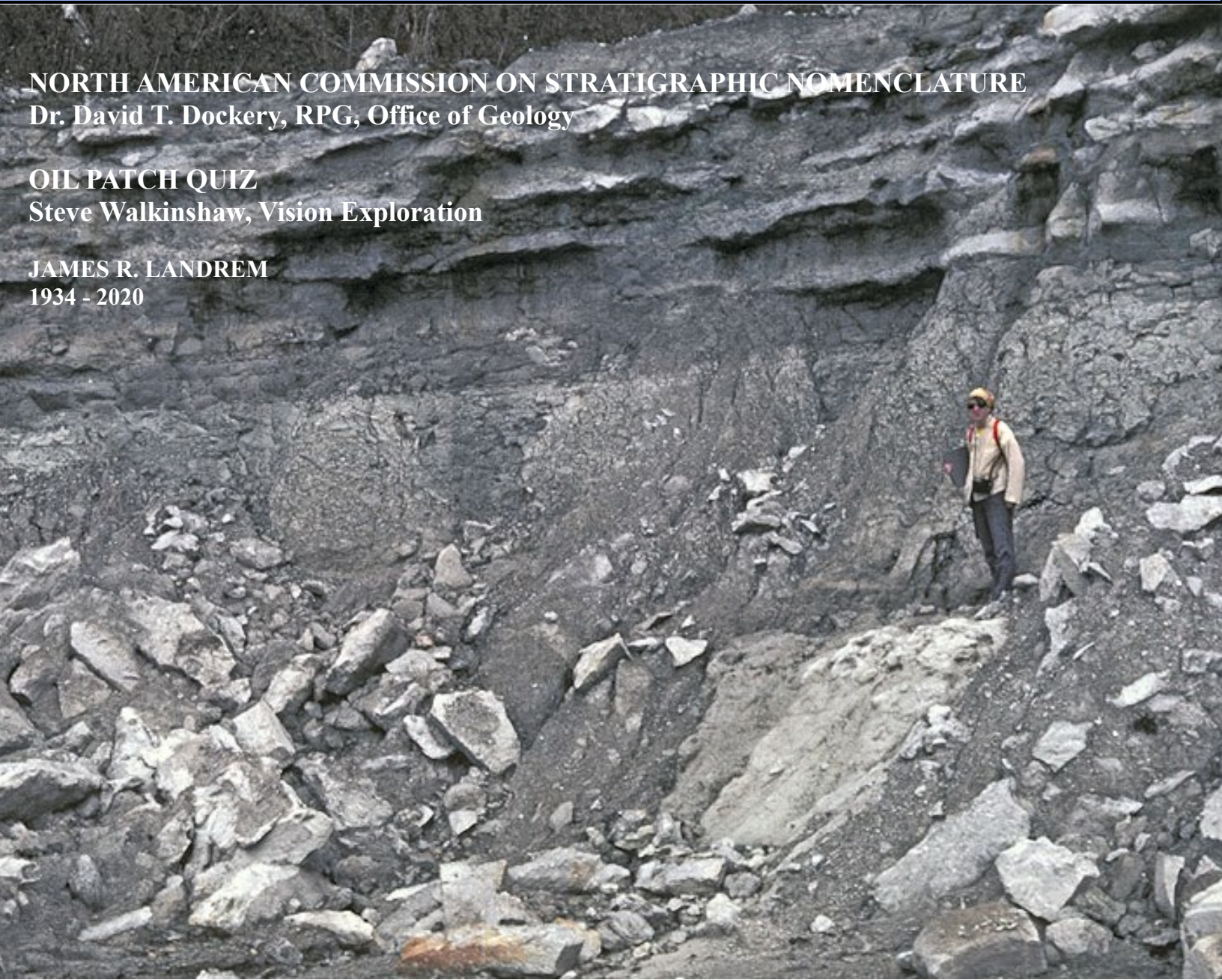
**No. 3**

**November 2020**

**NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION ON STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE**  
Dr. David T. Dockery, RPG, Office of Geology

**OIL PATCH QUIZ**  
Steve Walkinshaw, Vision Exploration

**JAMES R. LANDREM**  
1934 - 2020



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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*David Snodgrass, MSOGB*



Elections are everything for this week as we see how energy states decide to vote. Energy policy has been a prominent topic in this year's U.S. election, with the Trump and Biden campaigns presenting clearly different proposals concerning the importance of oil and gas in our country. Given court decisions tied to mail-in ballot deadlines, the winners of some races may not be known for days after the polls close on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. An even longer process will be deciphering how November 3, 2020 elections will influence oil and gas policy. For the near future, I look for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil to be under pressure so long as a rise in COVID-19 cases persists. We shall see. As of November 3, 2020 oil and natural gas prices remain low and are \$38.18 and \$3.079, respectively. This time last year oil was at \$56.33 and natural gas was at \$2.70.

On a less political side...if you haven't read it, *Roadside Geology of Mississippi*, from Stan Galicki and Darrel Schmitz is packed with remarkable and detailed information about the Geology of Mississippi. It is a must read for Mississippi geologists of any level. The geology purest in me loved this book. I wish I had the entire collection !

As previously mentioned, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the MGS will continue postponing our monthly luncheons at the River Hills Country Club until further notice. Please stay tuned. For now, take care.





# BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP WATCH

Faculty & Students,

This is a new year and the Mississippi Geological Society along with the Boland Scholarship Fund would like to remind you that we want to honor the most outstanding overall students for the 2020-2021 year.

Each year, the Boland Scholarship awards 1 student from each institution a check that rewards students for their hard work and dedication to the Geosciences and their community.

We look forward to a great year and hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

Best Regards,

Matt Caton  
Editor



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# CURRENT PRICES



Marketwatch





# MONTHLY POST

## Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG

### North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature — 75th Annual Meeting

David T. Dockery III, RPG

The 75th Annual Meeting of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature (NACSN) was held as a MS Teams meeting on October 22, 2020. Last year it was held at the Annual GSA convention in Phoenix. I serve as one of three commissioners representing the Association of American State Geologists. In total there are 37 commissioners representing twelve geological organizations and including eleven Commissioners-At-Large. Serving with me on the Commission is Alabama State Geologist Nick Tew. We have worked together on Gulf Coast stratigraphy for many years. Figure 1 shows the *Stratigraphic Column of Mississippi* as published by the Mississippi Bureau of Geology (then in the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources) in 1981.

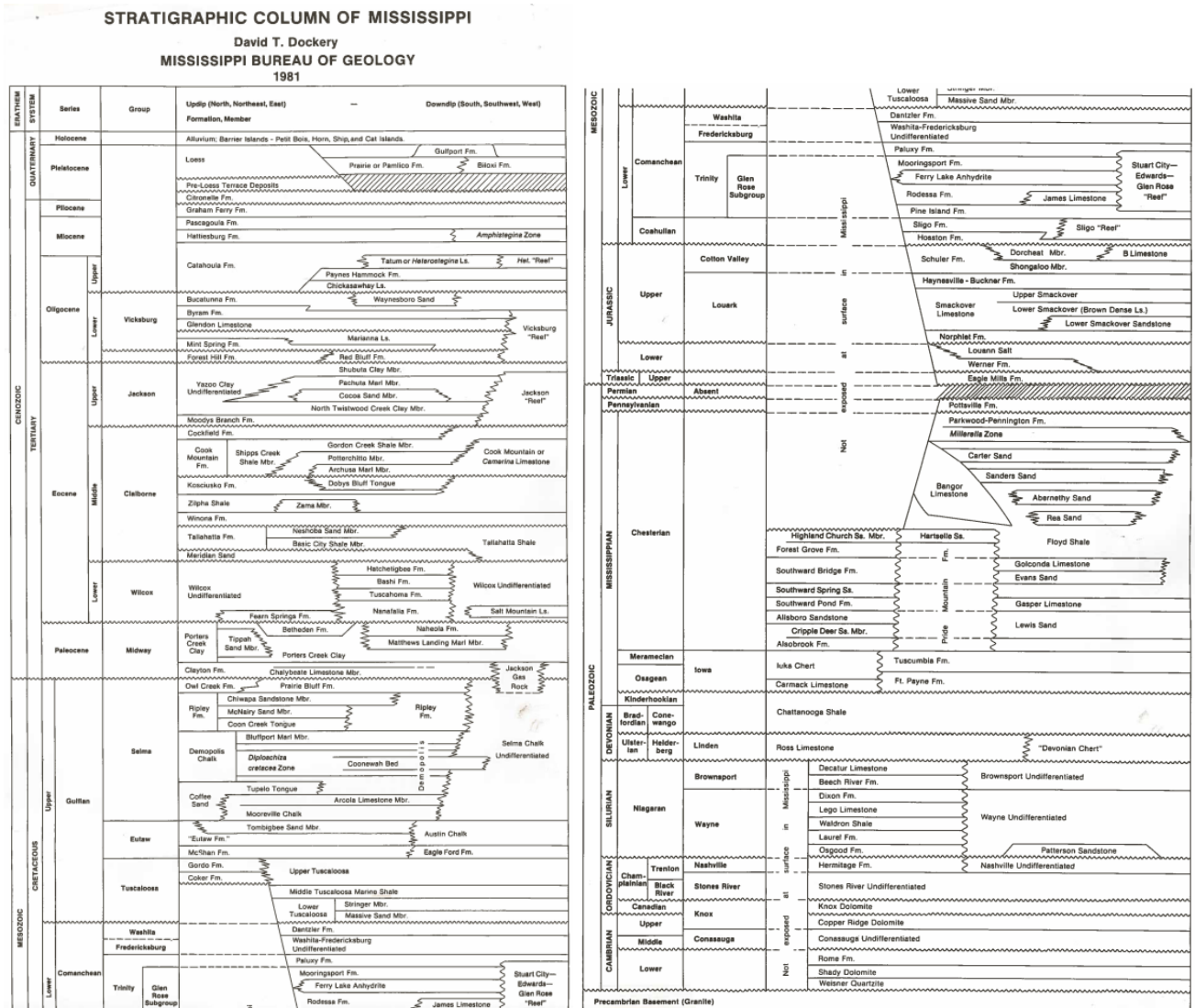


Figure 1



# MONTHLY POST

## *Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG*

Following the publication of Mancini and Tew (1991) on “Relationships of Paleogene Stage and Planktonic Foraminiferal Zone Boundaries to Lithostratigraphic and Allostratigraphic Contacts in Eastern Gulf Coastal Plain” in the *Journal of Foraminiferal Research*, v. 21, no. 1, p. 48-66, the Mississippi column was expanded into individual columns for the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic formations of Mississippi and published in *Mississippi Geology* (Dockery, March 1996 issue). With some modifications, the same three columns were published in *The Geology of Mississippi* (Dockery and Thompson, 2016) and are available on MDEQ’s Office of Geology website. The new Cenozoic Column followed Mancini and Tew (1991) in the correlation of formations with marine stages and foraminiferal and calcareous nannoplankton zones. The Mesozoic Column also correlated formations and marine stages in this manner.

The most significant item considered and passed NACSN meeting concerned the division of Stages into Substages. This topic was presented last year but lacked a month of the one-year requirement for a published notice before a possible vote by the Commission. French paleontologist Marie Aubry and her husband Bill Berggren promoted this issue but were denied a vote on it for procedural reasons. This year Marie was back, and the vote to recognize substages was unanimous. Several current NACSN commissioners have been with us in the field studying Mississippi’s stratigraphic column. Figure 2 is a copy of Figure 431 from *The Geology of Mississippi* showing Bill Berggren and Marie Aubry at left and Nick Tew at right, looking at a geologic outcrop in Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Every person named in the figure caption has made important contributions to Gulf Coast and global stratigraphy.



Figure 2 (Figure 431). Who’s who from left to right in foreground: Bill Berggren, Marie Aubry, Jan Hardenbol, Ernie Mancini, Laura Bybell, and Nick Tew at a sandpit in the Grampian Hills Member east of Lauderdale, Mississippi, discussing sequence stratigraphy. Picture (Kodochrome slide 224-3; Image 718) taken on October 27, 1991.





# MONTHLY POST

## *Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG*

One person missing in this figure is USGS paleontologist Lucy Edwards who is in the middle of the MS Teams meeting screen shot in Figure 3 with Marie Aubry to her right.



Figure 3

However, Lucy also has her picture in *The Geology of Mississippi* in Figure 749 as shown here in Figure 4.



Figure 4 (Figure 749). Lucy Edwards standing on the Pachuta Marl-Shubuta Clay contact at St. Stephens north quarry in Washington County, Alabama. The Shubuta-Red Bluff contact is a few feet above her head. Picture taken on March 21, 1979.

Figure 4



# MONTHLY POST

## *Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG*

In the 74<sup>th</sup> NACSN Annual Meeting at the Geological Society of American Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, six of the commissioners (35% of the 17 present) were picture in *The Geology of Mississippi* doing geologic work in the state. Figure 5 is a composite of that meeting with Lucy Edwards at right at top, and five of the six commissioners (excluding myself) featured in *The Geology of Mississippi* at bottom. From left to right they are Lucy Edwards, Bill Berggren, Marie Aubry, Nick Tew, and Rick Fluegeman (grants for Rick's work in Mississippi has funded his department for some 20 years).



Figure 5



# GEOLOGY POST

## ARTICLES, PAPERS or NEWS?

**ATTENTION!!!!!!** Industry, Professors and Students:

I am adding a dedicated section that includes more content from the industry and our schools.

Submissions can include anything from professional papers, thesis abstracts, job opportunities to pictures. Anything!!!!

If you have any information or news you would like to share with the Society **PLEASE** email them to the MGS Editor at:

[mcaton13@yahoo.com](mailto:mcaton13@yahoo.com)

Thanks & Regards,

Matt Caton  
Editor



# MONTHLY QUIZ

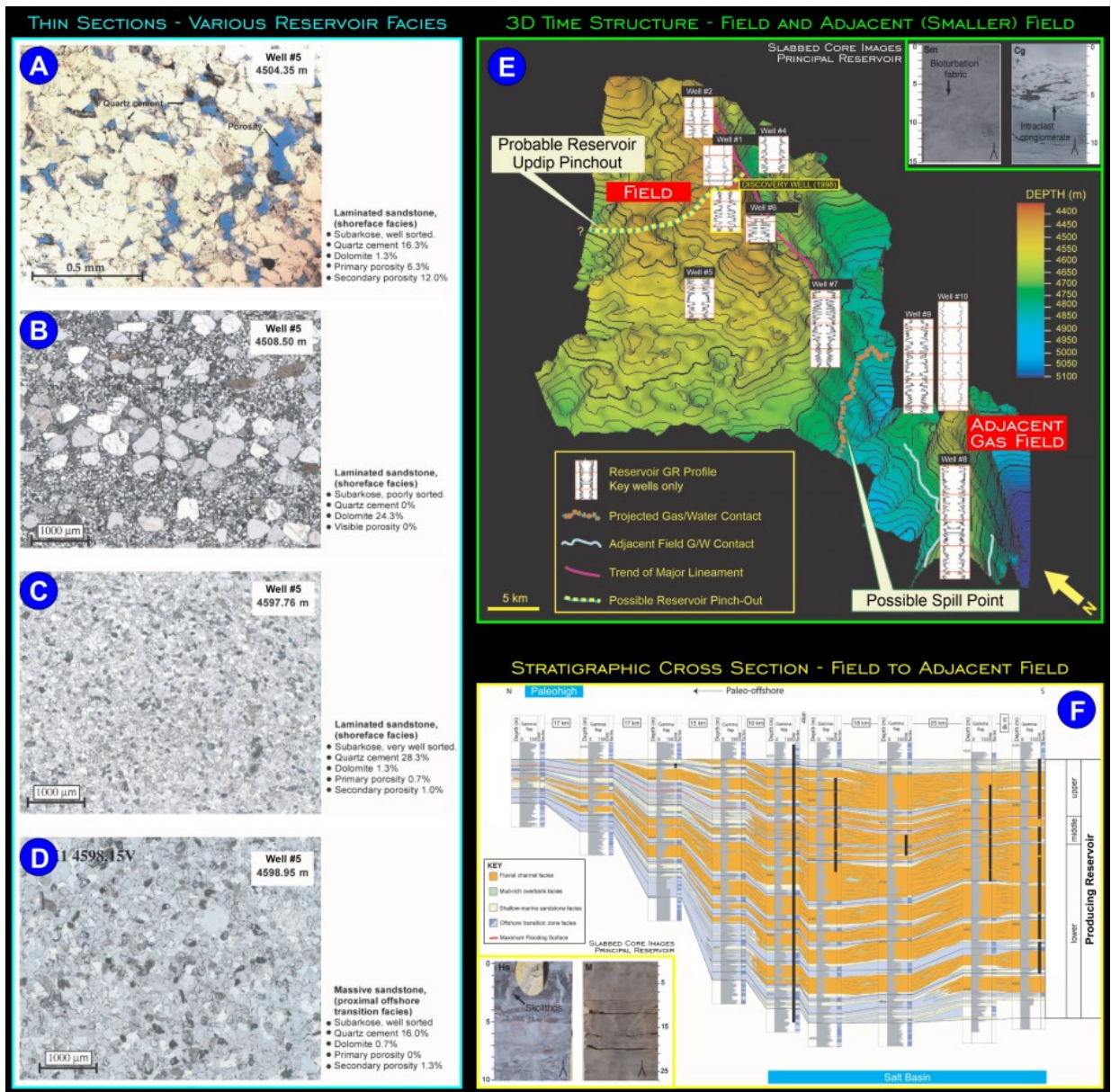
*Steve Walkinshaw*

## OIL PATCH QUIZ

International oil patch quiz time. Early explorers in this country were warned that travel in some areas was unsafe. One survey party could not locate a promising seep because their arrival had been greeted with "a hail of stones".

Numerous disappointments delayed the discovery of the first commercial oilfield here until the early 1960's. One early dry hole, nicknamed the "unluckiest wildcat well" in the region, was later determined to have missed the principal reservoir in a significant field by less than 300' (it was faulted out).

A large (~10.5 TCF / 350 MMBC) gas field was discovered here ~22 years ago (see the map). It went onstream in 2017.



Figure



# MONTHLY QUIZ

*Steve Walkinshaw*

Questions...

Part 1: What country am I referring to?

Part 2: What large gas field am I referring to?

Part 3: What company discovered this field?

Part 4: What company currently operates the field?

Part 5: What is the name of the principal reservoir?

Part 6: What is its age?

Part 7: What's the name of the adjacent field?

Part 8: What salt basin are these fields located in?

Part 9: What was the first oilfield discovered in this country?

Bonus:

Part 10: What was the name of the "unluckiest wildcat well" in the region?

Part 11: What is the principal difference in the oil produced in the northern vs. the southern areas of this country?

**Answers at end of Bulletin**

# GEO LINK POST

**USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN** <http://tapestry.usgs.gov> The CCGS is donating to all of the 5th and 6th grade schools in the Coastal Bend. Check it out—it is a spectacular map. You might want a framed one for your own office. The one in my office has glass and a metal frame, and it cost \$400 and it does not look as good as the ones we are giving to the schools. Call Owen 510-6224 if you want one for your office for \$150. Duncan, Mike, Chris, Dave, Bob Randy, Seb., Kevin, Ken, Craig, Patrick, Robert.

**FREE TEXAS TOPO'S** <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm> these are TIFF files from your state government that can be downloaded and printed. You can add them to SMT by converting them first in Globalmapper. Other digital data as well.

**FREE NATIONAL TOPO'S** [http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/b2c/start/\(xcm=r3standardpitrex\\_prd\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do) go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS DOWNLOAD TOPO MAPS FREE.

<http://www.geographynetwork.com/> Go here and try their top 5 map services. My favorite is 'USGS Elevation Date.' Zoom in on your favorite places and see great shaded relief images. One of my favorites is the Great Sand Dunes National Park in south central Colorado. Nice Dunes.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> Astronomy picture of the day — awesome. I click this page everyday.

<http://www.spacimaging.com/gallery/ioweek/iow.htm> Amazing satellite images. Check out the gallery.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/topo/globegal.shtml> More great maps to share with kids and students.

[www.geo.org](http://www.geo.org) Don't forget we have our own web page.

<http://micro.magneet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceoptiscu/owersof10/>

<http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/galery/default.htm> Great satellite images of volcanoes

<http://terra.nasa.gov/gallery/> More here

[www.ermapper.com](http://www.ermapper.com) They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

[www.drillinginfo.com](http://www.drillinginfo.com) This is an incredible (subscription) well and completion data service for independents. Can be demo'ed for free.

<http://terrasrver.com/> Go here to download free aerial photo images that can be plotted under your digital land and well data. Images down to 1 meter resolution, searchable by Lat Long coordinate. Useful for resolving well location questions.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/> This is a live cam of Mt. St. Helens refreshed every 5 minutes. At the bottom are old videos of past eruptions in this cycle. It is worth a watch especially now.



# JAMES R. LANDREM

1934 - 2020

## OBITUARY

# James R. Landrem

MARCH 27, 1934 - JUNE 17, 2020



James Rowland Landrem, age 86, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. He was born March 27, 1934 in Minden, Louisiana and was a longtime resident of River Ridge, Louisiana. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Lois Carlos Landrem; his parents, Alton and Inez Landrem; and younger brother, Charles Alton Landrem. James is survived by two children, Terry W. Landrem (Paula) and Tracy Landrem Moore. "Poppa" is also survived by four grandsons, Miles A. Landrem, Clayton H. Landrem (McKenna), Jeffrey S. Landrem, Mason T. Moore; sister, Janis Landrem Bryan (Steve); sister-in-law, Frances C. Landrem; and numerous nieces and nephews. James was a graduate of Byrd High School in Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University in Ruston with a degree in Geology. He was active in Oil and Gas exploration for 60 years and worked for Geophysical Services, Louisiana Land and Exploration, and as an independent Geophysicist for numerous independent Oil and Gas producers. In one of his proudest accomplishments, he was a significant contributor to the wildcat discovery of the largest oil field in Florida, Jay Field. He was a 32nd Degree Master Mason and member of Minden Lodge #51 in Minden, LA. He was also a proud Shriner and member of Jerusalem Shriners in New Orleans, LA and a Scottish Rite Mason. James loved to play golf, especially with his late son-in-law Tommy Moore, and James was a longtime member of Colonial Country Club. He was also an accomplished guitar player, loved country music, and participated in the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, LA. James was a kind and gentle husband, father, grandfather and friend. He will be missed by all that knew him. Burial will be private. To view and sign the guest book, please visit [www.lakelawnmetairie.com](http://www.lakelawnmetairie.com)



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1978-1979	Les Aultman	2019-2020	James O. Sparks
1979-1980	Philip R. Reeves		



# MONTHLY QUIZ

*Steve Walkinshaw*

## ANSWERS

Part 1: What country am I referring to? the Sultanate of Oman

Part 2: What large gas field am I referring to? Khazzan Field

Part 3: What company discovered this field? Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)

Part 4: What company currently operates the field? BP

Part 5: What is the name of the principal reservoir? the Barik Sandstone

Part 6: What is its age? Upper Cambrian / Lower Ordovician

Part 7: What's the name of the adjacent field? Saih Rawal

Part 8: What salt basin are these fields located in? the Ghaba Salt Basin

Part 9: What was the first oilfield discovered in this country? Yibal Field

Part 10: What was the name of the "unluckiest wildcat well" in the region? the Fahud-1 well

Part 11: What is the principal difference in the oil produced in the northern vs. the southern areas of this country? the gravity of the oil (fairly light in the northern area, typically fairly heavy in the south / southwestern area)

Full credit for all images: "The Khazzan gas accumulation, a giant combination trap in the Cambrian Barik Sandstone Member, Sultanate of Oman: Implications for Cambrian petroleum systems and reservoirs" (John A. Millson, Jamie G. Quin, Erdem Idiz, Peter Turner, and Ahmed Al-Harthy), AAPG Bulletin, v. 92, no. 7 (July 2008), pp. 885–917

This is a terrific paper about the Khazzan gas accumulation in northern Oman, and I highly recommend it to everyone interested in the area.