

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 47

NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 1997

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

We begin another exciting year for the Mississippi Geological Society with our annual Fall Bar-B-Que at the Reservoir Lodge (Fowler's Lodge - see map). The cost is \$10 per person (bring your spouse or a friend) and \$5 for students.

Let's look back to where we have been before looking forward to where we want to go this year. Last year the membership increased 41% to 248 members, income over expenses was up 66%, and advertising in the bulletin was up 41%. The significant increase in income was primarily from funds generated by the Cotton Valley Symposium, where we had a nice profit. We are much indebted to President Jack Moody and last year's Board of Directors, plus committee members from the DEQ Office of Geology for the tremendous amount of work that went into such a successful symposium. The attendance was 191 registrars. Our thanks too for the support of the Office of Geology and its Director, Cragin Knox.

Looking ahead, Dave Chastain has booked speakers for the October & November regular meetings. The subjects are remote sensing, and 3D seismic completed in Lafitte Field, La. The Christmas Party is booked for December 9th at the Capital Club, so make your plans early. The Jackson Desk & Derrick Club has agreed to join us and be co-sponsors, as advised by their President, Connie Bush. You have a bill with a self-addressed envelope in this mailing to expedite your dues payment for 1997—1998. Your dues will be delinquent on October 1st, and you will be dropped from the membership and mailing list on January 1st, 1998, so please help our treasurer Steve Champlin by being prompt in returning your envelope containing your dues of \$20 for members & associates, and \$5 for students.

The committee chairmen are listed on our masthead and are looking forward to working with us all. We thank them for their willingness to serve in these important positions. Ask them if you can help with committee work or assist on any ideas.

The Boland Scholarship Fund, administered for several years so effectively by Jerry Zoble, is still accepting donations (note inter-

est rates are way down). Also, any remembrances you wish to pledge will gladly be accepted. Let's not forget this important part of our incorporation purposes.

The Engineering/Environmental Geology Committee meets at the Southport Mall offices of the DEQ in their commission Hearing Room at 11:45 AM on the third Tuesday of each odd month. The next meeting is September 16th. Plan to attend and bring a sack lunch. The July 15th Speaker was Darrel Schmitz from Mississippi State speaking on faulting in the chalk as seen on east Mississippi outcrops. Over the past 3 years, Steve Jennings, Chairman, has done an exemplary job with this committee.

Steve Ingram, our bulletin editor this year, needs technical articles for this publication — so don't be shy.

The Board of the Mississippi Geological Society wishes to express its deepest sympathies to the family of Hilton Ladner who passed away on August 8, 1997 after a long and determined fight. Hilton's considerable contributions to his profession and community will long be remembered.

We also lost another prominent oil man. Jack L. Daniel passed away on August 16, 1997, and we offer our deepest sympathies to his family. Jack will be long remembered for his wit, business acumen and generosity to his fellow man.

George

P.S. Petroleum geologists are exempt from geological registration which became effective in Mississippi on 1, July '97. They can also continue to testify as expert witnesses before the Oil & Gas Board by continuing to be qualified by the Board. The Grandfather clause extends to December 31, 1998 for registration without taking the ASBOG exam. Applications will be available in the early Fall if you want to become registered. Our 1st VP Rick Erickson was elected President of the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists. Congratulations and hats off for his leadership in seeing this bill to fruition as chair of the organizing committee.

P.P.S. Verne Culbertson will have an exhibit of "surface rocks" he collected in Iceland for your perusal at our October meeting. He doesn't know what they are but will have a microscope available to look at them, if they have not melted!

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| President | George B. Vockroth | Vantage Oil Company | (601) 948-3351 |
| 1 st V.P (Pres.Elect)..... | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5507 |
| 2 nd Vice President | David L. Chastain | Chastain Petroleum Resources, Inc. | (601) 969-0669 |
| Secretary..... | Roger Townsend | Spooner Petroleum Company | (601) 969-1831 |
| Treasurer..... | Stephen D. Champlin | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5506 |
| Past President | Jack Moody..... | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5522 |

Committee Assignments

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Audiovisual | Todd Hines..... | Moon & Hines | (601) 944-4700 |
| Editor & SEPM Rep. | Stephen L. Ingram | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 354-6328 |
| Entertainment | Stan Thieling | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5519 |
| Environmental & Publicity..... | Steve Jennings | Mississippi Office of Land & Water | (601) 961-5205 |
| Field Trip & Seminars | Steve Oivanki..... | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5518 |
| Historian | Stanley King | Independent..... | (601) 368-9900 |
| Honorary Membership | Charles Williams..... | Vaughey & Vaughey | (601) 354-4612 |

Boland Scholarship

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Jerry Zoble | Zoble Exploration | (601) 354-3977 |
| President | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5507 |

AAPG Representatives

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Term to June 1999 | Larry Baria | Jura-Search, Inc. | (601) 352-5562 |
| Term to June 2000 | Jack Moody | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5522 |
| Alternate, Term to June 2000 | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5507 |
| State Registration Committee..... | Rick L. Ericksen, Vice Chairman | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5507 |

Tentative Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

August 5th
 September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

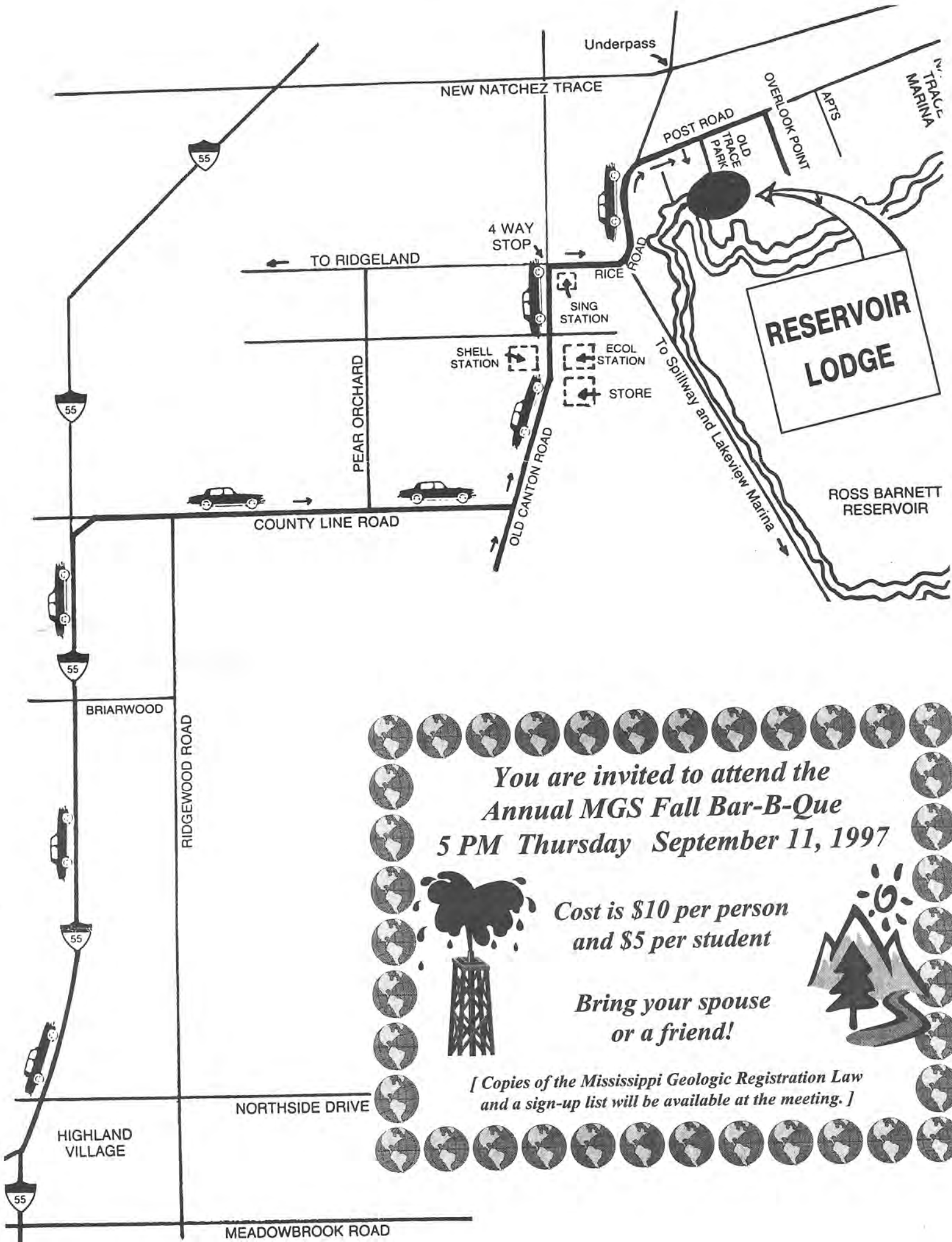
September 11th (Thursday) Fall BBQ - Reservoir Lodge
 October 14th Remote Sensing - Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field, La. - Greene
 December 9th (Tuesday) Christmas Party
 January 13th
 February 10th
 March 10th
 April 14th
 May 12th Spring Fling - Agriculture Museum

Honorary Members: (* -- deceased)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Esther Applin * | Winnie McGlammery * |
| Paul Applin * | Thomas McGlothlin * |
| Lawrence F. Boland * | Frederic F. Mellen * |
| Verne L. Culbertson | Maurice E. Meisse * |
| H. Leroy Francis * | Emil Monsour |
| David C. Harrell * | William H. Moore |
| Oleta R. Harrell * | Marvin E. Norman * |
| Dudley J. Hughes | Richard R. Priddy * |
| Urban B. Hughes * | Thurston C. Rader * |
| Wendell B. Johnson * | Donald Reese |
| Walter P. Jones * | Baxter Smith * |
| Wilbur H. Knight | Henry Toler * |

PAST PRESIDENTS

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1996-1997 | Jack S. Moody | 1977-1978 | Sarah Childress | 1957-1958 | Emil Monsour |
| 1995-1996 | Lester Aultman | 1976-1977 | P. David Cate | 1056-1957 | Ben Ploch |
| 1994-1995 | Neil Barnes | 1975-1976 | Jerry E. Zoble | 1955-1956 | Gilbert A. Talley |
| 1993-1994 | Brian Sims | 1974-1975 | W. E. "Gene" Taylor | 1954-1955 | A. Ed Blanton |
| 1992-1993 | Michael Noone | 1973-1974 | Larry Walter | 1953-1954 | Wilbur H. Knight |
| | Stanley King | 1972-1973 | Charles Barton | 1952-1953 | James L. Martin, Jr. |
| 1991-1992 | Stephen L. Ingram | 1971-1972 | Larry Boland | 1951-1952 | George W. Field |
| 1990-1991 | Jim Files | 1970-1971 | John Lancaster | 1950-1951 | J. Tate Clark |
| 1989-1990 | Stan Galicki | 1969-1970 | Kevin E. Cahill | | Charles E. Buck |
| 1988-1989 | Stanley King | 1968-1969 | Edward D. Miniham | 1949-1950 | E. T. "Mike" Monsour |
| 1987-1988 | Harry Spooner | 1967-1968 | Julius M. Ridgway | 1948-1949 | Robert D. Sprague |
| 1986-1987 | J. R. "Bob" White | 1966-1967 | Alan Jackson | 1947-1948 | H. Lee Spyrus |
| 1985-1986 | Steven S. Walkinshaw | 1965-1966 | Sankey L. Blanton | | Robert D. Sprague |
| 1984-1985 | C. Kip Ferns | 1965-1965 | James F. Bollman | 1946-1947 | Frederic F. Mellen |
| 1983-1984 | Charles H. Williams | 1963-1964 | William A. Skees | 1945-1946 | J. B. Story |
| 1982-1983 | James W. "Buddy" Twiner | | Marvin Oxley | 1944-1945 | L. R. McFarland |
| 1981-1982 | Stephen Oivanki | 1962-1963 | Robert B. Ross | 1943-1944 | K. K. "Bob" Spooner |
| 1980-1981 | Marshall Kern | 1961-1962 | Xavier M. Francogna | 1942-1943 | Dave C. Harrell |
| 1979-1980 | Philip R. Reeves | 1960-1961 | Rudy Ewing | 1941-1942 | J. Tom McGlothlin |
| 1978-1979 | Lester Aultman | 1959-1960 | M. F. Kirby | 1940-1941 | Urban B. Hughes |
| | | 1958-1959 | Charles Brown | 1939-1940 | Henry N. Toler |



*You are invited to attend the
Annual MGS Fall Bar-B-Que
5 PM Thursday September 11, 1997*

*Cost is \$10 per person
and \$5 per student*

*Bring your spouse
or a friend!*

*[Copies of the Mississippi Geologic Registration Law
and a sign-up list will be available at the meeting.]*



**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURERS REPORT
OPERATING YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1997**

Revenues:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Membership Dues: | \$ | 4,960.00 |
| Monthly Luncheon Receipts: | \$ | 2,770.00 |
| Fall BBQ Receipts: | \$ | 620.00 |
| Fall BBQ Donations: | \$ | 1,025.00 |
| Christmas Party Receipts: | \$ | 938.00 |
| Christmas Party Donations: | \$ | 397.00 |
| Advertisements: | \$ | 5,440.00 |
| Miscellaneous Donation: | \$ | 100.00 |
| Cotton Valley Symposium/Spring Fling Receipts: | \$ | 19,910.04 |
| Cotton Valley Symposium/Spring Fling Refunds: | \$ | 340.36 |
| Spring Fling Donations: | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Cotton Valley Symposium Book Receipts: | \$ | 25.00 |
| PTTC Speaker's Expenses donation: | \$ | 475.00 |
| Interest Money Market Account: | \$ | 319.60 |
| Total: | \$ | 38,320.83 |

Operating Expenses:

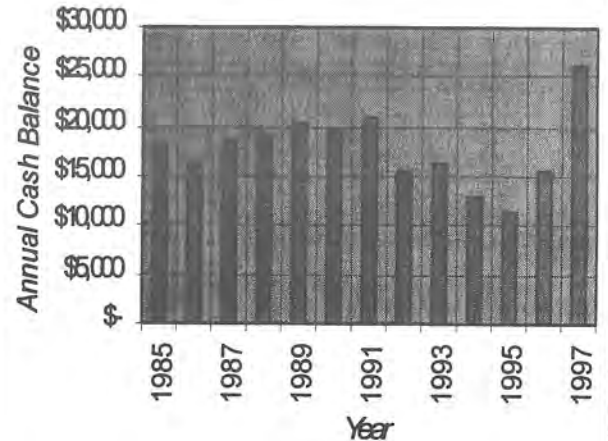
| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Bank Service Charges: | \$ | 23.39 |
| Monthly Luncheons: | \$ | 2,783.53 |
| Fall BBQ: | \$ | 857.19 |
| Christmas Party: | \$ | 1,333.66 |
| Cotton Valley Symposium/Spring Fling | \$ | 15,259.71 |
| Change of Events: | \$ | 455.00 |
| Label Lists: | \$ | 404.00 |
| Bulletin-Membership Publication: | \$ | 3,931.59 |
| Officers Lunches: | \$ | 283.75 |
| Speaker Plaques: | \$ | 450.85 |
| Postal Permit & Account: | \$ | 470.00 |
| P.O. Box Rental: | \$ | 20.00 |
| Tax Preparation: | \$ | 490.00 |
| Environmental Speaker's Expense: | \$ | 135.32 |
| Speaker's Travel Expenses: | \$ | 98.00 |
| Stationary: | \$ | 155.85 |
| Postage: | \$ | 106.75 |
| Donation Geologic Registration: | \$ | 300.00 |
| Donation Mississippi Academy of Sciences: | \$ | 100.00 |
| AAPG Delegate Travel Expenses: | \$ | 333.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses: | \$ | 29.10 |
| Total: | \$ | 28,020.69 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Revenues: | \$ | 38,320.83 |
| Expenditures: | \$ | 28,020.69 |
| Net Operating Gain: | \$ | 10,300.14 |

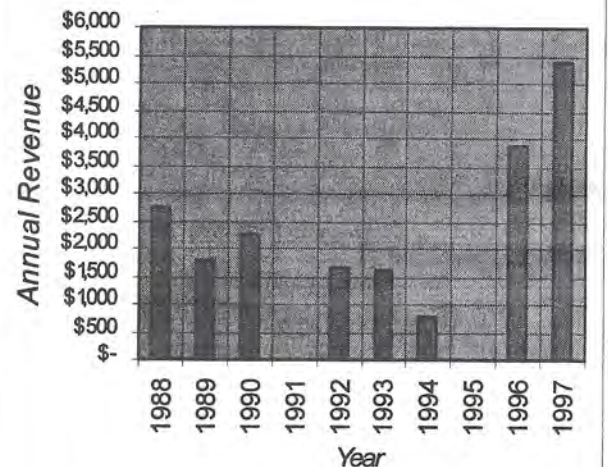
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|--------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Checking Account Balance Beginning: | \$ | 654.18 |
| Savings Account Balance Beginning: | \$ | 14,855.22 |
| Cash Balance Beginning: | \$ | 15,509.40 |
| Checking Account Balance Ending: | \$ | 11,584.72 |
| Savings Account Balance Ending: | \$ | 14,224.82 |
| Cash Balance Ending: | \$ | 25,809.54 |

Stephen D. Champlin
Treasurer

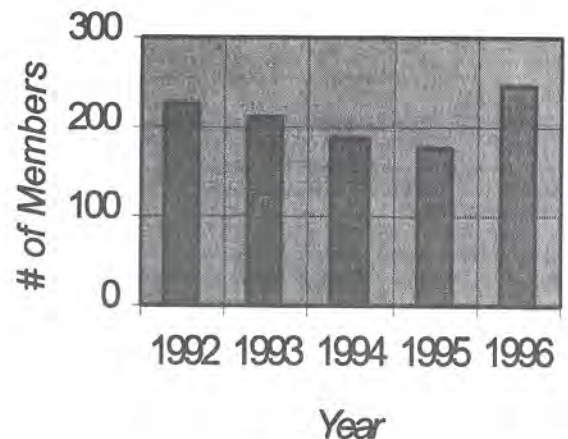
MGS TREASURY



MGS Advertising



MGS Membership



The Mississippi Geologic Registration Law - A Brief History by Rick L. Ericksen

On April 1, 1997, the Mississippi State Senate passed the proposed Geologic Registration bill by unanimous vote. The next day the House of Representatives passed the bill by a 116 to 2 vote, and on April 10, Governor Kirk Fordice signed the bill, effectuating "The Registered Professional Geologists Practice Act of 1997." Sponsors of the legislation were Representative James Ellington, Senator Robert Dearing, and Senator Vincent Scoper. Companion appropriation authority was sponsored by Senator Dick Hall. The law became effective on July 1, 1997, and a five (5) member board has been selected by the Governor. The newly appointed board members were sworn to duty on July 10, 1997. They are (from left to right): a former Mississippi Geological Society President, W. Lester Aultman (Clinton) - an independent oil and gas geologist; Charles T. Swann (Oxford) - with the Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute; the Geologic Society's 1st Vice President, Rick L. Ericksen (Ridgeland) - with the Mississippi Office of Geology; John W. Green (Terry) - with GeoScience Engineers; and Darrel W. Schmitz (Starkville) - professor of Geology with Mississippi State University.

The passage of this legislation represents the culmination of efforts by an ad hoc committee, the Mississippi Geologic Task Force. The

Geologic Task Force, chaired by Rick Ericksen and co-chaired by Stephen Ingram along with approximately 20 other geologists from across the state, obtained a consensus within the geologic community in Mississippi to proceed with legislative efforts. In addition the Geologic Task Force gained the support and endorsement of all the major professional organizations and societies including the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG/DPA), American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), Society

of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES), Mississippi Geological Society (MGS), Natchez Geological Society (NGS), Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), Association of State Boards of Geologists (ASBOG), and academia. The Task Force also developed an active dialogue with the Mississippi Board of Registration For Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors an allied board, which will be working jointly with the newly created Geologic Board of Registration in developing a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the two.

The geologic registration law governs all who practice geology where the work may affect the public's health, safety, or welfare. Under the guidelines of this legislation all geologists, with the exception of petroleum geologists and those whose practice is limited to the teaching of geology, are required to become registered in order to practice in the state. It requires that geologic work/studies

which may affect the public must be signed and sealed by a registered geologist. These studies for example include the geologic portions of environmental site assessments, solid waste sites, groundwater studies and so on. Further, geologic cross sections, geologic maps of all types, correlation studies of geologic units, including but not limited to groundwater aquifers, must be performed by or under the supervision of a qualified, registered professional geologist. These examples are only a few of the multitude of studies which require professional registration. Those geologists who are exempted may register if they desire to do so, provided they meet the requirements provided for under the "grandfathering" provision or later take a written examination. Mississippi joins a growing number of states which have geologic registration/certification laws which now number 25 including Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama.

The newly appointed Board has already had several meetings and has elected Rick Ericksen as its President and John Green as its Vice President. The Board is anticipating that applications for registration will be available in late September and may be obtained by either writing the Board or by downloading the application forms from an Internet website. The Board's mailing address is as follows:

Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
P.O. Box 22742
Jackson, Mississippi
39225-2742



At least two Internet addresses will be available for those who desire to download the necessary application forms and information concerning registration in Mississippi. Currently the following website address may be accessed for preliminary information concerning this data - <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/mmri>. Another website which will have the registration information available will be at the following address -

<http://www.deq.state.ms.us/geoweb.nsf>. Other websites will be forthcoming and the availability of the applications will be profusely advertised so no one will have the opportunity to miss the "grandfathering" period. The "grandfathering" period shall begin when forms become available and continue until December, 1998. The general requirements for qualifying under this provision are a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from an accredited college or university and four (4) years of geological experience. The costs associated with registration have not yet been determined but will be set shortly by board rule.

As additional registration information becomes available in the coming weeks, the Board of Registered Professional Geologists shall continue to provide updates on its efforts and further registration details.

Environmental Geology Meeting

September 16, 1997
Sack Lunch meeting at 11:45
DEQ Hearing Room

Dr. Gregg Davidson, The University of Mississippi, Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, will be speaking on **Geochemical Evidence Of Preferential Flow Of Water Through Fractures in Unsaturated Tuff: Apache Leap, Arizona and Yucca Mountain, Nevada.**

EDITORIAL NOTE:

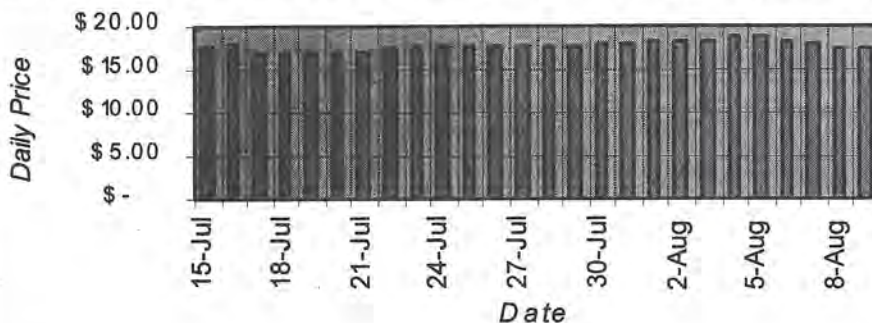
By now you have noticed the format changes. As we begin this new year of bulletin news, my intent is to mix it up with news from various journals and publications, including information from the divers practices of geology. From the beginning of this Society, the petroleum industry has spawned and nurtured the practice of geology at large. For most of us, the petroleum industry is the "mother" of MGS. At the same time, I haven't met one geologist that doesn't enjoy geology as a whole, including groundwater, environmental (conservation being one aspect), planetary, paleontology, archeology, or other. From this perspective, the bulletin for this year will hopefully cover the many different practices of geology and the issues that drive us crazy! I will try (?) to keep a level playing field; however, from time to time, my opinion will no doubt be evident. Sorry for that, but the editor is the editor and you could volunteer for the job if your not happy with content. Please help out by keeping me informed of news that interests you, as well as fuss and fume when your not happy. I could use a few technical articles if you have something you'd like to get out. I would consider short abstracts or extended abstracts with a few figures; something on the size of 1 to 2 pages (minimum 9 pt. font) — topic not exclusionary.

Thanks,
Stephen L. Ingram, Sr.
Editor, MGS

"Geology knows no boundaries!"

West Texas Intermediate Crude

(\$ 2 below M ERK; M S is \$.50 below WTI during this period, July 15-Aug 9)



Wall Street Journal

- ◆ Expect today's low prices to rise dramatically in a few years as total production heads into absolute decline.

In real terms, crude prices are now lower than before the 1973 Middle East war that sent prices soaring. Never-the-less, geology and economics will turn it around, and soon. In a recent issue of Nature, the respected British science journal, American geologist Craig Bond Hatfield concludes that "the world will probably reach its maximum oil production in the next 15 years." Prices should begin rising steeply well before that.

Hatfield, a professor at the University of Toledo, calculates that even if global oil consumption remained steady, worldwide oil production would go into absolute decline by 2036. But the current surge of economic growth in industrializing Third World countries means their oil consumption is rising fast, so the remaining oil gets depleted much more quickly. The date when total production starts to fall moves up to 2011, only 14 years from now.

(date of article uncertain, ? winter '96)

Oil & Gas Journal

EIA says growing U.S. electricity demand will affect the environment more than a recent FERC rule allowing all power generators open access to the U.S. electricity transmission grid. An EIA study estimates NOx and CO2 emissions will rise at the

most 3% because of new power generation resulting from the FERC rule. Transmission lines into the northeastern states are already used to the maximum extent possible. Without the availability of transmission lines to bring in electricity generated in coal-fired plants outside the region, the open access rule will have only small impacts on pollutant levels. Excess coal-fired generating capacity in other regions available to wheel electricity into the Northeast will diminish over the net few years as demand grows in local markets near those plants.

Oil & Gas World

The National Gas Supply Association reports that the natural gas supply should match demand through 2000 as 2.6 Tcf more comes onto the market to meet consumption of 24.7 Tcf.

The American Petroleum Institute reports that , in spite of good prices, the number of wells drilled in the first quarter declined 3% compared with the first quarter of 1996 to 4,957 wells. Gas well completions rose 7% and dry holes increased 1%, while oil wells dropped 18%.

A study in the Environmental International publication, written by authors from the National Wilderness Institute, reviewed the Endangered Species Act for the past 25 years. It found that deletions of species from the endangered species list have not been the result of changes brought about by the act, but resulted from US Fish & Wildlife Service mistakes. For more info see the Internet at www.nwi.org

MGS COTTON VALLEY SYMPOSIUM

We dreamed it, we planned it, we saw it happen, a real live geologic event here in Jackson. One hundred and ninety one people took part in the Cotton Valley Symposium. Judging by the many comments we received, I can safely say it went over very well. The ice breaker was very enjoyable, with good food, music, drink, and conversation. The next day we heard a lot of good information. It started off with our PTTC sponsored speaker, Scott Montgomery, discussing the East Texas reef play. Scott did a great overview of the play. As mentioned, Ernie Mancini agreed to bring Scott in as a part of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) concept of tech transfer. We let Ernie know that was worth the effort, there was some great information transfer. The program continued on with Steve Oivanki discussing the Cotton Valley around the gulf to Mississippi. Steve touched on the big picture of where and how the Cotton Valley produces both in and out of Mississippi and concluded by pointing out the future opportunity for different Cotton Valley plays here in the state. Steve also put together a nice Cotton Valley bibliography that is included in the symposium publication which is available for purchase. Mike Blackwell presented the deep gas play located west of Jackson. Mike entertained with a lot of area specific idiosyncrasies to exploring for this deep gas. He even suggested that completion techniques developed late in the play could have been successful on early dry holes which looked as good as those that eventually produced. Karl Kaufmann educated us on what to do to image the salt in areas of steep dip. These 3D have to have the proper design in order to see the real situation. Well planned 3D's are powerful exploration and development tools.

Following a nice barbecue lunch we were treated to some field studies presented by the originators. David Childers gave us his view of Maynor Creek Field. He showed that the bulk of the production is coming from some hard to predict sands, even with 3D. It was interesting to see the various approaches they tried in order to pick development locations. Then Joe White of Marlin Exploration discussed Tallahoma Creek Field in Jones County. Joe and his shop have contributed a great deal to the recent Cotton Valley play here in Mississippi. In the case of Tallahoma Creek Field Joe would have you not spend your initial run checks too fast. They found that the stratigraphy could play some dirty tricks on your development program. They learned that reservoir quality does not have to improve with structure and hydrocarbon presence. Joe says to save the euphoria until after perforating and testing. Joe included a lot of the core analysis work he had done in the symposium publication. Following these field tasks the focus went to the rock quality as seen by core studies. Larry Baria dis-

cussed the cores from Crawford Creek Field. Course grained sands with authigenic chlorite developed grain coating makes for nice reservoir. What was really encouraging was the fact that we have really good reservoir quality and Larry showed these courser grained sediments extended over a large area. Tim Trautman followed with a discussion on the rock properties of the Cotton Valley reservoirs and how Nuclear Magnetic Imaging Logging (NMR) offers pore-size determination and permeability calculations. It was a good day for all those interested in the future exploration potential of the Cotton Valley Formation in Mississippi. I would like to thank all who worked to make this event such a success. Thanks again to the corporate sponsors: PTTC, Mississippi Office of Geology, Interpretive Imaging, Western Atlas, Location Sample Service, Seismic Exchange, Schlumberger, CGG, Earth Field Technology, and Halliburton.

It didn't take long at all to convert the now ended Cotton Valley Symposium into the MGS Spring fling. Tables were setup, the DJ began to spin disc, we were off and running. The cat fish was eaten, drinks consumed, and this years officers were presented their polished slabs of asurite cemented breccia with a small engraved MGS tag.

The MGS activity year '96-'97 came to a close. It was a rewarding experience for the officers and is now a part of MGS history. We're all looking forward to what George Vockroth will cook up for next year, and what Rick Erickson will have the following year.

For any that might be interested, the C.V. Symposium publication is available for purchase from the society for \$25 plus postage and handling. If you do anything with the Cotton Valley in Mississippi you're going to want this 168 page publication. Along with abstracts and papers, the book includes numerous sample descriptions by Jack Henderson of key Cotton Valley wells.

***MGS is offering extra copies of
the Cotton Valley Symposia booklet
for \$25 per booklet, plus \$3.50 postage and
handling, while copies last!***

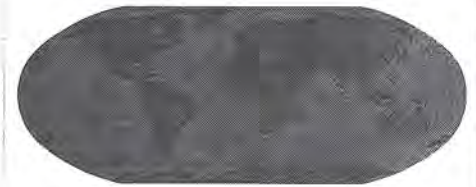
***Interested parties should send a check for
\$28.50 stipulating that the order is for the
Cotton Valley Booklet.***

***Include a return name and address. For ad-
ditional questions,***

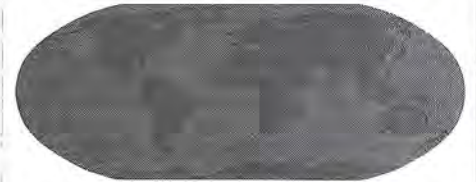
***please contact Steve Champlin at
the Mississippi Office of Geology,
(601) 961-5506.***

MGS 1997 Southern Bahamas Field Trip

This Bahamas Field Trip was held as an extension of the Cotton Valley Symposium held earlier in May. Larry Baria, field trip leader, reports that the field trip participants enjoyed excellent geology, food and weather in their trek through the out islands of the Bahamas. The guys visited tidal flats, lagoons, ooid bars, beaches, dunes, and reefs while the girls, when they weren't accompanying us on snorkeling trips, went fishing, visited hotel beaches, straw markets, and casinos. We look forward to next years Caribbean field trip. Top photo (left to right), participants were Mike Harmount, Lynn Harmount, Dr.Charles Neil, George Vockroth, Marilyn Vockroth, Jill Whigham, Dick Doxey, Peggy Kitchin, Greta Baria, Don Smith, and Aaron Lasker. The photo was taken at the Peace and Plenty Hotel; Georgetown, Exuma Island.



The bottom photo shows weathered lava encasing quartzitic boulders on the southwest corner of the island of Aruba (courtesy of VLC).



National Coastweeks

September 20, 1997

8:00am till Noon

As part of a nation-wide 3-week celebration of our coasts (September 20 - October 11), the Center for Marine Conservation is serving as the Coastweeks national coordinator, concentrating efforts on beach clean-ups. This event brings hundreds of Mississippi's, as well as millions of other Americans together to show their concern and support for the health of our nation's coasts. There is no charge to participate and there will be a cookout at the Outback Steak House in Gulfport, Miss., following the event. Contact Robin Dozier at 601-864-0254.

Special Note to Members:

Dr. Alfredo E. Prelat is scheduled as speaker for the October 14th Professional Luncheon Meeting at Capitol Towers in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Prelat was named as one of Texaco's Honorary Fellows in 1994 for his achievements in remote sensing technology. Prelat is author and/or co-author of 37 technical articles which have been published in various scientific journals.

The October meeting will be of interest to oil & gas explorationists, environmentalists, and GIS specialists. A good turn out is expected, so get there early!



1997 SEG International Exposition and 67th Annual Meeting

Sponsorship & Advertising

Opportunities for advertising and sponsorship through publications, banners, and electronic media are now being offered for the 1997 SEG International Exposition and 67th Annual Meeting, November 2-7, Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas. Guidelines for the 1997 Annual Meeting are as follows:

Events - Advertising/Sponsorship

- Delegate & Spouse Registration Bags
- Wednesday Entertainment - An Evening of Jazz, Dancing & Food at The Fairmont Hotel
- International Showcase
- Daily PM Floor Refreshments "Happy Hour"
- Student Reception
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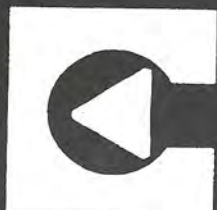
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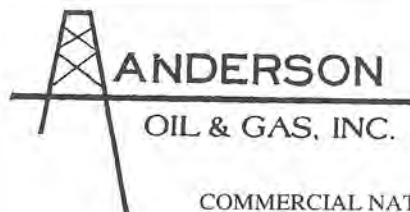
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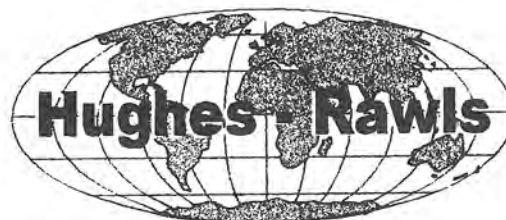
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Supplement for Volume III. Contains information, structure contour maps, and type logs on 19 fields—six in Alabama, two in Florida, and eleven in Mississippi. 45 p., 1992, heavy stock, punched for binder.
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Recent Sedimentation on Horn Island, Mississippi and Stratigraphy of the Quaternary and Upper Tertiary of the Pasacoula Valley, Mississippi, 10th Annual GCAGS Meeting, 24 p., 1960.
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The Paleozoics of Northwest Arkansas, 16th Field Trip, 48 p., May, 1962.
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Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin, 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.
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Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.
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The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day

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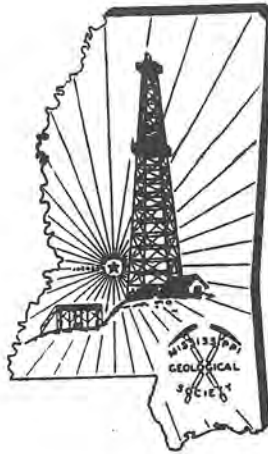
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VOLUME 46

NUMBER 1

OCTOBER, 1997

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by *George B. Vockroth*

The Society's year is off to a good start with 77 members, guests, and students attending the Fall Bar-B-Que at the Reservoir Lodge, now run by Ridgeland Parks & Recreation Department. On behalf of last years officers, the President presented Steve Jennings with a plaque in recognition for his dedicated and unselfish service as Environmental Section Chairman of the MGS from 1994-1997. He did such a good job that he was asked to continue in this position and take on publicity besides, for the 1997-98 Society year. Don't forget Steve's committee has a meeting & speaker at 11:45 am on the third Tuesday of each odd month out at Southport Mall in the DEQ hearing Room.

We sincerely appreciate the support to our Fall Bar-B-Que by our sponsors, listed in the bulletin. These companies are leaders in the rejuvenation of activity in the oil business. Thank you all again or is it thank you'al.

Dr. Alfredo E. Prelat will speak at the October 14th MGS luncheon at the Capitol Club (19th floor) at 11:45 am. He is a renowned scientists in the field of Remote Sensing. His presentation will cover petroleum exploration & environmental monitoring including low cost evaluations of frontiers area. Luncheon costs are \$10 - members, \$5 - students, and \$12 - non-members.

The MS Board of Registered Professional Geologists will have available copies of the proposed rules of the Board and copies of the Law at the October luncheon.

I am pleased to announce that Hilton Ladner has been posthumously voted Honorary Member by the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Geological Society at its Board meeting on September 9th, 1997. See the recommendation by Charles Williams, committee chairman, printed in this bulletin. This acknowledgment belatedly adds to Hilton's many honors.

As blooms on early shrubs foretell spring, there is no ignoring the signs that the oil business is recovering from a long "dark winter". The head hunters are out of their lair (see enclosed announcements), geologists are "crossing the street" after "hanging on" through the bleak down sizing by corporations and just try to get a rig. The number is up from (+-) 700 to 1032 at last count. When you do get a rig your prospect price is probably going to have to go up. The financing is out there, so remember selling a deal is like selling a house. It doesn't look like it will

ever come to a close. Good hunting.

We would be remiss to close and not mention our committee members and Board members for "putting on" the Bar-B-Que. I know you join me in thanking Stan Thieling, Steve Champlin and Steve Ingram, all busy people. Also our thanks to Gridley's for their tasty bar-b-que.

Many thanks to David Dockery for the Jackson Dome cross sections display. These will be published in their Mississippi Geology publication, September edition.

George

MGS Professional Luncheon Speaker

Dr. Alfredo E. Prelat

Dr. Alfredo E. Prelat is one of the preeminent scientists working in the field of remote sensing. He began his professional career in 1974 as a research associate and lecturer at Stanford University Remote Sensing Laboratory, during which time he also was a United Nations consultant on remote sensing methods for resource exploration in South America and Asia. Prelat then spent two years as a research fellow and lecturer at the Geological Survey of Norway, later joined Bechtel Corporation, and then later joined Unocal Corporation where he served as Manger of Remote Sensing, earning a leadership award for his outstanding efforts in remote sensing technology.

Prelat joined Texaco in 1989 as a senior scientist in the Exploration and Production Technology Department (EPTD). He later became Principle Scientist in the Exploratron Research Unit of Texaco's EPTD in Houston. At Texaco, Prelat initiated sophisticated remote sensing research and its applications focused toward oil and gas exploration and environmental monitoring, including effective, low cost geologic evaluations of frontier exploration areas. He performed innovative work in the application and development of airborne and satellite-based remote sensing technology, and designed the Texaco Environmental and Exploration Multispectrometer (TEEMS). TEEMS is an advanced hyperspectral sensor. The system has the unique

(continued on page 5)

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 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th
 February 10th
 March 10th
 April 14th
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

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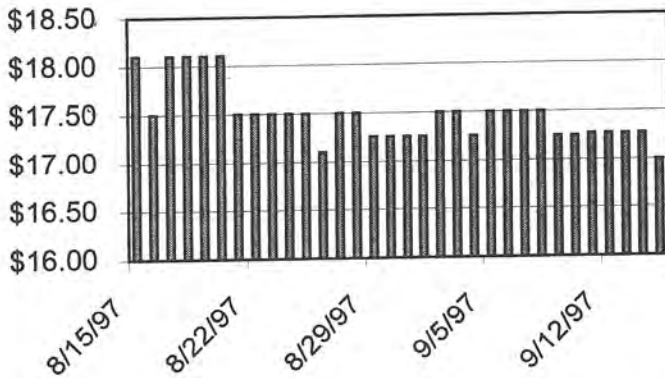
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Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



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October 17th-19th, 1997 at the Fair Grounds.

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EDITORS NOTE :

Last month you received your September Bulletin with an envelope for membership dues inserted in the center page. The envelope had your membership information printed on the outside of the envelope, rather than on the envelope fly. The envelope fly should have been a tear-off fly with that information printed on the fly. I apologize for this error in oversight. Please place the envelope with the pertinent information (filled out) and your dues in another envelope and address it to the Society — address on front mail cover.

This month begins our Advertising Campaign for the 1998 year which runs from January through December. **Steve Jennings**, our Committee Chairman, has begun soliciting for the 1998-1999 Advertising Year. If you wish to renew or join our bulletin supporters, contact Steve at (601) 961-5205. The 1997 Advertising year will end in December and your renewal and/or renewal must be in by December 15th (**hard deadline**) in order to make the January bulletin.

Also note that the **membership renewal deadline is past**. To continue getting your bulletin, contact Steve Champlin immediately at (601) 961-5506.

Special note from :

Charles H. Williams, Jr.
Chairman, Honorary
Membership Committee

Hilton Louis Ladner has been named posthumously, Honorary Member of the Mississippi Geological Society.

Requirements for nomination is that the nominee throughout his/her term of membership in the MGS be a member in good standing and further that he/she through their scientific activity and contributions to the Society and the community as a whole have brought favorable recognition to the MGS.

Hilton Louis Ladner was born September 23, 1924 in Pass Christian, Mississippi. Hilton served his country as a Naval Air Corp pilot in World War II. Following his military service he attended Mississippi State University and graduated with a degree in geology in 1946.

Hilton's first job upon graduation was with Shell Oil Company in Carlsbad, New Mexico, followed by tours in Midland and Houston, Texas. He left Shell in 1956 to begin his career as a consulting geologist in Jackson and for a brief in New Orleans.

Along with other accomplished geologists, Hilton formed the Mississippi Subsurface Map Company and later the Alabama/Florida Subsurface Map Company. Most everyone who has explored in the southeastern U.S. has referred to these maps.

Hilton's record as a geologist and independent includes an impressive list of discoveries: Corinne Field, Splunge Field, McKinley Creek Field, Hamilton Field, Star Field, Hubbard's Landing Field, and Latham Field. In addition, he participated in the development of Pistol Ridge Field, Maxie Field, Baxterville Field, Flora Field,

Caledonia Field, South Maple Branch Field, and Buttahatchie River Field.

To merely mention the discovery and subsequent development of Corinne field does not do justice to the profound impact on the NE Mississippi and NW Alabama area. Corinne Field was discovered in 1972 and was the first major gas field in the area, showing that large reserves were present in the Black Warrior Basin.

Hilton was involved for many years in industry affairs. He served as chairman of the Mississippi / Alabama Division of Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association in 1975 and 1976, and was a long term member of the National Mid-Continent's Board of Directors. He was the recipient of the MCOGA's prestigious "Wildcat of the Year Award" in 1986. He served as president of the Capitol City Petroleum Club in 1978 and chairman of the Jackson chapter of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists in 1987. He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

Hilton devoted many hours to his church and community. He served on the board of directors for the Jackson Youth for Christ, the Methodist Children's Home and the Children's Advocacy Center. He was a member of the One Hundred Club. One of his most outstanding contributions was as a founder and director of the Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center. Many of us have personal friends and relatives who have made remarkable recoveries through treatment at this marvelous facility.

Hilton and his wife, Dolly, have a son and daughter and five grandchildren.



Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

(Speaker's Info Continued from page 1)

capability of acquiring information with an optical imaging spectrometer and synthetic aperture radar simultaneously from the same aircraft platform. The imaging spectrometer is fully stabilized, and the spectral data are fully calibrated. Data acquisition with geo-referencing and co-registering of ultraviolet (UV), visible (VIS), near infrared (NIR), short-wave infrared (SWIR), thermal infrared (TIR), and synthetic aperture radar connected via communication links to the imaging spectrometer controller workstation. The optical system and the radar system both have on-board real-time quick look capability for real-time reconnaissance and oil spill monitoring. Spectrometer band centers, and band widths are selected by Texaco specific applications. The system control uses a state-of-the-art on-board real-time work station. Exploration applications include hydrocarbon seep detection on land and water, lithology determination, structure mapping, fracture analysis, thermal and tonal anomaly identification, and environmental baselines for monitoring. TEEMS applications are far beyond the capabilities of many current instruments.

In 1994, Dr. Prelat received the title Texaco Honorary Fellow for his exceptional achievements in technology, technological innovations, and contributions to the company. Currently he is one of only three that hold the title. In addition, he received the Texaco EPTD External Customer Service Award and is author and/or co-author of 37 technical papers which have been published in various scientific journals. Dr. Alfredo Prelat is acknowledged by his peers with Texaco and industry as an expert in the field of remote sensing.



GCAGS

Lest we forget! The 47th Annual GCAGS Convention is being held in New Orleans, October 15-17, 1997. Most of you have already made your reservation, but some of us need this reminder. Nine years has passed since the last GCAGS meeting was held there. With current "promising atmosphere" evidenced by our industry, this convention is slated for greatness. Job hunters should be prepared to submit their resumes to the Employment Assistance Committee — please see notices in the advertising section.

SEG

We also don't want to forget the 67th Annual SEG Meeting to be held in Dallas, Texas. This is our last reminder for this meeting. The next time you receive our bulletin, the meeting will be in session or over.

Coal Age

May — A recent report by Resource Data International (RDI) found that the trend for U.S. electric load growth is accelerating, with actual utility generation growth expanding at a rate equal to or greater than the nation's real economic growth rate for the past two years. Their conclusion is that the future for the fossil fuel producers and electric providers, covered in their RDI forecast, will generally be bright for the next 20 years.

PC Week

September — BCM Software Inc. of Houston, is running a limited version of a futuristic computer system, Aviation Standards Information System (ASIS) program, for the Federal Aviation Administration. The program may be characterized as a virtual computer doctor. ASIS is a network of computers that monitors problems and is programmed to fix itself.

Govt. Computer News

July 28 Issue —

Roland Pozo, an NIST scientist, has strung together three PC's to build his own super computer to run complex math calculations used in numerical linear algebra. Costs were around \$30,000 and it was built with off-the-shelf hardware and software. The computer system, called Jazz Net, links three Pentium Pro's via Fast Ethernet and achieves speeds of 1 billion floating-point operations per second for some applications. JazzNet can easily hold its own against workstations. Besides raw computing speed, the advantage of a personal supercomputer is that users don't have to share the machine. Even if a super computer can run an application in a few seconds, what you don't see is how long the program sat in line waiting for computing time. The trade-off is that the more processors you have, the more computational power you have. But each processor is sharing a bus to memory and it gets more and more difficult to feed them. There is a point of diminishing return at which multiple processors do not increase a system's power. A quad system can plug away at massive amounts of data, but if the system cannot feed enough data to the processors, they sit idle. Cost also favors using single-processor PC's. Another advantage is that it is built of off-the-shelf hardware and software. When a Fast Etherlink card goes bad, you can go to any computer store and purchase a new card and be back on line in minutes.

MDEQ

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control is undergoing re-engineering in an effort more efficiently serve individuals with environmental interests. Two new division, Permitting and Compliance/Enforcement, have been added to provide individualized assistance related to permits and compliance activities while continuing air, water, solid waste and hazardous waste planning efforts.

Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

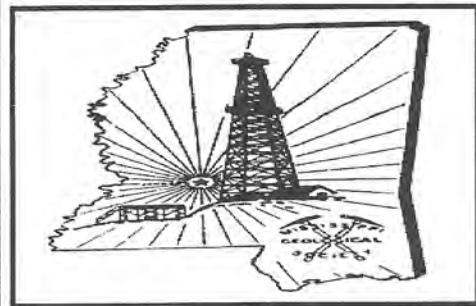
Force Five

The Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Consortium 1997 Legal Program will focus on critical issues in the northern Gulf region. The Sea Grant legal team will study the legal issues facing federal and state fisheries managers who attempt to implement limited entry fishing regimes in the Gulf of Mexico, examine the historical development and current status of submerged lands law in Mississippi and its impact on economic development such as the casino industry, update public trust information for publication, and study takings doctrine in the Gulf states. The program will continue to publish the legal reporter *Water Log* and to educate law student in marine and environmental law and policy. Sea Grant attorneys will provide legal information on regional and national marine policy issues to federal, state and local government representatives, to citizens groups and to Sea Grant advisory and extension personnel in Mississippi and Alabama.

1997, Mississippi Code Annotated Sec. 73-63-17 (Supp. 1997).

Written comments on this matter may be submitted to the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists, P.O. Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742. Copies of the proposed Rules are available for review at the at the library of the Dept. of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Office of Geology,

2380 Highway 80 West, Jackson, MS; by contacting the Board at P.O. Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742; or by calling 601/961-5507.



The photo below was contributed by Lynn Harmount who attended the Bahamas Field Trip in May. Larry Baria, Jura-search Inc., led the trip in conjunction with our Cotton Valley Symposium. We've included this photo as a final cap for those activities, and as a thought toward carbonate genesis in light of the continued and growing interest in Cotton Valley and other Jurassic reef plays.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Rules of the Board

Notice is hereby given that the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists will hold a public hearing at 4:00 PM, Friday, October 17, 1997 at the Department of Environmental Quality's Commission Hearing Room, located at the Dept. of Environmental Quality, 2380 Highway 80 West, Jackson, MS. One of the purposes of the meeting is to receive public comment concerning the proposed Rules of the Board - Rules 1 through 9 and the proposed format of applications and reference forms. The public is encouraged to attend and the Board is soliciting public comment concerning the adoption of the aforementioned rules and forms for its use in the retered gistration of professional geologists in Mississippi as required by the RegisProfessional Geologists Practice Act of

Algal Stromatolites along the windward beach at Stocking Island near Georgetown, Bahamas. Algal stromatolites such as these and the classic occurrences at Shark Bay, Australia are excellent analogs to the build-ups seen commonly throughout the geologic record from the Pre-Cambrian at least through the Jurassic. Because of this setting in intertidal, coastal, and transitional marine environments they frequently build up to form sizable reservoirs during periods of sea level rise fringing insular paleostructures. Stromatolites are often dolomitized to provide excellent permeability and porosity to those reservoirs. The Stromatolites are actually an encrusting growth of cyano-bacteria and green algae which cyclically grow and bind fine carbonate sediments into laminated masses. Considerable literature exists on the Bahamian stromatolites written by Chris Kenndal, Bob Dillm Jeff Dravis, Gene Shinn Ian Macintyre, et al.
P.S. — Some paleontologists think stromatolites were at least partially responsible for the oxygen in our atmosphere. G. B. V.

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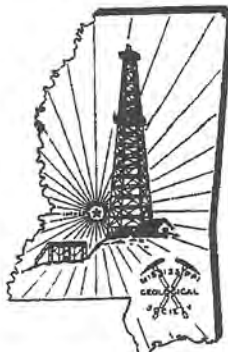
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Wilcox Fields of Southwest Mississippi, Maps and production data on 171 fields, in ring binder, 350p, 1969.

MGS 001SV\$28.00

Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume II, Maps and producing data on 146 fields, in ring binder, 361 p., 1963-1980.

MGS 003SV\$50.00

Volume II In Separate Sections:

Volume II, Includes Supplement 1, Maps and Producing data on 77 fields, 143 p., 1963.

MGS 004SV\$15.00

Volume II, Supplements 2 through 7, Maps and producing data on 35 fields, 110 p., 1964-1972.

MGS 005SV\$25.00

Volume II, Supplement 8, Maps and producing data on 34 fields, 108 p., 1980.

MGS 006SV\$25.00

Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume III, Includes discovery, structural, and lithologic summaries along with reservoir parameters and production data on 55 selected fields. Each field summary is accompanied by a structure map and a type log. In three-ring binder, 166 p., December, 1986.

MGS 007SV\$50.00

Supplement for Volume III, Contains information, structure contour maps, and type logs on 19 fields—six in Alabama, two in Florida, and eleven in Mississippi. 45 p., 1992, heavy stock, punched for binder.

MGS 008SV\$25.00

Oil in the Deep South, A History of the Oil Business In Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, 1859-1945, by Dudley J. Hughes. A statistical and chronological summary of the evolution of the petroleum business in the southeastern United States. Includes personal stories of the companies, entrepreneurs, promoters, investors and workers who played major roles in the development of the oil business from its inception in the early 1900s to 1945. Hardbound book, 267 p., 1993.

MGS 020SV\$35.00

FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS

Upper Cretaceous Outcrops, Northeast Mississippi and

West Central Alabama, 14th Field Trip, 29 p., May, 1959.

MGS 101G\$4.00

Recent Sedimentation on Horn Island, Mississippi and Stratigraphy of the Quaternary and Upper Tertiary of the Pasacoula Valley, Mississippi, 10th Annual GCAGS Meeting, 24 p., 1960.

MGS 103G\$2.50

The Paleozoics of Northwest Arkansas, 16th Field Trip, 48 p., May, 1962.

MGS 104G\$5.00

Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin, 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.

MGS 105G\$8.00

Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.

MGS 106G\$7.50

The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day

field trip. 18th Field Trip Guidebook, 69 p., April, 1991.

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COMPOSITE LOGS AND CROSS SECTIONS
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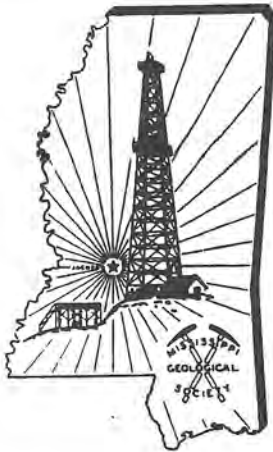
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER, 1997

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

The New Orleans Geological Society put on a great convention for the GCAGS, as usual. Some 1600 folks were in attendance. There were numerous papers on 3-D and its uses in redeveloping these old highly faulted fields (over salt domes) and also on the FMI Log (micro-sensitivity scanner) that takes pictures of the borehole wall. Turbidities were also "in demand". They are everywhere now and you won't believe what salt can form in the continental slope area. Slivers even "float" around and bump into each other — fascinating.

Our November speaker, Al Greene, will present his paper on the results of development using 3-D at Lafitte Field in Louisiana. This will be at the Capital Club on Tuesday November 11, 1997 at 11:30 - 1:00. Also, our Program Chairman David Chastain advises our January speaker will be Dr. Mancini "on" the Smack-over.

Steve Jennings is sending out letters for next years (1998) advertising for the bulletin. You will get free advertising for the rest of the year (December) if your ad money arrives expeditious. Please help the Society and take out an ad if you haven't done so in the past.

Congratulations to our 1st VP, Rick Ericksen on his selection as Vice Chair of the AAPG/DPA State Registration and Licensure Committee. Rick hopes to have our Mississippi State Registration forms out in late November.

I failed to represent you at the GCAGS Board Meeting on Wednesday October 15, 1997 because my invitation did not arrive until Tuesday evening the 14th of October, but enclosed is my written report that I submitted anyway.

The Mississippi Geological Society is in excellent shape as indicated by the following:

- ⇒ **Membership:** Increased 41% to 248 members last year, and 150 members have already renewed for this year.
- ⇒ **Budget:** Ended up last year with 66% over expenses.

- ⇒ **Meetings:** Attendance is up at all functions so far this year. The Fall BBQ attendance was up 40%.
- ⇒ **Seminars:** Cotton Valley Symposium last May had 191 registrations.
- ⇒ **Advertising:** Ads in our monthly bulletin are up.
- ⇒ **Dues:** \$20. We have openings for a few more members.
- ⇒ **Luncheons:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 11:30 - 1:00 from October - April, Capital Club.
- ⇒ **Christmas Party:** Capital Club, December 9, 1997, 4:00 - 6:00 PM. \$10.00 per person plus bar cost. Heavy hors d' oeuvres.
- ⇒ **Spring Fling:** May 12, 1998, Fish Fry at Agriculture Museum.
- ⇒ **Luncheon Speakers:** Still have open dates for February, March and April 1998.

Dues were due October 1st, 1997. If not received you will not make the annual directory. We will notify you if lost

All the best during the holidays!

George

MGS Professional Luncheon Topic & Speaker

3-D Seismic of Lafitte Field, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Al Greene, a Texaco geoscientist, will speak on Texaco's successful application of 3-D Seismic at Lafitte Field in Jefferson parish, Louisiana.

Lafitte Field was discovered by Texaco in 1935. To date, over 700 wells have been drilled in the field area, with production over 258 MMBO and 313 BCF from more than 50 producing sands. Lafitte Field is characterized as a structurally
(continued on page 4)

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Speaker To Be Announced (TBA)
 March 10th Speaker TBA
 April 14th Speaker TBA & Officer Nominations
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

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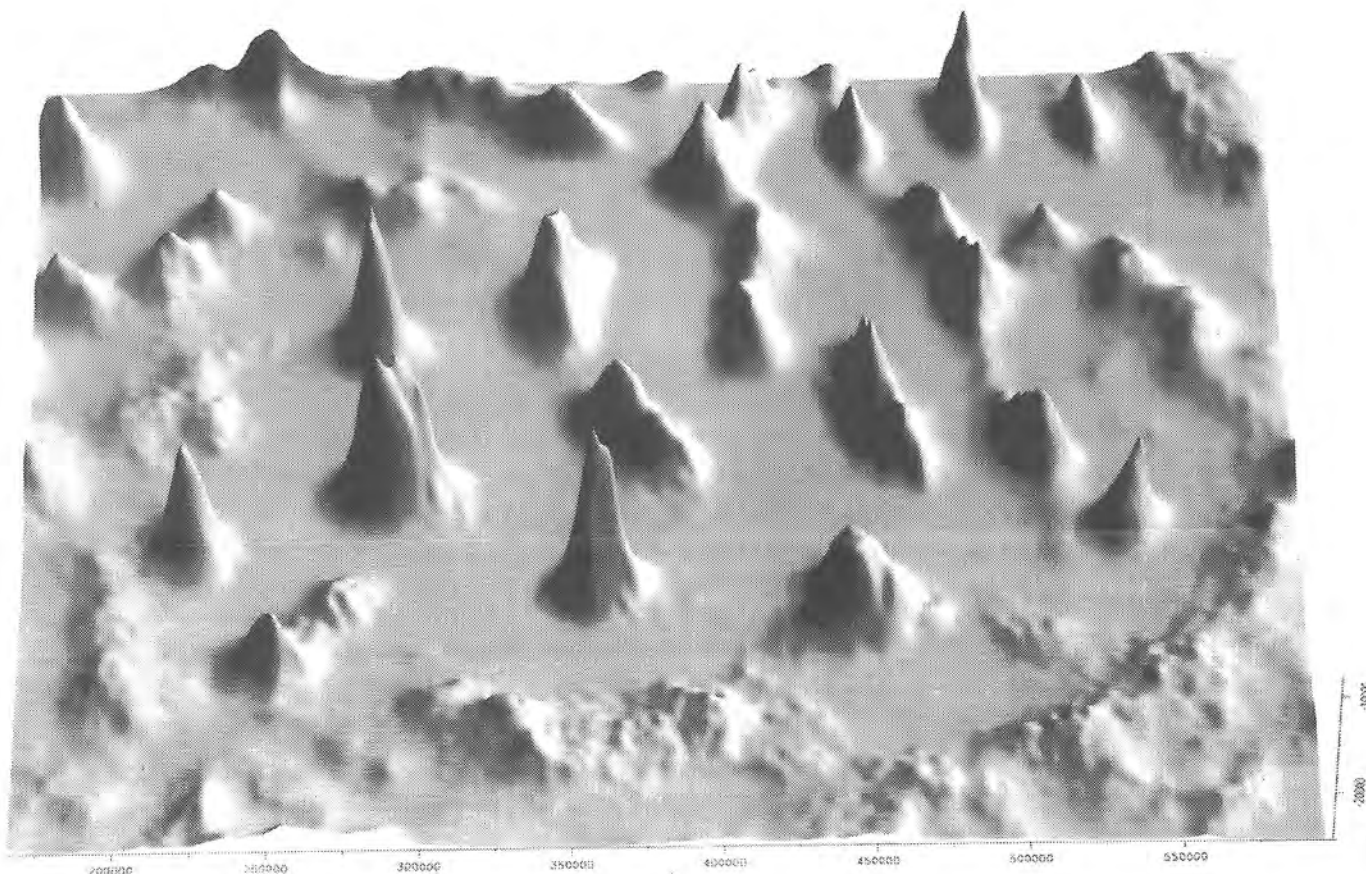
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NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM :

THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF GEOLOGY

ATLAS OF SHALLOW MISSISSIPPI SALT DOMES

The Mississippi Office of Geology announces the availability of Bulletin 131, "Atlas of Shallow Mississippi Salt Domes," by Stanley C. Thieling and Jack S. Moody of the Mississippi Office of Geology.



"Atlas of Shallow Mississippi Salt Domes" is a compilation of essential information on 53 shallow piercement salt domes in the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin. The entry for each dome lists location, topographic map, geophysical data, estimated size and shape, estimated base of fresh water, economic use, shallowest known cap rock, shallowest known salt, oldest formation penetrated within one mile of the dome, and nearest oil or gas production. The drilling history lists pertinent information about wells at each dome, including formation tops and logs run. Extensive core data is listed where available. A location map and topographic map are given for each dome; some domes also have additional maps, cross sections, seismic sections, or gravity maps.

Bulletin 131 may be purchased from the Office of Geology at Southport Center, 2380 Highway 80 West, for \$25.00 per copy. Mail orders will be accepted when accompanied by payment (\$25.00 per copy, plus \$3.00 postage and handling for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy). Send mail orders (with check or money order) to:

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(Speaker Info Continued from page 1)

complex, faulted rollover anticline rooted by a deep-seated salt mass. Reservoirs have a variety of trapping configurations including four way anticlines, complex fault traps, and fluvial and deltaic channel systems exhibiting vertical and lateral shale seals.

Texaco assembled a team of geoscientist and engineers to perform a detailed, integrated evaluation of the field. 3-D seismic was incorporated into the study to better define structural relations, and to analyze amplitude extractions for improved stratigraphic and reservoir evaluations. In the later stage of the field evaluation, the 3-D seismic interpretation was critical in determining well locations, particularly for horizontal wells and wells designed to follow fault traps.

Texaco's utilization of 3-D seismic at Lafitte Field has proved to be a significant success by further increasing production at this aging (mature), 53 year old field.

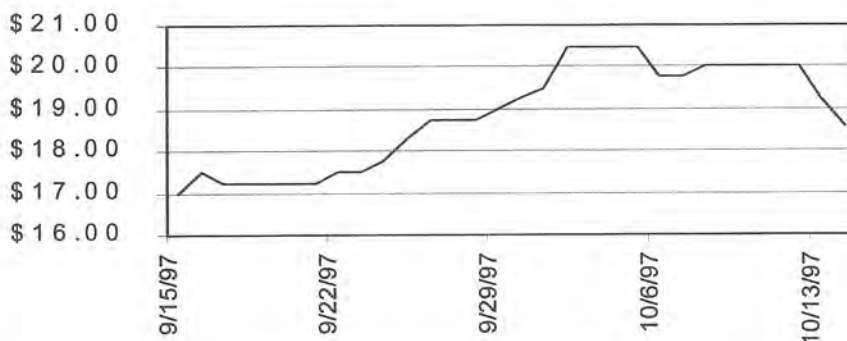
Al graduated with a B.S. in Geology from Millsaps College in 1980. He started work for Texaco as a geologist responsible for prospect generation in exploration and exploitation plays across the Gulf of Mexico. Following a one year assignment to the engineering office in Harvey, Louisiana, Al spent over a year in the Geophysical Processing Group in New Orleans. Al Greene has been employed with Texaco for 16 years in New Orleans and is currently working South Louisiana, interpreting 2-D and 3-D surveys.



Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



MGS Environmental Geology Meeting November 18th

11:30 — 1:00

(special early meeting time)

The program for the November 18th meeting of the Environmental Geology Section will be a discussion concerning the status, relevance, and future of geological education, especially as it pertains to environmental and engineering geology careers. The presentation will be made by representatives from Mississippi's four geology departments: the University of Southern Mississippi, Millsaps College, Ole Miss, and Mississippi State University. The effect of recent state registration of geologists, with respect to the universities, will be addressed. In order to get the views and perspectives from each of our universities, time has been tightly constrained. We have planned a period of questions and comments, if time will allow.

The Environmental Geology Section meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in the DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.

Special note for the November Petroleum Section meeting !

The ongoing saga of Culbertson and his travels. He missed the October meeting as promised because his Iceland samples were frozen fast in the freezer. He will be at the next meeting with some additional samples from Death Valley.

OTHER NEWS

Ziff Energy Group

September 1997 — In 1991, Ziff was involved with a study on the medium and long term employment outlook for the Canadian Petroleum Industry. At that time the industry was in recession with 1992 U.S. gas prices at a modern record low of less than \$1 US/Mcf (Canadian prices were even lower). Two scenarios were used in their study, a low price case and a high price case. At this time (Sept. '97) gas prices have recovered strongly, while oil price increases have been moderate. The notable difference in the last 5 years for the oil industry is the significant impact of technology which has accelerated investment in and return from horizontal drilling and heavy oil exploitation.

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The study examined the full range of labor required by the industry, from landmen to earth scientists, engineers and technicians, full and part time trades, etc. The conclusion for 1992 was that the industry will likely face an acute human resource supply problem in certain occupations over the next ten years.

The 1991 study indicated 1997 as a cross-over point in supply and demand for earth scientists. The study stated that in both high and low cases the internal supply exceeds demand until 1996. From 1997 on, demand increases, exceeding the total supply in the high case (internal supply plus school output) — "when the demand for staff returns in mid-decade, the supply will simply not exist".

Today, 5 years after layoffs, the oil patch has a shortage of talented people in many disciplines, and at many levels, from entry on up. Today there is a wide range of choices — the IS/computer industry is red hot, and in science and engineering, mining has become an attractive industry worldwide. Within most companies a demographic skewing has occurred: there are relatively few employees under 30, and very few over 55. There is a big bulge in the 40's — but there is a finite need for VP's. By the end of the decade, the average age of E&P company employees will be over 45. Although the industry cutbacks seemed rational at the time, the actions then must be paid for now. New grads are being fought over and signing bonuses are back. Cost inflation is back with a vengeance in the service industries and in the human resources field. Both will undermine the economics and viability of the oil and gas industry since sustained commodity price increases are an unlikely solution. A measure of the times is that in several recent takeovers, the successful CEO's stated that they were as interested in acquiring the people as the reserves. Perhaps the only solution is a realization that even in hard times, people are an asset, not an expendable.

Harts PE International

A surge in drilling activity has resulted in a drill pipe shortage and a 1 to 2 1/2 month delay in delivery. Pipe

prices, new and old, are expected to rise 25%. Qualified personnel are hard to find due to the industry drop in headcounts of nearly 60%. The industry now desperately needs more qualified people and there is no quick-fix to the people situation.

World Oil

Energy consumption has steadily increased during the last three years. 1994 & 1995 averaged a 1% increase over the previous year(s), while 1996 increased by a 3.4 % jump. Energy market shares remained flat with oil at 40% ; natural gas 22%; coal 27%; and nuclear and hydro 11%. The electric sector consumed 62% of all natural gas used. Non-energy uses and motor fuel accounted for 58% of total oil product consumption, up 2% from five years ago. Oil & gas production rose 3.1% and 5.5% respectively.

A study by Citizen Action, Interstate O&G Compact Commission, and IPAA projected dependence on Persian Gulf oil imports to be more than 60% by year 2000 (just 3 years away).

O&G World

Gulf Coast gas producers will likely experience lower overall prices due to competition from new capacity piped in from outside the region. Gulf Coast states have historically benefited from the five interstate pipelines in the region which move gas to the northern and northeastern states. However, increased Canadian gas exports to these regions will translate into lower prices for the market. The increase in Canadian exports along with electric deregulation could create an "electric bubble" which could further depress prices for natural gas. All producers, nation-wide, could be hurt.

Geotimes

A survey of North American businesses suggests that a "green wall" exists between environmental and business staffs at many companies. Managers of environmental, health, and safety programs at

185 corporations in the U.S. and Canada cited two critical problems: a lack of integration between environmental and business issues in their companies and their own failure to convince management that the environment is an important business issue.

MISSTAP News

The MSU Chemical Engineering Environmental Technology Research and Applications Laboratory (E-TECH) are currently working with the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to further develop biocell technology for remediation of petroleum contaminated soils excavated during highway construction. The research team is focusing on refining the biocell technology originally developed at the USAE Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, under funding from the Department of Defense (DOD) Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program.

This technology is similar to the widely used bioventing developed by the DOD and EPA. Biocells are a biotreatment technology that aerobically treat soils in roll-off dumpsters. The novelty of the system is the design of the units. The dumpsters can be rented from several commercial sources. Prior to filling, the dumpsters are lined with a chemically resistant HDPE liner to prevent contamination of the dumpster during treatment. Two manifolds of perforated PVC pipe are buried in a bottom layer of pea gravel. The dumpsters are then filled with contaminated soil. Biological activity is then stimulated through the addition of air and nutrient amended water. One manifold is used to blow air into the unit to supply oxygen to the aerobic microorganisms. The second manifold is used to drain the irrigated water and nutrient. Soil moisture is monitored for optimum microbe activity.

Estimated treatment costs are in the range of \$15-\$75 per cubic yard, representing a significant cost savings over traditional technology — incineration (at \$350/cy) and landfilling (at >

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miles and enveloped the earth. Every four months or so, magnetic disturbances on the sun give rise to similar space clouds, as well as solar flares and other phenomena — hence, the cloud was not unusual. But it should be noted that a similar massive-sized storm knocked out a power grid in Quebec in 1989, proving the importance of studying their activity.

During the January 6th storm, NASA recorded its properties with three satellites tracking its passage through space, over and beyond the Earth. These measurements have given scientists their first coherent picture of how a magnetic cloud interacts with the Earth's magnetic field.

The SOHO satellite, stationed about 900,000 miles from earth, was the first to see the big magnetic cloud tear loose from the sun's equator. On January 10th, 3 days and 18.5 hours after eruption, the WIND satellite detected the cloud billowing past its position some 400,000 miles from the Earth. About 30 minutes later the cloud engulfed the Earth.

Normally the Earth's magnetosphere (the planet's magnetic atmosphere) extends about 40,000 miles from the planet in the direction of the sun. On the planet's far side, the magnetosphere trails off, like a wind sock, for some 800,000 miles before merging with the vast flow of particles from the sun (solar wind). Data from the satellites showed that the cloud had the same orientation as the Earth's magnetic field. When the cloud's field reached the Earth, the two magnetic fields repelled, compressing our magnetosphere. During that period, the earth's field became about 20% stronger. On January 10th, POLAR satellite, positioned to orbit the Earth's magnetosphere, measured the surge. The boost in strength accelerated electrons and other particles trapped in the field to energies more than 100 times greater than normal. During that period, the auroras (energized particles traveling through the magnetic field and colliding with the Earth's atmosphere) gave a spectacular display at the northern and southern poles.

Of importance, the storm may be responsible for knocking out AT&T's \$200 million Telstar 401 satellite. On January 11th, when the energy in the radiation

belts had grown most intense, Telstar 401 died, possibly due to electron piercing and lodging in the satellites circuits, a know plague for satellites.

Earth News

Humans may have reached the Americas a thousand years sooner than thought, by a different route. For decades, scientists assumed that the first Americans wandered over from Asia about 12,000 years ago, after falling sea levels exposed a land bridge across the Bering Strait. In 1977, researchers from the University of

Kentucky excavated a site in Monte Verde, Chile, finding evidence, which includes a child's footprint and bone tools, that have been dated to 12,500 years ago. In February a committee of archeologists ruled that the controversial date was correct. This finding suggests that people must have crossed the Bering Strait thousands of years earlier (20,000 to 13,000 ya) at a time when glaciers are thought to have blocked the straits. It is thus speculated that the migrants paddle down the coast in boats or even walked across before the glaciers appeared.

MGS ADVERTISING NOTICE !

Its is time to renew your ad in the MGS Bulletin. Our advertising year runs from January through December (calendar year). Please submit your ad and payment before December 15th, 1997 to make the January Bulletin. Payments received for the 1998 advertising year, if received before November 15th, will receive a free ad in the December 1997 bulletin (10 for 9).

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Pit & Quarry

EPA Administrator, Carol Browner recently sent out memos to the EPA Regional Offices stating that EPA will not extend the December 1998 deadline for upgrading, replacing, or closing underground storage tanks. Under EPA regulation issued in 1988, owners and operators of underground storage tanks (UST's) storing petroleum and hazardous substances have until December 22nd to change UST's that do not meet federal requirements for protection against spills, overfills, and corrosion. Browner has asked EPA and states to continue working with UST owners and operators to encourage compliance before the 1998 deadline.

Mining Voice

A new technology from Klean Earth Environmental Co. (KEECO) has developed a one step process, applied on site in powdered or liquid form, which potentially can permanently control and eliminate heavy metal as a contaminant. The products react with toxic metals, permanently binding them in a microscopic silica matrix. The heavy metals are rendered inert, eliminating the need for disposal of hazardous waste products. KEECO states that this method will allow mining operations a guarantee that there will be no heavy metal contamination issue at the site. Mining operators can choose either KB-1 for use in soil or KB-SEA for use in water.

Research at Montana Tech, Mackay School of Mines and Camborne School of Mines Associates, and others, have given positive feedback for the product. Current studies are being conducted with large mining companies including Newmont Gold Corp., Hecla Mining Co., Echo Bay Mines, and Noranda. In addition, the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation has chosen KEECO to participate in a Colorado treatability study.

Earth News

Vast flotillas of icebergs periodically cruised the Atlantic during the last ice age. Shards of rock that once were

frozen into the base of glaciers are found strewn throughout North Atlantic oceanic sediments, thus proving their journey.

Climatologists at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University think the answer lies in equatorial climes. Researchers believe that fossil algae on the seafloor near Africa support their hypothesis.

Wind patterns at the equator can trigger a chain of events that ends in iceberg formation at the poles. Researchers suggest that these icebergs are produced when snow and ice rapidly build up at the poles. The increased weight creates instabilities in the ice sheets. One way to do that is for winds to send warm water up to the poles, where it would increase snow accumulation.

Temperature differences set air in motion, so winds tend to flow from the cold poles to the equator. The planet sweeps those winds westward (these breezes called easterlies). Easterlies can keep equatorial water bottled up in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, which open only to the east. If the easterly winds relax, equatorial waters flow back east into the Gulf Stream, which carries balmy water northward. Easterlies periodically calm down. When the Earth's orbit brings it close to the sun, the temperature difference between north and south decreases, reducing wind strength. Then tropical waters ride the Gulf Stream north. Warmer water means more evaporation, which creates snow and rain that fall on the ice sheets. From that build up, ice sheets break off at their terminous, supplying fleets of floating icebergs to the North Atlantic.

Again, researchers believe that fossil algae on the seafloor near Africa preserve the evidence of fluctuating tropical winds. Most algae live near the surface and prosper when strong easterlies churn the Atlantic, pulling up nutrient-rich waters. The algae die when the winds do, but deep water algae aren't affected by the shifting winds. By studying the mix of shallow and deep-water algae, scientists can tell what the winds are/were doing. From this, the discovery that algae mixtures change with the launch-

ings of ancient iceberg armadas and with Earth's orbital wanderings. Comparison of the algal data from both low latitudes and high latitudes appear to correlate, corroborating the hypothesis.

(Editor — Such research should make us stop and rethink some of the precepts of global warming. I have personally noted over the past few years that some of the major contributions forcing change from early assertions of pending global disaster have come from the field of meteorology.)

Science News

A controversial new report challenges the long-held tenet that the vast reaches of space appear the same, that direction is meaningless in the simplest version of the Big Bang model — which holds that the primordial universe expanded uniformly, like a perfectly spherical balloon. An analysis of the polarization of radio waves emitted by distant galaxies suggests that the universe may have a preferred direction after all.

The study by Borge Nodland, University of Rochester, N.Y., and John Ralston, University of Kansas, reviewed the measured polarization of radio waves emitted by 160 distant galaxies. The original observations were designed to measure Faraday rotation, a well-documented effect in which intergalactic magnetic fields rotate the angle of polarization of waves traveling through them. The physicists say they have found an extra twist. Galaxies that lie along a particular direction in space show significantly greater polarization of their radio waves than do galaxies in any other direction. The statistically significant effect raises a flag that there is something of fundamental interest in the theory and it ought to be rechecked as the authors state in their report.

Discover

January 16th at 11 a.m. EST, a huge bubble of hot magnetized gas burst from the sun. The giant cloud rushed toward the earth at some 900,000 miles per hour. Four days later the cloud had expanded to a width of about 20 million

Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

Report on the GCAGS - NEW ORLEANS MEETING

by Past President Jack Moody

Upbeat, happy, looking good. It has been a long time since we've seen this level of enthusiasm from geologists, but it was definitely there. The guys from Houston were all smiles. I even herd some use the b--- word in public, now that is confidence. It does seem there are pockets of activity that are on fire, while others range from really good to OK.

There was a good turnout, around 900 professionals and the students, wives, and exhibitors resulted in a total of roughly 1500 people.

The ice breaker gave everyone a chance to visit with friends. MGS had a respectable number of people attending. There were a lot of good exhibits with plenty of high tech products to help keep this present activity on track. Today's exploration geologist has a wonderful set of tools to work with if he has the financial backing. Along with all the high tech services there was a prospect expo with some interesting looking deals. Several of the research centers like Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, and LSU Basin Research Institute, were there just to show the different areas of investigation they're working on.

There were of course a wide variety of papers presented. Larry Baria commented to me how nice it was to see people presenting their 3D information rather than hiding it. I listened with interest to a paper dealing with low resistivity pays in the Travis Peak (Houston) and Cotton Valley Formations of East Texas. James R. Turner presented a cross plot method that has helped identify potential low resistivity pays. With my interest stirred, I asked Harry Spooner about low resistivity pays in Mississippi and he talked about a cotton valley well he has that has the low resistivity causing clay coated grains. If you are interested, read Turner's paper beginning on page 579 in the '97 Transactions. Our friends with the Alabama Survey, Bob Mink and Charlie Smith, gave a great presentation on the 58 BCF miocene gas field located at Dauphin Island. All that gas at an 1800 foot depth! Steve Oivanki presented a paper which applies good geologic concepts to answer difficult questions. Around our shop we refer to this line of investigation as forensic geology. Ernie Mancini presented the results of his work in using the Fullbore Formation Micro Imager technology as applied to the Frisco City reservoir sands. As is usually the case, the transaction publication will be a great source of all kinds of information regarding gulf coast geology.

As to the people and attitudes I ran into, I'd say they ran the gamut from very active and optimistic to cautious. Some folks say it has never been better for them. I found a mix of independents using technology in varying degrees. A long time friend and independent is using a work station to verify locations from 3D data. Others use PC's with subsurface mapping programs to gin up their ideas. Ideas are saleable at this time and many of those ideas will be 3D before they are drilled.

One of the philosophical discussions I enjoyed hearing dealt with the current boom of 3D redevelopment of fields. So much of the present activity is focused in this relatively low risk play. There are many companies and investors who are getting used to the idea of 70-80% success rates. One explorationist that I believe to be a solid oil finder said he was enjoying the relative stress free atmosphere that surrounds such low risk drilling. He recalled the disappointment, frustration, and pressure that accompanied real wildcatting and didn't miss it at all. I hope the companies and investors can make the necessary transition when more wildcatting will be required to keep things going.

The times are good, many in the business are having fun again. There is nothing like an industry filled with smiling people to get your spirits up. Even the financial types on Wall Street look for the energy sector to have a good run of it. May it be so!

Technical Announcement

Minerals Management Service releases 50 years of public Paleontologic data in the Gulf of Mexico on CD-ROM. Data includes all releasable Paleontological data from January 1, 1947 through March 1, 1997. Over 14,000 pages are in a PDF 40 MB file containing both MMS and industry reports. The CD also includes the Adobe Acrobat Reader for viewing the Paleontological file, enabling data searches by area, block, lease, well, or other data items included in any report. Cost is \$10.00. For more information call:

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AAPG DELEGATE REPORT

by Past President Jack Moody

"The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) is the world's largest professional geological society with approximately 31,000 members in 115 countries. AAPG was formed in 1917. Its purpose is to foster the spirit of scientific research among its members and to advance the science of geology - particularly as it relates to petroleum, natural gas, other subsurface fluids, mineral resources, and the environment.

In a recent conversation with the AAPG headquarters I gleaned some of the following tid bits of information.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Membership | 30889 |
| Domestic (U.S.) | 22491 73% |
| Foreign | 8398 27% |

MGS has 201 AAPG active members. Last years MGS membership at the end of our year was 248 so that gives us 81% of MGS that are active AAPG members.

In AAPG the age distribution is 35 and under 16%, 36-55 is 56%, and 55 and over is 28% of the membership.

Some trends over the past 10 years show:

- Texas has 32-33% of the total AAPG membership and holding steady
- Colorado has dropped from 11% to 6% of the total
- Louisiana has dropped from 8% to 6%
- Oklahoma has dropped from 8% to 5%
- California has dropped from 8% to 6%
- the rest of U.S. has risen from 20% to 22%
- Non U.S. has risen from 13% to 27% using the above figures

The organization chart looks like this: you, the active AAPG members, are also in the Mississippi Geological Society, which is a society member of the Gulf Coast Association of geological societies, which is a section of the AAPG.

In future issues of the MGS bulletin we hope to bring various issues to your attention which are topics that the AAPG House of Delegates will be addressing. We hope this presentation of issues will cause you to contact your delegates, Jack Moody and Larry Baria, and let us know your views. As an example, some want to reduce the required 3 recommendations when applying for membership to just one recommendation or sponsor. There are issues dealing with how much influence or representation the foreign members should have in the organization and how best to structure this large and growing sector. There are issues dealing with the Bulletin, the Bulletins editor election and his or hers position on the executive board. We'll do our best to represent you at AAPG, and to do so we need some level of interest on your part.

Let's work together to make our AAPG the type of organization that serves our needs.

Jack Moody- Mississippi Office of Geology
Larry Baria- JuraSearch

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**"America Recycles Day"
set for November 15, 1997**

Mississippians will join millions of other Americans as the nation observes the first AMERICA RECYCLES DAY. The theme for this first nationwide event is "Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled".

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition, a nonprofit organization, will help coordinate Mississippi's involvement. Mississippi residents may request an "America Recycles Day" pledge card or poster by calling their local recycling coordinator at 1-800-545-3764. Residents who fill-in the card and return it to the address provided by November 15th will be eligible to win a new mountain bike that has been donated by the Steel Recycling Institute. After the state drawing, the cards will be sent to Washington D.C. for a national drawing to be held for an "American Dream Green House". The environmentally safe house will be built from materials made from recycled products and is sponsored by the Steel Recycling Institute, U.S.EPA, VFI, Home Depot, Union Camp, and the U.S. Postal Service. Entrants must be 18 years old or older to win the house.

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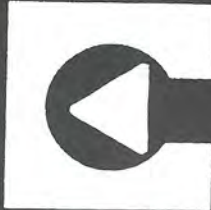
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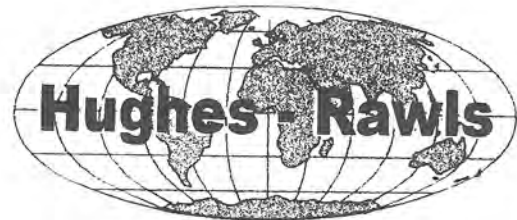
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Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume II, Maps and producing data on 146 fields, in ring binder, 361 p., 1963-1980.
 MGS 003SV\$50.00
Volume II In Separate Sections:
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 MGS 004SV\$15.00
Volume II, Supplements 2 through 7, Maps and producing data on 35 fields, 110 p., 1964-1972.
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Volume II, Supplement 8, Maps and producing data on 34 fields, 108 p., 1980.
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Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume III, Includes discovery, structural, and lithologic summaries along with reservoir parameters and production data on 55 selected fields. Each field summary is accompanied by a structure map and a type log. In three-ring binder, 166 p., December, 1986.
 MGS 007SV\$50.00
Supplement for Volume III, Contains information, structure contour maps, and type logs on 19 fields—six in Alabama, two in Florida, and eleven in Mississippi. 45 p., 1992, heavy stock, punched for binder.
 MGS 008SV\$25.00
Oil in the Deep South, A History of the Oil Business In Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, 1859-1945, by Dudley J. Hughes. A statistical and chronological summary of the evolution of the petroleum business in the southeastern United States. Includes personal stories of the companies, entrepreneurs, promoters, investors and workers who played major roles in the development of the oil business from its inception in the early 1900s to 1945. Hardbound book, 267 p., 1993.
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FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS

Upper Cretaceous Outcrops, Northeast Mississippi and

West Central Alabama, 14th Field Trip, 29 p., May, 1959.
 MGS 101 G\$4.00
Recent Sedimentation on Horn Island, Mississippi and Stratigraphy of the Quaternary and Upper Tertiary of the Pasacoula Valley, Mississippi, 10th Annual GCAGS Meeting, 24 p., 1960.
 MGS 103G\$2.50
The Paleozoics of Northwest Arkansas, 16th Field Trip, 48 p., May, 1962.
 MGS 104G\$5.00
Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin, 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.
 MGS 105G\$8.00
Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.
 MGS 106G\$7.50
The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-

field trip. 18th Field Trip Guidebook, 69 p., April, 1991.
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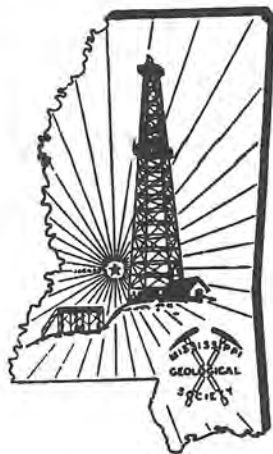
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 4

DECEMBER, 1997

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by *George B. Vockroth*

Our big news for December is the annual Christmas Cocktail Party to be held from 4:00 - 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 9th at the Capital Club. This replaces our luncheon speaker for December. This year the Desk & Derrick Club of Jackson joins us in sponsoring the event. Connie Bush, President of D&D, and Rick Ericksen, 1st VP of MGS, are cochairs of this year's party. Last year "I did it" and we went in "the tank" for about \$300.00. The Society of Petroleum Engineers bailed us out by making up over half of this loss. Thanks belatedly. All the oil business societies are invited this year plus any friends and colleagues you may wish to bring as guests. Ten Dollars to get in and mixed drinks start at \$3.00. The food sounds inviting: fried catfish pieces, chicken nuggets, crab & shrimp dip, cheese balls, steamboat of beef — well some say tugboat of beef, spinach dip, and a mystery desert. We have guaranteed 90 spots so come on up. Dress code is oil field formal!

We are most indebted to Jerry Zoble, Chairman of the Boland Scholarship Fund and his committee comprised of Rick Ericksen, Steve Champlin, Dave Chastain, and Dave Cate for all their work in interviewing and selecting the winners of our \$700 scholarships. The students are: Rebecca Buell - Mississippi State, Dana Strickland - University of Mississippi, and Amy Osborn - Millsaps. They were accompanied by Professor Greg Davidson from Mississippi State, Professor Del Gann from Millsaps (accepting for their nominee), and Professor Bruce Panuska from University of Mississippi (*photo to be published in January Bulletin*).

If you would like to contribute to the Boland Scholarship Fund, it would be most helpful to receive gifts especially during these times of low interests rates. I can't think of a more worthy cause and it is (charity) tax deductible.

The MGS dues deadline has passed so take your envelope out of the September Bulletin and send in your money quickly. This is last call because the new membership list has a January printing deadline. Some of those whose address may have changed and missed the bill in the September Bulletin are listed this month

(page 7). If you know where they are give me a call at 601-948-3351.

Don't forget to send in your form & money for your Bulletin Advertisement A.S.A.P. This has a January deadline for the 1998 Ads (Jan.-May & Sept. - Dec Bulletin distribution months).

Your Board of Directors have revised the Constitution & Bylaws as voted at the October luncheon meeting and a copy showing the changes will be include with your January Bulletin. Also a self addressed envelope (Ballot) will be included so you can vote by mail, as now required. Please send your ballot back within 3 days. It is most important that every member vote within the stipulated time.

In closing, a few important announcements:

- 1 The forms for Geological registration should be available by the time you receive this Bulletin, Chairman Rick Ericksen advises.
- 2 Dudley J. Hughes paper, "A Geologic Reinterpretation of the Earth's Atmospheric History Inferring a Major Role by CO₂", has been released by Texas A&M and preprints may be obtained by calling 969-7474. Be prepared for a sleepless evening - you can't put it down.
- 3 Rick Ericksen needs O&G well waters for a DEQ study of NORM.

Steve Jennings held our regular (third Tues. of each odd month) Environmental Section Meeting on November 18th at the DEQ Hearing Room. Faculty reps. from the four Geology Departments of our State schools discussed the "changing face" of the curriculum in geology, a varied and at times controversial subject.



*Merry Xmas
to you and all your families*

George

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Laffitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Speaker To Be Announced (TBA)
 March 10th Speaker TBA
 April 14th Speaker TBA & Officer Nominations
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

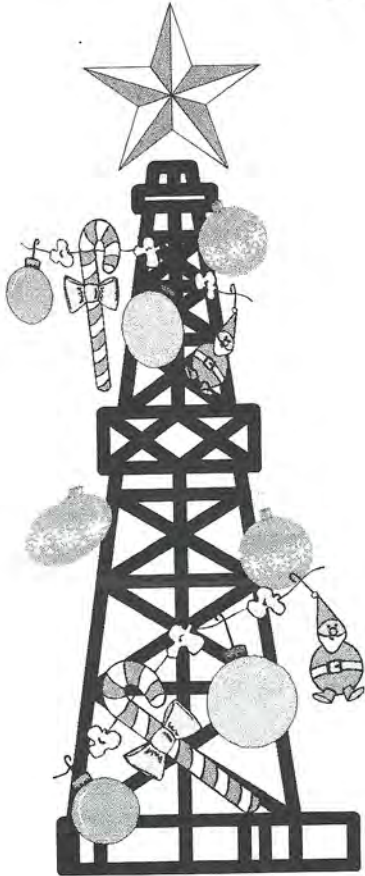
Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

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| | Robert D. Sprague | 1966-1967 | Alan Jackson | 1988-1989 | Stanley King |
| 1948-1949 | Robert D. Sprague | 1967-1968 | Julius M. Ridgway | 1989-1990 | Stan Galicki |
| 1949-1950 | E. T. "Mike" Monsour | 1968-1969 | Edward D. Minihan | 1990-1991 | Jim Files |
| 1950-1951 | J. Tate Clark | 1969-1970 | Kevin E. Cahill | 1991-1992 | Stephen L. Ingram, Sr. |
| | Charles E. Buck | 1970-1971 | John Lancaster | 1992-1993 | Michael Noone |
| 1951-1952 | George W. Field | 1971-1972 | Larry Boland | | Stanley King |
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| 1957-1958 | Emil Monsour | 1977-1978 | Sarah Childress | | |
| | | 1978-1979 | Lester Aultman | | |

**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND THE
DESK AND DERRICK CLUB OF JACKSON, MS
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**December 9, 1997
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

Capital City Club

**Hor D'oeuvres
\$10.00 Per Person**

Cash Bar

Soft Drinks - \$1.50

Wine - \$2.00

Beer - \$2.00

Mix Drinks - \$3.00

See Ya'll There!!!!

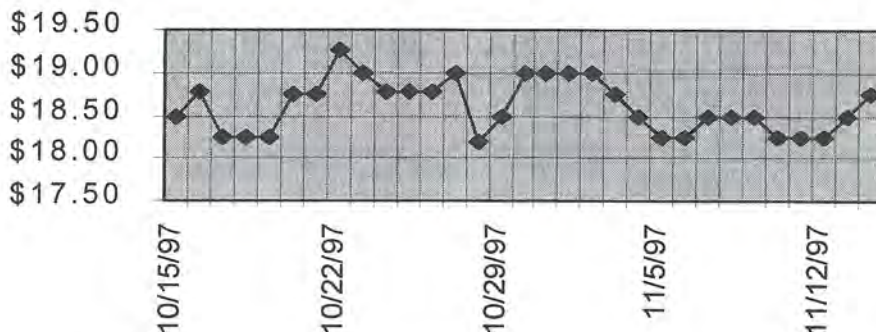


Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



(President's letter continued)

P.S. If anyone is in need of geologic personnel, we have a pool of highly trained post graduates here that are certified oil finders. Call me first! 601-948-3351.

P.P.S. Culbertson is still thawing his hand specimens — maybe the January thaw will make them available for our 1st of the year meeting on January 12th.

George

Environmental Section News

The Environmental Section of MGS meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.



Clarion Ledger (Newspaper)

November 9, 1997 —

Philips Coal company, a subsidiary of Philips Petroleum, and North American Coal have formally applied for state environmental permits required for their proposed lignite mine in Choctaw County, Mississippi. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received their request in late September and have begun the review process. The review process is expected to take about one year, prior to making any recommendation to the DEQ permit board. Public hearings may be scheduled as early as next spring.

The proposed strip mining project and related electric generation plant covers approximately 1,600-acres. If permitted, the plant will become the first operational lignite mine in the state. Tractabel, a European-based business, will operate the planned 440 megawatt electric power generation plant.

The mine is located within the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) electric distribution system [which includes roughly the northeastern quarter of Mississippi]. TVA has committed to a 30 year contract to purchase electricity from the lignite-fired electric generation plant, beginning in year 2001. TVA has also begun its own environmental impact study, separate from DEQ's review, and a final draft is expected to be completed in about one year.

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation has expressed concerns regarding this proposed project. Permanent habitat degradation is a key issue.

[*Philips Coal, a pro-active environmental company, is required by law to restore the land to its original condition after mining. Philips has a good track record based on its mines in East Texas and can show that restoration will actually improve wildlife habitat over the present condition of the land that will be involved in mining permit area*].

Engineering News Record

September 1997 —

Belgian-owned Tractabel Power, Inc. has short-listed three competitors for a turnkey contract to design and build a 440 megawatt greenfield power plant at the mouth of a lignite mine in Mississippi. Costs are estimated at \$500 million and the plant is planned for operation in late in the year 2000. Competitors are : Bechtell; Pasadena (a joint venture between Black & Veatch — Kansas and H.B. Zachary Co. — San Antonio); and a joint venture between Marubeni — a Japanese conglomerate and TIC-Holdings — Colorado.

Malcolm Pirnie, a consulting engineering firm out of Birmingham, Alabama, is handling the environmental permits for the plant.

[*Tractabel recently bought CRSS — a U.S. firm who originally held the contract to build the 440 megawatt circulating fluidized bed steam driven electric generation plant.*]



NORM STUDY IS INITIATED IN MISSISSIPPI

Rick L. Ericksen, Principal Investigator

The issue of NORM (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) in oil and gas operations in Mississippi, and the U.S. in general, has been the focus of concern of producers for the past several years. Currently in Mississippi alone it has been reported that lawsuits seeking billions of dollars have been filed against oil and gas companies for alleged damages from NORM. Initially NORM regulations were issued by the Mississippi Department of Health. Currently NORM regulations are under the auspices of the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board and are specifically regulated under its Rule 69.

The occurrence of NORM in the environment is pervasive. It is found in varying concentrations in rocks, soils, water, air, and animals, including man. The highest concentrations of NORM are found in rocks and soils. The main culprit involved in NORM in the oilfield is radium (Ra), which is the daughter product of the rare earth elements uranium (U) and thorium (Th). Both uranium and thorium are essentially insoluble under natural conditions, e.g. oil and gas productive strata. However uranium, i.e. U^{238} , decays through its decay chain into Ra^{226} , and thorium, i.e. Th^{232} , decays into Ra^{228} . Now the scenario changes. Radium, being more mobile than either uranium or thorium, is subsequently incorporated into the formation fluids that are transferred to the earth's surface when hydrocarbons are produced. As the formation fluids move to the surface of the earth there are changes which occur within the production system. Two of the more significant changes which generally occur are decreases in pressure and temperature. As these two and other conditions change from those present in the formation which is being produced to those on the surface, any radium which may be contained in the formation water has the potential to then become incorporated into any precipitates which may form. This incorporation of radium into precipitates (scale and sludge) which may form is the result of the similarity in the ionic radii of radium and the ionic radii of both calcium and barium. As these elements precipitate the radium becomes concentrated predominantly in the form of sulfates accumulating as pipe scale and in sludge generally in the form of silicates. It is of further interest to note that of the two isotopes of radium, Ra^{226} is the most worrisome because when it decays it emits both beta and gamma radiation. Only gamma emissions are energetic enough to cause damage which is the result of their capability of traveling through steel, iron, etc. and then encountering a biologic entity. The potential for the accumulation of NORM in pipe scale becomes more evident when one considers that oil and gas operations in Mississippi for 1996 alone accounted for the production of over 235,928,636 barrels or 9.9 billion gallons of formation water.

The amount of published research concerning NORM produced from oilfield operations is paltry to almost non-existent. As the result of the scarcity of basic, scientifically valid information concerning NORM, this current study has been initiated by the Energy Section of the Mississippi Office of Geology through the United States Department of Energy. In addition to the work being done on the study by the Energy Section, both the Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute and the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, located on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford, have been incorporated as part of the investigative team.

The study, which is scheduled to last some four years, anticipates the collection of nearly 300 produced formation water samples to be tested for NORM. The results from this phase of investigation are anticipated to produce data which may indicate the producing formations in Mississippi which are more prone to develop NORM accumulations; whether there is a relationship between depth and length of time of production and NORM accumulation; the influence of mineralogic composition of the producing formation on NORM concentrations in the produced fluids; and other factors which may potentially lead to NORM accumulation. It is anticipated that the levels of NORM contained in the produced formation waters will be extremely minute and as a result of this they should pose no unusual health risk. In order to reach the threshold of detection limits of isotopic, analytical equipment they must be concentrated a minimum of several thousand-fold. Possible ramifications of this portion of the study may, for example, indicate particular producing formations which may have little or no NORM whatsoever associated with produced waters. Further, formations which may have NORM readings which may have the potential for the increased propensity for NORM and/or its accumulation will be identified and possible remediation techniques will be proposed or explored in order to prevent its accumulation during production operations.

Another portion of this study which is desired to be carried out during the course of this study includes the determination of the relative solubilities (K_{sp} 's) of the various sulfates and silicates which comprise scale and the bound radium isotopes under normal, environmental conditions (i.e. rain/acid-rain). This aspect of NORM has also had little or no studies and has been identified as an integral, primary factor in many of the "what if" scenarios which have been postulated - all of which have not been documented in the literature and appear to have no basis.

The investigative team has already collected initial samples of formation water for their analyses and are requesting the continued support and access to current producing sites from all oil and gas producers across the state in order to obtain the baseline data on the perceived problem concerning NORM.

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AAPG Explorer

April 1997 —

The nation's supply of coal resources [including lignite] is gargantuan — expected to sustain our coal needs well into the future [in the past, some estimates have been as high as a 150 year supply at current demand]. Our coal resources are distributed widely across the nation but geologic, economic, environmental, and political factors significantly impact that coal production.

At present, coal continues to be the dominant U.S. energy source [producing over 50% of the electric supply in the U.S.]. Production is running at record levels and is expected to increase for the next several decades. However, the industry is undergoing major changes: EPA continues to tighten regulations and expand trace element and particulate standards [while natural gas proponents are pushing hard — politically and economically — to expand its share of the electric generation market — at the expense of the coal market, and deregulation of the electric utilities will have an unknown effect on all current electric producers in the country].

Because of these growing restrictions, as well as other factors facing the coal industry today, the U.S. Geological Survey is re-assessing the nation's coal resources, identifying and characterizing the beds and/or zones that will provide the bulk of the nation's energy over the next 50 years. Moreover, recent coal availability and recoverability studies done in the last seven years show that economically recoverable coal resources are not as abundant in certain regions as have been reported. Some of the USGS findings from studies of the northern Appalachian regions and the Illinois Basin indicate that about 50% of the original resource is available for mining, but only half of that remaining resource is recoverable using current technology, and only about 8% of the total resources can be extracted profitably at current market conditions.

[The high sulfur content of the Appalachian and Illinois coals force the poor economics for coal production from these regions — in the 1970's electric generating plants using high sulfur coal were shown to contribute to severe envi-

ronmental degradation due to acid rain. It should be noted, however, that high sulfur coal is preferred in conversion processes of coal to transportation fuels — a process that could become economic in the future. If I remember correctly, the conversion process is within a couple of dollars of the price of oil now. Also of import, Mississippi has high sulfur lignite resources that could be mined should that process become economically viable.]

Coal Age

The Public Service Electric & Gas Co. (PSE&G) notified Utility Air Resources Group (UARG; the nation's leading Clean Air Act utility coalition) that it was resigning from the group immediately. PSE&G, a large Northeastern gas-burning utility, resigned from UARG charging that the coalition had become captive to coal interests and therefore could no longer credibly represent the industry as a whole. The defection apparently stems from litigation filed by the coalition against the EPA's recent acid rain rule. Coal-burning utilities ardently oppose the rule, while natural gas-burning utilities have rallied behind EPA's defense of the rule.

O&G Journal

U.S. gas producers urge Congress to allow fair competition between fuels when writing retail electricity decontrol legislation. Electric utility restructuring will effect the oil and gas industry, adding to the economic pressures which already exist. Gas imports are steadily growing, constrained only by the capacity of north/south pipelines, imports having doubled in 1996 (about 13% of U.S. supply). Therefore cost-cutting by independents will have to continue if they are to compete with the imported gas supplies and other fuels such as coal.

A comprehensive approach to restructuring, fuel-neutral emissions standards, a deadline for states to adopt a competitive framework, and the preservation of existing contracts has been recommended by IPAA to Congress. There are two schools of thought on the impact that restructuring will have on the gas market: 1) gas will be hurt as low-cost coal

captures the market and the redundant coal capacity is more fully utilized; and 2) gas will hold its own in the electric generation market because it is clean-burning and a very efficient fuel when used by combined cycle turbines. But, electricity restructuring will not necessarily lead to increased gas use if Congress does not pass a fuel-neutral law. At present, we have sufficient reserves of natural gas to meet projected demand for the next 65 years, with more reserves being found each year. Our domestic coal reserves are even greater.

API reports that U.S. petroleum industry spent about \$9.6 billion on the environment in 1995, or about \$100 per household. That's about \$2 billion more than the annual budget of the EPA.

API's STEP report (Strategies for Today's Environmental Partnership) was founded on 11 environmental, health, and safety principles in 1990. This year's report shows that the petroleum industry is making progress in protection of the environment. Based on 1995 data, there are smaller quantities of chemical releases and oil spills are decreasing each year. In addition, oil industry workers continue to experience injuries and illnesses well below the national rate as a whole.

After 6 years of work, the Auto/Oil Air Quality Improvement Research Program has published its last report. The program was established to give the U.S. government scientific data on which to base air-quality decisions. Twenty technical bulletins, two economic bulletins, numerous related articles, and a summary of the preliminary results were published earlier in 1992; nevertheless, publication of the final report bears notice.

The program represented unprecedented cooperation between two huge industries. Both industries worked toward solution of a politically intense and scientifically difficult problem. Credible data was needed by decision-makers to address the issues and problems related to pressures from Environmentalists, challenges due to the complexities of fuel chemistry and vehicle technol-

Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

ogy, and difficult choices made on the frontier of knowledge. Some of the scientific results are:

- ◆ adding oxygenates to gasoline cuts exhaust emissions of hydrocarbons in cars built before 1989, no gain on 1994 and later vehicles.
- ◆ oxygen's effects on ozone formation is not significant.
- ◆ oxygenates don't significantly effect nitrogen oxide or toxic emissions.
- ◆ adding oxygen to gasoline by splash-blending ethanol raised evaporative emissions of ozone precursors.

Reducing emissions of carbon monoxide where no such problem exists gains nothing. Modernization of the vehicle fleet phases out gains for hydrocarbon exhaust emissions. As reformulated gas cuts aromatic content of gasoline, mandated oxygen boosts nitrogen oxide exhaust emissions. Ozone contributors rise with ethanol splash-blending.

On balance, then, the oxygen mandate promises nothing significant for air quality, in some cases contributes to ozone and nitrogen oxide pollution, and limits reformulation options. It also imposed a Basic cost by reducing the energy content of the finished fuel.

Water Well Journal

November 1997 —

The following piece of information was found on the Internet.

"A freshman at Eagle Rock Junior High won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair April 26. He was attempting to show how conditioned we have become to alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical 'dihydrogen monoxide.' And for plenty of good reasons, since:

- ◆ It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting
- ◆ It is a major component in acid rain.
- ◆ It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
- ◆ accidental inhalation can kill you.

- ◆ It contributes to erosion.
- ◆ it decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.
- ◆ It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided, and only one knew that the chemical was water. The project was 'How Gullible Are We?' He feels the conclusion is obvious.

Notice to Members :

Due to the recent mobility of geologists in the oil business, we may not have the proper address for the following members who did not return their membership dues statement or letter of resignation prior to the October dues deadline. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact the MGS or let us know (Pres. George Vockroth at 601-948-3351). We need their corrected addresses for our membership directory which is published every January for distribution in the February Bulletin.

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REPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

Application Packages for Geological Registration Now Available On the Internet

The Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists wishes to announce that registration application packages are now available. Application packages will be available at all regular meetings of the Mississippi Geological Society. Should you not be able to attend these meetings, application packages may also be obtained by requesting the package from the Board at PO Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742, by calling 601/961-5507, or by the preferred option of downloading the information from one of the following websites:

<http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/mmri>
<http://www.deq.state.ms.us/domino/geoweb.nsf>
<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/geosciences> ***
<http://www.GlyMil.st.usm.edu/~geology> ***
(*** = under construction)

These websites contain or will contain all of the information necessary to apply for registration as a Registered Professional Geologist (RPG) or a Geologist-In-Training (GIT) and also includes information concerning members of the Board of Registration, the law which is required to be read by the applicant as well as the first set of Rules of the Board, the fee schedule is contained therein, and all the necessary application forms.

The grandfathering period for applying for registration as a Registered Professional Geologist terminates in December, 1998. Those qualifying under the general terms of the grandfathering provision are a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in Geology with 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours in geological course work and 4 years of documented geological experience. All those whose practice may affect the public's health, safety, or welfare as defined by the Act must register in order to practice in Mississippi. Those who have the degree requirements but lack the experience qualification may enroll as a Geologist-In-Training. Further, please note that if you are a geologist from a state other than Mississippi and will be performing work which may affect the public as defined by the law, you must be registered and must contact the Board prior to conducting work, studies, etc. within the state. The law and this provision were effective as of the date the law went into effect on July 1, 1997. Additional information may be found at the previously noted websites or by calling 601/961-5507.

Rick L. Ericksen, Board President

AAPG/DPA MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

The AAPG Division of Professional Affairs held their midyear meeting in Dallas, October 24 and 25. Some highlights of that meeting are as follows:

Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Ethics

A report was submitted by Mr. George Bole, who was recently named as chairman of the Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Ethics (JACE). JACE is composed of members of the House of Delegates and the Division of Professional Affairs. The purpose and charge of the committee is to study the ethical department of geoscientists, the need for teaching and mentoring quality ethical behavior, to ensure that certain geoscience virtues and values are embraced by AAPG's Code of Ethics, recommend that the Executive Committee endorse these virtues and values as a matter of routine scientific and professional conduct, and recommend changes in the Bylaws and Constitution, where appropriate regarding ethical practice standards.

One area of concern is the adherence of AAPG members to the Code of Ethics and its enforceability. Currently if a member brings up charges or allegations concerning another member's violation of the Code to the AAPG, the alleging member opens the possibility of litigation against themselves. Because of this problem, Chairman Bole is currently discussing the possibility of obtaining "tattle tale" insurance which would be used for those members who report infractions of the Code to the Society. As a member of this committee I will keep you informed to the status of its activities. It should be of further interest to note that under the new Mississippi Geologic Registration Practice Act, anyone bringing allegations against a Registered Professional Geologist (RPG) for violations of this law or the Rules of the Board cannot be prosecuted in a civil proceeding as a result of reporting said violation(s). The Rules of the Board includes an extensive Code of Ethics/Professional Conduct. In this case it is forbidden by Mississippi law, whereas in the case of the AAPG insurance coverage is needed to protect those who may allege a violation. I am currently exploring the possibility of somehow connecting this feature of our law to the AAPG's enforceability problem.

State Registration and Licensing Committee

A report on state registration/licensing was presented by Mr. Royce Carr, the current Chairman of this committee. This year, three (3) states were added to those which have geologic registration/licensing laws - Mississippi, Wyoming, and Kansas. The Texas bill failed again, this time as the result of a procedural rule violation in the 11th hour. Proponents of the Texas legislation have spent a lot of time and money trying to get a bill through their state legislature, only to have it "lost" in the legislature's printing shop which occurred during the 1994-95 attempt or its demise during the 1996-97 Texas legislative session when it was tripped by what appears to be a designed procedural rule violation. It appears that the proponents of this legislation will attempt its passage again during the next biennial session of the Texas legislature. Several other states are working

(Continued on next page)

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on registration/licensing bills which include Nebraska, New Mexico, and New York. Nevada passed a "definition" act and Utah is continuing its work on passage of a definition act. It should be interesting to note that a US territory, Puerto Rico, has recently adopted registration of geologists in some form.

Continuing Education Committee

Mr. Steve Sonneberg, Chairman of the Continuing Education Committee, reported that the attendance at DPA-sponsored courses was up and that a large portion of this increase was no doubt the result of deep discounts for DPA members. He also reported that at least two short courses would be held in conjunction with the Salt Lake City AAPG annual meeting which are: "The Geologist as Entrepreneur" by Skip Hobbs and "An Introduction to Decision Analysis and Value of Information for Exploration Projects" by James A. Mackay. Both of these courses will be offered at half-price for DPA members. In addition to these two courses Steve announced that a one-day seminar on Media Training may be co-sponsored with the Utah Geological Survey and an Internet workshop would be offered with the PTTC. **IMPORTANT** - those members of DPA who attend courses like those outlined now may have this information tracked for them through a program now offered by the DPA, titled Record of Continuing Education Hours (CEH's). This voluntary program was instituted to record educational instruction for those members who desire to have a permanent record on file of supplemental education through their careers. A simple form for recording technical programs, short courses, luncheon programs, field trips, etc. is now available for the members to fill out and send to the DPA Headquarters in Tulsa. This information will become a part of the DPA member's file, the CEH's history will be readily available as a computer printout when needed by the member for documentation of continuing education. You are encouraged to take advantage of this program if you are a member of the DPA. Please see me for forms.

Government Affairs Committee

Chairman Dwight "Clint" Moore reported on this committee's recent activities which included through its Instant Response Committee (IRC) efforts to support the National Geologic Mapping Act. Their input, as well as many other professional organizations, resulted in this legislation being passed by large majorities in Washington and was wisely signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The focus of this committee is to provide information to legislators concerning legislation which impacts the geoscience profession. The IRC is an integral part of this effort in that when significant legislation is proposed, members of the IRC are contacted so they may inform-contact our leaders in Washington. I am also a member of the IRC and dare say that if any of you would like to become involved with this important committee please do so.

Due to the constraints of space, it will be noted here that several other committee chairman provided reports concerning other equally important activities of the DPA. Should anyone have any questions or comments concerning these or other activities of the AAPG/DPA, please give me a call at 961-5507 and we'll discuss.

Rick L. Ericksen,
Vice Chairman, DPA State Registration and Licensing Committee;
and First Vice President, MGS



North American Prospect Expo '98

The North American Prospect Expo will be held January 28th & 29th, 1998 at Westin Galleria & Westin Oaks Hotels, Houston, Texas. The American Association of Professional Landmen hosts this event.

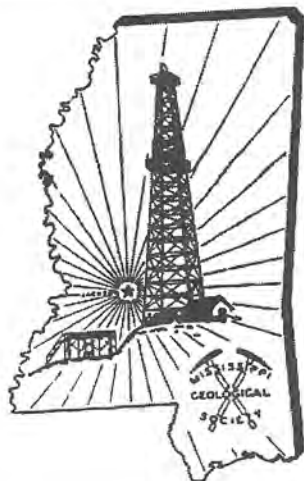
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Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)



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The Mississippi Office of Geology announces the availability of Circular 6, "Windows into Mississippi's Geologic Past". This publication is an illustrated geologic history of the state written for use in the science curricula of elementary and middle schools, and to be enjoyed by the general public. It is also an activity book with geologic maps and cross sections to be colored as well as scenes from the state's distant past. The scenes are the exceptional fifth-and sixth grade artwork of Katie Lightsey. They include ancient life and environments ranging in age from the Devonian to Pleistocene.

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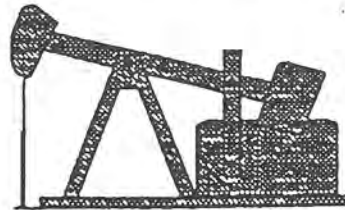
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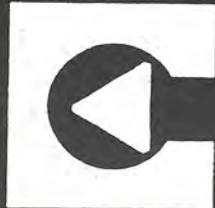
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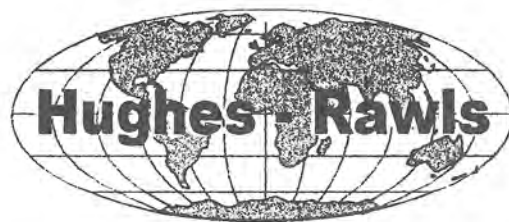
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SPECIAL VOLUMES

Wilcox Fields of Southwest Mississippi, Maps and production data on 171 fields, in ring binder, 350p, 1969.
 MGS 001SV\$28.00
Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume II, Maps and producing data on 146 fields, in ring binder, 361 p., 1963-1980.
 MGS 003SV\$50.00
Volume II In Separate Sections:
Volume II, Includes Supplement 1, Maps and Producing data on 77 fields, 143 p., 1963.
 MGS 004SV\$15.00
Volume II, Supplements 2 through 7, Maps and producing data on 35 fields, 110 p., 1964-1972.
 MGS 005SV\$25.00
Volume II, Supplement 8, Maps and producing data on 34 fields, 108 p., 1980.
 MGS 006SV\$25.00
Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume III, Includes discovery, structural, and lithologic summaries along with reservoir parameters and production data on 55 selected fields. Each field summary is accompanied by a structure map and a type log. In three-ring binder, 166 p., December, 1986.
 MGS 007SV\$50.00
Supplement for Volume III, Contains information, structure contour maps, and type logs on 19 fields—six in Alabama, two in Florida, and eleven in Mississippi. 45 p., 1992, heavy stock, punched for binder.
 MGS 008SV\$25.00
Oil in the Deep South. A History of the Oil Business in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, 1859-1945, by Dudley J. Hughes. A statistical and chronological summary of the evolution of the petroleum business in the southeastern United States. Includes personal stories of the companies, entrepreneurs, promoters, investors and workers who played major roles in the development of the oil business from its inception in the early 1900s to 1945. Hardbound book, 267 p., 1993.
 MGS 020SV\$35.00
FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS
Upper Cretaceous Outcrops, Northeast Mississippi and

West Central Alabama, 14th Field Trip, 29 p., May, 1959.
 MGS 101 G\$4.00
Recent Sedimentation on Horn Island, Mississippi and Stratigraphy of the Quaternary and Upper Tertiary of the Pasacoula Valley, Mississippi, 10th Annual GCAGS Meeting, 24 p., 1960.
 MGS 103G\$2.50
The Paleozoics of Northwest Arkansas, 16th Field Trip, 48 p., May, 1962.
 MGS 104G\$5.00
Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin, 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.
 MGS 105G\$8.00
Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.
 MGS 106G\$7.50
The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day

field trip. 18th Field Trip Guidebook, 69 p., April, 1991.
 MGS 107G\$10.00
COMPOSITE LOGS AND CROSS SECTIONS
Composite Mesozoic Log of South Mississippi and South Alabama.
 MGS 201M\$2.00
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 MGS 211CS\$50.00
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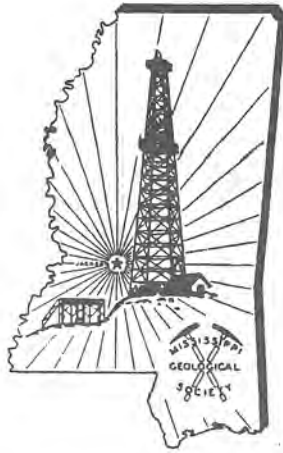
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 5

JANUARY, 1998

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

We are looking forward to having Dr. Mancini with us for our January 13th meeting to start off the New Year of MGS luncheons. Hope you will be with us and hear his talk on Upper Jurassic Smackover Underdeveloped Reef Play, Eastern Gulf Coastal Plain, USA.

Our thanks to Connie Bush and Rick Ericksen, cochairs, of our joint X-mas party on December 9, 1997. They put on such an elegant party and did a magnificent job from food to the raffle. Again many thanks to our registrars, Steve Champlin & Roger Townsend. Their reliability makes everyone's job so much easier at our meetings.

In this newsletter is a copy of the new By Laws showing the changes, which are mostly to bring our society into operational conformity with the rules (pages 7,8, 11, & 12). Also included is a self addressed Ballot in the form of an card/envelope to be returned January 31st with your vote. Please vote now and stamp the envelope and mail as we have a set quorum under the old By Laws. This is most important for all our members and the Society. We must have your vote.

If you have put off paying for your ad in the MGS Bulletin, this is last call. The deadline for the remaining Bulletins in 1998 is January 15th. Call me or Steve Jennings as you have already missed the January issue for new advertisers.

Rick Ericksen has published the applications for applying for registration in Mississippi under the grandfather clause ('till Dec. 31, 1998). He will have the application brochures at our January meeting as he did at the Xmas Party.

Our hats off to Harold Karges for his philanthropic support for a young Karate champion to go to a meet in Hungary as reported in the newspaper. I understand he "medaled" at the meet.

The following open letter (see page 9) was sent to the Oil & Gas Board after the Board proposed amendments on the Board's own motion.



A Happy New Year!

George

P.S. There will be an election to fill the expiring position of AAPG Delagate, Larry Baria, at the January meeting. Nominations to be made form the floor.

P.P.S. Vern was out collecting surface samples during the last snow. I told him he didn't have to go to Iceland for good collecting!

MGS Professional Luncheon Topic & Speaker

Upper Jurassic Smackover Underdeveloped Reef Play, Eastern Gulf Coastal Plain, USA by Dr. Ernest A. Mancini

Reefs have long been known from the Upper Jurassic (Oxfordian) Smackover Formation in the Gulf Coastal Plain. The reefs in the eastern Gulf coastal Plain, however, have unique geologic and reservoir properties that make these algal (cyanobacterial) buildups attractive for petroleum exploration and development. These reefs are comprised chiefly of digitate algae and possible sponges and occur as a series of patch reefs bordering paleohighs. An understanding of the geologic and engineering characteristics of the Smackover provides an opportunity to formulate an effective exploration strategy to locate and produce hydrocarbons from these reefal buildups.

Development of these reefs is a result of the interplay among paleotopography, sea-level changes and carbonate productivity. The reefs developed around basement ridges that are the structural components of the petroleum traps. Structural growth was most prominent during the late Jurassic. These structural features are easily identified through the use of 3-0D seismic technologies. The stratigraphic component of the trap can be predicted through sequence stratigraphic analysis and depositional modeling. Reef growth occurred during a relative rise in sea-level.

(continued page 4)

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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| Term to June 2000 | Jack Moody..... | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5522 |
| Alternate, Term to 2000 | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5507 |
| Vice Chair, DPA State Registration Cmt. | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5507 |

MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Speaker To Be Announced (TBA)
 March 10th Speaker TBA
 April 14th Speaker TBA & Officer Nominations
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Esther Applin * | Hilton L. Ladner * |
| Paul Applin * | Winnie McGlammery * |
| Lawrence F. Boland * | Thomas McGlothlin * |
| Verne L. Culbertson | Frederic F. Mellen * |
| H. Leroy Francis * | Maurice E. Meisse * |
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| Wilbur H. Knight | Baxter Smith * |
| | Henry Toler * |

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| 1940-1941 | Urban B. Hughes | 1959-1960 | M. F. Kirby | 1980-1981 | Marshall Kern |
| 1941-1942 | J. Tom McGlothlin | 1960-1961 | Rudy Ewing | 1981-1982 | Stephen Oivanki |
| 1942-1943 | Dave C. Harrell | 1961-1962 | Xavier M. Francogna | 1982-1983 | James W. "Buddy" Twiner |
| 1943-1944 | K. K. "Bob" Spooner | 1962-1963 | Robert B. Ross | 1983-1984 | Charles H. Williams |
| 1944-1945 | L. R. McFarland | 1963-1964 | William A. Skees | 1984-1985 | C. Kip Ferns |
| 1945-1946 | J. B. Story | | Marvin Oxley | 1985-1986 | Steven S. Walkinshaw |
| 1946-1947 | Frederic F. Mellen | 1964-1965 | James F. Bollman | 1986-1987 | J. R. "Bob" White |
| 1947-1948 | H. Lee Spyras | 1965-1966 | Sankey L. Blanton | 1987-1988 | Harry Spooner |
| | Robert D. Sprague | 1966-1967 | Alan Jackson | 1988-1989 | Stanley King |
| 1948-1949 | Robert D. Sprague | 1967-1968 | Julius M. Ridgway | 1989-1990 | Stan Galicki |
| 1949-1950 | E. T. "Mike" Monsour | 1968-1969 | Edward D. Minihan | 1990-1991 | Jim Files |
| 1950-1951 | J. Tate Clark | 1969-1970 | Kevin E. Cahill | 1991-1992 | Stephen L. Ingram, Sr. |
| | Charles E. Buck | 1970-1971 | John Lancaster | 1992-1993 | Michael Noone |
| 1951-1952 | George W. Field | 1971-1972 | Larry Boland | | Stanley King |
| 1952-1953 | James L. Martin, Jr. | 1972-1973 | Charles Barton | 1993-1994 | Brian Sims |
| 1953-1954 | Wilbur H. Knight | 1973-1974 | Larry Walter | 1994-1995 | C. W. "Neil" Barnes |
| 1954-1955 | A. Ed Blanton | 1974-1975 | W. E. "Gene" Taylor | 1995-1996 | Lester Aultman |
| 1955-1956 | Gilbert A. Talley | 1975-1976 | Jerry E. Zoble | 1996-1997 | Jack S. Moody |
| 1956-1957 | Ben Ploch | 1976-1977 | P. David Cate | | |
| 1957-1958 | Emil Monsour | 1977-1978 | Sarah Childress | | |
| | | 1978-1979 | Lester Aultman | | |

The Lawrence F. Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund was formed in the honor of the late Lawrence F. Boland, a highly respected Jackson area "oil finder" - petroleum geologist. The fund was incorporated by Marshall K. Kern, H. Vaughan Watkins, Jr., and Jerry E. Zoble and was resolved as being established by the Mississippi Geological Society, Inc. on January 8, 1980 on a motion by William H. Moore, a second to the motion by Harold E. Karges, and carried by unanimous voice vote of members of the MGS. Since that vote, annual scholarships have been awarded over the past 17 years.

The Fund is a non-profit, non-share corporation consisting of the dues paying members of the Mississippi Geological Society and is administered by a Board of Directors and the Committee of Trustees. The membership of the Lawrence F. Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and the Committee of Trustees consists of the First Vice President (President - elect) and President of the MGS and three other members named by the Executive Committee of the MGS. The officers of the Boland Fund are mandated to consist of a president/chairman (who shall be the First Vice President of MGS), treasurer, and secretary. The term of each officer of the Fund shall be for one year.

The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to select students at the four colleges and universities in the State of Mississippi which offer degrees in geology. The Board of Directors and Committee of Trustees are charged with the responsibility of determining the amount of the awards (which is derived from earnings and interest from the fund) and which students, if any, are eligible to receive the honor of the Boland scholarship. The students may be selected by the Boland committee using at least the minimum of the following criteria:

The student shall possess the minimum of the following:

- 1) Be a junior or senior geology major;
- 2) Have an academic average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grade point system;
- 3) Possess geological curiosity;
- 4) Be responsible, dependable, and of good ethical character;
- 5) Have the ability to communicate; and
- 6) Have the need of financial assistance.

As a matter of procedure, each of the four schools offering degrees in geology are contacted by letter and recommendations are requested of the faculty of each department as to which students they would like to have considered as potential Boland Scholarship awardee's. After each school's geologic department makes their recommendations to the Board of Directors and Committee of Trustees, the candidates so recommended are interviewed by the Committee. After the interviews are conducted the Board then convenes to discuss the credentials and circumstances of each of the potential candidates. Generally, all four schools receive one scholarship award but it is of importance to note that historically there has been instances when the Boland Scholarship has not been awarded to a particular institution for various, qualifying reasons.

Remember, the Boland Scholarship Fund derives its award monies from gifts. Please consider a contribution to the Fund - it is a most worthy cause and it is tax deductible.

1997-1998 Boland Scholarship Awards

Recipients of the
Boland Scholarship Fund
for 1997-1998 are :

(Photo, from left to right)

Millsaps College — Dr. Del Gann representing student recipient **Amy Osborne**.

Mississippi State University — Dr. Greg Davidson with student **Rebecca Buell**.

University of Mississippi — Dr. Bruce Panuska with student **Amy Osborne**.



Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

(Luncheon Topic :

continued from page 1)

The reef facies accumulated as transgressive system tract deposits. Ooid and oncooid shoal deposits cap the reef facies. Porosity in the reef facies is a result of a combination of primary deposition and secondary diagenetic components.

In addition to the distinct geologic characteristics of this reef play, these carbonates have unique reservoir properties. The drive in the producing fields is a string water drive. The reef rocks have excellent porosities and permeabilities both above and below the oil-water contact which results in excellent connectivity. The sum of these factors contribute to the economic viability of this underdeveloped exploration play.

Speaker Info :

Dr. Mancini has some 23 years experience in the field of petroleum exploration. Education and employment includes:

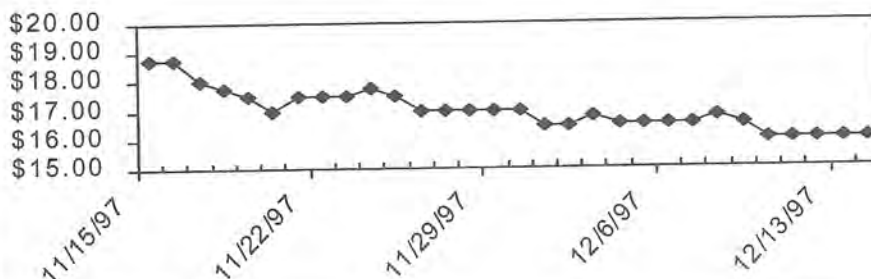
- ⇒ 1969 B.S. Biology; Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania.
- ⇒ 1972 M.S. Zoology; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.
- ⇒ 1974 Ph.D. Geology; Texas A&M, College Station, Texas.
- ⇒ 1974-1976 Cities Service, Denver
- ⇒ 1976-1984 Geology Professor, University of Alabama.
- ⇒ 1982-1996 State Geologist and Oil & Gas Supervisor, State of Alabama

Dr. Mancini continues to hold professorial duties at the University of Alabama in conjunction with his duties with the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. Ernie is an active member with AAPG (and a Distinguished Lecturer), Paleontological Society (Past-President, Southeastern Section), SEPM -Gulf Coast Section (Past-President and Honorary Member), Alabama Geological Society (Past-President), Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research (Fellow), and GSA (Fellow, and Chair of the Southeastern Section). Dr. Mancini is well known for his numerous publications.

Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



MGS Environmental Section Meeting

The Environmental Section Meeting will be held on January 20, 1998, starting at 11:45 AM at the MDEQ's Commission Hearing Room. This meeting should be of significant interest to all of us.

Mr. Charles T. Branch, Director of the Office of Land and Water, will give a presentation titled "The Current Groundwater Supply Situation in Hinds, Rankin, and Madison Counties," an issue which has seen light in several newspaper articles of the past several months. A question and answer period will follow Mr. Branch's presentation. Please make plans to attend this important talk.

The Environmental Geology Section meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in the DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.



ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL REGISTRATION APPLICATION PACKAGES

As recently reported the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists has application packages available for those who desire to become an RPG (Registered Professional Geologist) or Geologist-In-Training (GIT). The application packages will be available at all MGS meetings, by requesting the package from the Board at PO Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742, by calling 601/961-5507, or by the preferred option of downloading the information from the following website:

<http://geology.deq.state.ms.us/geologyreg>

This website currently contains all of the necessary information to apply for registration as a registered Professional Geologist (RPG) or a Geologist-In-Training (GIT), including the necessary, downloadable forms. It also contains information concerning members of the Board and the law which is required to be read by the applicant. The application fee is \$95.00 for a RPG (\$50.00 for a GIT) and if registration is approved the biennial fee is \$130.00 for the RPG and \$100 for a GIT. The grandfathering period terminates in December of 1998.

Rick L. Ericksen, Board President

JANUARY 1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

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YEAR

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OTHER 1998 MEETINGS : *Annual Meetings*
GCAGS Oct 21-23; AAPG May 17-20; SEG Sep 13-18;
SPE Sept 27-30; AIPG Oct 4-8; AEG Oct.; MIPRO ; Mid Cont.

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Its is time to renew and/or take out an ad in the MGS Bulletin. Our advertising year runs from January through December (calendar year). MGS publishes nine bulletins per program year (September through May) with the February Bulletin published as our Directory Issue. Please submit your camera ready ad and payment to :

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October 21-23, 1998
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(Abstract Deadline: January 12, 1998)
For details contact : (512) 882-5750**

**North American
Prospect Expo '98**

The North American Prospect Expo will be held **January 28th & 29th, 1998** at Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks Hotels, Houston, Texas. The American Association of Professional Landmen hosts this event.

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Proposed 1997

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE I - NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of the Society shall be "The Mississippi Geological Society, Inc." It shall be affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The objects of this Society are: (1) the stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences; (2) the encouragement of scientific research among members; (3) the promotion of social and professional fellowship among members; (4) the dissemination and discussion of geological information; and (5) the Society shall not be operated for profit and no financial benefits of any nature shall ever accrue to the members thereof.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section I: The membership of this organization shall be made up of active members, associate members, and honorary members, (all of whom are eligible to vote in Society matters.)

Section II: In order to be eligible for active membership, an applicant shall: (1) have a degree in geology or an allied science from a recognized college or university and shall be directly engaged in the application of geology, or shall (2) have been primarily engaged in geological work during at least the preceding five years. These requirements shall not apply to any member if he were a charter member of the Society as reflected by the June 16, 1996 membership list.

Section III: Any person shall be eligible to associate membership who actively engaged in geological or related work or the study of geology. Associate members shall not be eligible to hold elective office, or to sponsor applicants for active or associate membership, but shall have all other rights and privileges enjoyed by active members. If an associate member attains eligibility for active membership, he may apply for a transfer to active membership.

Section IV: Honorary Members. The Board of Directors may from time to time elect, by unanimous vote of the Board, as honorary members of the Mississippi Geological Society, Inc. persons who are present or past members and have contributed distinguished services to the Society. It is not intended or desirable that there should be a large or promiscuous number of such members, but that it should be considered an honor to receive from the Society an honorary membership as a token award in appreciation and esteem for meritorious services. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues and may enjoy all privileges of the Society.

Section V: Any member may be suspended or dropped from the membership of the Society for misconduct or actions harmful to the Society; action to be taken at the discretion of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Board. Such charges shall be made in writing to the member, who may protest such charges within 30 days from the date which they were mailed. After the 30 days have expired, the Board of Directors may expel such member by a majority vote of the Board. The member may resign before the end of the 30 days, at which time the foregoing proceedings shall automatically terminate.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section I: Officers shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. These, together with the past President (Editor) shall constitute the Board of Directors. If the past President for any reason shall be unable to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, the President shall fill the vacancy by the appointment of the next available preceding past President. No officer shall succeed himself in office, with the exception of the First Vice President who after having succeeded to the Presidency due to a vacancy in that office, may upon election, serve a full term as President.

Section II: The duties of the President shall be to preside at meetings, maintain order, call special meetings subject to the approval of

the Board of Directors, appoint all committees, and shall delegate members to represent the Society. He may at his option serve on any committee. He shall, together with the Treasurer, sign all checks, draft contracts, and all other obligations of the Society. In the temporary absence of any other officer of the Society, he shall have power to appoint a member to assume duties pro tempore.

Section III (a): The First Vice President shall assume the office of the President in case of a vacancy, from any cause in that office, and shall assume the duties of the president in case of the absence or disability of the latter (President). He shall be at the disposal of the President for any duty necessary to the proper functioning of the Society. (The First Vice President shall automatically assume the office of the President for the term succeeding his year as First Vice President. Upon election, The First Vice President will serve as President of the Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. and chairman of the nominating committee.)

(b): The Second Vice President shall be responsible for the maintenance and supervision of the various publications of the Society and he shall organize the necessary committees to properly administer the care, maintenance and revision of the publications (and shall serve as Program Committee Chairman.) necessary committees to providing current information on various subjects of geologic interest and the keeping of records.

Section IV: The Treasurer shall assume the duties of the President in case of the temporary absence of both the President and First Vice President. He together with the President, shall have charge of the financial affairs of the Society. He shall submit an annual report and inventory at the last meeting before the summer recess, and any other special reports upon the request of the President. He shall receive and disburse all monies; however, (non-budgeted) expenditures in excess of one hundred (thousand) dollars shall be made only with the approval of the Board of Directors. During the month of August, the Treasurer shall send statements or notices of dues to all members, except honorary members. (The Treasurer shall submit an annual budget at the beginning of the fiscal year for the approval of the Board of Directors.)

Section V: The Secretary shall assume the duties of the President in case of the temporary absence of all the other officers, except the Second Vice President. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to fully and permanently record the minutes of all the meetings of the Society and all meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall prepare and distribute by mail not later than October (January) 15 a membership list and a list of committee assignments. It shall be his duty to prepare and keep in his possession at every meeting a copy of the Bylaws with all amendments thereto. He shall be responsible for all secretarial duties connected with affairs of the Society. He shall prepare all ballots and papers necessary to any Society election.

(Section VI: The Editor shall be elected each year and serve as publisher of the Society's Bulletin.)

Section VI (VII): In addition to their other duties, the Board of Director shall make or cause to be made an annual check and review of the Society's records (from the previous year's operations). prior to the last meeting of the year. (And conduct an internal audit of the financial statement.)

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

Section I: General Elections

A. Nominating Committee. (The First Vice-president shall be chairman of the committee.) A Nominating Committee composed of five (5) members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors 30 days before the first regular meeting in April. No incumbent officer shall serve on the Committee. The Committee shall be discharged after presenting its slate of candidates to the Society.

B. Nominations: Nominations for officers of the Society (and Editor) shall be made to (by) the Nominating Committee and a slate of candidates announced at the final regular meeting in April. (No more than two) Two or more candidates shall be nominated for each office (and Editor) by the Committee. Additional candidates for each office (and Editor) may be nominated from the floor at this meeting or at the last regular meeting in April. A biographical sketch of each candidate shall be published and mailed to each member of the Society at least two weeks prior to election, or given verbally at the regular meeting just prior to the election.

C. Voting: Election of officers shall be held each year at the last regular meeting of the Society before the summer recess. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballots prepared in advance by the Secretary. A majority vote of the members present and voting shall decide the election. In case no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be stricken from the ballot and another poll taken. This procedure shall be continued until a candidate receives a majority vote. Any member who cannot be present at the election meeting may upon request obtain an absentee ballot from the Secretary of the Society. The Secretary shall deliver all sealed ballots to the Election Judges at the election meeting. Only paid-up members and Honorary members shall be eligible to vote in any election. (If only one candidate is nominated for each position, those nominated maybe elected by

**EASTERN GULF REGION
PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COUNCIL**

Announces a Workshop

**Wednesday, March 4, 1998
8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.**

**Capital Club, Capital Towers, 19th Floor
125 South Congress Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Telephone: (601) 969-7101**

The Eastern Gulf Producer Advisory Group and the Eastern Gulf Region of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council invite oil and gas producing and related companies operating in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to participate in a Workshop entitled, "*Smackover Carbonate Reservoir Characterization and Modeling: An Integrated Approach.*" The purpose of the workshop is to transfer recent research advances in Smackover carbonate reservoir characterization and modeling to producers operating in the Eastern Gulf Region to facilitate oil and natural gas exploration and development in the area.

PROGRAM

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30- 8:45 | Welcome and Introduction Brian Sims, PAG Chair |
| 8:45- 9:45 | Smackover Stratigraphy, Depositional Environments, and Reservoir Characterization Joe Benson, University of Alabama |
| 9:45-10:45 | Geochemistry, Diagenesis and Porosity Evolution in Smackover Carbonates Ezat Heydari, Louisiana State University |
| 10:45-11:00 | BREAK |
| 11:00-12:00 | Integrated Seismic and Sequence Stratigraphic Approach to Smackover Reservoir Characterization and Delineation Larry Baria, Jura-Search |
| 12:00- 1:00 | LUNCH |
| 1:00- 2:00 | 3-D Seismic Imaging and Smackover Seismic Attribute Characterization Robert S. Balch, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology |
| 2:00- 3:00 | Smackover High-Resolution Porosity Modeling Integrating Geological and 3-D Seismic Data M. L. Porter, EXXON Production Research Company (Invited) |
| 3:00- 3:15 | BREAK |
| 3:15- 4:15 | Geological and Engineering Modeling of Smackover Reservoirs Ernest A. Mancini, University of Alabama |
| 4:15- 4:30 | Summary Ernest A. Mancini, University of Alabama |

It is essential that we have an accurate accounting of those who plan to attend and participate in the workshop. Therefore, please complete and return the attached registration to us by February 25, 1998. We look forward to your participation.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

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Last
First
Initial

Preferred Name on Badge: _____

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Department of Geology, University of Alabama, Box 870338, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0338
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There will be a \$25.00 fee to attend this workshop, payable by check only, to the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) on March 4, 1998, at the workshop.

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM BY FEBRUARY 25, 1998.



MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 422 • Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0422

December 3, 1997

Mr. Walter L. Boone, Jr.
Supervisor
Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board
500 Greymont Ave., Suite E
Jackson, MS 39202

Re: Amendment of Rule 4

Dear Mr. Boone:

The Mississippi Geological Society Board of Directors has asked me to contact you about postponing the hearing on the subject Rule until February 18, 1997. Very few of our oil men are aware of the effect on their business of the proposed changes.

We appreciate the Board's interest in making these changes in continuing operations that will result in a more business like control, but we see the possibility of young geologist not being able to meet some requirements and being forced out of business or not being able to become independents and that is the bulk of our Society's constituency.

We would appreciate the opportunity to have our people work with you on this most important matter.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE B. VOCKROTH
President

GBV/tp
CC: Bulletin Editor

verbal affirmation.)

Section II: Special Elections

A. A special election shall be held at the next meeting subsequent to the permanent vacancy of any office excepting the President. The sole purpose of such special election shall be to fill the vacated office, or offices. Prior written notice to the membership will be given regarding the special election.

B. The Board of Directors shall appoint a (approve the) Nominating Committee composed of five (5) members who shall select two or more (nominate) candidates for the office to be filled. (No incumbent officer shall serve on this committee.) Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Committee shall be discharged after presenting its slate of candidates to the Society.

C. Voting: Nomination and election of officers shall be held at the same meeting of the Society. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballots. The majority vote of the members present and voting shall decide the election. In case no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be stricken from the ballot and another poll taken. This procedure shall be continued until a candidate receives a majority vote. (If only one candidate is nominated for each position, these nominees may be elected by verbal affirmation.)

Section III: Election Judges

Prior to the balloting of any election, the President shall appoint three (3) Election Judges from the membership who are not incumbent officers or candidates for any office of the Society. These Judges are charged with the secret counting of the ballots and announcing the names of those elected. Election Judges will be appointed for each election.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors, in addition to its duties specified in the Constitution, shall meet at least monthly throughout the entire calendar year and shall be the governing body of the Society. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a minimum of four members. To conduct business a majority vote of those present is necessary.

ARTICLE VII - STANDING COMMITTEES

As soon as practicable after taking office, the President shall appoint the Chairman of seven (six) standing committees and after consultation with these (the Committee) Chairmen shall appoint the Committee Membership. These committees shall be as follows:

- A. A. A. P. G. Committee
- B. Entertainment Committee
- C. Field Trip Committee
- D. Nomenclature Committee
- E (D). Program Committee
- F (E). Projection Committee
- G (F). Publicity Committee

A. The A. A. P. G. Committee shall coordinate the efforts and activities of the Mississippi Geological Society, Inc. with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. If any member or members of this Society is a District Representative or holds a National Office in the A.A. P. G., such member or members shall automatically serve on this committee.

B. The Entertainment Committee shall provide a suitable place for each meeting of the Society. If a luncheon or dinner is served in connection with the meeting, this Committee shall make all necessary arrangements including reservations. This Committee shall plan and coordinate any other social function of the Society.

C. The Field Trip Committee shall make and supervise the general plans of field trips which may be held from time to time at the discretion of the Society. This Committee shall avail themselves of the services of any other committee of the Society whenever it is deemed necessary.

D. The Nomenclature Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members. Its membership shall include the First Vice President of the Society and whenever possible, one member of the Mississippi Oil Scouts Association. This Committee shall promptly name any

new oil and/or gas fields, reservoirs, salt domes, and any other geologic feature they deem advisable in the State of Mississippi. The Vice-President will be responsible in seeing that all interested operators are contacted prior to the naming of any new discovery. After naming any new discovery in the state, the Committee shall immediately notify the Secretary of the Society and such publications and regulatory bodies as they deem necessary. The Secretary of the Society will enter any new names in the minutes and announce them at the next meeting of the Society.

E (D). The Program Committee shall secure speakers and lecturers to present topics of interest to the Society, shall make all necessary arrangements for presentation, and this Committee shall notify sufficiently in advance all other Committees whose services will be required to implement the meeting.

F (E). The Projection Committee shall provide and operate all projection and sound equipment necessary to any presentation before the Society.

G (F). The Publicity Committee, upon notification by the Chairperson of the Program Committee, shall prepare and distribute to all members in advance notice of all meetings. This Committee shall, as soon as practicable, contact all new geologists in this area who are eligible for membership in the Society. This Committee shall secure as much favorable publicity possible for the Society and the profession of geology.

ARTICLE VIII - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint the Chairmen of Special Committees and after consultation with these (the) Chairmen, shall appoint the members thereof. These special committees shall specifically include those with technical assignments designed to further the objectives of this Society as stated in Article II of the Constitution.

ARTICLE IX - DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The annual dues of active and associate members shall be five dollars (\$5.00) payable at the beginning of each fiscal year. (Dues are to be determined by the Board of Directors.) The fiscal year of the Society shall be from June 1st through May 31st.

Special assessments may be levied at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present, provided advance notice of the proposed assessments have been made to all members of the Society by mail.

Members who are in arrears in dues and/or special assessments on October (January) 1st shall be dropped from the list of members. Any former member may be reinstated by payment of any outstanding dues and obligations which were incurred prior to the date when he ceased to be a member of the Society, and by payments of dues for the fiscal year in which they request reinstatement.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

A. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings shall be held each month from October (September) to May, inclusive. Regular meeting dates may be changed or canceled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

B. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called from time to time to conduct business or for any other purpose deemed advisable by the Board of Directors, due notice having been given in advance.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds majority of the (votes cast at a regular announced meeting) membership voting by mailed ballots, to be supplied and mailed by the Society to the membership, provided a motion to amend said Bylaws has been passed at a regular business meeting by a majority of the members present at said meeting. Returned ballots must be postmarked within 30 days of mail-out day in order to be counted.

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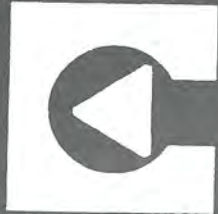
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Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin, 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.
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Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.
 MGS 106G\$7.50
The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day

field trip. 18th Field Trip Guidebook, 69 p., April, 1991.
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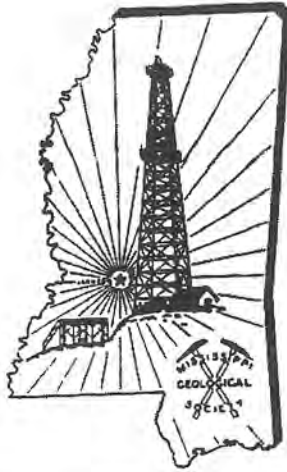
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY, 1998

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

The February meeting will be a joint meeting between the Mississippi Geological Society and the Mississippi Section of AIPG.

Our thanks to Mr. J. Ishee, Editor, of the "Southeastern Oil Review" for publishing our meeting announcement, each month, in particular our January announcement of Dr. Mancini's excellent talk on the Smackover. If not for Ishee's generosity, you may not have gotten the word because the U.S. Postal Service did not make timely delivery in Jackson of our monthly Bulletin. It was delivered in Natchez and Madison. As of this writing, we don't know if they will ever be located and delivered in Jackson. This is not a first. The Bulletin in the past has been sent to Birmingham, found on the Post Office floor in a mail bag and maybe even gone to Jackson, Michigan. We may have to reissue the Bulletin at considerable expense or wait and include the By Laws in this February Bulletin with the return post card to register your vote. It is that important if we are to operate legally, so please return your vote by marking the post card whether it comes in the January or February Bulletin. I guess this is why we have officers, so they can be trained to endure this kind of Federal Bureaucratic inefficiency.

Congratulations to Rick Ericksen and Todd Hines. Rick was elected our new Delegate to the AAPG and Todd was elected our Alternate. Their terms run from 1 July 1998 to 1 July, 2001.

Our luncheon speaker for the February 10th meeting will be Wendy Burgis with Exxon Production Research. She will speak on "Sequence Stratigraphy : an Integrated Technique for Exploration & Exploitation - Seismic Examples."

The Oil & Gas Board will consider revisions to Rule 4 at their meeting on February 18th. You may want to be present if you have ever or ever will plug another well. See Chastain's report included with this Bulletin, page 3.

Rick Ericksen has nothing to do, so please get your application in to become a Registered Professional Geologist in Mississippi

before the grandfather deadline on December 31st of this year.

P.S. Don't forget to check for your name in the December Bulletin to see if you have paid your dues. A return envelope was in your September Bulletin as your invoice. You can still get on our membership roster which will now be published in booklet form as our March Bulletin.

George

MGS Professional Luncheon Topic & Speaker

Sequence Stratigraphy : An integrated Technique for Exploration and Exploitation - Seismic Examples by Dr. Wendy Burgis

Exxon developed its concepts of sequence stratigraphy from stratigraphic interpretation of reflection seismic data - the technique known today as seismic stratigraphy. Differentiation of chronostratigraphy from lithostratigraphy is critical in interpreting sequences on seismic data. Extensive experience indicates that reflections follow time lines in the rock record and that facies variations are recorded by lateral changes in reflection attributes. Integration of all available well, outcrop, and literature data in a seismic interpretation is essential to reducing the risks associated with predictions of play parameters using seismic stratigraphy.

Predictions based on seismic stratigraphy have been confirmed by drilling in frontier and developing areas. The level of stratigraphic detail needed from a seismic interpretation varies with technical and business objectives. The interpretation of

(continued page 4)

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Wendy Burgis - Sequence Strat
 March 10th Speaker TBA
 April 14th Speaker TBA & Officer Nominations
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

| | |
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Mississippi Oil & Gas Board Proposed Rule Changes and it's Impact on Independent Operators.

(Summary of proposed changes to Rules 4 and 28)

The following proposed changes to Rule 4 and Rule 28 directly effect the Independent Operator by adding additional financial burden and liability, which may deter or prohibit exploration and development programs in the State of Mississippi. The following information is a summary of the proposed changes to Rules 4 and 28 to better inform Operators of these changes and how they may impact your operations.

Rule 4 Revisions:

Prior to drilling, operations or production of any well, all persons or operators must file with the State Oil & Gas Board proof of financial responsibility, *in such form as is acceptable to the Supervisor in an amount herein set forth*, in accordance with the present relationship of footage as defined by Rule 4;

| <u>Depth in Feet</u> | <u>\$ Amount</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 0 - 5000 | \$ 5,000 |
| 5001 - 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 10,001 - 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 15,001 - 20,000 | 30,000 |
| 20,001 or greater | 50,000 |

Such financial responsibility instrument shall be payable to the Emergency Plugging Fund of the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board, for each such well. The Board has also added additional language that after notice and hearing, on it's own motion may require proof of a different amount of surety because of environmentally sensitive conditions at the drill site. The Board has provided a clause stating that the Board may allow the filing of a blanket financial responsibility instrument by an operator in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in a form acceptable to the Supervisor.

Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association has asked for a continuance on this matter and is working to ammend these changes . They have suggested that one approach may be to have *all operators of wells pay an annual fee of \$100.00 per well*, to the "Emergency Plugging Fund". The fee would apply to all wells permitted and not plugged and not reported as plugged , as required by Rule 28. Mid-Continent has also recommended a "repeal" date, two (2) years from the effective date of the new fee.

Rule 28 Revisions:

Any well inactive for a period of six (6) months which has not been restored to production shall be reported on the semiannual "Inactive Well Status Report" (Form No. 9-A). *Each such form shall be accompanied by a fee of \$125.00 for each well listed thereon as having future utility payable to the "Emergency Plugging Fund" of the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board.*

Geology & Industry News Briefs :

(Luncheon Topic :

continued from page 1)

sequence sets may suffice to establish plays and prospects.

Even with little or no well control the presence, distribution, and continuity of individual reservoir and source units can be predicted using seismic stratigraphy, as illustrated by applications in lacustrine and deep-marine settings.

Although limited by seismic resolution, detailed stratigraphic interpretations of thin intervals have significant impact in mature areas. The geometry and seismic attributes of even individual reflections provide critical data about reservoir distribution, reservoir continuity, and field segmentation, as illustrated by applications in reservoir modeling and reservoir management.

Speaker Info :

Winifred A. Burgis has worked at Exxon Production Research Company since 1977 as a seismic sequence stratigrapher. Her experience includes reservoir and source prediction from seismic data in exploration settings.

Wendy earned a B.A. in geology from Wellesley College in 1967. She did her graduate work at the University of Michigan where her research in glacial geomorphology and the history of the Great Lakes led to M.S. (1970) and Ph.D. (1977) degrees. From 1970 to 1973, she worked as a stratigrapher for the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra, Australia.

MGS Environmental Section Meeting

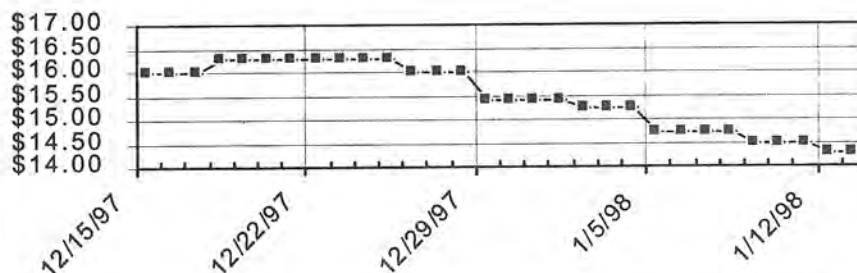
No meeting this month.

The Environmental Geology Section meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in the DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.

Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



Editor's Note :

I need to bring several important items to your attention :

1. MGS President George Vockroth advised the membership of the proposed changes to the Mississippi State Oil & Gas Board Rule 4. David Chastain, MGS Program Chairman, submitted the summary published on the lead-in page (previous page, page 3). Please note that at the time of this Bulletin printing the Board had not set a firm date to address the issue, but we were advised that they are expected to take it up at the February Board meeting. We strongly advise you to contact the Board.
2. The PTTC will be conducting two different workshops here in Jackson (see ads on pg. 9 & 10)
3. Finally, for those of you who are *seriously* interested in rocks — The 39th Annual Gem & Mineral Show will be held here at the Jackson Fairgrounds on the last weekend in February. A keen interest in rocks and fossils has yet to dull for a number of us. (please see ad on page 6)

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL REGISTRATION APPLICATION PACKAGES

As recently reported the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists has application packages available for those who desire to become an RPG (Registered Professional Geologist) or Geologist-In-Training (GIT). The application packages will be available at all MGS meetings, by requesting the package from the Board at PO Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742, by calling 601/961-5507, or by the preferred option of downloading the information from the following website:

<http://geology.deq.state.ms.us/geologyreg>

This website currently contains all of the necessary information to apply for registration as a registered Professional Geologist (RPG) or a Geologist-In-Training (GIT), including the necessary, downloadable forms. It also contains information concerning members of the Board and the law which is required to be read by the applicant. The application fee is \$95.00 for a RPG (\$50.00 for a GIT) and if registration is approved the biennial fee is \$130.00 for the RPG and \$100 for a GIT. The grandfathering period terminates in December of 1998.

Rick L. Ericksen, Board President

NATURE — October 1997

The German Continental Deep Drilling Program (KTB) began drilling in September 1987, ending in October 1994. Some 13.1 km's (nearly 43,000 feet) were drilled and extensive down-hole logging was conducted. A vast amount of data has been produced. Current cost estimates for drilling the hole are pegged around \$303 million. Only one test hole was drilled deeper, the Russian deep hole drilled in the 1970's and 1980's, but it was less thoroughly monitored, sampled and investigated.

The KTB drill hole penetrated the upper 1/3 continental crystalline crust of the Variscan Orogeny in central Europe, a Carboniferous-age orogen. The KTB test provides real deep-rock data for a comparison with the hypothetical assumptions predicted through the use of magnetics, gravity, seismic, and other surface techniques. Of importance here is that the KTB core proves that the predicted rock properties were woefully inadequate.

The Journal of Geophysical Research has published a set of reports in bulletin 102, No. B8; 1997 in an effort to bring the main scientific work of the KTB to a wider audience. KTB has generated 19 at this time.

Volcanic Sulfur emissions may contribute to global cooling of the atmosphere. The influence of volcanic eruptions on the Earth's climate has long been recognized, but quantifying such effects is difficult. Original ideas that dust from volcanoes causes cooling by blocking solar radiation have been shown to be of limited importance because such dust stays in the atmosphere comparatively briefly. In contrast, volcanic sulfur emissions react to produce sulfuric acid aerosols which have much longer residence times; and can efficiently backscatter and absorb incident solar radiation, resulting in atmospheric cooling. Studies of polar ice cores show that the aerosols are dispersed globally. The implication of this observation is that the effects of volcanic activity on climate are mainly

controlled by the amount of sulfur emitted, and are not simply related to the size of the eruption or the amount of volcanic dust produced. Although global estimates of such emissions suggest that they are much smaller than those stemming from human activity, large explosive eruptions can inject sulfur directly into the stratosphere whereas anthropogenic sulfur is mainly limited to very low altitudes and is rapidly removed in precipitation. Thus, volcanic sulfur could potentially have a much greater influence on the climate. Identification of sulfur-rich eruptions in the geological record is of prime importance in trying to find links between past climatic variations and volcanic activity.

Along this line of research, the new theory offered by Dr. Victor Kress accounts for the large sulfur emissions produced during the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, Philippines. The advantage of Kress's model over current models is that it can produce the required mass of sulfur comparatively quickly, and that it involves mixing of realistic masses of basaltic and dacitic magma. Complications to his theory are that both thermodynamic and mass-balance constraints will influence the eventual outcome of mixing — some mixing conditions and end-member compositions may not release large masses of gaseous sulfur. Such questions can be tested by more detailed petrologic and geochemical studies of the erupted materials. The proposal that magma mixing results in large emissions of gaseous sulfur is plausible and further studies must be pursued. Unpublished work by Michael Carrol shows clear evidence for mixing of reduced basaltic magma with anhydrite-bearing dacites at Lascar, indicating another example of an anomalously sulfur-rich eruption, much like Mt. Pinatubo. Overall, the object of this line of research is to produce realistic estimates that can help balance the forces — past, present and future — of climate cooling and climate warming.

OUTDOOR LIFE — Dec/Jan '98
Year — 1908, Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius warns that a "greenhouse ef-

fect" from burning coal and petroleum is warming the globe. (*M.O., thanks for this news-gem.*)

EXXON Special Report on Global Warming — 12/97

(*editor's comments italicized*)

To date, the debate over global warming has been clouded by assertions based on incomplete and uncertain science. What is certain is the impact policy decisions on this issue will have on the lives of people here and around the world. Most policies on global warming call for a reduction in fossil fuel consumption to reduce the emissions of CO₂ which is *purported to be driving a rise in the earth's temperature. Facts to remember are:*

1. The often cited report of a 1° F temperature rise in this century primarily occurred before the post-war industrial boom that created the growth in man-made greenhouse emissions.
2. The only true global temperature data we have come from government-operated satellites which have measured no warming since their launch 20 years ago — results consistent with readings by weather balloons released daily around the world.
3. 96% of atmospheric CO₂ comes from natural sources — only 4% being derived from human activity. Also the overlooked fact that water vapor accounts for 2/3's of all greenhouse gases.

Before the nations of the world make prohibitively expensive policy decisions about the global climate system, everyone should have a clearer understanding of how that system works and man's role in it — *at this time* that's not the case. This *point* is underscored by the author of the chapter exploring the human impact on climate in the 1995 United Nations report on climate change. He was quoted in the May 16, 1997 issue of Science as saying, — **"It's unfortunate that many people read the media hype before they read the chapter - -"**

Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

PC WEEK — December '97

The role of technology is changing and it could become your worst enemy. We are now at the end of the era of automation where technology was primarily used to improve old ways of doing business. We're now beginning the transition era where technology will destroy old ways of doing business and replace them with entirely new methods. Unless you are prepared, you could be steamrolled just as quickly, and just as flat as people without your computer skills.

The transformation era has been slowly gathering steam, but is now ready to explode. Spurred by the Internet and the advent of Cheap PC's, it will accelerate dramatically over the next five years. The old era was about creeping technology — incremental improvements, computing for existing business strategies, and ways to make them more efficient. Spending for internal projects were justified by cost-cutting, re-engineering and productivity improvements. Information Technology (IT) was a cost to be managed.

The new era will be marked by a technology Tsunami that will sweep away entire businesses and create new ways of operating. Computing will be applied to projects that support new revenue opportunities. IT will be an essential investment to the survival of most companies. Most of us have grown comfortable with personal computing, but it's about to take off in a new direction — Hang on tight !!!

COAL AGE

DOE predicts energy prices will increase at a slower rate than expected over the next 20 years. Technological advances will increase production and lower costs which will result in higher total consumption in 2015. Carbon emissions will increase by 1.2% annually through 2015, reaching 1.8 billion metric tons.



MGS is offering extra copies of the Cotton Valley Symposia booklet for \$25 per booklet, plus \$3.50 postage and handling, while copies last ! Interested parties should send a check for \$28.50 stipulating that the order is for the Cotton Valley Booklet.

Include a return name and address.

For additional questions, please contact Steve Champlin at the Mississippi Office of Geology, (601) 961-5506.

THE 39TH ANNUAL Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

A & I Buildings — State Fairgrounds
Jackson, MS

SATURDAY, Feb. 28th, 1998 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
SUNDAY, Mar. 1st, 1998 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Featuring over 22 retail dealers and featured exhibitions from across the country.

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GCAGS 48TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



Bridging The Gulf: To New Growth, To The New Millennium

October 21-23, 1998
Corpus Christi, Texas

(Abstract Deadline: January 12, 1998)

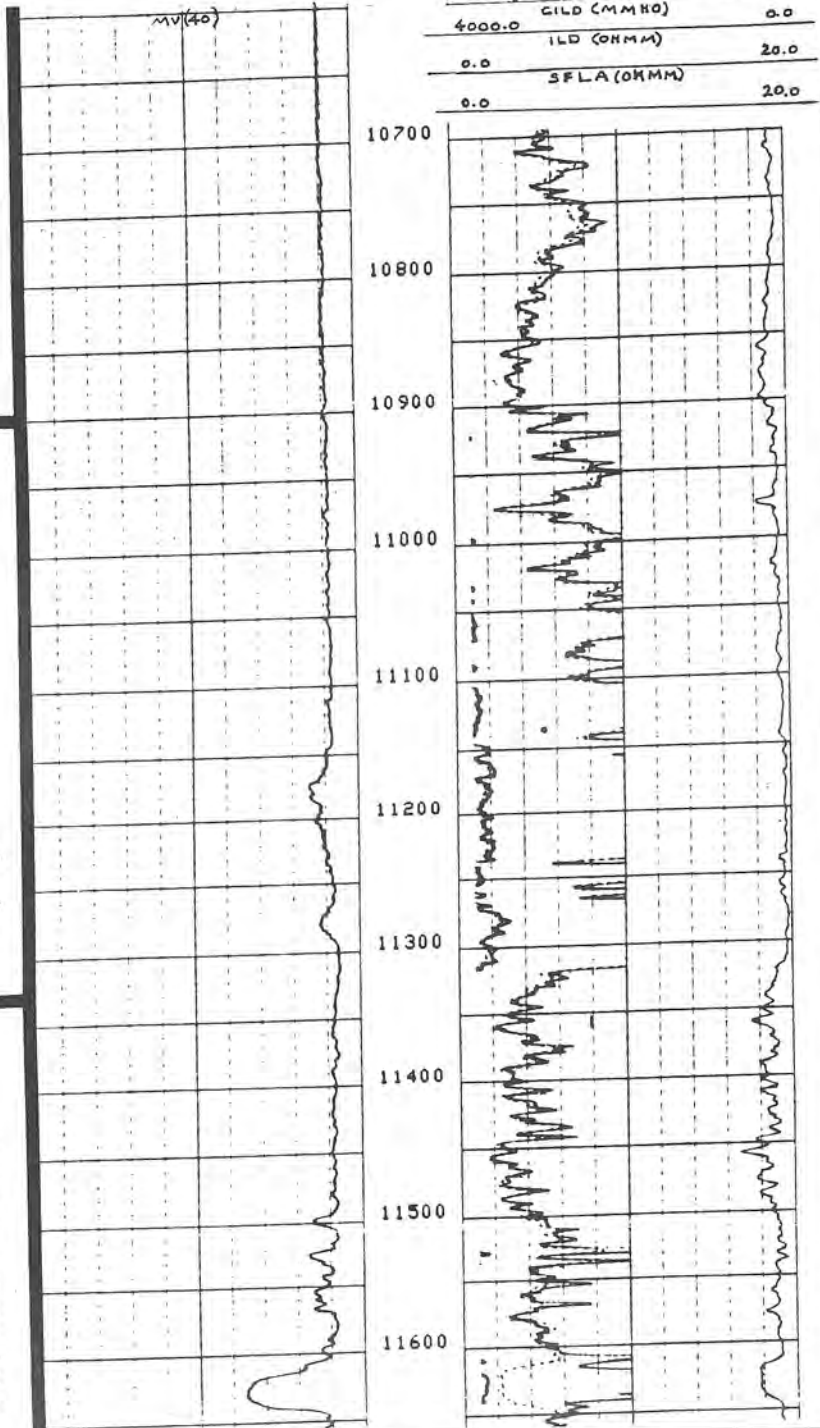
For details contact : (512) 882-5750

The following data file was contributed by Jack Henderson, Mississippi Office of Geology in the interest of extending the Austin play into Mississippi. It is just as important to determine what the parameters are for low/none potential rocks as it is for rock parameters having potential. This data file addresses some of these issues, as well as pointing out that little data is available for the Mississippi Austin due to the common drilling practice of excluding sampling of this interval. (data file this page with sample log next page)

ADCO - CURRIE & PRUET
1 HARVEY - LEWIS

API 23-005-20380
Wildcat — D&A 12/14/85
Amite County, Mississippi
500 FSL & 769 FWL of
E/2 of SW/4 of
SEC 17 TWP 1N RGE 3E
Elevation: GL 256.5'
KB 27 6.8'
DF 276.5'
T.D. : 12,391' (Schl)

The prolific production from the lower Austin in Texas and Louisiana has caused speculation as to the productive potential of these rocks in Mississippi. The #1 Stockard has a zone of high resistivity in the lower Austin and the Office of Geology was requested to examine the samples with the results as logged. There are other wells in southernmost Mississippi that should be examined for oil shows and rock type in the lower Austin interval. Some operators of deeper holes often do not start mudlogging until their wells are drilling in rocks older than Austin; therefore, samples are not available for this interval in such wells.



Continued from previous page

Mississippi Office of Geology
P.O. Box 20307, Jackson, MS 39289-1307

Samples Logged by : Jack Henderson 9-24-96

Lower Austin interval 10,800' - 11,350'

- 10,800 - 10,830' Shale, dark gray, very finely micaceous, fossiliferous: (crushed) no show; Shale, black, very finely micaceous, very finely carbonaceous, silty in part. trace Siltstone, light brown, very fine silt, very finely micaceous, very finely carbonaceous, argillaceous, calcareous. : (crushed) no show.
- 10,830 - 10,860' As above; trace Limestone, white, dove gray, chalky, slightly argillaceous, slightly silty in large percent.
- 10,860 - 10,880' As above - increase percent Limestone.
- 10,880 - 10,890' Limestone, white, chalky, slightly silty-sandy (very fine grain); Shale, as above.
- 10,890 - 10,900' As above; trace Limestone, buff, chalky, glauconitic; trace Limestone, light greenish-gray, chalky finely speckled (Siderite); shell fragments.
- 10,900 - 10,920' As above; predominately chalky, white.
- 10,920 - 10,950' Shale, dark gray, very finely micaceous; Sh, black, splintery; Limestone, as above.
- 10,950 - 10,980' Limestone, white, chalky; trace Limestone, buff, chalky, very silty-sandy (very fine grain); trace Siltstone, light brown, very finely micaceous, very finely carbonaceous - grades to very silty Shale; Shale, as above.
- 10,980 - 10,990' As above; trace, dark gray, very finely micaceous, "coated" with dark dull red Siderite; Siderite fragments, light reddish-brown.
- 10,990 - 11,040' Shale, Limestone, Siltstone, as above.
- 11,040 - 11,050' Shale as above; trace Limestone, white, chalky.
- 11,050 - 11,080' Shale, as above.
- 11,080 - 11,140' As above; Limestone, white, buff, chalky.
- 11,140 - 11,180' Limestone, white, buff, chalky; Shale as above.
- 11,180 - 11,190' Shale, dark gray, splintery, very finely micaceous; Limestone, as above.
- 11,190 - 11,200' Limestone, as above.
- 11,200 - 11,210' Shale, dark gray, very finely micaceous, blocky; Limestone, as above - trace fossiliferous; Siltstone, buff, light brown, very finely micaceous, very finely carbonaceous, argillaceous : (crushed) trace pale yellow ring residue.
- 11,210 - 11,230' Limestone & Shale, as above.
- 11,230 - 11,320' Shale, dark gray-black, splintery, very finely micaceous; Limestone, as above; trace Siltstone, buff, light gray, very finely micaceous, very finely carbonaceous, very thinly interbedded with Shale (varved?); trace shell fragments & a few small gastropods.
- 11,320 - 11,350' As above; trace Sand, clear, medium grain, angular; trace glauconite pellets (green); Shale (crushed) no show.

For copies of other Mississippi sample logs, contact Jack at (601) 354-6328

FEBRUARY 1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

| | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 MGS OFFICER- MEETING | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
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| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 O&G BD. | 19 | 20 | 21 |
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OTHER 1998 MEETINGS : Annual Meetings

GCAGS Oct 21-23; AAPG May 17-20; SEG Sep 13-18;
 SPE Sept 27-30; AIPG Oct 4-8; AEG Oct.;
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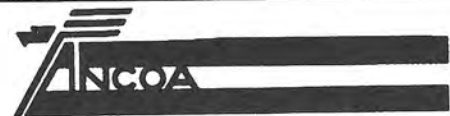
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MGS 001SV\$28.00

Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume II. Maps and producing data on 146 fields, in ring binder, 361 p., 1963-1980.

MGS 003SV\$50.00

Volume II In Separate Sections:

Volume II, Includes Supplement 1. Maps and Producing data on 77 fields, 143 p., 1963.

MGS 004SV\$15.00

Volume II, Supplements 2 through 7. Maps and producing data on 35 fields, 110 p., 1964-1972.

MGS 005SV\$25.00

Volume II, Supplement 8. Maps and producing data on 34 fields, 108 p., 1980.

MGS 006SV\$25.00

Mesozoic-Paleozoic Producing Areas of Mississippi and Alabama, Volume III. Includes discovery, structural, and lithologic summaries along with reservoir parameters and production data on 55 selected fields. Each field summary is accompanied by a structure map and a type log. In three-ring binder, 166 p., December, 1986.

MGS 007SV\$50.00

Supplement for Volume III. Contains information, structure contour maps, and type logs on 19 fields—six in Alabama, two in Florida, and eleven in Mississippi. 45 p., 1992, heavy stock, punched for binder.

MGS 008SV\$25.00

Oil in the Deep South. A History of the Oil Business in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, 1859-1945, by Dudley J. Hughes. A statistical and chronological summary of the evolution of the petroleum business in the southeastern United States. Includes personal stories of the companies, entrepreneurs, promoters, investors and workers who played major roles in the development of the oil business from its inception in the early 1900s to 1945. Hardbound book, 267 p., 1993.

MGS 020SV\$35.00

FIELD TRIP GUIDEBOOKS

Upper Cretaceous Outcrops, Northeast Mississippi and

West Central Alabama. 14th Field Trip, 29 p., May, 1959.

MGS 101 G\$4.00

Recent Sedimentation on Horn Island, Mississippi and Stratigraphy of the Quaternary and Upper Tertiary of the Pasacoula Valley, Mississippi. 10th Annual GCAGS Meeting, 24 p., 1960.

MGS 103G\$2.50

The Paleozoics of Northwest Arkansas. 16th Field Trip, 48 p., May, 1962.

MGS 104G\$5.00

Mississippian Rocks of the Black Warrior Basin. 17th Field Trip, 79 p., April, 1978.

MGS 105G\$8.00

Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments, Central Mississippi and West-Central 33rd Annual GCAGS Meeting, 40 p., 1983.

MGS 106G\$7.50

The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day field

trip. 18th Field Trip Guidebook, 69 p., April, 1991.

MGS 107G\$10.00

COMPOSITE LOGS AND CROSS SECTIONS Composite Mesozoic Log of South Mississippi and South Alabama.

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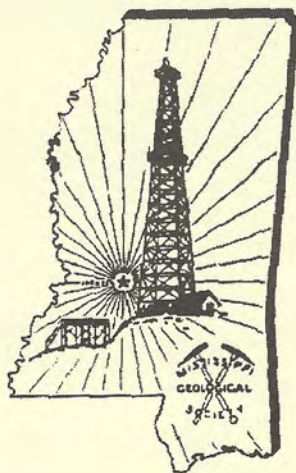
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Officers Meetings - first Tuesday of each month

September 2nd
October 7th
November 4th
December 2nd
January 6th
February 3rd
March 3rd
April 7th
May 5th

Professional Meetings - second Tuesday, October through April;
September & May Social's to be announced

September 11th Fall Social BBQ
October 14th A. Prelat - Remote Sensing
November 11th Greene - 3D Lafitte Field
December 9th Christmas Social
January 13th Mancini — Smackover
February 10th Wendy Burgis - Sequence Stratigraphy
March 10th Travis Gillham - West Hackberry Field
April 14th Dudley Hughes - & Officer Nominations
May 12th Spring Fling Social & Elections

The Mississippi Geological Society business year runs from January to December with annual advertising concurrent with the business year. Membership dues run concurrent with the business year — \$20/member, \$5/student. The Societal year runs from June through May, with nine bulletins published concurrent with the Societal year. The Society's Spring Fling and Fall BBQ are scheduled for the first and last months of the Societal year, September and May respectively. Professional luncheons with speakers meet the second Tuesday of October through April, concurrent with the Societal year. The Environmental Section meets the third Tuesday of every odd month, year round. 

Geology & Industry News Briefs :

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

The February MGS meeting was well attended with 57 people present for Dr. Wendy Burgis' paper on resolving reservoir geometry with the assistance of seismic stratigraphy. At our next meeting on March 10th at the Capitol Club from 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. we will have a talk by Travis H. Gillham of Amoco on "Air Injection Oil Recovery and 3D Seismic: Revitalizing the Aging West Hackberry Field in Northern Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The techniques described in this paper could extend the productive life of your oil fields.

Following our April meeting will be a video produced and narrated by Dudley Hughes on global warming in the light of no-nonsense science. I will give you the correct title next month.

The last meeting of the year will be our Spring Fling with the Catfish dinner at the Ag Museum on May 12th starting at 4:30 with beer available at 5:00 p.m. Spouses and guests are most welcome and reservations must be made at 961-5500 by May 1st. The cost is \$15 per person as the price has gone up. If you would like to make a company contribution, call me at 948-3351 and we will put the name of your organization on a plaque at the meeting and also in the MGS Bulletin. This is your last chance to advertise with us this year and thus receive our overwhelming thanks!

If your name is not in this directory issue please send your name and \$20 to our P.O. Box 422 so next year you will automatically get a bill for the 1998-1999 dues year and get your free "advertising" in the Directory. We tried to catch you all with a dues invoice envelope in the September Bulletin and the names of last years unpaid members in the December MGS Bulletin. You don't want to come as just a spouse or guest to the Spring Fling so pay up now or suffer the indignities of it all.

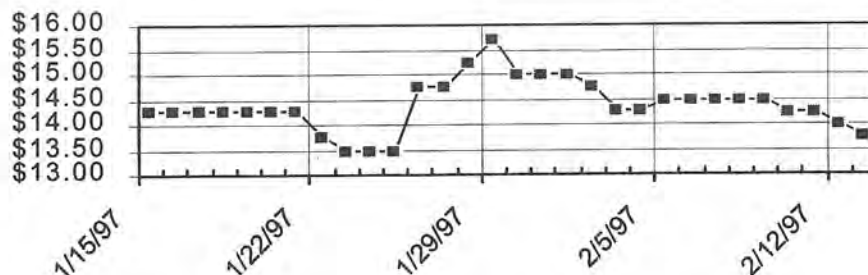
Finally in closing — 1996 was the first full year when petroleum imports exceeded domestic production and our congressmen still refuse to heed our pleas to restore (not give us any new program) our depletion allowance to 27 1/2% from the Independents 15% it was reduced to some years ago when killing the oil business was popular in congress. The good news is major companies are increasing their budgets. As an example, Chevron's budget for the next 4 years will equal their present net worth.

George

Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



MGS Professional Luncheon Topic & Speaker — March 10th

Air Injection Oil Recovery and 3D Seismic: Revitalizing the Aging West Hackberry Field in Northern Cameron Parish, Louisiana by Travis H. Gillham

The meeting will be held at the Capitol Club
March 10th from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Amoco and partners are extending the life of a 70 year-old South Louisiana oil field with two innovative enhanced oil recovery projects and a 3-D seismic survey. West Hackberry Field, in Northern Cameron Parish, produces oil and gas from Miocene and Oligocene sands on the flanks of the largest salt dome in southwestern Louisiana. A joint Amoco-U.S. Department of Energy project involves field testing of the applicability of air injection in two recovery processes: 1) displacing a water invaded oil column in a watered-out oil reservoir to recover additional oil through gravity drainage and 2) representing a low-pressure reservoir by injecting air into the gas cap, pushing the thin oil rim to down-structure wells. The first two low pressure reservoirs in Hackberry to undergo air injection have increased production by over 70 per cent above the normal decline.

A 155-square kilometer (60-square mile) 3-D seismic survey is currently being interpreted to exploit the existing field pays and to evaluate deeper Oligocene and Eocene potential. Preliminary interpretation has identified a deep salt overhang on the field's west flank.

Speaker, Travis Gillham, is project manager and reservoir engineer for Amoco's West Hackberry Field Air Injection Project. Travis has worked for Amoco for the past 18 years.

MARCH 1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

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OTHER 1998 MEETINGS : Annual Meetings

GCAGS Oct 21-23; AAPG May 17-20; SEG Sep 13-18;
 SPE Sept 27-30; AIPG Oct 4-8; AEG Oct.;
 SPWLA May 25-28; MIPRO Nov. Mid Cont. Oct

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 MOCO
 603 NORTH PARK DR
 RIDGELAND, MS 39157

BOGRAD, MICHAEL B. E. 601 - 961-5528
 Michael_Bograd@deq.state.ms.us
 MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF GEOLOGY
 PO BOX 20307
 JACKSON, MS 39289-1307
MISS STATE UNIV GEOL, BS 1971

BOOTH, GLEN A. 601 - 266-4525
 gbooth@ocean.st.usm.edu
 102 HYLAND DR
 PETAL, MS 39465
UNIV SOUTHERN MISS GEOL, BS 1994 MS I.P.

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 HUMBLE, TX 77346-1704
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 BOSSIER CITY, LA 71171-5009

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 206 WOODRUN COVE
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 MISS AUTOMATED RESOURCES INFO SYS
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CAMERON, CHRIS P. 601 - 266-4525
 ccameron@whale.st.usm.edu
 3018 MAGNOLIA PLACE
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
 UNIV NEW ORLEANS / UNIV of ALASKA BS1966 / PHD'1970

CASH, STEVEN C. 504 - 863-0873
 SteveCash@earthlink.net
 38309 JOAN DRIVE
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 MS 1992

CATE, PAUL DAVID 601 - 948-5279
 PRUET OIL CO
 217 W CAPITOL ST, STE 201
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CHAMPLIN, STEPHEN DONALD 601 - 961-5500
 stephen_champlin@deq.state.ms.us
 MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF GEOLOGY
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ERICKSEN, RICK L. 601 - 961-5507
 RLE9304@aol.com
 MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF GEOLOGY
 PO BOX 20307
 JACKSON, MS 39289
 NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIV GEOL-GEOCHEM, BS / MS

F

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 galics@okra.millsaps.edu
 1701 N STATE ST
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 12910 KATHY LANE
 CYPRESS, TX 77429
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 BEAN RESOURCES
 124 HEYMAN BLVD, STE 205
 LAFAYETTE, LA 70503
 UNIV OF PENN / TULANE GEOL, BS / MS

GOFF, JOEL B. 601 - 266-4429
 gophers@netdoor.com
 411 SOUTH 10TH AVE.
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
 UNIV SOUTHERN MISS ANTHROPOLOGY, BA
 EOLOGY, GRADUATE STUDENT

GRAY, CARL E. 903 - 509-7130
 ENRON OIL & GAS CO
 821 ESE LOOP 323, STE 400
 TYLER, TX 75701
 E TEXAS STATE UNIV GEOL, BS 1982

GREEN, JOHN W. 601 - 956-0851
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GRIBAS, PAUL 601 - 362-3314
 360 COMET DR - SUITE A
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GUNTER, C. PHILLIP 601 - 956-9995
 cphillip @ misnet.com
 C. PHILLIP GUNTER & ASSOC
 PO BOX 16545
 JACKSON, MS 39236
 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIV BS1972 / MS1975

GUSTAFSON, JR, R. B. 601 - 735-2731
 PO BOX 865
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H

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INGRAM, SR, STEPHEN L. 601 - 354-6328
4228 HANOVER PLACE
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J

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 TULANE UNIV / MS STATE GEOL, BS / MS

K

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 CONSULTANT
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KATZENMEYER, FRED
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 TEXAS A&M GEOPHYSICS, BS

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 ceims@gcip.net
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 LSU / TULANE GEOL, BS1956 / MS 1961

KENDRICK, F. "ED" 601 - 977-5232
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 JACKSON, MS 39211
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KING, STANLEY 601 - 368-9900
 53391-55 NORTH, STE 27
 JACKSON, MS 39206
 MILLSAPS C / MISS STATE UNIV
 GEOL, BA 1974 / BS 1979

KNIGHT, WILBUR H. 601 - 355-1528
 CONSULTING GEOLOGIST
 L-100 B, CAPITAL TOWERS
 JACKSON, MS 39201
 GEOL, BA / MA

L

LAYMAN, DEE W. 601 - 898-0455
 LAYMAN EXPLORATION
 PO BOX 55
 JACKSON, MS 39205
 TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIV GEOL, BA

LEE, BERONICA J.
 bee@ocean.st.usmedu
 700 MYRTLE STREET
 HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
 UNIV SOUTHERN MISS GEOL, BS 1996

LITTLE, DAVID F. 601 - 446-1341
 CALLON PETROLEUM CO
 200 N CANAL ST
 NATCHEZ, MS 39121
 UNIV SOUTHERN MISS GEOL, BS1978

LUNDY, JEFF 601 - 354-7128
 2307 MEMORIAL CR
 FLORA, MS 39071
 MILLSAPS BIO 1975 / GEOL 1976

M

MAGEE, KEN R. 601/969-1831
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 210 E CAPITOL ST, STE 956
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- MANCINI, ERNEST A.** 205 - 339-4262
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220 ACORN CV
MADISON, MS 39110
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- MATHER, THOMAS T.** 713 - 658-4106
HOWELL PETROLEUM CORP
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HOUSTON, TX 77002-6923
FLORIDA STATE GEOL, MS '67
- MCDUFF, JOSEPH H.** 504 - 296-0090
MCDUFF EXPLORATION, PRESIDENT
5515 SUPERIOR DRIVE, STE B-1
BATON ROUGE, LA 70816
UNIV S LOUISIANA GEOL, BS
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1016 N FLOWOOD DR
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- MEANEY, BILL** 318 - 227-2000
bmeaney@prysm.net
ANDERSON OIL & GAS, INC
33 TEXAS ST, STE 2121
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101-5357
VANDERBILT / LOUISIANA STATE UNIV
GEOL, BA 1970 / MS 1973
- MENEFEE, ROBERT D** 601 - 354-1604
CONSULTANT
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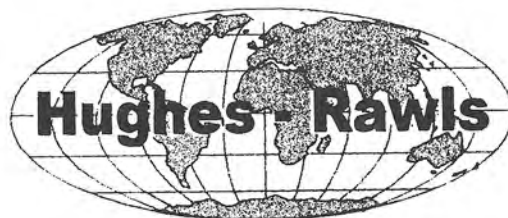
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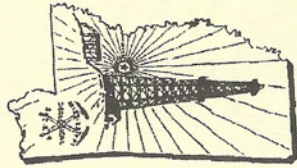
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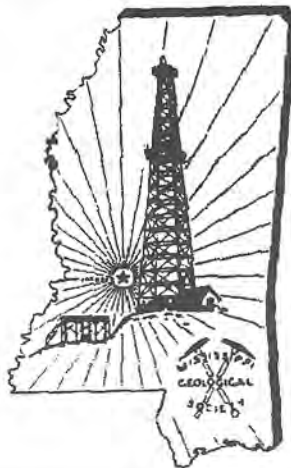
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 8

APRIL, 1998

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

We have a lot of news in this, our next-to-last newsletter of the program year.

First, I am advised and so pleased to announce that we have two members of MGS with 50 years of membership. Congratulations to Will Knight and Dale Meyers and all the best in the coming years.

On a sad note, we lost 2 long time former members this past month. Wyatt E. Craft of Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Don Reese of Dallas, Texas passed away in March. Memorials for Wyatt may be made to the American Cancer Society, Hospice of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and for Don to the MGS Boland Scholarship Fund.

Our "speaker" for our last luncheon meeting of the year on April 14th at the Capitol Club will be long time and Honorary member, Dudley Hughes. He has produced and narrated a video entitled The "CO₂ Dilemma". I have seen it twice and you don't want to miss this clear and scientific insight in to a subject that has become a political advocacy for trash science.

By the way, Larry Baria has a couple of slots available for his Bahamas (3 Island) trip on June 5-13th. You will get to see another world on this trip.

Your Board of Directors has certified the unanimous adoption of the Bylaw changes.

The nominating committee has announced the following slate of MGS officers and editor for 1998-1999 :

President Rick L., Ericksen

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Nominees for office — 1st VP | David Chastian |
| 2nd VP | John Marble |
| Secretary | Mike Noone |
| Treasurer | Stanley King |
| Editor | Steve Ingram |

You will note that many of these nominees are past officers of the Society. Nomination may be made from the floor at our May meeting.

The May meeting on the 12th at 4:30 at the Ag Museum will feature our famous catfish dinner for \$15/person. Spouses and guests are welcome and beer will be available at 5:00 PM.

Reservations must be made by May 1st by calling 961-5500. Spring Fling doors open at 4:30.

Last month we had an outstanding talk by Travis Gillham with Amoco in Houston. He discussed an important subject for those of us working the flanks of salt domes in the SE. It is possible to get high recoveries of 60%plus from these high angle reservoirs by cheaply injecting air. Twenty-three people were present at this meeting. The rest missed a highly informative talk of economic importance. We thank Dave Chastain, our

MGS Professional Luncheon Topic & Speaker

THE CO₂ DILEMMA

by Dudley J. Hughes

(— Video Presentation —)

*The meeting will be held at the Capitol Club
April 14th from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.*

The rapid increase of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere during this century has spawned worldwide fears of disasters resulting from global warming. The United States joined other nations at a meeting in Kyoto, Japan, where a treaty to limit emission of greenhouse gases (principally CO₂) was formulated. The "Kyoto Protocol" agreed to by Vice President Gore calls for the United States to reduce greenhouse emissions to 7% below the 1990's level by 2012. This would require a 30 to 40% reduction in energy use and would lower our present standard of living.

Geologic records and satellite data show conclusively that the Earth's temperature has not reacted abnormally to this increase in CO₂ but rather has shown the same gradual cooling that it has for the past several million years. Computer model predictions of warming have been shown to be in error.

The increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide has actually proven to be beneficial as plants are growing at a much faster rate than they were in pre-industrial times. Many experiments have been conducted by the US Department of Agriculture and

(Continued page 3)

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Wendy Burgis - Sequence Strat
 March 10th Travis Gillham - W. Hackberry Fld.
 April 14th Dudley Hughes - The CO2 Dilemma
 May 12th Spring Fling & Elections

Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Esther Applin * | Hilton L. Ladner * |
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| 1955-1956 | Gilbert A. Talley | 1975-1976 | Jerry E. Zoble | 1996-1997 | Jack S. Moody |
| 1956-1957 | Ben Ploch | 1976-1977 | P. David Cate | | |
| 1957-1958 | Emil Monsour | 1977-1978 | Sarah Childress | | |
| | | 1978-1979 | Lester Aultman | | |

Geology & Industry News Briefs :

(Luncheon Topic :

continued from page 1)

various universities, which demonstrate the remarkable increase in tree growth and crop yields as a result of increase in CO₂. This film presents a number of these experiments by the scientists who conducted them.

Speaker Info :

Dudley J. Hughes, Chairman of Hughes-Rawls Corporation, is a 1951 graduate of Texas A&M with a BS in Geology. After serving in the Korean War, he moved to Jackson Mississippi in 1953 and has remained here ever since.

In 1953, Dudley was hired as a geologists with Union Producing Company. In 1957, He left Union to become District Geologist with American Petrofina. Dudley became an Independent in 1960. He has operated as Triad, Pruet & Hughes, Hughes Eastern, and now Hughes-Rawls. He and his brother, Dan, have had operations in Canada, Australia, and chemical plants in England, Switzerland, and Italy.

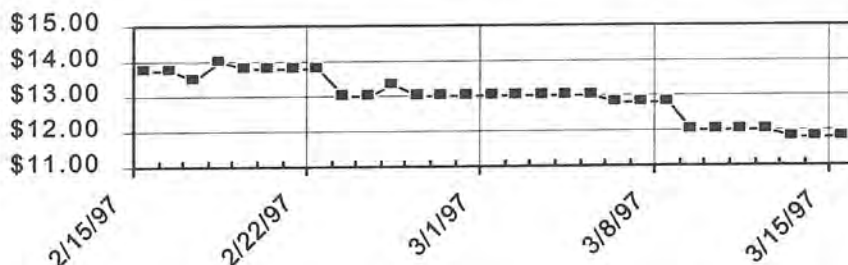
Dudley has written a book, "OIL IN THE DEEP SOUTH", was a DISTINGUISHED LECTURER for the AAPG in 1961, and was inducted into the MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS HALL OF FAME (Junior Achievement) in 1997. He has received the Alabama Oil & Gas Board's LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, the Texas A&M DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, and was the first recipient of the Mid Continent Oil & Gas WILDCATTER AWARD, and of course is an HONORARY MEMBER of the Mississippi Geological Society.



Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



President's Letter Continued

Program Chair, for our excellent programs this year.

Speaking of programs, we had two excellent seminars in Jackson in March put on by Ernie Mancini and his folks at the Eastern Gulf Region Petroleum Technology Transfer Council at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. These were announced in the Bulletin. There is another seminar coming up on May 7th in Tuscaloosa — see enclosed announcement. If you have any 1 Day seminar subjects you would like to have professionally presented let me know before August '98, when next years agenda will be set for PTTC.

Don't forget the Jackson Geophysical Society's annual golf tournament to be held May 12th, 1998 at Whisper Lake Country Club at 8:30 am. Contact Karl Kauffann at 352-3501 or Claudia Berry at 664-2800 (area code 601).

Happy Easter to you all !

George B. Vockroth

MGS Environmental Section Meeting

No meeting this month.

The Environmental Geology Section meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in the DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.

APPLICATION PACKAGES FOR GEOLOGICAL REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

Rick L. Ericksen, President of the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists reports that registration application packages are available at the following website address —

<http://geology.deq.state.ms.us/geologyreg>

The application package contains all of the necessary forms and required reading which includes the Rules of the Board and the codified law for application as a Registered Professional Geologist (RPG) or Geologist-in-Training (GIT). Application packages will also be available at all regular meetings of the Mississippi Geological Society. Should you not be able to attend these meetings or do not have access to the Internet, the application packages may also be obtained by requesting the package from the Board at PO Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742, or by calling 601/961-5507 and leave your name, address, and phone number. However, please note that the preferred option is to download the information from the website.

The grandfathering period for applying for registration terminates in December 1998.

Please note that if you are a geologist from a state other than Mississippi and will be performing geologic work which affect the public as defined by the law, you must be registered or have an application pending with the Board at this time.



Special MGS Announcements :

This past month MGS lost two members of the Society:

Donald M. Reese, Honorary Member of MGS, died March 5th at age 93 at Heartland Health Care Center in Austin, Texas. Don was born March 1, 1905 in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1930, he was the Sinclair Oil Company's scout monitoring the famed Columbus "Dad" Joiner's "wildcat" drilling venture in Rusk County, Texas which became the discovery well of the giant East Texas Oil Field, the largest discovery in the industry's history at that time.

Don moved to Jackson in 1941 following the 1939 discovery at Tinsley, an event which challenged the generally-held view that there would be no significant oil discoveries east of the Mississippi River. Don went "on his own" as an independent oil operator, participating in or organizing drilling ventures until his retirement.

Wyatt E. Craft, retired CEO of Craft Petroleum Company, Inc. and WECO Corporation in Jackson, Mississippi passed away at his home earlier in March.

Wyatt was a New Albany, Mississippi native, received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University, and served in the armed forces through captain at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1959.

Wyatt was employed by Delta Exploration Co., Lane-Wells, and Pan Am prior to starting his first company, Ray-Mac, an independent oil and gas exploration company in Jackson, Mississippi. Wyatt Craft established Craft Petroleum Co., Inc., which his son Steven H. Craft of Jackson, runs as an oil and gas exploration and production business.

The Mississippi Oil & Gas Law Institute 10th Triennial Seminar April 5, 1998

The Mississippi Oil & Gas Law Institute will be presented April 24th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Jackson. This tenth triennial seminar is jointly sponsored by the Mississippi Oil & Gas Lawyers Association and the Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen. The Institutes, which were started in 1971, are held every three years to provide educational updates to the petroleum industry on current issues in oil and gas law in the Gulf Coast area.

The event will kick off with a reception on Thursday, April 23rd at the Capital Club, Capitol Towers Building, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Honorable Thad Cochran, United States Senator, will be the guest luncheon speaker on Friday. Among Friday's educational sessions will be: Obtaining Leases from Government Entities in Mississippi, Oil and Gas Board Practice and Procedure, Due Diligence in Acquisitions, Acquisition of Leases from Churches and Cemeteries, Probate of Foreign Wills, Current Curative Problems, and law updates from Mississippi and Alabama.

Advance registration is \$80.00 (which includes Thursday reception and Friday luncheon); on-site registration is \$90.00. For information contact Mike C. Corso, P.O. Box 23040, Jackson, MS 39225 or phone Patricia Cottingham at (601) 948-3800.

Millsaps College log files have been moved to the Mississippi Office of Geology's West Street location (the old Geologic Survey building). At this time, these files are being incorporated into the existing database at the Office of Geology. It may take several months before these logs can be accessed by the public due to the ongoing work involved with filing. Credit and thanks for this donation should be extended to Dr. Ed Schrader, Dean of Science, and to Geology Department professors Dr. Del Gann and Dr. Jamie Harris, not to forget Adjunct Professor Stan Galicki.

Force Five — Winter '97-98

Mississippi was identified recently as a state with one of the highest wetlands loss rates in the nation. Wetlands are an important resource in that they purify water by holding or transforming nutrients, sediments, and pollutants; thereby reducing the negative effects of nonpoint source pollution.

The wetland losses are due primarily to development pressures. With the increase in population and development in Jackson County and the gulf coast of Mississippi, urban runoff, also known as nonpoint source pollution, will increase. Development pressures will likely cause a reduction in the acreage of wetlands locate on the coast, thus reducing natural methods of protecting Mississippi waters from the urban pollutants.

Recognizing Mississippi's need to retain and increase its wetlands base, the Nature Conservancy established (in 1996) the Old Fort Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank in Jackson county, Mississippi.

A mitigation bank involves consolidating fragmented wetland mitigation, or preservation, projects into a single contiguous site. Units of this site are deemed "credits," which may be "withdrawn" to offset "debits" incurred at a development site. Developers decide to barter the mitigation project required at the development site for a "credit" in the wetlands mitigation bank. Once all the credits have been accounted for, the "bank" is closed and the land donated to a public entity and protected in perpetuity.

The Old Fort Bayou Mitigation Bank is located between the growing areas of Gautier, Ocean Springs, and Vancleave and provides "functional replacements" for wetlands altered in the development of these areas.

The Nature Conservancy is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore and manage the 1,760 acres that comprise the bank which adjoins two portions of the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge. This will provide a crucial corridor for wildlife and a large continuous land area that will collect and filter a great deal of nonpoint source pollution.

An Earthquake and Environmental Assessment of Faulting in the Demopolis Chalk in Lowndes County Mississippi

Darrel W. Schmitz, Ph.D., R.P.G.
Associate Professor
Department of Geosciences
Mississippi State University

Ernest E. Russell, Ph.D., C.P.G.
Professor Emeritus
Department of Geosciences
Mississippi State University

Introduction

Holnam, Inc. requested a study from the two authors in obtaining a permit to burn hazardous liquids as a fuel source in its cement manufacturing kiln south of Artesia, Lowndes County, Mississippi. The fuel terminal site had to meet Hazardous Waste Management regulations that required, in part, a seismic probability evaluation (Russell and Schmitz, 1993). As a result of the investigation, several small faults and many joints, were discovered in the quarry, which is excavated in the lower part of the massive chalky marls of the upper Demopolis Formation. The resulting geologic investigation included mapping of joints and faults in the Holnam quarry, a study of local lineations possibly related to faulting, a drilling program to determine whether faults with seismic potential existed beneath the plant, and radiocarbon age dating of calcite in dilations along fault planes to determine the time of most recent movement.



Figure 1.

Previous Investigations

Stephenson and Monroe (1940) described and mapped the Upper Cretaceous chinks in the Artesia area and mentioned several small faults in the Demopolis several miles to the southwest of the quarry location in Noxubee County Mississippi. Haddox (1963) in a study of the well-developed joint patterns in the Demopolis measured more than a thousand joints in the area and discovered that the joint sets paralleled the regional joint pattern described by Fisk (1944) in the Mississippi Embayment. What is unusual about Haddox observations is that he observed slickensides on the joints but he could find no evidence of movement. A single normal fault with less than 2 meters of throw on the south wall of the Holnam Quarry was described, however, in the Geologic Section of the submission by the State of Mississippi to the U.S. Department of Energy for siting a Super Conducting Super Collider in Lowndes and Oktibbeha Counties, Mississippi (ITD, 1987). Lowndes County is about fifty miles northwest of the nearest reported substantial faulting within the chalk, the Livingston Fault Zone in Alabama (Monroe, 1991).

Location and Local Lithostratigraphy

The Holnam quarry and plant site is situated southeast of the small community of Post Oak east of U.S. Highway 45 Alternate between Artesia and Crawford in southwestern Lowndes County, Mississippi (Figure 1). The surface area has low relief and the streams are ephemeral. Geologically, western Lowndes County is underlain by the Upper Cretaceous Demopolis Formation that consists of three members: a lower marl, the Tibbee Creek Member; a middle member of chalky marls and marly chinks; and, an upper marl member, the Bluffport.

The Holnam plant and quarry are situated on the basal part of the middle chalky marl member that, in the quarry, consists of dense beds of light gray, fossiliferous, chalky marl of variable thickness, some of which approach one meter in thickness. Near the middle of the beds exposed in the quarry there is one bed which contains small, "nut-like", pycnodonts that have been traced from Alabama to near Tupelo, Mississippi. The beds visible in the quarry are not planar but undulate slightly, and are inclined to the southwest at a very low angle, 8-10 meters per mile.

Structure

Numerous nearly vertical joints, part of a northwest-southeast, northeast-southwest joint set, are highly visible in the quarry walls and in the floor. Where they intersect the overlying weathered material there is a visible V-shaped depression of that contact. The surface drainage is strongly influenced by the orientation of these joints. A core drilling program in a similar stratigraphic horizon south of

Brooksville in Noxubee County found that the frequency of joints in the cores decreased with depth and that below twenty to twenty-five meters were rarely encountered (DRE Technologies, Inc, 1992).

Within the quarry, three normal faults were observed, one in the south face, one in the east face (Figure 2), and one in the west face. All are near vertical and have throws of less than three meters. The numerous complimentary structures associated with them may be the result of near surface collapse rather than drag. There are numerous slickensides and these too may be nearly vertical. Dilations along the complimentary faults on the east and west side of the quarry are vugy, and are filled with clear to milky white crystalline calcite.

Lineament Investigation

Joints in competent sediments like chalk, exert a strong control on weathering and drainage that can result in lineaments. Both topographic maps and aerial photographs were visually assessed for any linear features that might reflect joints, particularly faults. These features include drainage, vegetation, and soil type. The most obvious features were stream segments that parallel the joint sets. One lineament, east of the east wall of the quarry, followed one of the faults already discussed.

Another distinct north-south lineament north of the plant site was a drainage that projected toward the plant site. That small drainage was investigated by trenching. A trench was dug a couple of meters deep and some twenty meters across the drainage in dense, tough gray marly chalk. Less than a meter below the surface the remnants of a thin bed of volcanic ash in the form of large biotite flakes provided a datum. Although north-south oriented fractures were encountered in the trench none offset the bed of biotite grains and are thus joints.

However, where some lineaments intersected the quarry wall there did appear to be offsets in bedding (Figure 2). Bedding is very difficult to observe visually in the chalk, especially when the quarry walls are dry. Nevertheless, the pycnodont bed was used to confirm offsets of the bedding. If the environment of the pycnodont was that of a horizontal nature, then offsets of the pycnodont bed across the fractures were from faulting. The throws of the faults discovered in the quarry wall ranged from as little as one third meter to around three meters. Slickensides were found at fault locations, but were also present at joint locations, where there were no offsets of the pycnodont bed.

Since faults were found in the quarry wall associated with some lineaments, exploration holes were drilled and logged in the immediate area of the hazardous liquids storage site, to establish if any of the lineaments that projected within approximately sixty-seven meters of the storage site were faults. Too much fill material and too many facility structures were within that area to allow successful trenching.

The drilling program suggested that there was indeed a northeast-southwest trending offset underneath the proposed storage facility site with an offset of just over one meter. However it could not be determined whether the offset was due to faulting or folding. Similar size offsets by small synform folding had also been noted in the quarry wall.

At a depth of approximately seven meters the joint and fault planes within the quarry wall were cemented with crystalline calcite (Figure 3). Seismic surveys conducted in the area for the proposed Super Collider supported the idea that fractures are open at the surface and not at depth (ITD, 1987). The velocities from those seismic surveys are lower within the top seven or so meters and increase below that depth. Additionally, continuous cores collected through the chalk at the nearby proposed hazardous waste disposal site in Noxubee County also showed fractures which with depth were cemented with crystalline calcite (DRE Technologies, Inc., 1992). Based on the evidence that the fractures in the chalk were consistently cemented with crystalline calcite, it was proposed that the crystalline calcite in the faults within the quarry wall would provide a time of last possible movement along the fault plane, since the crystalline calcite was continuous and undisturbed. Because the orientation of the offset underneath the proposed hazardous fuel terminal facility, the faults noted in the quarry, and the joints described by Haddox (1963) and Fisk (1944) were all in the same general directions it was proposed that all were produced by the same stresses and within the same time frame.

Two samples of the crystalline calcite were obtained from fault planes exposed within the quarry. One was from a northwest to southeast trending fault and one was from a northeast to southwest trending fault. The calcite was radiocarbon dated resulting in age dates of 36,000 and 42,000 years before present. Thus, there would not have been movement along the fault plane since the formation of the calcite, which was before Holocene.

Summary

So, although faults probably are present in the plant area and possibly beneath the proposed hazardous liquid fuel terminal facility, dating of faults in the quarry indicate that there has been no movement on them during the Holocene. Additionally, fractures in the upper six meters of the marly chalks appear to open upward presenting the potential for lateral movement of fluids related to any waste disposal operation.

References : DRE Technologies, Inc., 1992, Regional Industrial Waste Management Facility RCRA Permit Application, Module E, Volume I: Federated Technologies of Mississippi, Inc., 65p.

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Figure 2.

Faulting is evidenced on right side of photo by bed offset in chalk and thickening of soil horizon on hanginwall.

Figure 3.
Crystalline calcite in fault plane shown at end of pick was radiocarbon dated, indicating that movement along the faults ceased by the Holocene.



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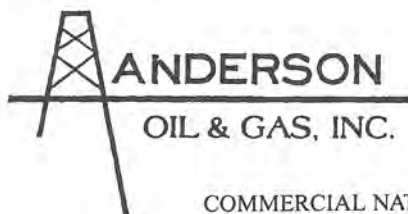


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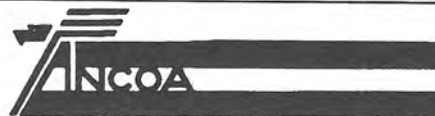
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The Cretaceous Chalk of the Starkville Area, Northeast Mississippi, by Ernest E. Russell and Stewart W. Welch, co-authors. Contains articles and road log for two-day field

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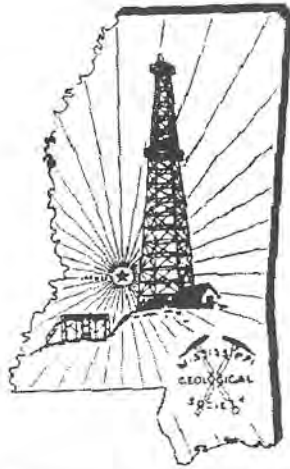
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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 46

NUMBER 9

May, 1998

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George B. Vockroth

This being the last newsletter for the MGS 1997-98 program year, we want to congratulate the newly elected officers for 1998-99 year as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Rick L. Ericksen |
| 1st V P | David Chastain |
| 2nd V P | John Marble |
| Secretary | Mike Noone |
| Treasurer | Stanley King |
| Editor | Steve Ingram |

Please give them your whole hearted support. You will receive an invoice in your September '98 Bulletin for your yearly dues so pull it out and mail in the envelope with your \$20.00 before you trash the Bulletin. Your dues just about pay for your Bulletin each year. Besides, I am sure you don't want to miss another exciting year for the Society and Steve Ingram's great Bulletins.

We had 55 present for Dudley Hughes presentation on "The CO2 Dilemma" at our April meeting. A fine way to end the year. Hope this support will continue next year.

Now about the Spring Fling coming up on Tuesday, May 12th at 4:30 PM at the Ag Museum, if you have not called 961-5500 to make a reservation by the deadline of May 1st, call me at 948-3351 to see if you can get one of the extra \$15 plates of catfish we usually order. Bring your spouse — with WTI at \$13.00 (as of this writing) the spouse probably has not been out this year yet!

*I know what some of you are thinking —
"Speak for yourself, George."*

We are most grateful to our Spring Fling Sponsors who make possible a good time for all, especially since the \$15 entrance fee you pay does not cover the cost of food and libation. When you see reps of the following sponsors, tell them how much we ap-

preciate their support of the Society: ATLAS WIRELINE, LES AULTMAN, BRUXOIL, BROWNING & WELCH, CLIFF QUIMBY, ENERGY DRILLING, HALLIBURTON, HUGHES OIL, JACKSON LOG LIBRARY, LOCATION SAMPLE SERVICE, MOON & HINES, OWLCO, PRUET, RIDGEWAY ENERGY, ROUNDTREE & ASSOC, SCHLUMBERGER, SEISMIC EXCHANGE, SPOONER ENERGY, VERITAS/DGC

We congratulated Jerry Zoble for being elected an Honorary Member. If nothing else, it was long overdue (see enclosure).

Be sure to attend the Jackson Geophysical Society golf tournament before you come to the Spring Fling on May 12th. Call Karl Kaufmann at 601-352-3501 for reservations.

Long time member Dick Bowman passed away April 14th and will be missed by his many friends and colleagues. Our sincerest sympathies go out to his family.

Thanks for letting me lead your society this past year. Please express your appreciation to our Secretary, Roger Townsend, our Treasurer, Steve Champlin and Past President, Jack Moody, who will be leaving the Board this year and also our committee members (see title page in the Bulletin).

George B. Vockroth

MGS President 1997-1998

***There will be no
MGS Professional Luncheon this
month. May is the last month in the
Society's program year which runs from
September through May. Traditionally,
MGS opens and closes each program
year with its Fall BBQ in September
and the Spring Fling in May.
We hope to see you there!***

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1997-1998

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| Past President | Jack Moody..... | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5522 |

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| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
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| Term to June 2000 | Jack Moody..... | Mississippi Office of Geology | (601) 961-5522 |
| Term to June 2002 | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5507 |
| Alternate, Term to 2002 | Todd Hines..... | Moon & Hines..... | (601) 944-4700 |
| Vice Chair, DPA State Registration Cmt. | Rick L. Ericksen | Mississippi Office of Geology..... | (601) 961-5507 |

MGS Meeting Schedules :

Officers Meetings

September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd
 January 6th
 February 3rd
 March 3rd
 April 7th
 May 5th

Professional Meetings

September 11th Fall BBQ
 October 14th Remote Sensing — Prelat
 November 11th 3D Lafitte Field — Greene
 December 9th Christmas Party
 January 13th Mancini — Smackover
 February 10th Wendy Burgis - Sequence Strat
 March 10th Travis Gilham - W. Haclckberry Fld.
 April 14th Dudley J. Hughes - CO2 Dilemma
 May 12th Spring Fling — catfish supper

Honorary Members : (* — deceased)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Esther Applin * | Winnie McGlammary * |
| Paul Applin * | Thomas McGlothlin * |
| Lawrence F. Boland * | Frederic F. Mellen * |
| Verne L. Culbertson | Maurice E. Meisse * |
| H. Leroy Francis * | Emil Monsour |
| David C. Harrell * | William H. Moore |
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| Walter P. Jones * | Baxter Smith * |
| Wilbur H. Knight | Henry Toler * |
| Hilton L. Ladner * | Jerry Zoble |

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| | | | | | |
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| 1940-1941 | Urban B. Hughes | 1959-1960 | M. F. Kirby | 1980-1981 | Marshall Kern |
| 1941-1942 | J. Tom McGlothlin | 1960-1961 | Rudy Ewing | 1981-1982 | Stephen Oivanki |
| 1942-1943 | Dave C. Harrell | 1961-1962 | Xavier M. Franscogna | 1982-1983 | James W. "Buddy" Twiner |
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| 1945-1946 | J. B. Story | | Marvin Oxley | 1985-1986 | Steven S. Walkinshaw |
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| | Robert D. Sprague | 1966-1967 | Alan Jackson | 1988-1989 | Stanley King |
| 1948-1949 | Robert D. Sprague | 1967-1968 | Julius M. Ridgway | 1989-1990 | Stan Galicki |
| 1949-1950 | E. T. "Mike" Monsour | 1968-1969 | Edward D. Mihinan | 1990-1991 | Jim Files |
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| | Charles E. Buck | 1970-1971 | John Lancaster | 1992-1993 | Michael Noone |
| 1951-1952 | George W. Field | 1971-1972 | Larry Boland | | Stanley King |
| 1952-1953 | James L. Martin, Jr. | 1972-1973 | Charles Barton | 1993-1994 | Brian Sims |
| 1953-1954 | Wilbur H. Knight | 1973-1974 | Larry Walter | 1994-1995 | C. W. "Neil" Barnes |
| 1954-1955 | A. Ed Blanton | 1974-1975 | W. E. "Gene" Taylor | 1995-1996 | Lester Aultman |
| 1955-1956 | Gilbert A. Talley | 1975-1976 | Jerry E. Zoble | 1996-1997 | Jack S. Moody |
| 1956-1957 | Ben Ploch | 1976-1977 | P. David Cate | | |
| 1957-1958 | Emil Monsour | 1977-1978 | Sarah Childress | | |
| | | 1978-1979 | Lester Aultman | | |

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual
Mississippi Geological Society "Spring Fling"
to be held on Tuesday, May 12th

beginning at 4:30 p.m., meal begins at 6:00 p.m.

(Things wind down around 7:30 or 8:00 p.m.).

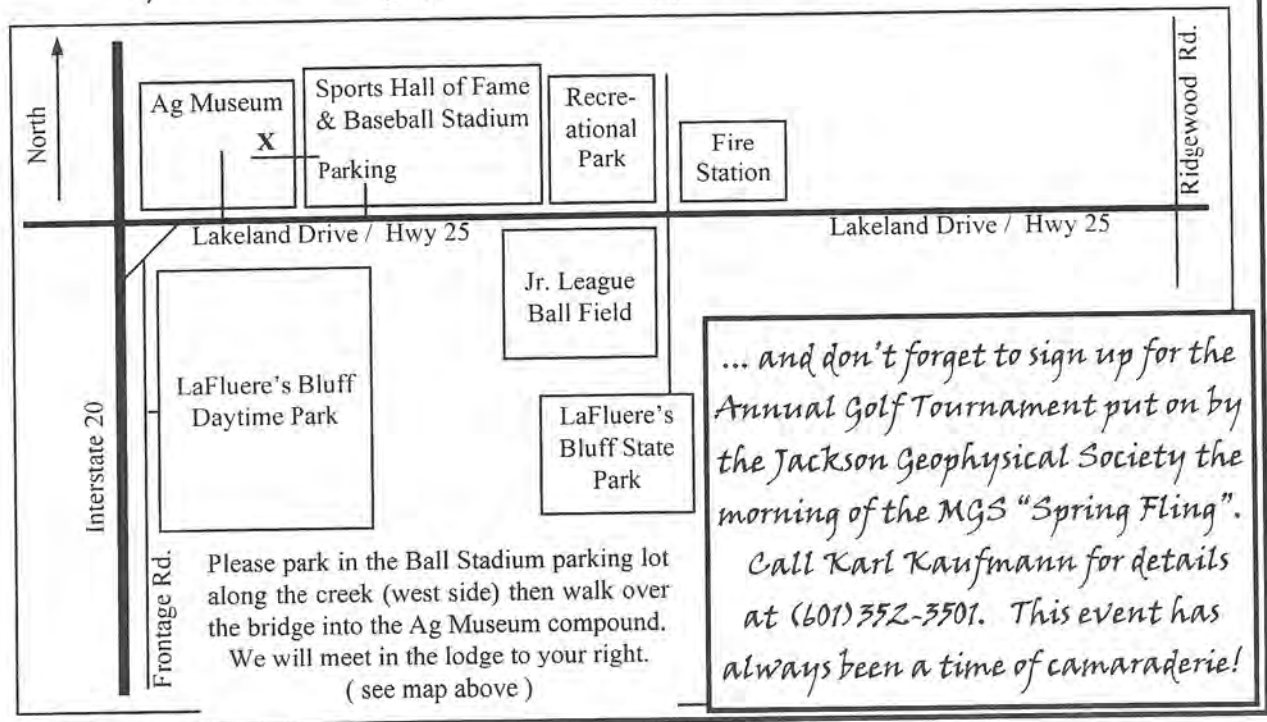
The catfish supper will be held at the Agriculture &
Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive here in Jackson.

Cost is \$15 per person — includes meal and drinks

Please make your reservations by May 1st, if possible, by
calling (601) 961-5500. After May 1 you should contact

George Vockroth at 948-3351 to ensure your setting.

This Social, as always, is open to members and spouse,
so please bring yours along for this special time.



Geology & Industry News Briefs :

Accomplishments of the 1997-1998 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors, guided by the able hand of President George B. Vockroth, has much to be proud of this past business year. Through George's direction, the Board has accomplished several important tasks which will benefit the Society in the years ahead.

- 1 Passage of the Constitution and By-laws revision. Other past Boards (since the late 1980's) have attempted this feat without success. Our Bylaws now reflect how the Society's business has been conducted since the late '80's.
- 2 Development of an officers task guideline. These guidelines will help new officers understand and assume the duties for their respective terms of office.
- 3 Inclusion of the annual membership renewal card in the September Bulletin. As far as I can remember (since the mid 1970's) this is the first time such an invoicing was done in the bulletin. It was a success. In addition, George had the Editor add several new items to the Bulletin to broaden its coverage (such as the Calendar of Activities and the monthly Oil Price Chart).

Of course there were many other accomplishments for which George can be proud of. But rather than go on-and-on, let it suffice to say that the entire Board of Directors are gratified with the leadership and direction which George gave toward the needs of the Society during this past year. We are grateful for his accomplishments and better off for them.

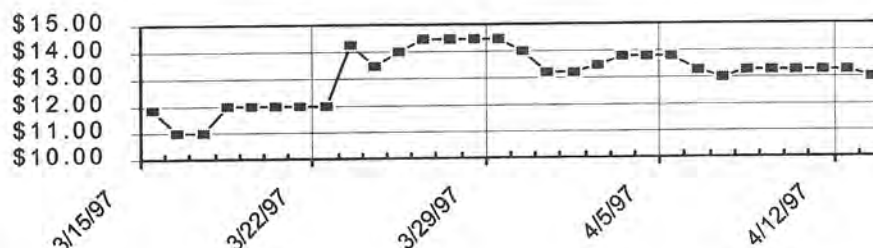
Speaking on behalf of the 1997-1998 Board of Directors,

Rick L. Ericksen
1st Vice President,
(President Elect 1998-1999)

Monthly Oil Price Chart

MGS President George Vockroth has supplied the following daily oil price data to illustrate the degree of daily price fluctuations.

West Texas Intermediate Crude



Editor's Note :

This May Bulletin is your last bulletin for the 1997-1998 MGS business year which runs from June through May. Nine (9) bulletins are published each year, coincident with our program year (September through May). Traditionally, the Society's professional activities take recess during the summer months (June - August). During the recess period, the Board of Directors meet to work on programs and business matters for the next year.

MGS Environmental Section Meeting May 19th

At the time of this writing, the scheduled speaker has not yet been able to confirm his presentation due to unexpected circumstances. The meeting will be convened with or without the scheduled speaker; an alternate presentation will be made in the event that the speaker is not available at this time.

The Environmental Geology Section meets every third Tuesday of every odd month at Southport Mall in the DEQ Commission Hearing Room from 11:45 to 1:00. Contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 for details.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL REGISTRATION APPLICATION PACKAGES

As recently reported the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists has application packages available for those who desire to become an RPG (Registered Professional Geologist) or Geologist-In-Training (GIT). The application packages will be available at all MGS meetings, by requesting the package from the Board at PO Box 22742, Jackson, MS 39225-2742, by calling 601/961-5507, or by the preferred option of downloading the information from the following website:

<http://geology.deq.state.ms.us/geologyreg>

This website currently contains all of the necessary information to apply for registration as a registered Professional Geologist (RPG) or a Geologist-In-Training (GIT), including the necessary, downloadable forms. It also contains information concerning members of the Board and the law which is required to be read by the applicant. The application fee is \$95.00 for a RPG (\$50.00 for a GIT) and if registration is approved the biennial fee is \$130.00 for the RPG and \$100 for a GIT. The grandfathering period terminates in December of 1998.

Rick L. Ericksen, Board President

Charles H. Williams, Jr.
Chairman, Honorary Membership Committee
Mississippi Geological Society

It is my distinct pleasure as Chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee to announce to the Society that Jerry Edwin Zoble has been unanimously approved as an Honorary Member of the Mississippi Geological Society.

Requirements for nomination for this prestigious recognition are that the nominee throughout his/her term of membership in the MGS be a member in good standing and further that he/she through their scientific activity and contributions to the Society and the community as a whole have brought favorable recognition to the Mississippi Geological Society.

Jerry Edwin Zoble

Jerry Edwin Zoble was born in Big Sky Country, at Casper, Wyoming in 1930. The Rocky Mountains were his playground, thus, it was a natural decision that rocks would become his profession. He attended the University of Wyoming majoring in geology and received a Bachelor Of Science in 1953. He spent the next two years in service to his country in the Corp of Engineers, Special Category Army With Air Force in Korea and Japan.

Jerry returned from the service in 1955 and went to work as a petroleum geologist for Stanolind Oil Company - precursor of Amoco. Taking a leave of absence, he re-enrolled at the University of Wyoming and earned a Master of Science in 1957. He rejoined Stanolind - now Pan American - transferred to Jackson in 1962, then to New Orleans in 1965. He signed on with Occidental Petroleum Company in Lafayette, Louisiana in 1967 and returned to Jackson in 1971 with Kilroy Oil Company and later was associated with Southland Royalty and First Energy before becoming an independent in 1978.

Jerry's record as an oil and gas explorer includes impressive successes early in the Warrior Basin, later at Barrytown and North Choctaw Ridge fields in Alabama, Greens Creek, Otho, Oakvale and Holiday Creek in the Mississippi Salt Basin, Moore-Sam Field in Point Coupe, Louisiana and North Tony Creek in the Wilcox.

Jerry has been a member-in-good-standing of the Mississippi Geological Society for 30 years during which he served on numerous committees including several GCAGS committee assignments. He served as President of the Mississippi Geological Society 1975-1976.

One of his most outstanding contributions to the Society was the origination of the Larry Boland Scholarship Committee in 1980. Jerry has diligently served as chairman of this honorable committee for 18 years and expended much time and effort in the selection of candidates and in the awarding of Boland Scholarships to 66 geology students from The University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and Millsaps College during this period.

In addition to his Geological Society participation, Jerry also maintained an active involvement in industry affairs. He served as chairman of the Mississippi/Alabama Division of Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association in 1991-1992 and is a long term member of that organization's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He is also a long standing member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Jerry Edwin Zoble is known by his colleagues as a person of unquestioned honesty and integrity, generous to a fault, personally and professionally totally trustworthy and dependable.

Jerry and his wife, Ruth, have 2 daughters and 1 son, and 4 grandchildren.

**Smithsonian Institution
Research Reports
No. 91, Winter 98**

The debate over the extinction of the dinosaurs has been ongoing for decades. The two major opponents in this debate are the proponents of an asteroid collision and proponents of climatic change. An accumulation of multiple pieces of evidence appears now to favor the asteroid theory. Core samples from ocean floor sediments demonstrate the dramatic change that occurred when an asteroid crashed into the shallow waters off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 65 million years ago.

Scientists believe that the cataclysmic event of the K/T (Cretaceous/Tertiary) impact created a cloud of ash and debris so large that much of the sun's solar radiation was blocked, thereby causing the Earth to become uninhabitable for many creatures. This cataclysmic event created what is referred to as the K/T Boundary, a boundary which is recognized worldwide by earth scientists. This boundary marks the end of the era of the dinosaur and the beginning of the era of the mammals.

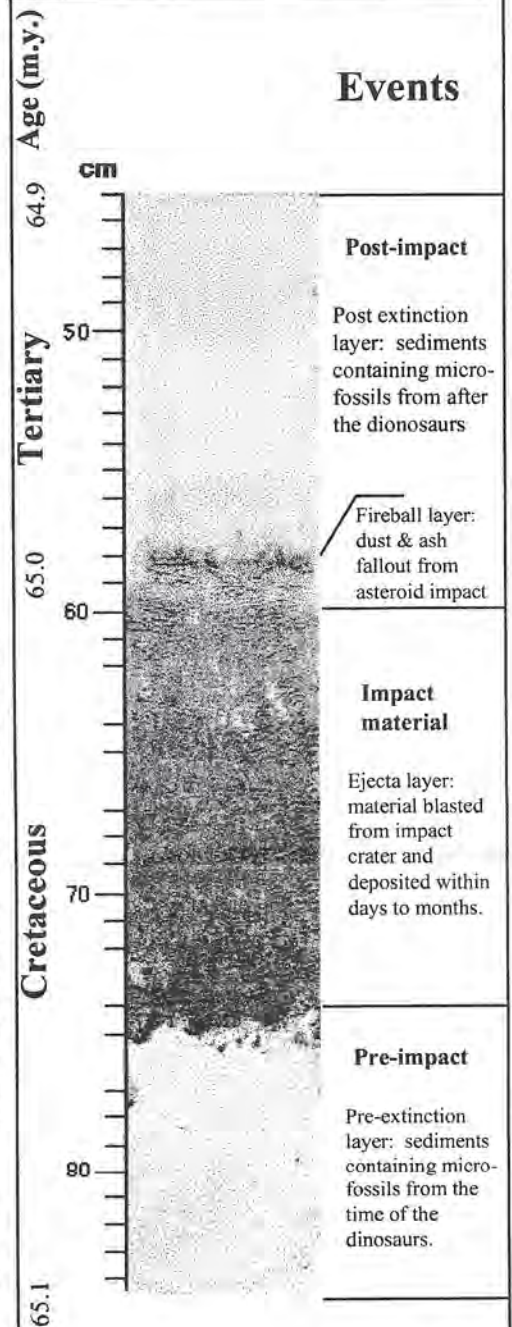
The National Museum of Natural History is showcasing a multimedia exhibit, "Blast From the Past", which includes a 5 foot core sample from 426 feet below the sea floor at a location 350 miles east of northern Florida. Coring activities were conducted by the deep-sea drilling research vessel, the Resolution, which has international funding by the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES). Research scientist Brian Huber, with the Museum's Department of Paleobiology, was involved with the JOIDES drilling activities for this core hole. Huber, a foraminifera specialist, was part of a team assembled to study the core to determine climate and ocean changes occurring between 35 million and 120 million years ago.

The team of scientists involved with this project did not set out specifically to look for evidence of an ancient asteroid collision;

however, there had been a promising drill core near this site about 15 years earlier. At that time the technology was such that retrieval of intact material across the K/T boundary was not possible. The K/T boundary has been studied in other core holes from around the world, but none have proven to be as profound as the samples from this core.

Samples from the core interval at 426 feet, containing the K/T boundary, were striking, showing a dramatic change in color. Huber studied the core while on ship and documented an abrupt change in the microfossils, affirming to him that no explanation other than that a huge environmental crisis had taken place. The change was too abrupt to be easily explained by climatic change, volcanism, or other terrestrial mechanisms. Over the 5 foot interval, the sediments are clearly vertically stratified. From youngest to oldest, the core shows —

- an impoverished layer of material containing very few Cretaceous species, evidence of a period with almost no life. This period, called Strangelove Ocean, is considered to have been dark and eerie, but short-lived, perhaps only about 100 years in duration. The foraminifera that survived were probably those living in ocean sediments, not wholly dependent on photosynthesizing plants as a food source.
- A rust-colored layer containing iridium, evidence related to asteroid/meteorite impact. This layer is interpreted to have formed from the ash cloud which circled the globe after impact. This ash cloud limited the amount of solar radiation reaching the surface of the earth.
- A dark layer of tektites (glassy pebbles) which rained down from the asteroid's ejecta cloud, over a period estimated to have lasted from minutes to days. The tektites were produced by the heat of the asteroid at the moment of impact.
- The K/T Boundary; and
- white Cretaceous chalk with large foraminifera.



The figure above gives age dates and general descriptions of the sediments related to the K/T Boundary. The core was recovered during a JOIDES deep-sea core project located approximately 350 miles east of northern Florida. The contents in this core helped scientists reconstruct the events that followed the Chicxulub meteorite impact, some 65 million years ago, along the northern edge of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

Geology & Industry News Briefs : (News Summaries with Periodical Credits)

Southwest Mississippi Community College - Drilling School, Pike County, Mississippi

The Drilling School at Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) has been in operation since 1983. The two year program graduated its first class in 1985 and has since graduated well over 100 students to date. Currently, Joe Juneau, course instructor, conducts classes with heavy emphasis on practical experience. The school has an 80% student completion rate with an even higher placement rate of 100%. SMCC receives strong support from the drilling community through donations of equipment and materials. Even better, one drilling company in Tennessee has offered an apprenticeship which will lead to employment with the company after graduation. There are only two other drilling schools operating in North America today — one at Sir Sandford Flemming College, Ontario Canada and a new drilling program offered at Trinidad State Junior College, Alamosa, Colorado which began its program this past year.

SMCC began their program by offering a certificate from the state's Department of Vocational Education. SMCC later beefed up its curriculum by adding 15 hours of academic courses leading to a two-year Associate of Science Degree. This program has been approved by the Southern Association of Accreditation.

Upgrading of the program to a two-year degree lead to a more structured approach with more in-depth coverage. In addition, the program has now begun to attract a higher caliber student. Students enrolled in the drilling program spend 30% of their time in the classroom and 70% on the rigs. Classes have been limited to no more than 20 to ensure that students get hands-on experience on the rigs. Safety is a key issue — over the past 14 years there's never been an accident.

SMCC does not advertise beyond the State's borders, yet it has graduated students from Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Montana, Tennessee, and Texas. They've even had interest from outside the country. Graduating students have been placed in jobs in offshore drilling, environmental, and water well contracting. A few have gone into business for themselves.

The two year program is divided into four semesters beginning in mid-August. In addition to the 15 hours of academic subjects such as algebra, English, psychology, speech, and business management, students in the drilling program learn a number of drilling methods for water well and environmental applications, welding, equipment maintenance, pump systems installation, monitoring well construction, and well drilling problems and solutions. An optional course through the Petroleum Extension Service/Univ. of Texas-Austin is available; and training in horizontal drilling has just been added. The objective of the school is to produce graduates equipped with basic skills that will become the kind of employee who won't need to be trained from the git-go. For information call (601) 276-2000.



Please add the following names to your directory :

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MAY 1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

MGS OFFICER-MEETING
D & D LUNCH MEETING
SIPES LUNCH MEETING

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

MAPL EVENING MEETING
MGS SPRING FLING

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

MGS ENVIR SECTION
O&G BD.

OTHER 1998 MEETINGS : Annual Meetings

GCAGS Oct 21-23; AAPG May 17-20; SEG Sep 13-18;
SPE Sept 27-30; AIPG Oct 4-8; AEG Oct.;
SPWLA May 25-28; MIPRO Nov. Mid Cont. Oct

MGS ADVERTISING NOTICE !

The MGS Bulletin advertising year runs from January through December (calendar year). MGS publishes nine bulletins per program year (September through May) with the February Bulletin published as our Directory Issue. Please submit your camera ready ad and payment to :

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Make checkpayable to : **Mississippi Geological Society**

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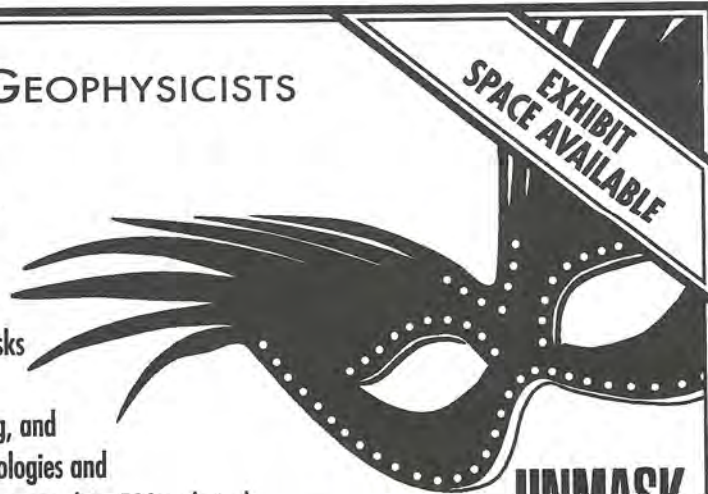
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UNMASK the Depths

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FOR MORE INFO

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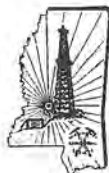
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