

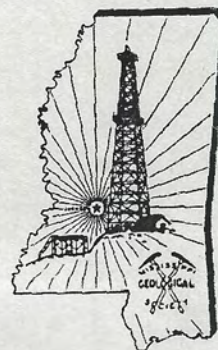
Volume 50

No. 1

September 2001

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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~PRESIDENT'S LETTER~

By Andrew Sylte

I wish to welcome all members of the Mississippi Geological Society to the 2001-2002 season. I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you to our annual socials and monthly meetings. I am excited to see our society rapidly entering the computer age. First there is the start of own web sight.... Please take time to check it out at missgeo.com. It looks great and each month there will be new additions. I would like to thank Steve Walkinshaw for all his hard work in setting this web sight up.

Speaking of thanks...all those who attended the evening at the Natural History Museum I am sure would agree it was an outstanding event. As president of our society I wish to extend warm thanks to Dudley Hughes and his staff for providing us with a fun and memorable night.

I would finally like to mention to all members that we need your e-mail address. We will be sending reminders for meetings and, with a little luck, eventually we would like to send out digital monthly bulletins. It will allow us to really provide much more to our members and save the society re-

production costs.... Yes we are entering exciting times, and I am looking forward to sharing it with each and every one of our members. Until the meeting.... Rock and roll.

Andrew T. Sylte

MGS President 2001-2002

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Announcement for Fall Barbeque

Treasurer's Report, FY 2001

History of the MS Geological Survey, Pt. I

Announcement for GCAGS Convention

Letter to the Editor

MGS Advertising Notice

Editor's Note:

As you can see, the bulletin has changed to a smaller format. We are trying to improve the appearance and content, while reducing the cost of publishing. We hope to have at least one feature article per issue, and we welcome any suggestions or submissions. Thanks for bearing with us, and we hope you enjoy the new style!

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	TBA	TBA
November 13th, 2001	TBA	TBA
December 11th, 2001	TBA	TBA
January 8th, 2001	TBA	TBA
February 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
March 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
April 9th, 2001	TBA	TBA
May 14th, 2001	Spring Fling	TBA

DON'T FORGET !!!!

**Fall Bar-B-Q - Thursday
September 20**

Be There -

or Be Square

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 1, 2001

February 5, 2001

March 5, 2001

April 2, 2001

May 7, 2001

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It's That Time Again —

Fall Bar-B-Q !!

Thursday, September 20

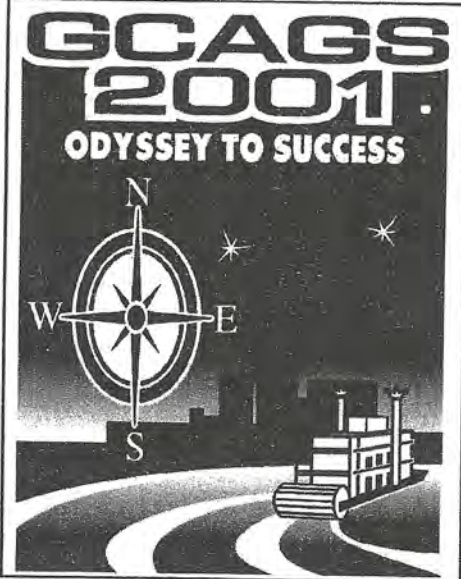
MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum
Masonic Lodge

4:00 PM Core Party Begins

Lawrence Baria, Principle Operator for Jura-Search, Inc., will be on hand to discuss a "Het" core from the Sun Oil No. 1 Western Lumber Company well in Hancock County. This well is located in the Waveland field area and, with the recent activity, this will surely be a very interesting presentation.

6:00 PM Barbecue Dinner — \$10.00 per person

Call John Marble @ 354-6328 to reserve your space



SHREVEPORT, LA

October 17-19, 2001

Preregistration Deadline Sept. 21

Registration Fees:

	<u>Advance</u>	<u>On Site</u>
Professional	\$100	\$125
Spouse/Guest	\$40	\$40
Student	\$10	\$10

In addition, volunteer judges are needed for poster and oral sessions. All that is required is attendance at the Judges Breakfast, observation of the papers or posters in your session, and turning in your scorecards when you are done.

If you are interested, please call Bill Meaney at (318) 227-2000 or e-mail at bmeaney@andersonoilandgas.com for further information.

TREASURER'S REPORT — FISCAL YEAR 2001

EXPENSES			REVENUES		
<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Prev. Year	\$50.08	\$50.08	Memb. Dues	\$2,600.00	\$2,040.00
Luncheons:			Advertising	\$4,500.00	\$4,595.00
Capitol Club	\$2,300.00	\$2238.93	Luncheons	\$1,600.00	\$1,965.00
Name Tags	\$15.00	\$5.00	Fall BBQ	\$500.00	\$550.00
Speaker Plaques	\$400.00	\$184.12	BBQ Sponsors	\$900.00	\$925.00
Speaker Expenses	\$350.00	0	Christmas Party	\$500.00	\$340.00
Printing Supplies	\$150.00	\$171.18	Xmas Sponsors	—	\$650.00
Postage	\$550.00	\$821.75	Spring Fling	\$600.00	\$1,070.00
Ex. Com. Mtg.	\$800.00	\$627.89	Sp. Fl. Sponsors	\$800.00	\$775.00
Fall BBQ	\$1,300.00	\$1,117.64	Ins. Claim (Comp)	—	\$1,892.14
Christmas Party	\$1,100.00	\$1,260.07	Field Trip	—	\$100.00
Spring Fling	\$1,300.00	\$887.27	Total Revenues	\$12,000.00	\$14,902.14
P O Box Rent	\$44.00	\$44.00			
Water Res. Conf.	\$75.00	\$75.00			
Tax Preparation	\$150.00	\$150.00			
Office Rent	\$1356.00	\$565.00			
Computer/Scanner	\$2,200.00	\$2,142.14			
Printer	\$300.00	0			
Office Supplies	\$200.00	0			
Insurance	\$100.00	\$100.00			
Internet Service	\$400.00	\$192.54			
Web Page	\$500.00	0			
Field Trip	—	\$761.38			
Total Expenses	\$13,630.00	\$10,582.53			

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT:

Balance 5/31/00	\$15,239.83
Interest	\$341.92
Balance 4/30/01	\$15,581.75

It only seems fitting that, on the maiden voyage of the new MGS Bulletin, the first feature article be about the pioneers of geology in Mississippi. The following is a reprint from Bulletin 100 of the MS Geological, Economic and Topographical Survey, published in 1963:

HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (1850-1906)

On the organization of the University of Mississippi in 1848 the first faculty consisted of four members, one of whom was a professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. John N. Millington, then filling a chair at William and Mary College, Virginia, was elected to fill this chair. Dr. Millington was an Englishman by birth, a former pupil and associate of Faraday, and at the time of his election was seventy years old.

We know little of the extent of geological teaching at the University at this time, but it must have commanded some attention, for on March 5, 1850, the Legislature of the State passed an act authorizing an Agricultural and Geological Survey of the State, the Survey to be conducted from the University, with Dr. Millington to be Chief Geologist, to which position he was elected in June, 1850.

Dr. Millington's age prevented his taking the field, and an assistant was appointed on July 15, 1851. Oscar M. Lieber, of South Carolina, was appointed to that position, but resigned on January 14, 1852, after having made some reconnaissance trips on horseback over parts of the State, of which no record was left, except a small sketch map of the State, with four geological divisions suggested in broken lines, consisting of: The Alluvium of the Delta, the Tertiary uplands of the central part of the State, the Cretaceous limestone, and the Paleozoic region, with two divisions, Millstone Grit, and Carboniferous Limestone. Mr. Lieber was

later State Geologist of South Carolina, to which department reference may be made for further account of his work.

In January, 1852, Professor B. L. C. Wailes, then of the faculty of Jefferson College, at Washington, Adams County, was appointed Assistant Professor of Geology and Assistant State Geologist, succeeding Lieber. Wailes had come into Mississippi at an earlier day as a surveyor of land for the United States Government, and had located at Washington.

In 1852 the original act creating the Geological Survey was amended so as practically to make the Survey a complete Natural History Survey, and space was allotted in the State Library at Jackson for the care and display of the collections made by the Survey.

Professor Wailes had already made rather extensive collections of rocks and fossils in the southwestern part of the State and had some familiarity with that region, and upon his appointment he set to work assiduously to cover the rest of the State. During 1852 and 1853 he



was much in the field, making examinations of the southern and northeastern parts of the State and collecting from these sections, especially Tertiary shells from the marl beds at Jackson, which were submitted by him to Conrad for identification. Mammalian bones from the loess of the Mississippi River bluffs were submitted to Leidy for description. From the date of this appointment until the completion of his report in 1854, he traveled more than seven thousand miles, and his collections amounted to several thousand specimens. Speaking of his survey, Professor Wailes says: "The discovery of mines of copper, lead, or the precious metals, or even of the true coal fields, was obviously not to be expected. It was therefore mainly in reference to its influence and bearing upon the agricultural prosperity of the State, that it was undertaken." Hence with this idea in view considerable attention was given to the marls and soils. Few analyses, however, were made, owing to the illness and final resignation of Dr. Millington; but some study of the fauna and flora of the State was begun, and lists and notes were made.

In 1853, owing to ill health, Dr. Millington resigned his work at the University, and with it his position as head of the State Geological Survey. The same year John C. Keeney, A. M., was elected to fill the chair of Chemistry, Agriculture, and Geology at the University of Mississippi in place of Dr. Millington, but he does not appear to have had any active connection with the Geological Survey.

In the meantime Professor Wailes had prosecuted the work of the Survey and had prepared his report. Although Dr. Millington was officially the State Geologist, he disclaimed the honor, and requested that the name of Professor Wailes should appear in the report as the chief geologist, saying, "But it has always appeared to me that the person who travels and personally examines the geological and

mineralogical formations of a country, ought to be considered the principal officer.

On the completion of Professor Wailes' "Report on the Agriculture and Geology of Mississippi" in 1854, the State Legislature passed an act authorizing the printing of the Report in an edition of 2,000 copies, 1,000 of which were to be sold by the Secretary of State, the rest to be distributed free, as designated in the act.

This first geological report on Mississippi is worthy of some description, especially since it is now a very rare book. It is a volume of 371 pages, printed on good paper in large type easily read, and was in substantial cloth binding. Seventeen plates, said to have been lithographed from his own drawings, and a frontispiece of an old English map of Mississippi of date 1764, by Emon Bowen, embellish the volume. The last four plates present excellent illustrations of 38 common and characteristic fossil shells of the Jackson formation, determinations of which had been made by Conrad, then at the zenith of his reputation.

The first 116 pages of the Report are taken up with the introduction and a Historical Outline of events in Provincial Mississippi, ending with the transfer of the forts at Natchez and Walnut Hills (Vicksburg), by Governor Gayoso to the American representatives on March 30, 1798.

Nine pages are devoted to Land Titles; seventy-eight pages to Agriculture; eighty-nine pages to Geology; twelve pages to Meteorology; forty-seven pages to the living Fauna and Flora of the State, and fifteen pages of Appendix devoted mostly to copies of Legislative Acts and Messages of the Governor.

The Historical Outline is very interesting and important as an historical document; the agricultural section is of no practical value today, and the geological is important today chiefly

because of the four excellent plates accompanying it. That part devoted to the fauna and flora of the State is too general to be of present value, except for lists of species the determination of which, in some instances, are not certain, because not accompanied by specimens for verification. It should be said of the Wailes Report, however, that it was intended to be mainly preliminary and general, and had Professor Wailes remained in the work later reports would undoubtedly have gone more fully into the study of the geological structure of the State.

Keeney, who had succeeded Dr. Millington, served but one year and was followed in February, 1854, by Lewis Harper, at that time a teacher of Natural Science in an academy at Greenville, Alabama. Professor Wailes' conduct of the Survey had seemed to meet with general approval throughout the State, and naturally he expected to be elevated to the full professorship and official head of the Survey, which up to that time had been an adjunct to the chair of Geology at the State University. When he was passed over he felt that his work was not receiving proper official recognition, and immediately resigned. Unfortunately we have no further records of the life of Professor Wailes.

From February 1854 until September 1855, work of the Geological Survey was suspended, although Professor Harper bore the title of Professor of Geology and Agriculture, and of State Geologist. In order to promote the work of the Survey the board of Trustees of the University relieved Harper of a portion of his duties as instructor, and directed him to take the field personally. A competent assistant was obtained in the person of Dr. Eugene W. Hilgard, then a young man lately returned from Europe, where he had taken his Ph.D. at one of the German Universities.

Dr. Hilgard was well equipped for his work. Arriving at Oxford about the middle of September, he and Harper took the field early in October with a camp outfit, an ambulance and a negro serving as driver and cook. The itinerary took them through the northeastern prairies to their eastern boundaries, thence southward across the successive Tertiary outcrops as far as Leakesville, in southeastern Mississippi. Thence, owing to the lateness of the season, they returned to Oxford by way of Fort Adams, and up the Mississippi River to Memphis.

Professor Harper was a German, from Hamburg, his real name being Ludwig Hafner, which on coming to this Country, he had anglicized. He seems not to have had much training in scientific work, and almost from the beginning of their intercourse he and Dr. Hilgard, a man of splendid scientific attainments, were in frequent disagreement. With the advent of Hilgard on the scene, the field work of the Survey progressed rapidly. At first Harper and Hilgard made joint trips throughout parts of the State, but later worked separately in disconnected areas.

In the Legislative session of 1855-1856 the Governor recommended that the Geological Survey be disconnected from the University, ostensibly in order that better work would be promoted in both institutions; but probably largely because Professor Harper had made himself unpopular with the University administration. During a temporary absence in New York of Dr. F. A. P. Barnard, Chancellor of the University, Harper published an unwarranted attack upon the Chancellor, which drew upon him the Chancellor's rebuke in a scathing arraignment of his official ability and his personal character.

Whatever else may be said of Harper, he seemed at the time to have been not without

political influence, for it was through his efforts that the Legislature, in January 1857, passed an act to provide for the printing of his Geological and Agricultural Report. By the provisions of this act the Geological Survey was made a separate department of state work under the direction of the Governor, with office and laboratory located in Jackson, and (odd incongruity) occupying space in the State Penitentiary! Under this act, the State Geologist was to be named by the Governor, and the appointment was given to Harper. However, his "sentence" was of short duration, for the publication of his Report during 1857 caused such dissatisfaction in the State that he was obliged to resign his office toward the end of the year.

Harper's only report, known as a preliminary report on the Geology and Agriculture of Mississippi, is a volume of 350 pages of print, a geological map of the State, some small county maps, and a number of crude cuts, mostly of geological sections. While this report contains some valuable records of observations, it has also some grave inaccuracies and inconsistencies. These defects may in some measure be accounted for by the "unfavorable circumstances" under which it was prepared; these "circumstances", however, Professor Harper seems to have brought upon himself. His hostility to the University administration had caused the complete severance of his connection with the University, and his report was prepared while he was in retirement at the little village of College Hill, about five miles north of the University, separated, as he states, "not only from the geological and paleontological specimens, but also from any library." Dr. Hilgard spoke later of the Report as being "a literary, linguistic, and scientific curiosity." The subsequent history of Lewis Harper is not known.

. . . . To be continued

Bumper Snickers:

"Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math."

"If at first you **do** succeed, try not to look astonished."

"My child is on the honor roll at the state correctional facility."

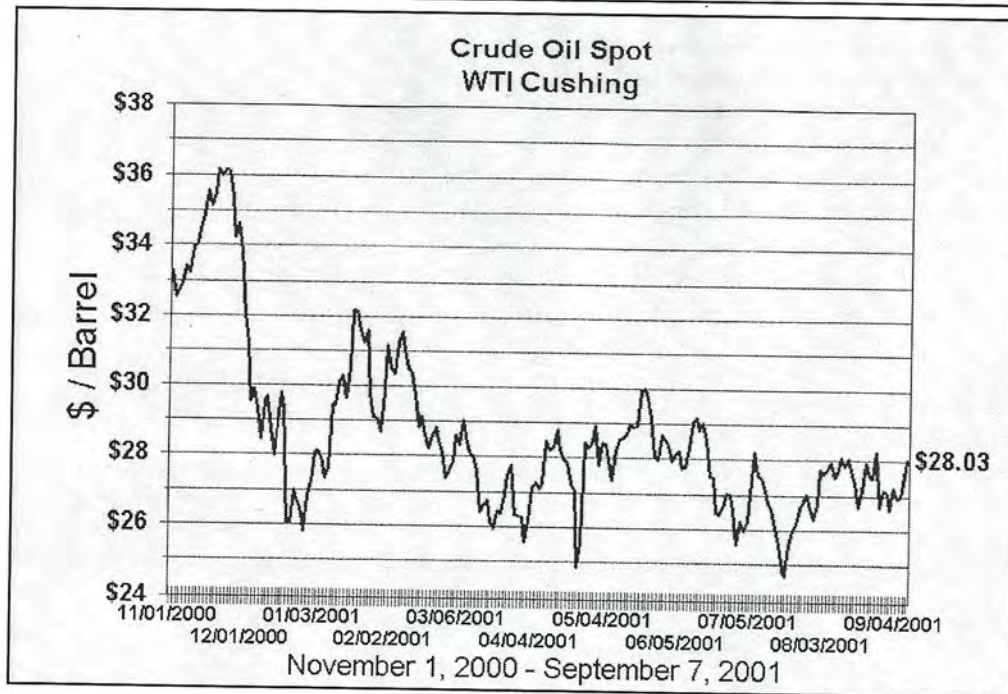
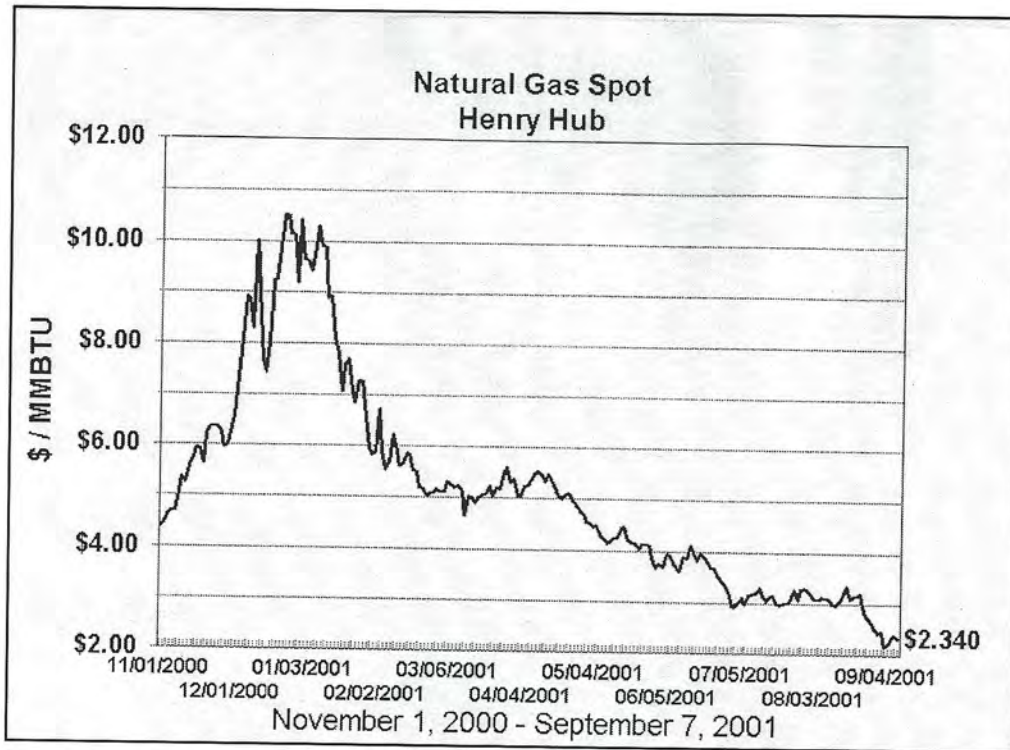
"Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow."

"Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear."



Old library building at the University of Mississippi, home of Miss. Geological Survey from July 1924 (10th Biennial Report) until May 1963 (29th Biennial Report). This building was inadequate and antiquated for its best service prior to 1951.

Richard J. Hughes, Jr., photo.



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Albert Einstein

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Henry Ford

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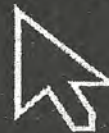
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There are 85 million in school, which leaves 48 million to do the work.

Of this, there are 29 million employed by the federal government, leaving 19 million to do the work.

There are 2.8 million in the Armed Forces, which leaves 16.2 million to do the work.

Take from this the 14,800,000 people who work for state and city governments, and that leaves 1.4 million to do the work.

At any given time there are 188,000 people in hospitals, leaving 1,212,000 to do the work.

Now, there are 1,211,998 people in prisons.

That leaves just two people to do the work - you and me.

And *you* are sitting there reading jokes. It all becomes clear.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Help Needed –

Many of you remember the book "Oil in the Deep South," by Dudley Hughes, which tells the story of oil and gas exploration in MS/AL/FL from 1859 until the end of WWII. I am picking up where Dudley ended and bringing the story to modern times. The tentative title is: Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South. You can help by sharing your memories with me. You don't have to be a direct player in things that have happened, just a reliable observer. But if you were directly responsible for a discovery, or shared in one, let me know.

I'm especially interested in knowing the evolution of discoveries in the MS/AL/FL region, to include the original geological concept (including maps), the deal-making that got it together, the funding effort, and the engineering challenges in drilling it. I also need stories on important failures that might have led to a better understanding of exploration in the region. Additionally, I would appreciate any observations or information on the history of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board and its personnel. (I have plenty of information on the Alabama OGB.)

I also would like any interesting anecdotes about people, plays, discoveries, land deals, or anything that will add color and perspective. Due credit will be given. I can make good use of copies of oil and gas related magazine and newspaper articles, and I especially need photographs of discovery wells and people. Don't hold back because you think your contribution might be trivial. Standing alone, it might be, but if I can link it to a bigger story it could add a great deal of color. Specify whether you care to be quoted or not.

Many thanks to those of you who have already shared your memories, knowledge, and experiences with me.

Alan Cockrell
121 Featherstone Lane
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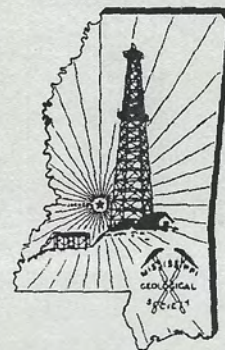
Volume 50

No. 2

October 2001

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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~PRESIDENT'S LETTER~

By Andrew Sylte

In light of the terrible attacks on September 11th, I am sure all our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy go out to those who have lost more than the mind can comprehend, more than the heart can bear, more than the soul should take. In the shadow of evil, dust, and ash, acts of courage, compassion, caring, strength, and determination shine like beacons in the darkness. Offering rays of faith in man and hope for mankind.

In an instance of time, life has changed for so many. Lives have touched so many and so many come together. While it is time to feel the loss for others and ourselves, it is these feelings of unity, sharing, and caring I hope continue growing from the ashes, nurtured by the sacrifice of others, watered by the tears of a nation and the world.

Andrew T. Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
PTTC Workshop Announcement
Status of Geologic Registration
Letter to the Editor
History of the MS Geological Survey, Pt. 2
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Advertising Notice

Fall Barbecue – A great success
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MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	TBA	TBA
December 7th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2001	TBA	TBA
February 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
March 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
April 9th, 2001	TBA	TBA
May 14th, 2001	Spring Fling	TBA

October luncheon talk:

**“Exploration Technologies In
Use On the Pinedale Anticline,
Jonah Field, Green River Basin,
Wyoming”**

by Robert Gaston

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 1, 2001

February 5, 2001

March 5, 2001

April 2, 2001

May 7, 2001

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PTTC Technology Workshop

“Open Hole Log Interpretation”

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The Eastern Gulf Region of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council and Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists invite oil and gas producing and related companies operating in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to participate in this technology workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to transfer recent research findings in open hole logging technologies. This workshop is in cooperation with Schlumberger and will be conducted by Todd Sutton and Joe Rossmiller of Schlumberger.

Those wishing to attend should reply no later than November 19. Please contact:

Ernest A. Mancini
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Alabama, Box 870338
Tuscaloosa, Al 35487-0338
Telephone (205) 348-4319
E-mail emancini@wgs.geo.us.edu

You may register on-line at <http://egrpttc.geo.us.edu>

There is a \$25.00 registration fee to attend this workshop (payable by check only the day of the meeting). Please make your check payable to: Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. We look forward to your participation.

The Current Status of Registration and Licensing of Geologists

by Rick L. Ericksen, Chairman
State Registration and Licensing Committee
Division of Professional Affairs/AAPG

There are currently 27 states and 1 territory with geologic registration-licensure requirements (practice regulation), 3 states which have title regulation, 4 states which have statutory definition, and 9 states which have some form of certification (these include some states with registration, statutory definition, or title regulation).

States with Registration-Licensure

<u>State</u>	<u>Year</u>
1) Alabama	1995
2) Arizona	1956
3) Arkansas	1988
4) California	1968
5) North Carolina	1983
6) South Carolina	1986
7) Delaware	1972
8) Florida	1988
9) Georgia	1975
10) Idaho	1971
11) Illinois	1995
12) Indiana	1998
13) Kansas	1997
14) Kentucky	1992
15) Maine	1973
16) Minnesota	1995
17) Mississippi	1997
18) Missouri	1994
19) Nebraska	1998
20) New Hampshire	2000
21) Oregon	1977
22) Pennsylvania	1993
23) Texas	2001 (Grandfathering starts 2002)
24) Virginia (voluntary)	1980
25) Washington	2000 (Grandfathering starts 7/01/01)
26) Wisconsin	1994
27) Wyoming	1997
28) Puerto Rico	1997

States with Statutory Definition

<u>State</u>	<u>Year</u>
1) Colorado	1973
2) Michigan	1988
3) Nevada	1997
4) Oklahoma	1993

States with Title Regulation

1) Alaska	1980
2) Tennessee	1988
3) Virginia	1981

States with Certification Requirements

- 1) Alaska
- 2) Connecticut
- 3) Iowa
- 4) Massachusetts
- 5) Missouri
- 6) Nevada
- 7) New Jersey
- 8) Texas

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Help Needed –

Many of you remember the book “Oil in the Deep South,” by Dudley Hughes, which tells the story of oil and gas exploration in MS/AL/FL from 1859 until the end of WWII. I am picking up where Dudley ended and bringing the story to modern times. The tentative title is: Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South. You can help by sharing your memories with me. You don’t have to be a direct player in things that have happened, just a reliable observer. But if you were directly responsible for a discovery, or shared in one, let me know.

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Many thanks to those of you who have already shared your memories, knowledge, and experiences with me.

Alan Cockrell
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HISTORY OF THE
MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
(1850-1906)

Part 2

Eugene Woldemar Hilgard was born in Zweibrücken, Bavaria, on January 5, 1833. His parents were Theodore Erasmus and Margarette Hilgard, his father being a lawyer, holding the position of Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of the province. In 1836, for political reasons, the Hilgards came to America and settled near Belleville, Illinois. After study in this country, Eugene returned to Germany in 1849 and entered the University of Heidelberg, later changing to the University of Zurich, and then to the Royal Mining School at Freiberg, Saxony. He later returned to Heidelberg, where in 1853 he received the degree of Ph.D. *summus cum laude*, at the early age of twenty.

In 1855 Dr. Hilgard returned to Washington and fitted up a chemical laboratory in the Smithsonian Institution, serving as chemist of the Institution. There he was engaged when he met Dr. F. A. P. Barnard, who was then Professor of Physics at the University of Mississippi, and who had been commissioned while on a trip north to secure the services of a competent assistant geologist for the Geological Survey. Dr. Barnard tendered him the position, and it was accepted, Dr. Hilgard entering upon his duties as Assistant Geologist with energy and enthusiasm, making extended trips throughout the State in different directions. Much valuable and very accurate field work was done by Dr. Hilgard during the period of two years in which he was Assistant Geologist on the Harper Survey, and much of the most accurate data contained in Harper's Report was taken directly from Hilgard's field notes.

As stated above, in 1957 Harper resigned, and for a short time the work of the Survey was

suspended, Dr. Hilgard meantime returning to the Smithsonian Institution. But his work on the Survey was recognized as being so able and satisfactory that on the revival of the Survey early in 1858 he was called back to take charge of it as State Geologist. One of the first of his official acts was to remove the Survey from the penitentiary, in Jackson, back to the State University.

In April 1858, Hilgard again took the field with his usual outfit—an ambulance with two mules and a Negro driver—and studied carefully the Cretaceous and Tertiary outcrops, including a detailed examination of the Jackson and Vicksburg fossiliferous horizons. During 1859 he traversed with greater detail and care the counties of east Mississippi from Columbus to Pascagoula, thence along the coast to Pearl River, and up the Pearl to Columbia, thence west to the Mississippi Bluffs and north along the east border of the loess region northward to Vicksburg and Jackson.

The results of Hilgard's work were embodied in a "Report on the Geology and Agriculture of Mississippi", which was submitted to the Legislature when it convened in December 1859. Although this report was not yet completed, a special committee of the Legislature approved it, and the Legislature appropriated a fund of \$3,500 for the printing of the report in an edition of 5,000 copies. This sum was inadequate, and in order to get the report published Dr. Hilgard proposed to pay personally \$250, and the public printer \$250, in order to bring the amount within the \$4,000 bid of the public printer. The report was then completed as rapidly as possible, was submitted to the state printer and put through the press under the supervision of Professor W. D. Moore, of the University, while the author hurried to Spain to wed Miss J. Alexandrina Bello, a daughter of Colonel Bello, of the Spanish army at Madrid. This lady he had met and wooed while visiting

Spain to regain his health in 1853. On his return from Europe in November 1860 with his bride, he found his report in print. While the report was printed in Jackson, Mississippi, the whole edition was sent to St. Louis for binding; and there it remained until after the end of the Civil War, which broke out immediately after the report was shipped north, and it was not until 1865 that measures were taken for its recovery.

During the distressing interval between 1861 and 1865, the support of the Geological Survey was not entirely withdrawn. It is a splendid tribute to the work of Dr. Hilgard that at the called session of the Legislature in August 1861, instead of ignoring this work, as would have been natural under the terrible stress of the hour, an act was passed suspending the appropriation for the support of the Geological Survey "until the close of the war, and for twelve months thereafter; except the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars per annum, which shall be applied to the payment of the salary of the State Geologist, and the purchase of such chemicals as may be necessary to carry on the analysis of soils, minerals, and mineral waters, and to enable him to preserve the apparatus, analyses, and other property of the State connected with said survey."

Dr. Hilgard remained at the University, which had been suspended during the War, and he, with Dr. A. J. Quinche, also of the University faculty, was instrumental in saving the University buildings from being destroyed when General Grant's army entered Oxford in 1862. "General A. J. Smith, in command of the van of Grant's army, at first intended to burn the buildings, because they had, as he said, been used for 'war purposes.' This purpose was abandoned, however, upon the personal suggestion of Dr. Hilgard, 'that occupation as a hospital was hardly a war measure, and that possibly the United States army might have a

similar use for the buildings in the near future', assuring him that all sick and wounded of both armies would receive impartial attention, which stipulation was strictly adhered to, the University buildings having been used alternately as a hospital by both Confederate and Union forces as one or the other occupied the territory around Oxford."

The Confederate authorities appointed Dr. Hilgard as an agent of the "Nitro Bureau", the purpose of which was to locate nitre deposits within the Confederate States which could be made available for the manufacture of explosives. At the siege of Vicksburg he was ordered to erect calcium lights on the bluffs above the City for the illumination of Federal gunboats when attempting to run the gauntlet of the Confederate batteries. The difficulty of securing the necessary material delayed the completion of the arrangements to prevent the expected illumination when the fleet finally passed and the Federal forces reached the City.



After the close of the war the work of the Geological Survey was resumed in 1866. Dr. George Little, Professor of Natural Sciences at Oakland College near Rodney, Mississippi, was appointed in July 1866, as assistant geologist to Hilgard. "In view of the difficulties and insecurity besetting the office of State Geologist under the regime then existing" in the State, Dr. Hilgard, in October 1866, resigned from the State Geological Survey and accepted permanently the chair of Chemistry at the University; Dr. Little, upon Hilgard's recommendation, being appointed State Geologist. Little was an Alabamian by birth and had only recently returned from Europe, where he had taken the degree of Ph.D. from Gottingen University. Dr. Eugene A. Smith, also an Alabamian, and also recently from Europe, with a Ph.D. degree from Heidelberg University, was appointed Assistant Geologist in December 1866, which position he held until 1871, when he resigned to accept a position at the University of Alabama. During his connection with the Mississippi Survey he made numerous traverses of the State, taking valuable notes, but unfortunately none of these were published. His later work is fully embodied in the Reports of the Alabama Geological Survey. The Mississippi Geological Survey under Little issued no publications, owing chiefly to lack of sufficient funds. Dr. Little, in October 1870, accepted the professorship of Geology and Natural History in the University.

With the organization of a School of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at the University in 1871, Dr. Hilgard was elected to the chair of Economic and Agricultural Chemistry and Special Geology and Agriculture, the position carrying with it the office of State Geologist, Dr. Little holding the professorship of General Geology and Natural History. Mr. R. H. Loughridge, of Texas, succeeded Dr. Smith as Assistant Geologist on the Survey, and prosecuted

the work of analyzing marls and soils preparatory to the issuing of a second report, which Hilgard had in contemplation when he resigned in 1872 to accept a position at the University of Michigan as Professor of Geology and Natural History. Publication of the results of this later period of the Survey work was not provided for, and they were never published, except such parts as related to the soils of the State which were issued by Hilgard in the Tenth Census Report.

The Hilgard collection of soils, marls, rocks, fossils, etc., were left at the State University, where it still remains.

Hilgard's administration of the State Geological Survey marks its most brilliant period of geological investigation. In spite of previous surveys, the State was practically still virgin territory for the geologist. Hilgard rose to the occasion, and his Report and his interpretations of the stratigraphy of the State stand practically intact today as to its main outlines. The accuracy of his observations and the correctness of his interpretations have in nearly all instances stood the test of later study made under more favorable conditions than existed in his day.

Dr. Hilgard was a man of broad culture and scientific training, and his investigations covered not only the stratigraphy of the state, but also a careful and detailed study of the agriculture, soils, forests, and native flora, especially in their relation to the soils. Large collections of rocks, soils, minerals and fossils were made and displayed in the University Museum.

In 1875 Dr. Hilgard went to the University of California, as Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, which he founded in 1875. All the rest of his life was spent in this work. He died in Berkeley, California on January 8, 1916, three days after his eighty-third birthday.

Dr. Little became State Geologist of Georgia in 1874, but later returned to the University of Mississippi, where he held the chair of Natural History and Geology from 1882 to 1889. His later years were spent at the University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa, where he died in February 1925, at the age of 84.

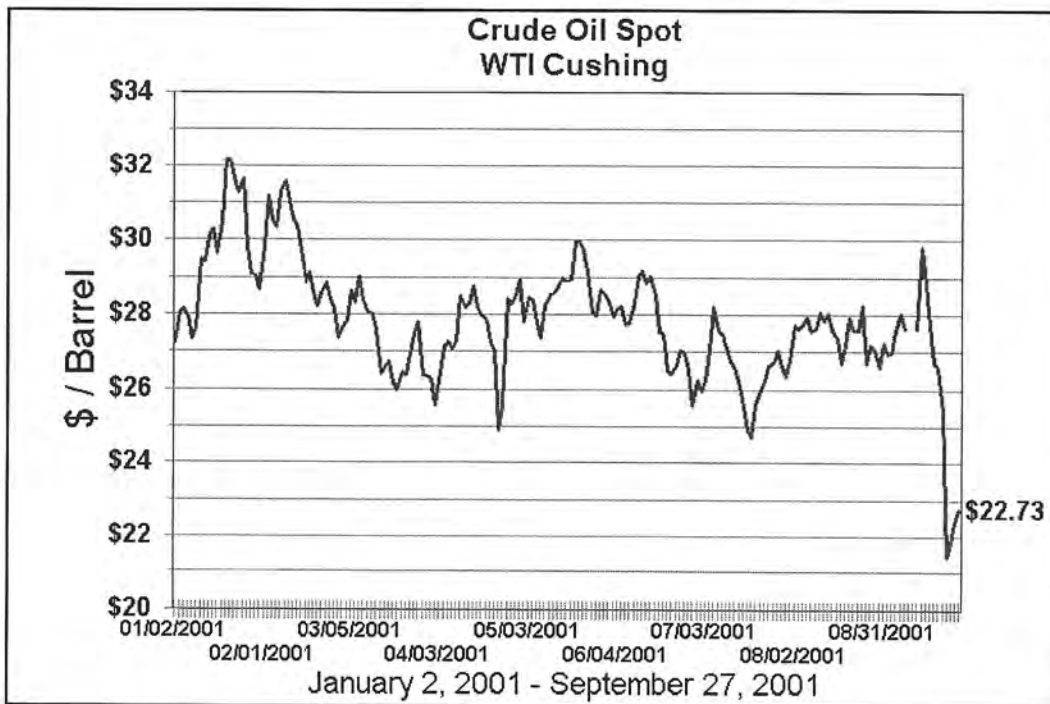
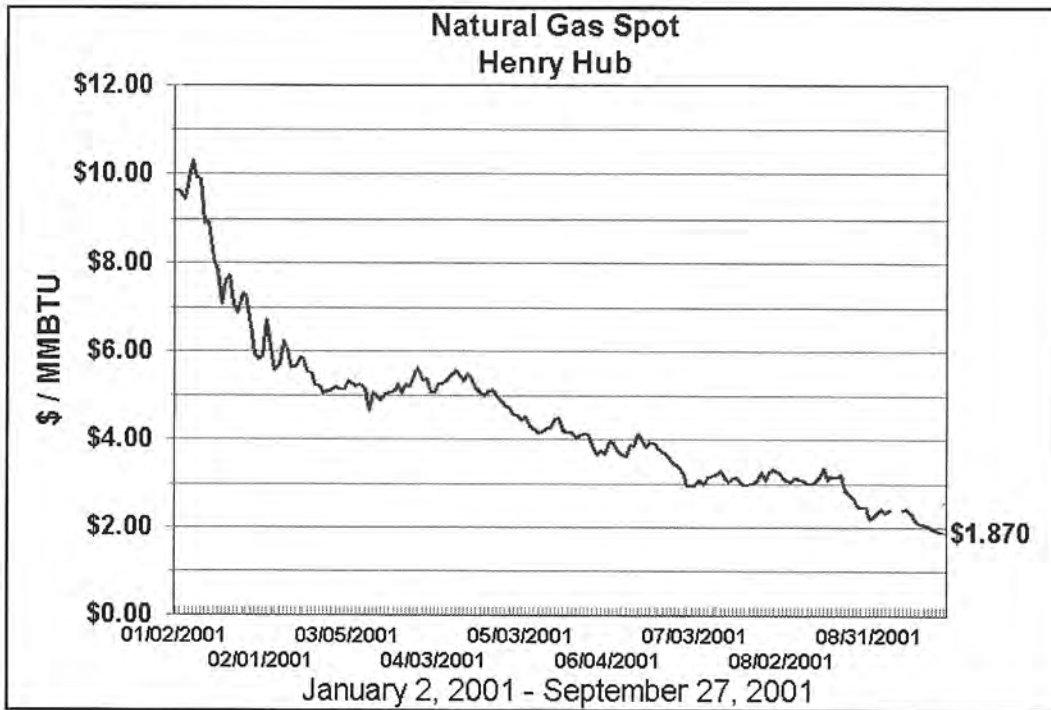
Robert Hills Loughridge, who had held the position of Assistant Geologist on the Georgia Geological Survey under Dr. Little, was appointed to the assistantship on the Mississippi Geological Survey when Dr. Smith resigned in 1871. He was the son of President Robert McGill Loughridge and Olivia D. Hills, and was born October 9, 1843, at the Kewetate Mission, Creek Nation, Indian Territory, of which his father had charge. His early education was received at the Mission Station under the careful direction of his parents. He was a soldier in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and was seriously wounded at the Battle of Shiloh. After the war he removed to Texas, where he attended school at La Grange for one year. In 1868 he entered the University of Mississippi, which at that time was under the administration of Dr. John N. Waddell, his former preceptor at La Grange College. In 1871 he received the degree of B.S. from the University, and after graduation was appointed Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, which position he held until 1874, having in the meantime enrolled for the graduate degree of Ph.D. This was conferred upon him in 1877 while engaged in the work of the Georgia Survey under Dr. Little.

During his connection with the University of Mississippi a strong friendship sprang up between Loughridge and Hilgard, which lasted throughout their lives. When Dr. Hilgard resumed charge of the Mississippi Geological Survey in 1871, and after the resignation of Dr. Eugene A. Smith to take the professorship of Geology at the University of Alabama, Hilgard

secured the appointment of young Loughridge to the place of assistant on the Survey, where he remained until 1874, when he was called to the Georgia Survey during Dr. Little's administration, from which place, at the invitation of Dr. Hilgard in 1878, he went to California to assist in the preparation of the Tenth Census Report, on Cotton Production of the State of Mississippi.

From 1872 until 1906 the State was without a Geological Survey, although various investigators, both local and from the United States Geological Survey, from time to time published papers on different phases of the State's geology. The earlier ones by the United States Geological Survey were mostly reports of fossils collected at the different horizons. T. O. Mabry, of the State University, wrote an extended article on "The Brown Loam" (1903), and W. N. Logan, of Agricultural and Mechanical College, wrote a bulletin on "The Geology of Oktibbeha County" (1904), and in collaboration with W. R. Perkins, issued a bulletin on "The Underground Waters of Mississippi" (1905). A fuller report, "Summary of the Underground Water Resources of Mississippi", by A. F. Crider and L. C. Johnson, was issued the next year (1906), by the United States Geological Survey.

In 1903, Colonel R. H. Henry, the World's Fair Commissioner for Mississippi, effected a cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, by which, in order to give adequate representation to the State's mineral resources at the Chicago World's Fair, a geologist was sent into the State to study its geology. A. F. Crider was assigned to the work, and in 1906 his "Geology and Mineral Resources of Mississippi" was issued as United States Geological Survey Bulletin No. 283.



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Joe Theisman

"We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people."

Colonel Gerald Wellman, ROTC Instructor

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."

Keppel Enderbery

"Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances."

Department of Social Services, Greenville, SC

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on."

Samuel Goldwyn

"I stand by all the misstatements that I've made."

Dan Quayle

The Mason's Trade

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block 3 of the Accident Reporting Form. I indicated "Poor Planning" as the cause of my accident. Your letter said I should explain more fully, and I trust the following details will be satisfactory. I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had approximately 500 lbs. of bricks left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley attached to the side of the building at the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the bricks into it. I proceeded back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow rate of descent of the 500 lbs. of bricks. You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Reporting Form that my weight is 135 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being lifted off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor I met the barrel, which was proceeding in a downward direction at an equally impressive speed. This explains the fractured bones as listed in Section III of the Accident Reporting Form. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley, also mentioned in Section III, Paragraph 2, of the same form.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of the excruciating pain I was now experiencing.

At about the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out. Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs.

As you might well imagine, I began a rapid rate of descent down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, a broken tooth, and severe lacerations of my legs and lower body.

Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks, and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report that, as I lay there on the pile of bricks in pain, unable to move and seeing the barrel six stories above me, I again lost my composure and presence of mind, and let go of the rope.

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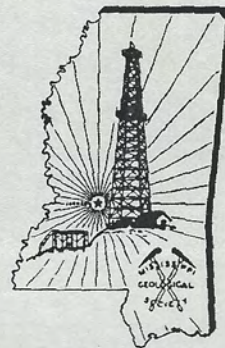
Volume 50

No. 3

November 2001

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~PRESIDENT'S LETTER~

By Andrew Sylte

I heard through the grapevine that the GCGS convention in Shreveport was a hit this year, with great talks and a terrific turnout. It gives me hope for the future for both the GCGS and the MGS.

Speaking of the future . . . we are entering the early planning stages for presenting a symposium in the spring. We want to coordinate with the Spring Fling and the Geophysical Golf Tournament. The theme of the symposium is "Active Plays in Mississippi – Case Studies". If you have any suggestions please feel free to speak up or e-mail me. We will be looking for help on this one guys, the timing is such there could be a pretty good turnout. So if you are approached for assistance, data, or sponsorship, remember charity begins in the Society.

I want to remind everyone again to please send us your e-mail address; it will help out on sending reminders on MGS activities.

Karl Kaufman is handling nominations for the election of AAPG delegates, so prepare to vote.

I am also informed that Jerry Zoble and crew are hard at work searching for the Boland Scholarship recipients. Way to go guys.

Don't forget to come to the monthly meeting on November 13th; it is always great to bring in a good crowd.

Last but not least, I wish to remind everyone to check out our web site at missgeo.com. It does change monthly.

And like that great Orogeny used to say . . . until we see each other, let's shake, rattle, and roll.

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
PTTC Workshop Announcement
Petroleum Profile - W. M. "Bill" Vaughey
The Hartselle Sandstone in Mississippi
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Advertising Notice

***MGS Professional Luncheon
November 13th — 11:30 AM
Capitol Club***

Speaker: Pat Laswell

***Topic: Laboratory Electrical
Properties Testing of
Core Samples and Its
Application to Reservoir
Analysis***

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 7th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2001	TBA	TBA
February 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
March 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
April 9th, 2001	TBA	TBA
May 14th, 2001	Spring Fling	TBA

Speaker Biography:

Pat Lasswell graduated from the University of California at San Diego in 1974, with a B.A. in biology. He worked for OXY Research, and then for Petroleum Testing Services as Special Core Analysis Manager. His specialty was in electrical properties and capillary pressure measurement in core samples. For the past year and a half Pat has worked as Electrical Properties/Capillary Pressure Manager at OMNI.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 1, 2001

February 5, 2001

March 5, 2001

April 2, 2001

May 7, 2001

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Those wishing to attend should reply no later than November 19. Please contact:

Ernest A. Mancini
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Alabama, Box 870338
Tuscaloosa, Al 35487-0338
Telephone (205) 348-4319
E-mail emancini@wgs.geo.us.edu

You may register on-line at <http://egrpttc.geo.us.edu>

There is a \$25.00 registration fee to attend this workshop (payable by check only the day of the meeting). Please make your check payable to: Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. We look forward to your participation.

Petroleum Profile

W. M. "Bill" Vaughey

(Reprinted from *The Petroleum Engineer*,
Volume 21, No. 10, Sept., 1949)

Ask any Mississippi oil man to name the state's outstanding independent producer and 10 to 1 he'll say it's Bill Vaughey of Jackson.

The triple-threat combination of a magnetic personality, keen judgment, and real business ability has made W. M. (Bill) Vaughey a leading figure in Mississippi's lusty young oil and gas industry.

Soon after Vaughey was born in Marseilles, Illinois, on September 16, 1904, his parents moved to Tulsa in what was then Indian Territory. There his father, E. A. Vaughey, became an independent operator and producer and young Bill got his first taste of the excitement of the oil business.

However, in a few years the senior Vaughey took his family to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Bill grew up, attending the public schools and for a short while New Mexico University.

After a brief whirl at the securities business in Los Angeles, Vaughey went back to Tulsa in 1925 to take a job in the map room with the newly organized Philmack Company, which had been set up by Waite Phillips, R. Otis McClintock, and Gillette Hill. Through a series of mergers this eventually became the Independent Oil and Gas Company and Vaughey graduated to scout and land man.

When the Independent Oil and Gas Company merged with Phillips Petroleum Company, Vaughey accepted a position with a subsidiary of Electric Bond and Share Company to acquire gas properties in Pennsylvania.

With that assignment finished he returned home to the Southwest to organize W. M. Vaughey, Inc., and drilled a series of wells in Southeast Texas in the Luling area. In 1939 he sold this company and its production and moved to Houston to form a partnership with his brother, Emmett A. Vaughey.



W. M. "Bill" Vaughey

Vaughey and Vaughey were operating in the Texas Gulf Coast area when the oil play moved to Mississippi and Bill arrived on the scene the day following the drillstem test of the state's discovery well in Yazoo County.

Quick to sense the possibilities of oil and gas production in the Magnolia State, Bill Vaughey stayed on and in 1942 Emmett Vaughey closed their Houston office and with the firm's junior partner, W. T. Blackburn, moved to Mississippi.

Vaughey and Vaughey now have production in six Mississippi fields and in the Delhi field in Louisiana.

Bill Vaughey soon became a recognized spokesman for the oil and gas industry in Mississippi. Realizing the need for a modern conservation law, he traveled all over the state to appear before civic clubs and meetings with Mississippi legislators and members of the press to urge its enactment.

He has served several terms as vice president and president of the Mississippi-Alabama division of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association. He is a member of the API and is also serving as a director of IPAA.

Vaughey has taken an active part in civic and social affairs of Jackson. He is a director of a large Jackson bank and a member of the Advisory Committee of St. Dominics Hospital. He has served three terms as a director of the Jackson Community Chest and has been a vice president and member of the Board of Governors of the Jackson Country Club. He is also a colonel on the military staff of Governor Fielding L. Wright.

In 1932 Vaughey married Genevieve Cowman of Oklahoma City and they have four children: Bill, Jr., 12 years old, John Cowman, 10, Sandra, 6, and Patricia, 4.

As for sports, Vaughey's favorite is deep sea fishing, and when the pressure of business gets too great you'll find him with his family or friends taking off for Tampico or Guaymas, Mexico, in his five-passenger Beechcraft.

He's as successful a fisherman as he is an oil man, for decorating the walls of the Jackson Petroleum Club is a large sailfish, tangible evidence of his prowess with rod and reel.

"I've just been lucky all around," he grins, and if you didn't know better you might believe him!



THE HARTSELLE SANDSTONE IN MISSISSIPPI

By David T. Dockery

(from *The Geology of Mississippi* in progress)

The Hartselle Sandstone was named by E. A. Smith (1894) for exposures at Hartselle in Morgan County, Alabama. This formation ranges from 0 to 200 feet thick in northwestern Alabama. In Mississippi, W. C. Morse (1930) named this sandstone the Highland Church Sandstone Member of the Forest Grove Formation. Morse's names are no longer in use. Hartselle Sandstone exposures in Mississippi contain molds and casts of marine invertebrates, spectacular sinuous trails of the trace fossil *Uchirites implexus* Rindsberg, 1994, on bedding plains, and imprints and casts of the giant scale tree *Lepidodendron*. Interpretations for the Hartselle's depositional environment differ. Thomas (1974) and Thomas and Mack (1980) attributed the Hartselle Sandstone to deposition in a barrier island complex, while Broussard and Cleaves (1980) interpreted the Hartselle as a high destructional delta front deposit.

Gresham Quarry locality: The Hartselle Sandstone was quarried for many years in Mississippi as a building stone. It makes attractive dimension stones, which are usually light brown, but also contains various pastel colors. This stone can be seen in many of the older buildings around the town of Tishomingo and in those at Tishomingo State Park. Commercial quarrying of the Hartselle ended in Mississippi around 1982 with the death of perhaps the State's only cutter of local stone, Earl Gresham.

The Gresham Quarry is still one of the freshest outcrops of Hartselle Sandstone in Mississippi. A bedding plane, which forms the quarry's flat floor, follows the surface of the ancient sea floor and contains the sinuous feeding trails of ancient invertebrates. Also present in the quarry is a large block of sandstone containing the fossilized trunk of the scale tree, *Lepidodendron*. This fossil tree was photographed in 1966 by Ed Blake of the Farm Bureau, who wrote about Gresham and his

quarry in an article entitled "The Last of His Breed?" (Clarke County Tribune, Quitman, Mississippi, July 21, 1983). The fossil tree was also illustrated in the Tishomingo County geology bulletin by Merrill et al. (1988, p. 69).

Bear Creek locality: The Hartselle Sandstone often overhangs the softer shales of the Pride Mountain Formation below. The Hartselle is prominently exposed along Bear Creek and tributaries in Tishomingo State Park, where it is a massive sandstone of 25 to 30 feet in thickness. One prominence of this sandstone overlooking Bear Creek is known as Jeans Overhang and is a favorite rock for climbers. The straight sides of Jeans Overhang are a product of intersecting joints in the Hartselle that divide the sandstone into rectangular blocks.

Down-slope movement of joint blocks produces large fissures along the hiking trail at Tishomingo State Park. One hiker was reported to have fallen into a 40-foot deep crevice (Clarion-Ledger, 1992) and pinned there five feet from the bottom. The fall wedged him so tightly between two blocks of Hartselle Sandstone that immediate efforts to free him were unsuccessful. He was freed 90 minutes later only after rescuers poured cooking oil on the rocks.



Close-up of *Lepidodendron* log.
Photograph by Ed Blake, June 3, 1966.



I. E. Gresham and grandson beside a recently-quarried *Lepidodendron* log in the Gresham Quarry. Photograph by Ed Blake, June 3, 1966.

Bay Spring Lock and Dam locality: The thickest section of Hartselle Sandstone exposed in the state is along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway below the Bay Springs Lock and Dam. Here core holes show the Hartselle to be up to 64 feet thick. During construction of the lock and dam, it was used as riprap for the levee below the lake. Today the Hartselle forms scenic, southward-dipping sandstone beds that extend for half a mile along the banks below the Bay Springs Lock. These outcrops can be seen from the dam and from Highway 4, where it crosses the Yellow Creek floodplain.



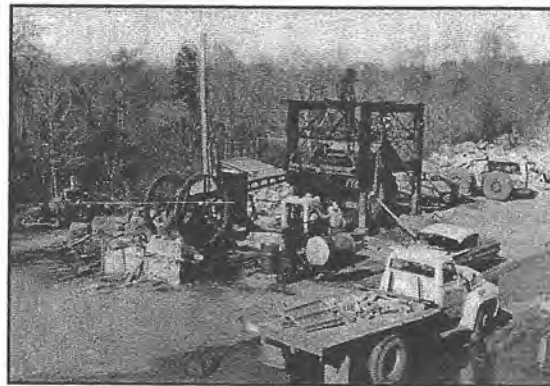
**Reprinted from MS Geological Survey
Bulletin No. 9, 1911
"Structural Materials of Mississippi"**

Sub-Carboniferous Sandstone—The surface exposure of this sandstone is confined to Tishomingo, Prentiss and Itawamba Counties. The best exposures occur on Bear River, in Tishomingo County, where the beds attain a thickness of over 100 feet. The individual layers

of the sandstone vary in thickness from a few inches to as much as ten feet. The layers are intersected by joint planes which, in some outcrops, divide the stone into huge blocks, some of which are as much as 10 feet thick, 12 feet wide, and 40 feet long. The stone is gray in color and for the most part free from discoloring substances. It is said to be soft and easily cut when first taken from the quarry, but to harden under exposure. It has been used for building purposes in the construction of houses, foundations, pavements, well curbs and chimneys. Some of the chimneys were constructed more than a half century ago and are still in good condition.



Cabin constructed of Hartselle Sandstone in Tishomingo State Park, Tishomingo Co., MS. Photo by W. S. Parks, June, 1959.



Gang mill at quarry of Mississippi Stone Company, Tishomingo County, MS. Photo by W. S. Parks, April 1958.

Reprinted from MS Geological Survey
Bulletin No. 23, 1930
"Paleozoic Rocks"

The Forest Grove formation is named after the school which is located on top of the formation near old Mingo Village and Southward Bridge. Since the top member forms typical sandstone cliffs about Highland Church, likewise located above the formation but near Tishomingo City, it is proposed to name the member after this Church. The Forest Grove formation consists of two divisions:

Highland Church sandstone member
Shale and shaly sandstone member

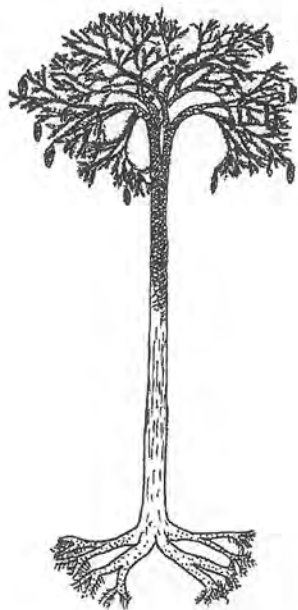
Nowhere is the lower member completely exposed. In fact only a few feet of the different parts of the member outcrop here and there. By piecing these together at least the exposed part of the member was found to be largely shale and shaly sandstone. It has a thickness of 90 feet, or more. As the name suggests, the Highland Church member is exclusively sandstone, a typical cliff forming stone having a thickness of 25 feet or more.

Composite section of Bear Creek Valley from a terrace above Southward Bridge to a point about opposite Highland Church fish trap

Tuscaloosa formation, total	22.0
Gravel, mostly coarse, and pudding stone conglomerate, which (conglomerate) ranges from a fraction of a foot to 15 feet in thickness	22.0
Forest Grove formation, total	117.0
Highland Church sandstone member. Massive gray and yellow sandstone without bedding planes and forming cliffs at many places along the top of the valley wall.	25.0
Interval, practically all covered. On the west side of the valley at Highland Church fish trap about 35 feet above the base is an interval of two or three feet of thin bedded sandstone and sandy shales; and near the top are loose blocks of fossiliferous sandstone. Huge blocks of the Highland Church sandstone cover especially the upper part of the interval.	92.0



Main office and museum at Tishomingo State Park constructed from the Hartselle sandstone.

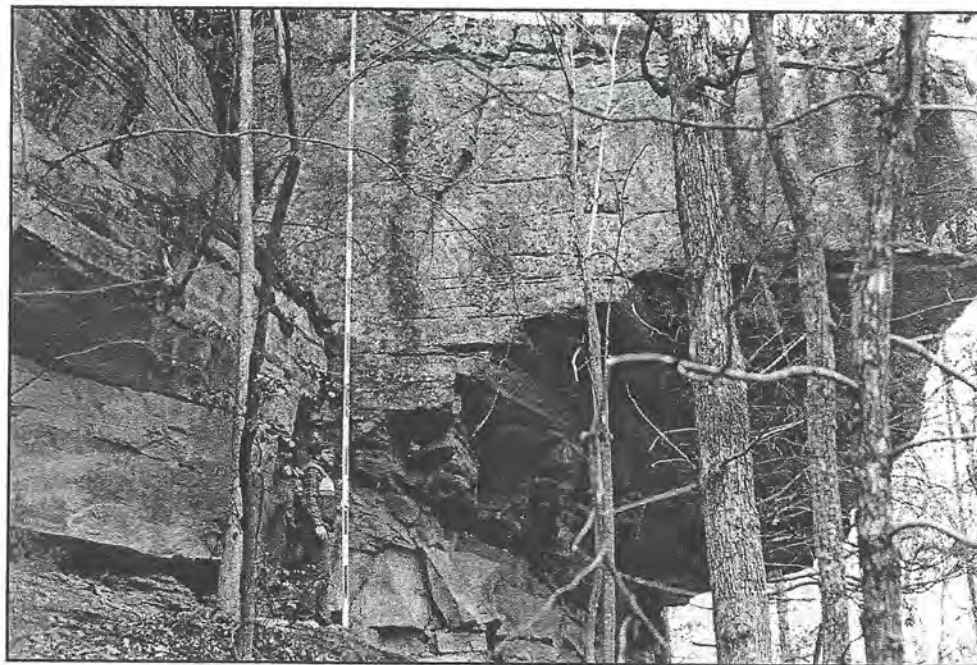


Lepidodendron

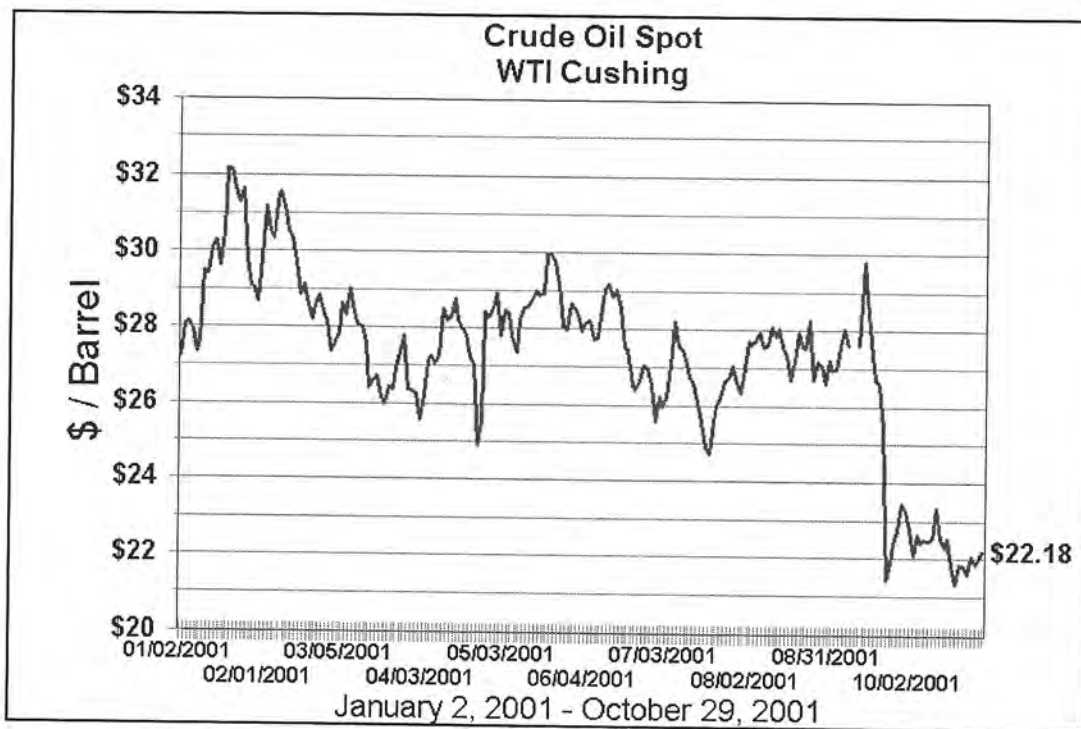
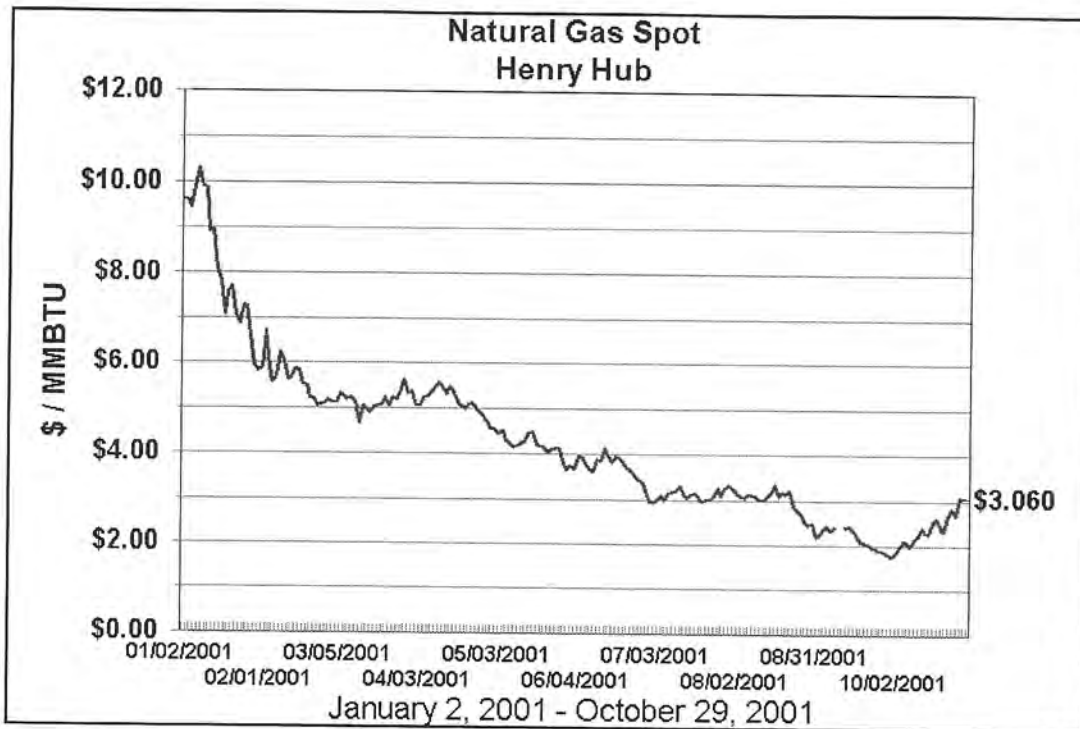
Lepidodendron, also called scale tree because of its diamond-shaped leaf scars, was abundant in swamps of the Carboniferous period (360-290 million years ago). It grew to heights of more than 75 feet, and had a trunk as large as 6 feet in diameter. It had slender, stalkless leaves and twisted cones.

Lepidodendron is found in Carboniferous coal beds around the world, making up over 90 percent of the coal in Pennsylvanian age coal beds of North America.

Living relatives of *Lepidodendron* are small herbaceous plants, such as club mosses.



Jean's Overhang, Tishomingo State Park



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W. Somerset Maugham

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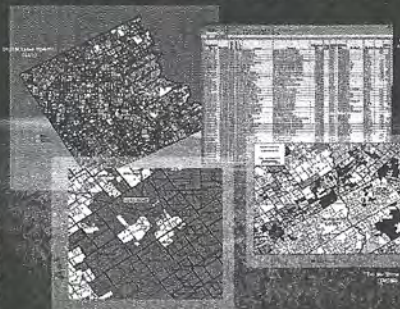
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Part I

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric, and Ironic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Stynx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in The Illiad, by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they could not climb over to see what their neighbors were doing.

Research Definitions

The following phrases, frequently found in technical writings, are defined here for your edification and enlightenment:

“It has long been known . . .” I haven’t bothered to look up the original reference.

“It is common knowledge . . .” I heard this through the grapevine.

“Of great theoretical and practical importance . . .” Interesting to me.

“While it has not been possible to provide definite answers to these questions . . .” The experiments didn’t work, but I figured I could get publicity out of it.

“Extremely high purity; superpurity . . .” Composition unknown except for the exaggerated claims of the supplier.

“Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study . . .” The results of the others didn’t make sense and were ignored.

“Accidentally stained during mounting . . .” Dropped on floor.

“Handled with extreme care during experiment . . .” Not dropped on floor.

“Typical results are shown . . .” The best results are shown.

“Presumably at longer times . . .” I didn’t take the time to find out.

“These results will be reported at a later date . . .” I might get around to this sometime.

“The most reliable values are those of Jones . . .” He worked with me.

“It is believed that . . .” I think.

“It is generally believed that . . .” A couple of other people think so, too.

“It might be argued that . . .” I have such a good answer for this objection that I shall now raise it.

“It is clear that much additional work will be required before a complete understanding . . .” I can’t understand it.

“Correct within an order of magnitude . . .” Wrong.

“It is to be hoped that this work will stimulate further work in the field . . .” This paper is not very good, but neither are any of the others on this miserable subject.

“Thanks are due to Joe Glotz for assistance with the experiment and to John Doe for valuable discussion . . .” Glotz did the work and Doe explained what it meant to me.

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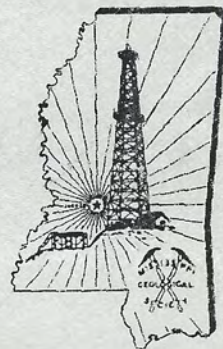
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No. 4

December 2001

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Seasons Greetings!!



From The Mississippi Geological Society Officers

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Guess Who
History of MGS
Ross Limestone
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Christmas Trivia
MGS Advertising Notice

NO lunch meeting this month

Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 11

Details inside!

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2001	TBA	TBA
February 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
March 12th, 2001	TBA	TBA
April 9th, 2001	TBA	TBA
May 14th, 2001	Spring Fling	TBA



Can you guess who this is?
Photo from 1962.
Answer in next bulletin.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001
October 2, 2001
November 6, 2001
December 4, 2001
January 1, 2001
February 5, 2001
March 5, 2001
April 2, 2001
May 7, 2001

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HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Stanley King

Founded on November 28, 1939, the Mississippi Geological Society was begun for the purposes of "the stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences . . . , the encouragement of scientific research among members . . . , and the discussion and dissemination of geological information . . ." From its inception, the Society has remained steadfast in its goals and purposes through the sponsorship of field trips, technical presentations, seminars, publications, and involvement in community affairs.

The founding members present were: Tom Anderson, R. M. Ashley, John N. Berg, Grant Blanchard, Walter M. Burrell, Harry M. Buchner, Jack R. Cooper, C. G. Dickinson, Edward G. Dobrick, E. H. Finch, E. L. Fipps, Edwin D. Gaby, David C. Harrell, Urban B. Hughes, Geoffrey Jeffreys, F. R. Kittredge, F. H. Leach, Jr., C. L. Morgan, R. W. Mallory, O. B. Manes, J. R. Maxey, Pat Meholin, Frederic F. Mellen, J. S. Miller, H. M. Morse, Dr. W. C. Morse, Tom McGlothlin, L. R. McFarland, Lloyd S. Parker, H. B. Peacock, C. F. Scott, John D. Storm, Max R. Sartain, Harlan Taylor, Langdon S. Tennis, Wade W. Turnbull, Henry N. Toler, and Arthur Wedel.

One of the first committees formed in the new Society was the Field Trip Committee. Beginning in December 1939, this committee completed four field trips by the end of 1940. Through the years, the Society has sponsored some twenty field trips, each with a guidebook.

In April 1941, the Society became affiliated with AAPG. In March 1951, the Society joined GCAGS. In October 1946, MGS hosted its first AAPG sectional convention on the Gulf Coast in Biloxi, with attendance of 587. Again in Biloxi in 1949, MGS co-hosted the mid-year AAPG sectional meeting. Biloxi was also the site in 1955 and 1960 as MGS hosted those GCAGS/GCS-

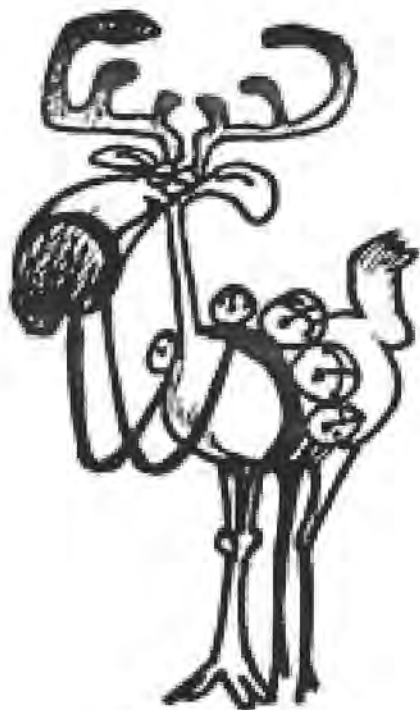
SEPM conventions. In 1968, MGS again hosted the GCAGS convention, this time in Jackson, and there again in 1975, 1983, and most recently in 1992.

Involvement in research and technical projects has always been a hallmark of MGS. In 1945, the MGS oversaw the assembly of data for and the completion of a new and revised geological map of the state. In order to assist geologists in their pursuits, the MGS Library was established in 1945. In 1947, the Society instituted the Student Award Program for outstanding papers on geology from geology majors at the state's universities. In 1954, MGS established the Student Loan Program to assist geology majors at colleges and universities. In 1955, the Society began awarding scholarships to senior high school winners in the science fair sponsored by the Mississippi Academy of Science. The Lawrence Boland Memorial Scholarship fund, begun in 1980, continues to award scholarships annually to one student from each of the four colleges and universities in the state which have a significant geology curriculum. The MGS Student Award Program and the Student Assistance program continue to recognize outstanding students in geology in the state's colleges and universities.

From the early days of the Society to the present, publications have played a major role in attaining the purposes of the Society as set forth in its constitution. From the first field trip in 1939 to the latest in the spring of 2001, 20 guidebooks have been published, along with various composite and type logs, correlation sections, and stratigraphic and structural cross-sections. Additionally, the Society published a compendium of Wilcox fields in 1952, beginning a continuing progression of publications of field maps, and reservoir and production data. The Wilcox volume was updated in 1968, with volumes of the "Redbook" and its supplemental updates published in 1957, 1963, 1967, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1992, and 1995. The Society also publishes a monthly Bulletin, which was begun in 1953.

From the original 38, membership grew to 108 within four months. From the late 1940's through the late 1950's, membership averaged 160 to 175. In 1962, however, it increased to 410, then leveled off until the late 1970's and early 1980's, when it was consistently at about 500. Since the mid-1980's and the early 1990's, membership has hovered around 200 to 300.

Today, despite ups and downs that have affected the geological profession, the same concepts stated in the opening paragraph continue to motivate and propel the Society into the future, due to the strong foundation of a committed membership and adaptation to changing conditions in the profession.



The Words of Benjamin Franklin:

Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn.

He that waits upon fortune is never sure of a dinner.

He's the best physician that knows the worthlessness of the most medicines.

Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.

Write your injuries in dust, your benefits in marble.

Necessity never made a good bargain.

Well done is better than well said.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed.

Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade.

Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

Never confuse motion with action.

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect.

Where sense is wanting, everything is wanting.

No man's life, liberty or fortune is safe while our legislature is in session.

When you've finished changing, you're finished.

THE ROSS LIMESTONE IN MISSISSIPPI

by David T. Dockery III
from *The Geology of Mississippi* in progress)

Devonian rocks of the Ross Limestone outcrop in extreme northeast Mississippi. This unit was originally named the Ross Limestone Member of the Olive Hill Formation by Foerste (1903) for exposures on the Ross Farm near Sulphur Spring, Hardin County, Tennessee. Wilson (1949) classified the Ross as a formation and defined it as overlying the Decatur Limestone and underlying the Flat Gap or Harriman formations and including the Birdsong Shale Member, Bear Branch facies, Ross Limestone Member, Rockhouse Shale Member, Decaturville zone, and bryozoan zone. Wilson also listed the Pyburn Limestone as a synonym of the Ross Limestone Member.

Cooper et al. (1942) placed the Rockhouse Limestone, underlying the Ross, as Silurian, thus making the Ross Limestone Member the oldest Devonian unit in Tennessee. Paulson (1955), in his master thesis on the fauna of the Ross Limestone, noted that the pentamerid brachiopod *Gypidula coeymanensis*, associated with the Coeymans Limestone (basal unit of the Helderberg Group), occurred in the Rockhouse Limestone, while the spirifer brachiopod *Spirifer macropleurus*, associated with the New Scotland Limestone (Helderberg Group), occurred in the Ross Limestone.

In the Tennessee Valley Authority's (1977) Magnolia #1 Pierce core hole at their proposed Yellow Creek Nuclear Plant site (never completed) in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, the Ross Limestone rested above a section identified as the Decatur Limestone. The described section of this core-hole was similar to that of west-central Kentucky as published in Shaver (1984) and which showed an unconformity between the Ross Limestone and the Late Silurian (Cayugan) Decatur Limestone. Dockery (1996) also placed an unconformity between the Ross and Decatur

limestones in northeastern Mississippi. However, in western Tennessee, Broadhead and McComb (1995) placed the Rockhouse "Limestone/Shale" as the lower member of the Ross Formation and placed the formation's lower contact with the Decatur Formation as, not only conformable but, diachronous based on the conodont biostratigraphy of McComb (1987), which suggested the Rockhouse to be of Late Silurian age to the south and Early Devonian (*Icriodus woschmidti* zone) to the north in the vicinity of Parson, Tennessee.

The Ross Limestone has a similar trilobite fauna to that of its equivalent in Oklahoma, the Haragan Marl. It also shares in common with this formation the unique crinoid attachment bulbs (or possible flotation bulbs) of the species *Camarcocrinus ulrichi* Schuchert. In the building of Pickwick Lake, the Ross Limestone was quarried as rip-rap for the dam. This rip-rap eventually became a favorite fossil collecting site for trilobites from Ross Limestone. In the subsurface of northern and central Mississippi, the Ross and other Devonian limestones grade into a 400 to 840-foot thick chert sequence, which has been correlated with the Arkansas Novaculite (Thomas and Osborne, 1987).

Island Hill locality: Devonian cherts of the Ross Limestone are the oldest rocks exposed at the surface in Mississippi. They outcrop on the crest of a gentle anticline exposed at Island Hill (Figure 1), an island in Pickwick Lake just opposite the Tennessee shore in the northeast corner of the state. Morse (1930) named these rocks (those exposed above the level of Pickwick Lake today) the Island Hill Formation and recognized the lower Ross (now submerged below Pickwick) as the New Scotland Limestone. In plates 2-7 and Table 1, Morse (1930) listed a diverse assemblage of Devonian trilobites and brachiopods, as well as corals, gastropods, bivalves, bryozoans, crinoids, *Tentaculites*, and *Conularia* to occur in both units.

The Ross Limestone is 97 feet thick in northeastern Tishomingo County (Tennessee Valley Authority, 1977), but only the upper 10 feet of the unit is exposed above the waters of Pickwick Lake. A revised list of Helderbergian (Early De-



Figure 1. Chert layers of the Ross Limestone along the shore of Island Hill in Pickwick Lake.

vonian) trilobites from this locality was published by Dockery and Merrill (1984); Merrill (1988) also illustrated brachiopods, bryozoans, and corals from the site.

Figures 2 and 3 show respectively specimens of the trilobites *Huntonia purduei* and *Paciphacops birdsongensis* (Dello, 1940) from Island Hill. *Huntonia purduei* (Dunbar, 1919) is the largest trilobite from this site, and, thus, the largest trilobite found in Mississippi. The classic generic name for this trilobite was *Dalmanites*, but Campbell (1977) placed all the *Dalmanites* species of Oklahoma's Haragan Marl (Hunton Group, Helderbergian) along with *Dalmanites purduei* specimens from the Ross Limestone (collected from rip-rap at Pickwick Dam in Tennessee) in his new genus *Huntonia*. The specimen of *Huntonia purduei* figured here would have been about 10 cm or four inches long if complete. The pygidia (tail sections) of much larger specimens have been found at Island Hill.

Perhaps the most spectacular specimen of *Huntonia purduei* was found in the Ross Limestone in Tennessee. According to E. E. Russell (person communication), University of Tennessee geology professor Dr. Robert E. Lee Collins told the story that he and a colleague were sitting down on a rock outcrop to eat their brown-bag lunch when his colleague, Harold Vokes, spotting a large partially-exposed trilobite between his legs. When excavated, it proved to be a complete specimen

that measured 26 cm or 10.25 inches in length. The specimen was given to the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at John Hopkins University (where Vokes was a professor and Collins a graduate student) and latter transferred with the department's collections to the U.S. National Museum where it is now on display in the lobby of the Natural History Museum (USNM specimen #414997, identified as *Dalmanites? purduei*). The specimen's label lists Harold Vokes as the collector and lists the horizon and location as the Ross Limestone one mile east of Olive Hill on Route 64 in Harden County, Tennessee. Casts of this specimen are available from Carolina Biological Supply Company.

Some trilobites at Island Hill, in both the bedrock outcrop and in the dislodged chert layers that shingle the beach, shore, and shallow lake bottom, are found with their compound eyes bug-ging out of the rock surface. These ancient specimens in proximity to the modern boat traffic from a nearby marina on the Tennessee side of the lake brings to mind the poem of the 19th century paleontologist Timothy A. Conrad, who was better known for his work with Gulf Coastal Plain mollusks and who named the Claiborne, Jackson and Vicksburg groups:

The race of man shall perish, but the eyes
Of trilobites eternal be in stone,
And seem to stare about in mild surprise
At changes greater than they have yet known.



Figure 2. *Huntonia purduei* (Dunbar, 1919) from the Ross Limestone at Island Hill.

19th century paleontologist Timothy A. Conrad, who was better known for his work with Gulf Coastal Plain mollusks and who named the Claiborne, Jackson and Vicksburg groups:

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At changes greater than they have yet known.



Figure 3. *Paciphacops birdsongensis* (Delo, 1940) from the Ross Limestone at Island Hill.

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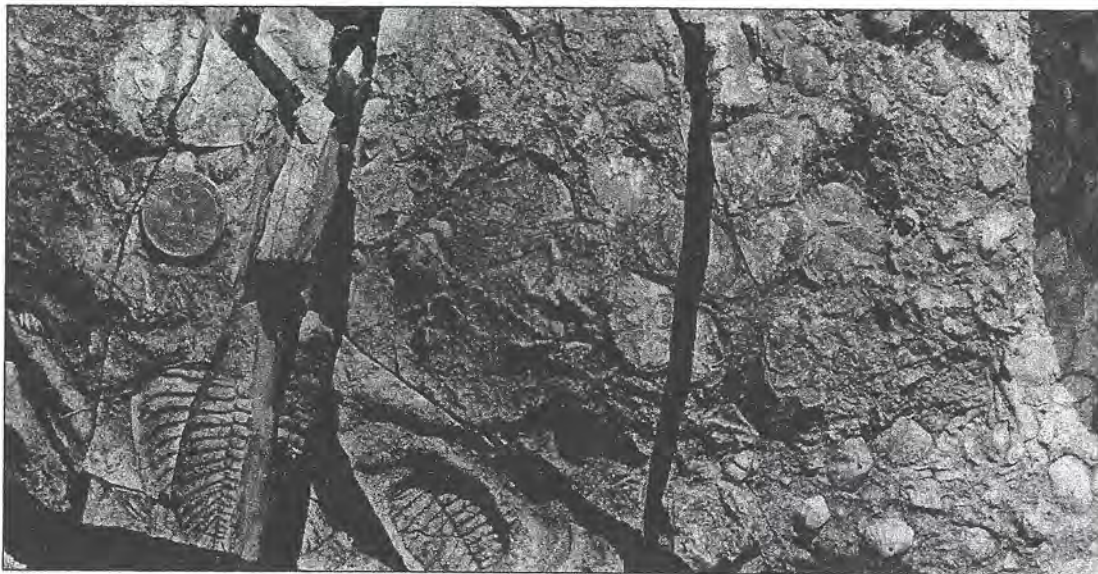
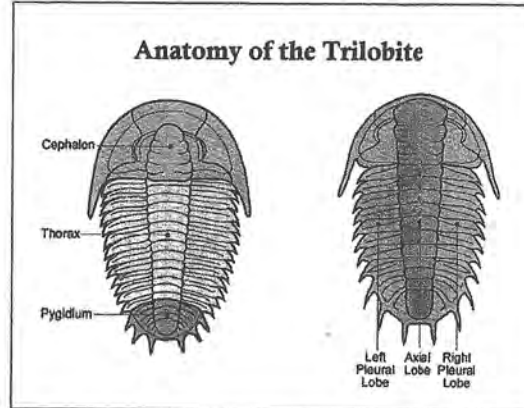
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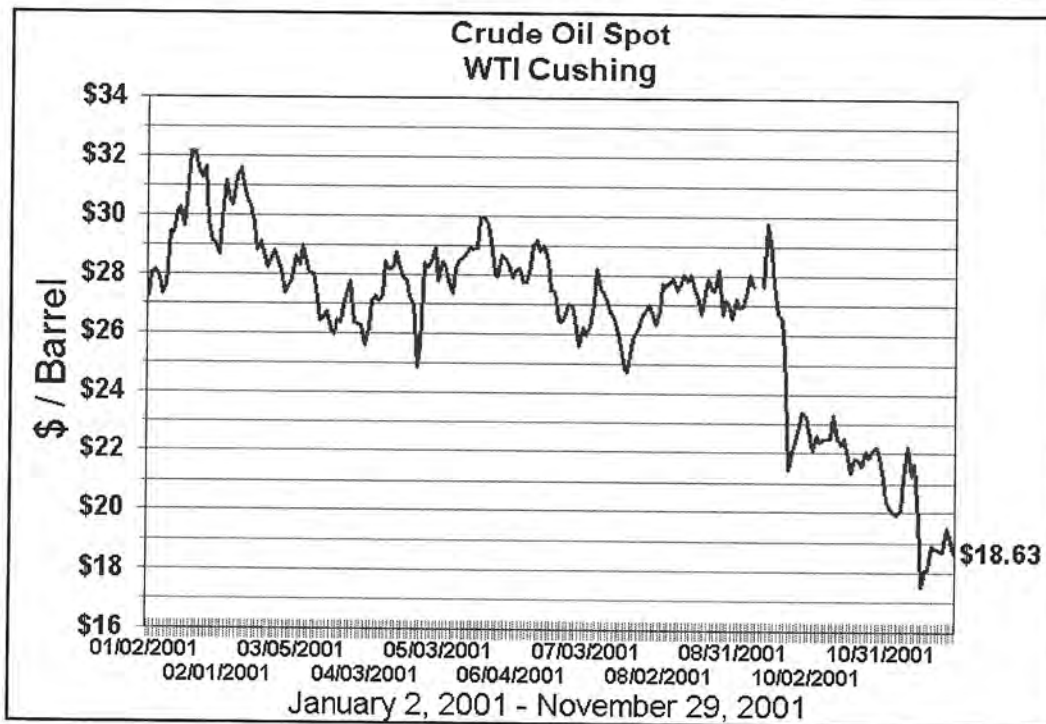
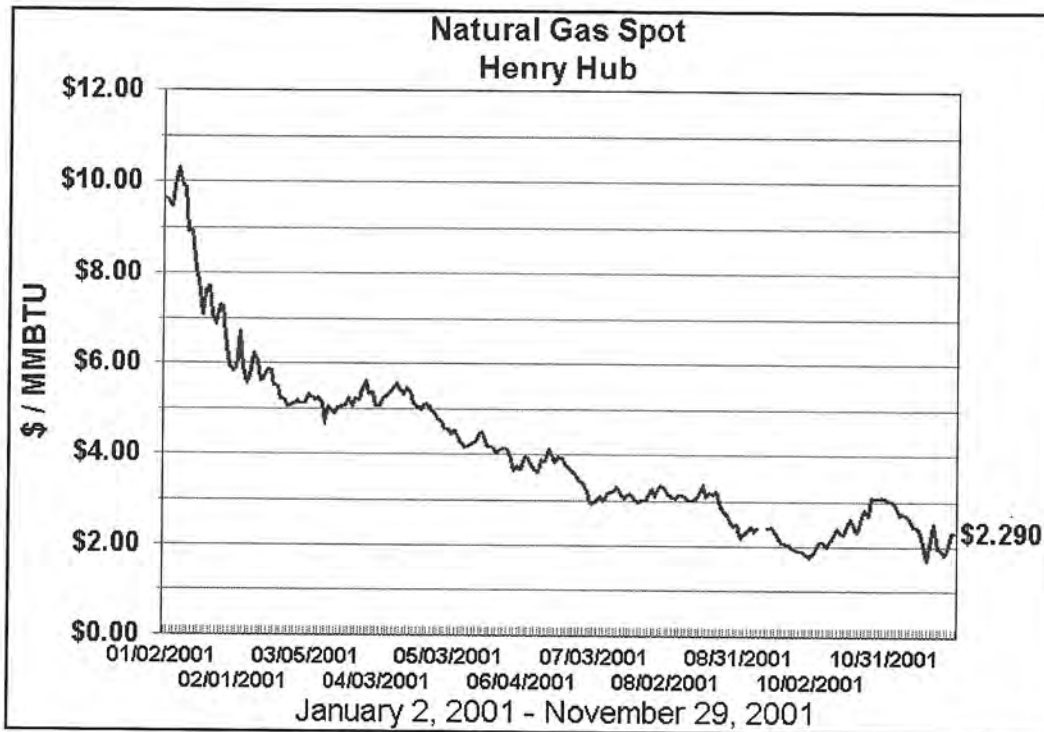
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Outcrop appearance of the fractured & fossiliferous beds comprising the Ross Formation.
From MS Bureau of Geology Bulletin 127, Tishomingo County Geology and Mineral Resources.



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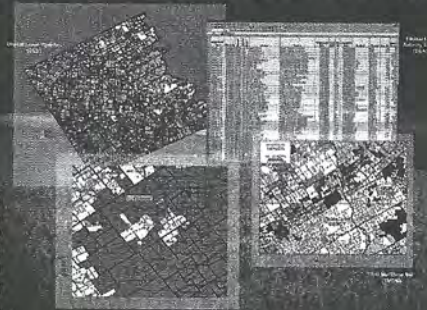
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Christmas Trivia From Brain Candy Christmas Collections

Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. This tradition began in 1836. In 1907, Oklahoma became the last state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

“Wassail” comes from the Old Norse “ves heill” — to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health.

Animal Crackers are not really crackers, but cookies that were imported to the United States from England in the late 1800s. Barnum’s circus-like boxes were designed with a string handle so that they could be hung on a Christmas tree.

Christmas trees are known to have been popular in Germany as far back as the sixteenth century. In England, they became popular after Queen Victoria’s husband Albert, who came from Germany, made a tree part of the celebrations at Windsor Castle. In the United States, the earliest known mention of a Christmas tree is in the diary of a German who settled in Pennsylvania.

Christmas was once a moveable feast celebrated at many different times during the year. The choice of December 25 was made by Pope Julius I, in the 4th century A.D., because this coincided with the pagan rituals of Winter Solstice, or Return of the Sun. The intent was to replace the pagan celebration with the Christian one.

During the ancient 12-day Christmas celebration, the log burned was called the “Yule log.” Sometimes a piece of the Yule log would be kept to kindle the fire the following winter, to ensure that the good luck carried on from year to year. The Yule log custom was handed down from the Druids.

Electric Christmas lights were first used in 1895. The idea for using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E. Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.

In an effort to solicit cash to pay for a charity Christmas dinner in 1891, a large crabpot was set down on a San Francisco street, becoming the first Salvation Army collection kettle.

During World War II, it was necessary for Americans to mail Christmas gifts early for the troops in Europe to receive them in time. Merchants joined in the effort to remind the public to shop and mail early, and the protracted shopping season was born.

In 1752, 11 days were dropped from the year when the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was made. The December 25 date was effectively moved 11 days backwards. Some Christian church sects, called old calendarists, still celebrate Christmas on January 7 (previously December 25 of the Julian calendar).

Frustrated at the lack of interest in his new toy invention, Charles Pajeau hired several midgets, dressed them in elf costumes, and had them play with "Tinker Toys" in a display window at a Chicago department store during the Christmas season in 1914. This publicity stunt made the construction toy an instant hit. A year later, over a million sets of Tinker Toys had been sold.

Frankincense is a sweet-smelling gum resin derived from certain *Boswellia* trees which, at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India, and Ethiopia. Tradition says that it was presented to the Christ Child by Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia or Saba. The frankincense trade was at its height during the days of the Roman Empire. At that time, this resin was considered as valuable as gems or precious metals. The Romans burned frankincense on their altars and at cremations.

Myrrh is an aromatic gum resin which oozes from gashes cut in the bark of a small desert tree known as *Commifera myrrha*, or the dindin tree. The myrrh hardens into teardrop-shaped chunks and is then powdered or made into ointments or perfumes. This tree is about 5-15 feet tall and 1 foot in diameter. Legend says Caspar brought the gift of myrrh from Europe or Tarsus and placed it before the Christ Child. Myrrh was an extremely valuable commodity during Biblical times and was imported from India and Arabia.

In Norway on Christmas Eve, visitors should know that after the family's big dinner and the opening of presents, all the brooms in the house are hidden. The Norwegians long ago believed that witches and mischievous spirits came out on Christmas Eve and would steal their brooms for riding.

In Syria, Christmas gifts are distributed by one of the Wise Men's camels. The gift-giving camel is said to have been the smallest one in the Wise Men's caravan.

La Befana, a kindly witch, rides a broomstick down the chimney to deliver toys into the stockings of Italian children. The legends say that Befana was sweeping her floors when the three Wise Men stopped and asked her to come to see the Baby Jesus. "No," she said, "I am too busy." Later, she changed her mind, but it was too late. So, to this day she goes out on Christmas Eve searching for the Holy Child, leaving gifts for the "holy child" in each household.

The first Christmas card was created in England on December 9, 1842.

The northern European custom of the candlelit Christmas tree is derived from the belief that it sheltered woodland spirits when other trees lost their leaves during winter.

One notable medieval English Christmas celebration featured a giant 165-pound pie. The giant pie was nine feet in diameter. Its ingredients included 2 bushels of flour, 20 pounds of butter, 4 geese, 2 rabbits, 4 wild ducks, 2 woodcocks, 6 snipes, 4 partridges, 2 neat's tongues, 2 curlews, 6 pigeons, and 7 blackbirds.

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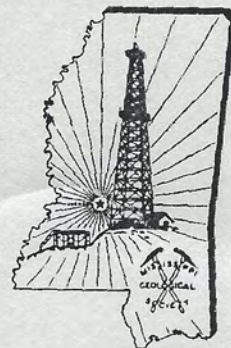
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No. 5

January 2002

MISSISSIPPI
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Andrew Sylte

I would like to first offer all the best wishes for all our members of the Mississippi Geological Society in this new year. May all your problems seem small when compared to joys and accomplishments. In a year when so much has changed, we have all had to learn to change as a result. And with change there is an opportunity for growth.

When you take a close look (or not so close look) at our society . . . you see a group that have matured (greatly!), and what that gives us (besides a bunch of grumpy old men) is wealth of knowledge. In starting out in the oil business, I always appreciated the insight of my senior professionals. Whether it was advice relating to the rocks, log analysis, or even stories of the "good ole days", I always appreciated the time being taken to relate these things to me. The reason I bring this up is to point out that generally our society is gaining years and losing numbers . . . and I feel this society has a lot to offer a number of younger members of our profession. What I challenge our group to do is find a way to reach these younger members of our profession and bring them to the society. It would be for all. If you have a suggestion, contact me or any officer with your suggestion. Remember, a mind is a terrible thing to waste . . . so let's share ours before we lose them.

I am sorry I missed the Christmas Party. I heard there was plenty of good food there. Thanks to all who attended.

Please be aware that we will need help on the spring symposium. Please be offering your services as soon as possible.

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year . . . and see all at the next meeting.

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Speaker's Abstract
Rig Count
Pride Mountain Formation
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Student Bloopers
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS Professional Luncheon
January 8th – 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: Ezat Heydari

***Topic: "Sequence Stratigraphy of
The Smackover Formation
In Northern Louisiana"***

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2002	Speaker: Ezat Heydari	TBA
February 12th, 2002	TBA	TBA
March 12th, 2002	TBA	TBA
April 9th, 2002	TBA	TBA
May 14th, 2002	Spring Fling	TBA



If you guessed

~ Marvin Oxley ~

You're right!

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September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 3, 2002

February 5, 2002

March 5, 2002

April 2, 2002

May 7, 2002

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Sequence Stratigraphy of the Smackover Formation in Northern Louisiana

Ezat Heydari & Lawrence R. Baria

ABSTRACT

Electric logs, conventional cores, 2D and 3D seismic reflection data reveal three sequences in the Smackover Formation in northern Louisiana and adjacent areas. In ascending order these are the Smackover "C", "B", and "A" sequences. Characteristics of these sequences were controlled by relative sea-level change, climate, and the nature of the carbonate factory — namely the rate of inorganic carbonate production. The lowstand systems tract (LST) portion of the "C" sequence has not been recognized, but it could possibly be the Norphlet Formation. The Smackover portion of the "C" sequence was initiated by a rapid sea-level rise resulting in a very sharp lithologic contact between the Norphlet and Smackover formations. The "C" sequence lacks a distinct transgressive systems tract (TST) component, and consists primarily of beach-to-basin prograding highstand systems tract (HST) deposition on a ramp. The "C" sequence deposition was termi-

sequence boundary characterized by caliche and silcrete. A shelf morphology with a distinct shelf margin had developed by the end of the "C" sequence upon which the "B" sequence was deposited.

The "B" sequence consists of a LST that is composed of basinal terrigenous sediment gravity flow deposits. A rapid sea-level rise flooded the shelf area, but again no clear TST deposition occurred. The "B" sequence is composed primarily of HST shoal complexes that prograded over the shelf. A type-1 sequence boundary ended with "B" sequence deposition.

The "A" sequence consists of a LST that is also composed of basinal terrigenous sediment gravity flow deposits in the basin. The "A" sequence consists of progradational shoals formed slightly basinward of the "B" sequence shelf margin. The "A" sequence sedimentation was terminated by a type-1 or type-2 sequence boundary.

The Buckner Formation is not time-equivalent to any of Smackover sequences. It is a younger unit and was deposited in a broad restricted lagoon during a sea-level rise after the Smackover deposition had ended.


HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Weekly: North American Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count continues to decline falling 25 to 882 for the week of December 21, 2001. Rig activity is down 411 rigs from mid-July.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil was down 10 to 140. Oil drilling is 95 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.9 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas fell 16 to 741. This is the seventeenth successive weekly decline for natural gas drilling. There are currently 110 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 851.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 40 percent. Gas exploration is down 13 percent. Crude oil spot prices are 30 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are down by 74 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was up 3 rigs to 292 for the week of December 21, 2001, a total of 164 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 456.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
	12/21/01	12/14/01	12/22/00	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	882	907	1087	-25	-205	-2.8%	-18.9%
Oil	140	150	235	-10	-95	-6.7%	-40.4%
Percent	15.9%	16.5%	21.6%	-0.7%	-5.7%		
Gas	741	757	851	-16	-110	-2.1%	-12.9%
Percent	84.0%	83.5%	78.3%	0.6%	5.7%		
Gulf of Mexico	108	114	142	-6	-34	-5.3%	-23.9%
Canada	292	289	456	3	-164	1.0%	-36.0%
North America	1174	1196	1543	-22	-369	-1.8%	-23.9%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

PRIDE MOUNTAIN FORMATION

by David T. Dockery III
 from *The Geology of Mississippi*
 in Progress

Welch (1958) named the Pride Mountain Formation for exposures of Chesterian (Mississippian) age on the northeastern slope of Pride Mountain in north-central Colbert County, Alabama. The type locality was designated as about 2 miles east of Pride and 1/2 mile south of U.S. Highway 72 in Section 15, T. 4 S., R. 12 W. The Pride Mountain consists of partly calcareous, medium- to dark-gray shale and medium-gray siltstone, which commonly contains sideritic ironstone nodules and layers. It includes thin beds of partly calcareous fine- to medium-grained sandstone and dense to finely crystalline limestone. Fossils are abundant in limestone layers but are sparse

in the remainder of the formation (Welch, 1959). The Pride Mountain Formation reaches a maximum thickness of 325 feet in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, thins to 150 feet in eastern Lawrence County, Alabama, and includes a number of thin formational units named independently by Butts (1926) and Morse (1928). Morse's names (based on exposures in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, and Colbert County, Alabama) have fallen into disuse, but are correlated with currently recognized stratigraphic units in the geological column of Dockery (1981).

Welch (1958) recognized seven members of the Pride Mountain Formation in Colbert County, Alabama, retaining some units named by Morse and naming some of his own. In ascending order, these units are the Alsobrook, Tanyard Branch, Wagon, Southward Springs, Sandfall, Mynot Sandstone, and Green Hill members. While these members could be traced for some distance along the outcrop belt, Welch (1959) could only trace

Butts (1926)	Morse (1928)		Welch (1958)
Hartselle Ss.	Forest Grove Fm.	Highland Church Ss. Mbr.	Hartselle Ss.
Golconda Fm.			Green Hill Mbr.
Cypress Ss.	Southward Bridge Fm.		Mynot Ss. Mbr.
Gasper Fm.	Southward Spring Ss.		Sandfall Mbr.
	Southward Pond Fm.		Southward Spring Ss. Mbr.
	Allsboro Ss.		Wagon Mbr.
Bethel Ss.	Alsobrook Fm.	Cripple Deer Ss. Mbr.	Tanyard Branch Mbr.
Ste. Genevieve Ls.			Alsobrook Mbr.
Tuscumbia Ls.	Iuka Terrane		Tuscumbia Ls.

the Tanyard Branch and Mynot Sandstone into the subsurface where they correlated, respectively, with the Lewis Sand and the Evans Sand of oil-industry usage. Stapor and Cleaves (1992) recognized the Lewis and Evans sands as the two mappable Pride Mountain sandstone members in the subsurface of Mississippi and northwestern Alabama. Pashin and Rindsberg (1993a&b) divided the Pride Mountain of Alabama into Lewis and Evans sedimentary cycles and placed the formation's upper shale interval at the base of the Hartselle sedimentary cycle.

In Tishomingo County, Mississippi, the Pride Mountain is exposed in narrow belts along the valley walls of Clear, Pennywinkle, Bear, and Cedar creeks. Merrill (1988, p. 43) recognized the Pride Mountain as undifferentiated in his stratigraphic column for Mississippi, though he correlated the terms of both Morse (1930) and Welch (1958) to outcrops in Tishomingo County.

Alsobrook Member. The basal member of the Pride Mountain Formation was named the Alsobrook Formation by Morse (1928) for exposures at Alsobrook Bridge and homestead about 3 miles north of Allsboro in Colbert County, Alabama. Welch (1958) reduced the Alsobrook to the rank of member and restricted it to a basal fossiliferous limestone interval of 1-10 feet in thickness, which contained the productid brachiopod *Inflatia inflatus* (McChesney), and some 80 feet of overlying marine shale, exclusive of Morse's (1930) Cripple Deer Sandstone Member (above). In Tishomingo County, the basal Alsobrook limestone is not well exposed but can be traced by occurrences of by displaced limestone blocks weathering from the valley walls of Clear and Cripple creeks (Merrill, 1988).

The Alsobrook Member is equivalent to

the St. Genevieve Limestone of Butts (1926), who relied on the presence of "*Productus*" *inflatus* to correlate the lowest part of the Pride Mountain with strata of Genevievian age. However, Burdick and Strimple (1982, p. 10) found the crinoid *Agassizocrinus* sp. to occur in the productid zone in Colbert County, Alabama, and noted that this crinoid was not known to occur below strata of Chesterian age.

Tanyard Branch Member. Welch (1958) named the Tanyard Branch Member for a sequence that included: (1) a basal 15-foot-thick section of light-olive-gray to buff very fine- to fine-grained thin to medium unevenly bedded sandstone (the Cripple Deer Sandstone Member of Morse, 1928), (2) a middle 5-foot-thick section of olive-gray shale, and (3) an upper 10-foot-thick section of light-olive-gray to buff, very fine to fine-grained sandstone rubble.



The Tanyard Branch Member of the Pride Mountain Formation (Allsboro Ss. Of Morse). This sandstone is characterized by local occurrences of small amounts of petroleum residue. Pickax is 26" long. From MS Bureau of Geology Bulletin 127.

He gave the type locality as an exposure on a small hill on the east side of Tanyard Branch just south of U.S. Highway 72 in the south-central SE/4 of Section 2, T. 4 S., R. 13 W. in Colbert County, Alabama. This member is equivalent to the Bethel Sandstone of Butts (1926) and to both the upper Alsobrook Formation and the Allsboro Sandstone of Morse (1928). The Tanyard Branch Member reaches a maximum thickness of 35 feet at the Mississippi-Alabama state line and is sparsely petro-liferous. In the subsurface, it correlates with the Lewis Sand of oil-field usage.

Wagnon Member. Welch (1958) named the Wagnon Member for a series of limestones and shales exposed along a road up Wagnon Mountain about five miles south of Pride, in the south-central part of Section 6, T. 5 S., R. 12 W. in Colbert County, Alabama. This member included strata named as the Gasper Formation by Butts (1926) and the Southward Pond Formation by Morse (1928). It varies from 30 to 70 feet in thickness and averages about 50 feet. In Tishomingo County, Mississippi, the Wagnon Member contains three thin intervals of fossiliferous limestone separated by varying thicknesses of shale (Merrill, 1988). Bryozoan limestones of this unit outcrop along Pennywinkle Creek just across the state line in Colbert County, Alabama, at a well-known locality for fossil blastoid calyxes and brachio-pods. The elongate blastoid calyxes of this locality belong to the species *Pentremites cf. pulchellus* and the stubby ones to the species *P. godoni*. Morse (1930, p. 142-143) illustrated these blastoid species as occurring in his Southward Pond Formation and noted that occurring with them were hundreds of brachio-pod shells of the species *Chonetes chesterensis* Weller, 1914. The Wagnon Member is equivalent to the lower part of the Gasper Formation

of Butts (1926). Weller (1914, p. 84) listed the horizon of *Chonetes chesterensis* as the Paint Creek Formation of Illinois, where he noted it to be rare.

Southward Springs Sandstone Mem-ber. Morse (1928) named the Southward Springs Sandstone for exposures near Southward Spring located south of Cypress Pond in the NW/4, NE/4, SE/4, Section 16, T. 5 S., R. 11 E. in Tishomingo County. Welch (1958) relegated the Southward Springs Sandstone to member status. The Southward Springs type locality is designated as Cave Spring on the Tishomingo 7.5-Minute Quadrangle and is located at a rest stop on the north side of the Natchez Trace and south of Bear Creek. Here the Southward Springs Sandstone forms the roof of the spring/cave. Below is a talus of 3-inch-thick sandstone slabs displaced from the underlying section, which consists of interbedded shales and thin sandstones. These sandstones slabs are smooth on the upper surface and have load casts on the bottom side (and would make great flagstones for a patio). The Southward Springs Sandstone is equivalent to the middle part of the Gasper Formation of Butts (1926).

Sandfall Member. Welch (1958) named the Sandfall Member for a section of mainly noncalcareous to slightly calcareous olive-gray shale, grading upward into calcareous shale and partly oolitic limestone in the upper 30 feet. He gave the type locality as roadcuts up Sandfall Mountain, a northern spur of Pride Mountain in the SE/4, SE/4 of Section 15, T. 4 N., R. 12 W. in Colbert County, Alabama, where the member ranged in thickness from 85 feet at the type locality to 65 feet on Cane Creek, also in Colbert County.. The Sandfall Member contained the lower part of Morse's (1928) Southward Bridge Formation and the upper part of Butt's (1926) Gasper Formation.

Mynot Sandstone Member. The Mynot Sandstone Member was named by Welch (1958) for exposures of sandstone, shale, and siltstone in a stream bank just south-east of a road at the community of Mynot in the SW/4, NW/4 of Section 7, T. 5 S., R. 14 W. in southwestern Colbert County, Alabama. In eastern Tishomingo County, it is exposed in the valleys of Cedar and Bear creeks, where it contains some 30 feet of thinly bedded sandstones (which are locally calcareous), siltstones, and shales, with medium-bedded sandstone in the basal interval (Merrill, 1988). This member is equivalent to the Cypress Sandstone of Butts (1926) and includes the middle part of Morse's (1928) Southward Bridge Formation. In the subsurface, it correlates with the Evans Sand of oil-field usage.



Thinly interbedded sandstone and shale lithologies characteristic of the Mynot Sandstone Member of the Pride Mountain Formation.

From MS Bureau of Geology Bulletin 127.

Green Hill Member. The Green Hill Member was named by Welch (1958) for a section of light-brownish-gray oolitic, thick-bedded limestone in the lower part and an upper olive-gray, thin-bedded calcareous shale exposed at a roadside near the head of Green Hill Branch about 3 miles south of Barton in the SW/4, NW/4 of Section 22, T. 4 S., R. 13 W. in Colbert County, Alabama. The basal limestone is equivalent to the upper limestone of the Southward Bridge Formation of Morse (1928), and the upper shale is equivalent to the lower part of the Forest Grove Formation of Morse (1928). Butts (1926) named these strata the Golconda Formation. The Green Hill Member is 20 feet thick at its type locality and reaches a maximum thickness of 80 feet near Mingo in Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

The basal limestone of the Green Hill Member forms the bed of Bear Creek in Tishomingo State Park, where it is up to 5 feet thick and is leached along fracture lines to form the rectangular joint blocks shown in Merrill (1988, fig. 56). This limestone also forms the bottom of Haynes Lake in Tishomingo State Park, which was built in 1963 and experienced seepage through joints in the limestone. In 1980, this lake started losing water down a stump hole to such an extent that a whirlpool formed at the surface and the shoreline retreated one foot per day. The resulting flow fed some ten or twelve springs below the dam, the largest of which had a measured flow of 200 to 300 gallons per minute (Curtis Stover, personal communication).

The Mississippi Office of Geology's drilling rig drilled several holes along the shore of Haynes Lake to intercept leaking solution channels in the basal Green Hill limestone. One drill hole encountered a 6-inch solution channel, and two flatbed-trailer loads of

cement were pumped down this hole for a period of a day and night before the hole quit taking grout. Still, this did not completely stop the leak. The lake was later drained and portions of the bottom platted with a clay-sand lining (Seal and Stover, 1984). According to Park Worker Supervisor Bob Waldon, who helped grout the lake in 1980, the lake is leaking again down the same hole (a testimony to the karst nature of the basal Green Hill limestone).

The upper shale of the Green Hill Member forms the steep banks of Bear Creek in Tishomingo State Park and is undercut below the more resistant Hartselle Sandstone, which forms the valley's rim. This makes for strong relief along the rim and excellent terrain for rock climbers, a favorite site of which is Jeans Overhang, which is featured on the cover of the Tishomingo County geology bulletin (Merrill, 1988).



Fractures in basal limestone interval in the Green Hill Member of the Pride Mountain Formation.
From MS Bureau of Geology Bulletin 127.

ERRATA

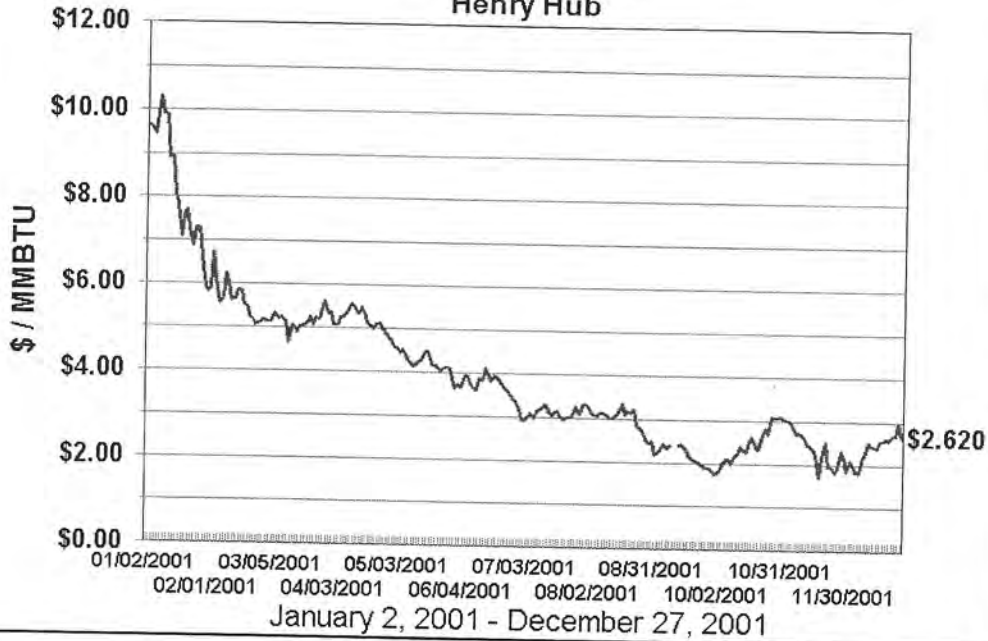
The Magnolia #1 Pierce placed at the Yellow Creek Nuclear Plant site in Tishomingo County in the article on "The Ross Limestone in Mississippi" in the December 2001 bulletin was incorrect. The correct core hole was the Tennessee Valley Authority Core Hole 51-C-3. The Magnolia # 1 Pierce is in Monroe County, Mississippi.



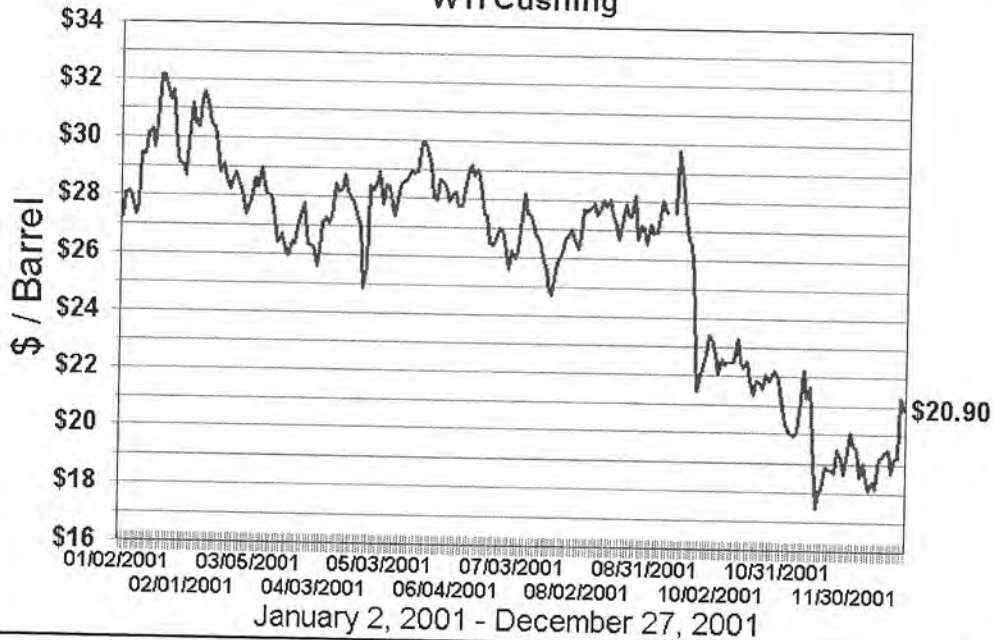
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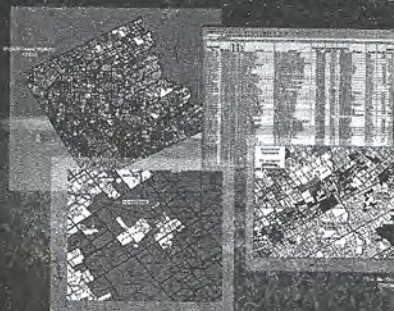
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The World According to Student Bloopers
(A History Lesson Compiled from Students from 8th Grade Through College)
By Richard Lederer, St. Paul's School
Part II

Eventually, the Ramons conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlics in their hair. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the Battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames, King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was cannonized by Bernard Shaw, and victims of the Black Death grew boobs on their necks. Finally, Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense.

In midevil times most of the people were alliterate. The greatest writer of the time was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head. The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull. It was the painter Donatello's interest in the female nude that made him the father of the Renaissance. It was an age of great

inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

The government of England was a limited mockery. Henry VIII found walking difficult because he had a abness on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen". As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted, "hurrah". Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespear. Shakespear never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived at Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies, and errors. In one of Shakespear's famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the King by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet. Writing at the same time as Shakespear was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

During the Renaissance America began. Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were called the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Fe. Later, the Pilgrims crossed the Ocean, and this was known as Pilgrims Progress. When they landed at Plymouth Rock, they were greeted by the Indians, who came down the hill rolling their war hoops before them. The Indian squabs carried porpoises on their back. Many of the Indian heroes were killed, along with their cabooses, which proved very fatal to them. The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died and many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in the tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. During the War, the Red Coats and Paul Revere was throwing balls over stone walls. The dogs were barking and the peacocks crowing. Finally, the colonists won the War and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original thirteen states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Ben Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time became the Father of Our Country. Then the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution the people enjoyed the right to keep bare arms.

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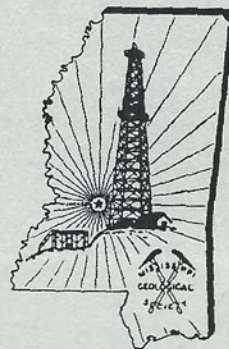
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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

By Andrew Sylte

I wish to welcome everyone to a new year, one full of opportunities and challenges. I call to our members to step up and assist in making this Mississippi Geological Society, your society, a great professional society and to offer your assistance when the need arises. Whether this is in the form of running as an officer this spring when elections occur, or helping in finding ways to strengthen our society in numbers, or participation in activities.

I would like to see new members recruited, from all facets of our profession. If you have suggestions as to how this can be accomplished, please contact any of the officers. We are listed in missgeo.com.

I am pleased to announce the Spring Symposium has Bob Schneeflock as its Chairman, and that Dudley Hughes shall be the Co-chairman. The Symposium will include an Ice Breaker on May 15th, the Symposium on the evening of the 16th, and the Mississippi Geophysical Society hosting a golf tournament on May 17th. More information is coming; please refer to our web site or future bulletins.

We have had a positive response for volunteers, yet more are still needed. May and the Symposium soon will be here, so please contact Bob or myself with an offer of assistance. We need to make an effort, and I feel confident that this will be an outstanding event.

On a somber note, I am afraid our community has lost three of our own. Jim

Stripling, Harold R. White, and Alice Tackett Day all recently passed on. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost.

Until the next meeting. . . Take care.

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

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Meeting Schedule
Rig Count
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Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Student Bloopers
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS Professional Luncheon
February 12th – 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: Mike Spooner

***Topic: "Crisis Management
In Wayne County"***

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2002	Speaker: Ezat Heydari	Capitol Club
February 12th, 2002	Speaker: Mike Spooner	Capitol Club
March 12th, 2002	Speaker: Geoffrey A. Dorn	Capitol Club
April 9th, 2002	TBA	TBA
May 16th, 2002	Spring Fling & Symposium	Heritage Hall, MS Agricultural Museum



Here's another 1962 photo -
Guess who!
Answer in March bulletin.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001
 October 2, 2001
 November 6, 2001
 December 4, 2001
 January 3, 2002
 February 5, 2002
 March 5, 2002
 April 2, 2002
 May 7, 2002

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Weekly: North American Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 10 to 859 for the week of January 25, 2002 following a gain of 13 rigs in the previous week. Rig activity is down 434 rigs from mid-July.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil slipped 2 to 144. Oil drilling is 92 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.8 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas decreased 8 to 714. Gas rig count has declined all but 3 of the last 20 weeks. There are currently 165 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 877.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 39 percent. Gas exploration is down 19 percent. Crude oil spot prices are 39 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are down by 70 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was up 22 rigs to 459 for the week of January 25, 2002 which 100 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 559.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

	01/25/02	01/18/02	01/26/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	859	869	1116	-10	-257	-1.2%	-23.0%
Oil	144	146	236	-2	-92	-1.4%	-39.0%
Percent	16.8%	16.8%	21.1%	-0.0%	-4.4%		
Gas	714	722	879	-8	-165	-1.1%	-18.8%
Percent	83.1%	83.1%	78.8%	0.0%	4.4%		
Canada	459	437	559	22	-100	5.0%	-17.9%
North America	1318	1306	1675	12	-357	0.9%	-21.3%

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FORM RESEARCH COALITION WITH STATE UNIVERSITIES

(Provided by Mississippi Energy Research Group, Marvin L. Oxley, President)

The Mississippi Energy Research Group (MERG) and the Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute (MMRI) have formed a coalition to conduct energy research for the State of Mississippi. MMRI will, in keeping with its mission, coordinate research conducted by the state's universities, while MERG will provide guidance on research needed to support industry. This is the first concerted effort in more than twenty years to bring the energy industry and academic communities together to focus natural resource research within the state.

Over the past two decades, research and development by the major oil companies has declined significantly. Most independents have neither the time nor resources to do basic research on geological or engineering problems that aid and encourage further exploration in the state. For years, the geological surveys in Alabama, Texas, and other states have published volumes of information, which provide valuable data for the petroleum industry. All of these state surveys have direct access to one or more major university and/or utilize the research capabilities of the institutes of higher learning. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Mississippi. No organized, concerted linkage has ever been established between industry and resource related academic research.

In order to address this situation, MERG was organized to provide a direct liaison between the petroleum community in Mississippi and MMRI, in its capacity to access and coordinate academic research. It is understood that the academic community may embark on projects that do not always directly affect oil and gas exploration. However, in the absence of direct communication between the two groups, many opportunities for research may be missed that would encourage further exploration in our state. Therefore, an open invitation is hereby extended to Mississippi's petroleum industry to join forces with MERG in this effort. Anyone interested in participating in the MERG-MMRI research initiative should contact Marvin Oxley, MERG President, for details.



Happy Arbor Day



Happy Valentines Day

Happy Presidents Day

THE CATAHOULA FORMATION

by David T. Dockery III
Mississippi Office of Geology

The Catahoula Formation was named the "Catahoula (Grand Gulf ss.)" by Veatch (1905) for typical exposures in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, and as a replacement name for the Grand Gulf sandstones of Wailes (1954) and the Grand Gulf Group of Hilgard (1960). Veatch's description published the following year (1906a&b) noted that Hilgard's Grand Gulf Group included the entire section from the Grand Gulf type locality to the Recent coastal clays. In view of this broad definition, Veatch named the Catahoula Formation as those beds correlative with the "typical" or "proper" Grand Gulf section at Grand Gulf. Veatch placed the Catahoula Formation as overlying the Vicksburg Group and underlying the Fleming Formation.

Johnson (1893) mapped the "Grand Gulf" into Alabama and divided it, in ascending order, into (1) the Bayou Pierre phase, including highly siliceous and in places quartzitic rocks (2) the Fort Adams or Ellisville phase, including softer sandstones and dense clay, (3) the Hattiesburg phase, including less siliceous sediments than below and in places lignitic, and (4) the Pascagoula phase, including tenacious clays with calcareous nodules and locally abundant mollusk shells. Matson (1916) used the term Catahoula for Johnson's Bayou Pierre and Fort Adam phases and noted that Johnson's contacts for the various phases were drawn diagonally across strike so that they did not separate distinct lithologic or time units. In central Louisiana, Matson recognized a maximum thickness of 800 feet for the Catahoula Formation and correlated the Hattiesburg clay (the Hattiesburg phase of Johnson) as overlying the Catahoula sandstone in wells in Vernon and Rapides Parishes. In Catahoula Parish, he estimated the thickness to be 528 feet and gave its thickness in wells at Natches, Mississippi, as 550 feet, at Monticello, Mississippi, as 420 feet, and at Healing Springs, Alabama, as less than 200 feet. Berry

(1916) identified 24 species of fossil plants in the Catahoula of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi and identified the floral assemblage as that of a tropical coastal flora.

Cooke (1935, p. 1162) placed the Catahoula as late Oligocene or early Miocene in age and as older than the Tampa Limestone of Florida. In southern Texas, Cooke recognized the Catahoula as a tuff, which unconformably overlay the Oligocene Frio Clay and was unconformably overlain by the Oakville Sandstone of late middle and early upper Miocene age.

Blanpied (1934) raised the rank of the Catahoula to a group containing, in ascending order, the Bucatunna member, Lower Chickasawhay member, Upper Chickasawhay member (= Paynes Hammock Formation), and the typical "Catahoula." In Clarke and Wayne counties, Mississippi, Blanpied placed the group as overlying the Vicksburg Group and underlying the Citronelle Formation. Bates and Wharton (1943) argued that the Gulf Coast Miocene contained the Chickasawhay, Catahoula, and Fleming Formations and that the term "Catahoula Group" should be dropped. They considered the Catahoula to be of Miocene age.

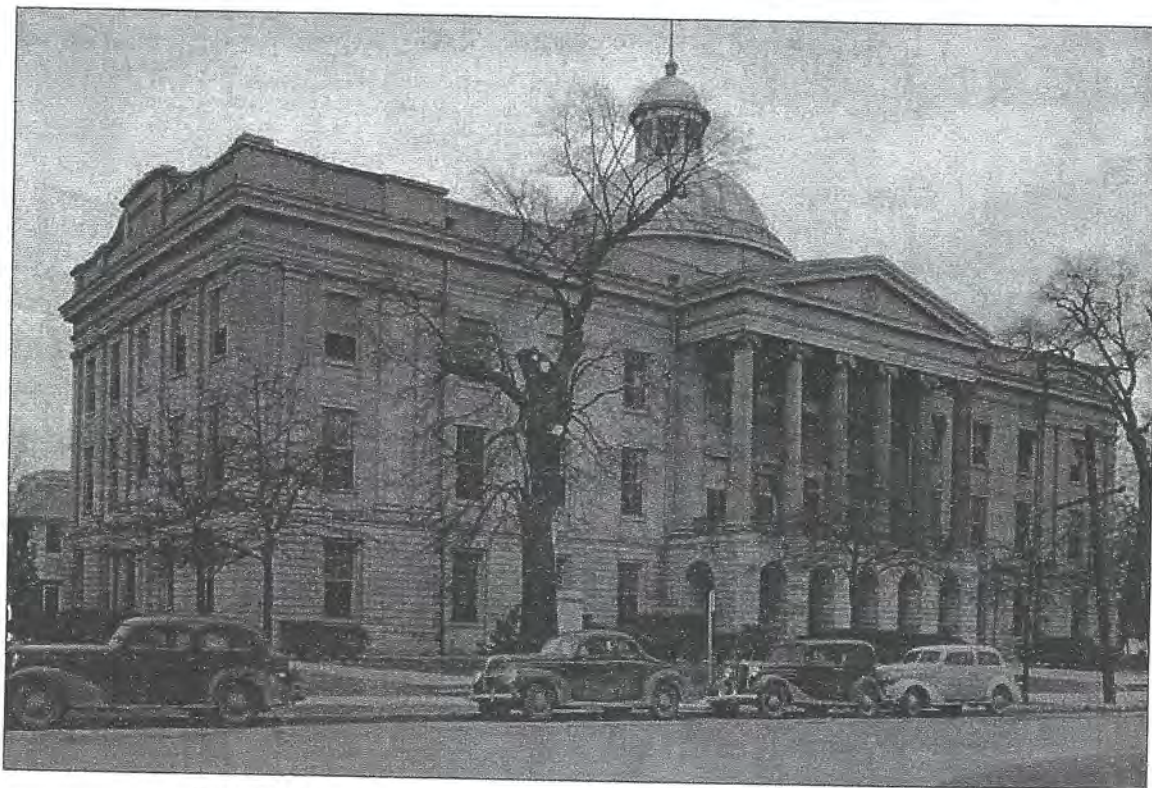
Chawner (1936) recognized the Catahoula Formation to be 350 feet thick in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, where only the lower part of the formation is exposed, and described it as containing tuffaceous sandstones, sands, and clays, with some hard silicified sandstones. In Grant and La Salle Parishes, Fisk (1938) recognized two mappable units in the Catahoula, a lower tuffaceous siltstone member and an upper thicker member containing lenticular sands, clays, and silts. Fisk (1940, p. 148) recorded a thickness of 495 feet for the Catahoula Formation in an oil-exploration well in Grant Parish near Boyce, where the upper contact with the Fleming Formation was questioned. He also noted that outcropping deltaic nonmarine facies of the Catahoula graded downdip in the subsurface into marine tongues of the Chickasawhay Formation and of the *Marginulina*, *Heterostegina*, and *Discorbis* foraminiferal zones. Ellisor (1944) placed the latter three zones, as found in the

subsurface of southern Texas, in the Anahuac Formation. MacNeil (1944) correlated the marine Paynes Hammock Sand (previously called the upper Chickasawhay) in Mississippi with the lower non-marine sands of the Catahoula "Sandstone," thus placing the lower Catahoula as Late Oligocene in age. MacNeil correlated the upper Catahoula with the Miocene Alum Bluff Group of Florida.

Defining the lower and especially the upper boundary of the Catahoula Formation has been a problem. Fisk (1940, p. 141) criticized the use of the term "Catahoula" in adjacent coastal states, claiming that the formation's upper limit "was not and can not be established from the type locality where the beds pass beneath the Mississippi River flood plain." This problem plagues geologists today, and the selection of a mappable pick for the top of the Catahoula is a major priority.

Water percolating through ash-rich sediments of the Catahoula Formation form opal-cemented sandstones and quartzite from Texas to Mississippi. Rapids Parish, Louisiana, is named for the parish's rapids that form over Catahoula quartzites. In Claiborne County, Mississippi, where the Natchez Trace crosses Bayou Pierre, the old Grind Stone Ford received its name from outcrops of the hard "Grand Gulf" (Catahoula) rock (Lowe, 1925, p. 74). A quartzite vein containing gem-quality opal is mined at Monk Hammock near the town of Leesville in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, and marketed by Exquisite Stone & Creations of Hammond, Louisiana. Such quartzites and sandstones are formed only above the phreatic zone and are not found by drilling in the deeper subsurface.

Sandstones of the Catahoula Formation have been used locally in Mississippi for building stones.



Early 20th Century photograph of the Old Capitol from the Library of Congress.

Wailes (1954, p. 216) attributed the basement and pavements of the State House at Jackson to a quarry in the "Grand Gulf Sandstone" in the vicinity of Raymond and Mississippi Springs (an old place name), located in the NE/4, NW/4, SE/4, SW/4 of Section 19, T. 5 N., R. 1 W., Hinds County. Hilgard (1860, p. 187) later noted that these stones were deteriorating due the softening of the stone around concretions of iron pyrite. Moore (1965, p. 108) placed the Catahoula sandstone quarry cited by Wailes as in Sections 22 and 23 of T. 5 N., R. 2 W. of Hinds County. When asked about the quarry, Moore (January, 2002, personal communication) said he found the quarry in the woods about a quarter mile north of old Highway 18 on the section line of sections 22 and 23 and noted that the sandstone here was harder than the friable sandstone more commonly found in the county. Sandstones from the Catahoula Formation were also extensively used in the stonework on the campus of Piney Woods School of Highway 49 in southern Hinds County.

Lowe (1925, p. 74) noted that the "Grand Gulf" rock in Rankin, Copiah, and Claiborne counties resembled massive masonry in places, leading to the supposed discoveries of ancient ruins. Sandstone blocks in the Catahoula formation near the old community of Brandywine in Claiborne County were thought by some to be such a ruin and were named the Brandywine Wall. According to a newspaper article on the Brandywine Wall by McIntire (1981), the regular size of jointed Catahoula sandstone blocks measuring six feet, by two feet, by three feet at several outcrops fooled some in the 19th Century, including Governor Andrew Longono, to believe the stones were an ancient wall on the scale of the Great Wall of China, extending some 50 miles through Copiah, Claiborne, and Hinds counties. Many saw this "archeological find" as a possible world attraction. Another "archeological looking" feature is a very large block of sandstone on the section line between sections 7 and 8 in T. 9 N., R. 5 E. in Jefferson County, Mississippi, that forms a natural bridge crossing a small creek on the McKinney Farm.

Silicified wood and palm trunks also occur in the Catahoula Formation. One silicified palm trunk on display at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences in Jackson, collected from White Oak Creek in Hinds County, measures 5 feet in length and weighs 1280 pounds. A petrified palm stump found on the Catahoula outcrop belt in Wayne County was once displayed outside the Mississippi Geological Survey Building before it was stolen. Petrified palm is also common along the Catahoula outcrop belt of Louisiana. Blackwell (1984, 1989) identified petrified palm from the Bayou Pierre in Copiah and Claiborne Counties as belonging to the extinct species *Palmoxylon lacunosum* and *P. ovatum*.

Sands and sandstones of the Catahoula Formation, along with sands and limestones of the underlying Vicksburg Group, form the northern part of the Piney Woods Physiographic Province and form a prominent line of hills or a cuesta flanking the Jackson Prairie on the south. These hills are readily seen driving south from Jackson on Interstate 55 between Byram and Terry, Mississippi, south of the Big Creek flood plain. As viewed at night looking to the east from Seven Springs Road just south of the intersection with Highway 18 and



The author in scour hole at Rock Falls, Little Bayou Pierre.

just south of the Town of Raymond, the Catahoula cuesta could well be named "Radio Ridge" as the large radio and television towers serving the Jackson Metropolitan Area line up, with their blinking lights growing ever smaller in the distance from the viewer's perspective. The highest elevation in Hinds County is on this cuesta, where a City of Jackson water tank is located off Highway 18 at TV Road. Moore (1960, p. 32) gives the highest elevation as 488 feet in Section 15, T. 5 N., and R. 1 W., about a mile north of Forest Hill and also notes an elevation of 473 feet at Coopers Well, once a famous resort in Hinds County noted for its medicinal mineral water.

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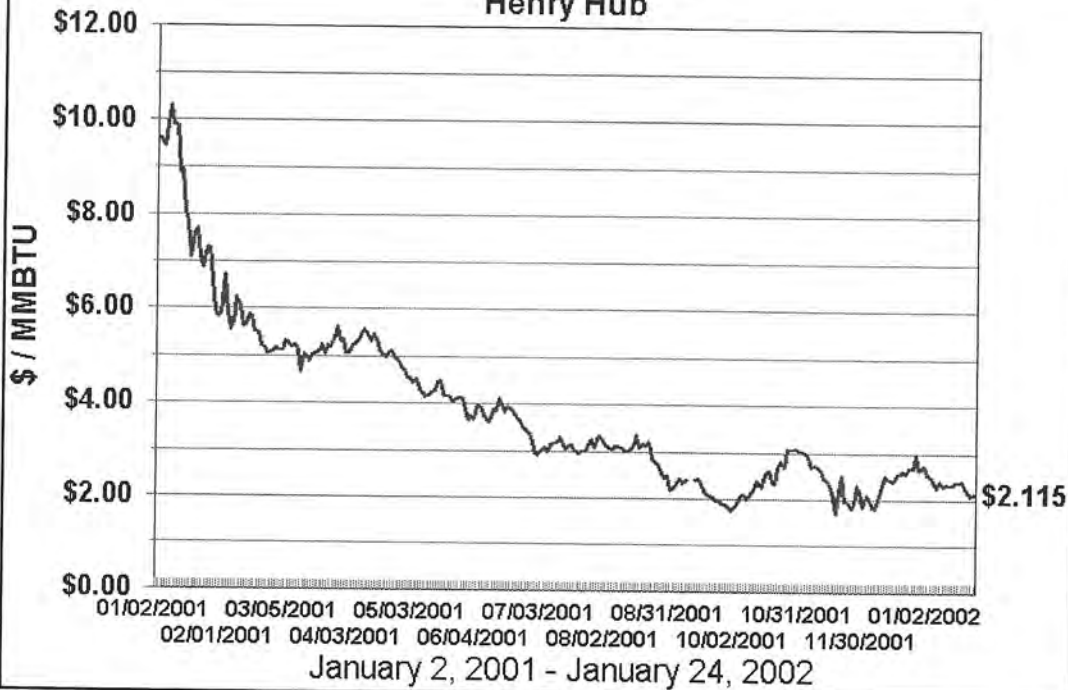
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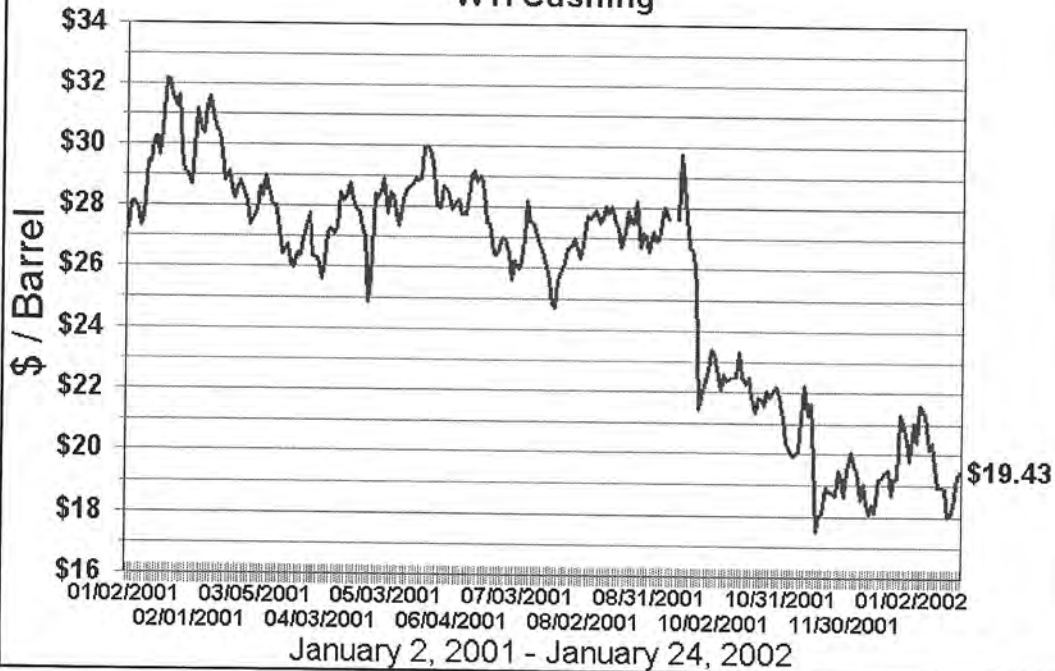


Catahoula stonework at Piney Woods School.

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The World According to Student Bloopers
(A History Lesson Compiled from Students from 8th Grade Through College)
By Richard Lederer
Part III

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. When Lincoln was President, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength." Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He also freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation, and the Fourteenth Amendment gave the ex-Negroes citizenship. But the Clue Clux Clan would torcher and lynch the ex-Negroes and other innocent victims. It claimed it represented law and odor. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. The believed assinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposingly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career. Lincoln debated John Kennedy in 1960. Kennedy won because he looked better than Lincoln, who had a pallor due to his assassination.

Meanwhile in Europe, the enlightenment was a reasonable time. Voltare invented electricity and also wrote a book called Candy. Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in the Autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees.

Back was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large. Back died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

France was in a very serious state. The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. During the Napoleonic Wars, the crowned heads of Europe were trembling in their shoes. Then the Spanish gorillas came down from the hills and nipped at Napoleon's flanks. Napoleon became ill with bladder problems and was very tense and unrestrained. He wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.

The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West. Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a throne for 63 years. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.

The nineteenth century was a time of many great inventions and thoughts. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick reaper, which did the work of a hundred men. Samuel Morse invented a code of telegraphy. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabies. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote The Origin of the Species. Madame Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx brothers.

The First World War was caused by the assassination of the Arch-Duke by an anarchist. During the early part of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson urged the people to stay in neutral. Then he had many foreign affairs, and America entered the War. The unfortunate soldiers spent day after day up to their waists in filth.

World War I made the people so sad that it brought on the Great Depression. Then the New Deal tried to make sure that the stock market will never happen again.

World War II happened when Hitler and the Nazis had erotic dreams of conquest all over Europe, but Franklin Roosevelt went over there and put a stop to him. Hitler committed suicide in his bunk, and World War II ended on VJ Day.

Editor's note:

"Student Bloopers" was taken from a photocopy someone gave me several years ago. I recently looked up Richard Lederer on the internet, and discovered that he no longer teaches, but writes books on language. He also writes a column, which is published in newspapers and magazines, and has a weekly radio show.

The website is: <http://pw1.netcom.com/~rlederer/index.htm>

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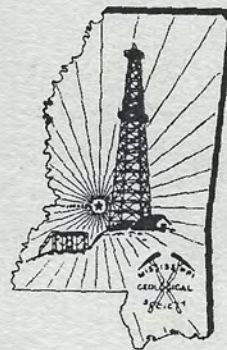
Volume 50

No. 7

March 2002

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Andrew Sylte

I hope all is well among our society members. We have managed to make it to another Spring Season. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the symposium is moving forward. It has rapidly come together with the leadership of Bob Schneeflock and tireless efforts of many others. I hope all that can help have approached Bob offering assistance. The response for volunteers has been positive, but we will need more help as "crunch time" approaches (and May 16th will be here soon!)

I have heard positive feedback from parties outside our area, making plans to attend. I feel like the word is getting out; however, if you get the opportunity, the word of mouth is a powerful tool. Please let people know about the Icebreaker (May 15th), Symposium and Spring Fling (May 16th), and the Geophysical Golf Tournament (May 17th). If there is any additional info requested, have them log onto missgeo.com. Our web site will have continuous updates.

On another note, Aaron Lasker will assume control as President of our society next term. He will be looking for a few good men and women to help on committees and as officers. Please consider serving!

Until our next meeting, take care and see you there!

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

Happy



St. Patrick's Day!!

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Rig Count
Speaker's Abstract
Annual Report of MGS's
Water Resources Committee
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Dumb Questions Asked by Tourists
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS Professional Luncheon
March 12th - 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: Geoffrey A. Dorn

Topic:

***"The Role of Visualization
In Resource Exploration
and Development"***

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2002	Speaker: Ezat Heydari	Capitol Club
February 12th, 2002	Speaker: Mike Spooner	Capitol Club
March 12th, 2002	Speaker: Geoffrey A. Dorn	Capitol Club
April 9th, 2002	TBA	TBA
May 16th, 2002	Spring Fling & Symposium	Heritage Hall, MS Agricultural Museum



If you guessed
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September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 3, 2002

February 5, 2002

March 5, 2002

April 2, 2002

May 7, 2002

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Weekly: North American Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 23 for the second week in a row to 792 for the week of February 22, 2002.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil slipped 2 to 143. Oil drilling is 92 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 18.2 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas fell 21 to 647. Gas rig count has declined all but 3 of the last 24 weeks. There are currently 238 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 905.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 39 percent. Gas exploration is down 30 percent. Crude oil spot prices are 18 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are down by 655 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was off 18 rigs to 410 for the week of February 22, 2002. This is 143 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 553.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
	02/22/02	02/15/02	02/23/01	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	792	815	1121	-23	-329	-2.8%	-29.3%
Oil	144	146	236	-2	-92	-1.4%	-39.0%
Percent	18.2%	17.9%	21.1%	0.3%	-2.9%		
Gas	647	668	885	-21	-238	-3.1%	-26.9%
Percent	81.7%	82.0%	78.9%	-0.3%	2.7%		
Gulf of Mexico	112	123	155	-11	-43	-8.9%	-27.7%
Canada	410	428	553	-18	-143	-4.2%	-25.9%
North America	1202	1243	1674	-41	-472	-3.3%	-28.2%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

The Role of Visualization in Resource Exploration and Development

Geoffrey A. Dorn

Abstract

The rapidly expanding application of visualization technology has the potential to fundamentally change the way companies conduct business in the oil and gas industry. Visualization technology has been used for years in exploration and development. Visualization is simply the graphical presentation of data in an intuitive fashion to reveal information. A bar chart, line graph, seismic section or reservoir map are all visualizations of data. Over the last five to ten years, the technology of visualization has advanced more and more rapidly, with improving resolution, interactivity and display size. The last three years have seen the growing acceptance of large collaborative and immersive visualization system in the upstream portion of the oil and gas industry.

Visualization on smaller desktop display systems focuses on discipline or "domain" specific applications (e.g., 3-D visualization applications used for 3-D seismic interpretation). These applications have demonstrated value through improving the accuracy, completeness and, to some extent, the efficiency of interpretation and reservoir modeling. These domain specific applications, however, provide only limited integration between disciplines, and little opportunity for collaboration between domain experts in front of the small screen.

The large collaborative semi-immersive and immersive visualization systems have the potential for broad application across the entire range of business, from the upstream to the downstream. These larger display systems, including large flat screens, curved screen theaters and fully immersive CAVETMs hold the potential to revolutionize the way business is conducted. These large systems facilitate the integration of data, and the integration and collaboration between members of interdisciplinary teams.

In its broadest sense, the term "immersive visualization" is used to describe not just the graphical display of data in 3-D, but the use of a wide variety of technologies to provide input to the user through a number of senses. The goal of this technology is to present the data or the environment to the user in an intuitive fashion and allow natural interaction with the data. In addition to graphical displays, the technologies involved include tracking systems, 3-D audio imaging and haptic systems. Tracking systems are used to track the user's viewing position and to appropriately update the display, or to track their hand position to enable interaction with the data in 3-D. Audio imaging in 3-D can be used in a variety of ways, including presenting additional data or information to the user, or reinforcing some component of the visual display. Haptic systems incorporate the sense of touch into the human/data interaction.

The range of possible applications to business in the oil and gas industry includes data acquisition planning, data processing and interpretation, prospect generation and evaluation, prospect review meetings, integrated drilling planning, platform optimization, facilities design, maintenance and operation, training, virtual integrated teams, virtual specialists and telepresence in hostile environments. As this technology matures, and as it is applied broadly to both the upstream and downstream business, it will produce tremendous value through the reduction of cycle times and risk.

Annual Report of the MGS's Water Resources Committee

**Submitted by
George Vockroth, Chair
Rick Ericksen, Secretary
Dee Layman
Bill Oakley**

History

The Water Resources Committee was established in 1998 by then MGS President Rick Ericksen in response to several issues related to water quality and the water resources of the state and the apparent lack of sound scientific and geologic input in their review and assessment. The committee was first chaired by the late Harold Karges and consisted of Harold, Mr. George Vockroth, and Mr. Dee Layman. For the past three (3) years, Mr. Vockroth has chaired the committee, with the committee current membership consisting of, in addition to George, Rick Ericksen, Dee Layman, and Bill Oakley.

During the formation of the MGS Water Resources Committee, Rick Ericksen as President of the MGS proposed to the Mississippi State Legislature that the Society be included as a voting member on the legislatively-created Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council. In 1999, the proposed legislation was subsequently enacted adding the MGS to the council as a voting member. The Society, through the MGS Water Resources Committee, since that time has maintained a visible and active participation with the Council, providing it with scientifically viable geologic information and direction which had been previously lacking on the Water Resources Advisory Council.

Objectives

As previously noted, one of the objectives of the committee is to provide the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council and others (state agencies, both public and quasi-public, and the citizens of the state) with unbiased, non-politically based, scientific and geologic input related to ground and

surface waters of the state. The committee has allocated a substantial amount of its resources and manpower in providing its scientific and geologic input to the council. While trying to avoid any political or other pressure, it continues to evaluate the proposed objectives of all issues before it in order to maintain the goals of the committee and the MGS, which to reiterate includes the dissemination and discussion of scientific-geologic ideas and information.

Another objective adopted with the formation of the committee has been the promotion and the reservation of ground water for potable uses; and the restriction (where possible) and reservation of surface water from impoundments and surface reservoirs for industrial uses and applications. The basis of this common sense objective comes from the following: ground water does not contain several different, harmful, and potentially deadly, bacteria and carcinogens nor does it generally have the potential for immediate exposure to threats of terrorism which could easily occur in the case of impounded surface waters for potable uses.

In addition to its work with the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council, the committee has been researching other areas within the state which may have water problems, either real or perceived. The committee's scope of research covers the scientific and geologic aspects related to these areas. The committee has commonly and routinely requested information from those involved with these matters. These information requests have been directed to several agencies of the state and federal governments, as well as municipalities and quasi-public bodies within the state. The committee is tasked with receiving approval from the Society in making these requests.

Ongoing Results

Last year in January, 2000, the committee, after receiving approval from the MGS membership, submitted to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the members of the state's legislature, a minority report on the Annual Status Report of the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council.

Geoffrey A. Dorn

Biography

Geoffrey Dorn received his B.S. in astrophysics (1973) and his M.S. in Geology (1978) from the University of New Mexico, and a PhD in exploration geophysics (Engineering Geoscience, 1980) from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined ARCO's Exploration and Production Technology in the fall of 1980, spending his first two years in seismic acquisition research. From 1982-1987 he directed ARCO's interactive interpretation research group, leaving management in January of 1987 to pursue technical research interests in 3-D seismic horizon and volume attribute analysis and 3-D visualization. In 1993 Geoff was named an ARCO Research Advisor for his contributions in 3-D seismic interpretation and visualization research and technical service. He returned to management in 1997 to direct ARCO's Visualization Technology Group. A member of the SEG (Society of Exploration Geophysicists) Research Committee since 1990, he has helped organize numerous post-convention research committee workshops, was chairman of the 1993 SEG Summer Research Workshop on 3-D Seismology, and is a District Representative to the SEG. He has been chosen as the Spring 2002 SEG Distinguished Lecturer.

Following the donation from BP and Landmark that established the BP Center for Visualization, Dr. Dorn became Executive Director of this new research center at the University of Colorado.

His interests include 3-D visualization, 3-D seismic interpretation, attribute analysis and geophysical reservoir characterization. He is an active member of the SEG, EAGE and AAPG.

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That report contained one of the objectives previously stated concerning the reservation of ground water for potable use and impounded surface waters for industrial use (where possible).

Roughly two (2) months later in March, 2001, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ's) Executive Director, Mr. Charles Chisolm, published and distributed a "white paper" titled "Mississippi Water Quantity Information Needs and Policy Issues." Also in 2001 that same agency, which is also the Administrator of the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council, implemented a reorganization of its Land and Water Division (which is responsible for writing the Advisory Council's Annual Report to the Governor et al). The reorganization included the assignment of geologists from the MDEQ's Office of Geology and Energy Resources to aid and assist in working on water problems in areas of the state where additional geologic and other scientific information is needed due to increasing urban, industrial and commercial development.

This year the 2001 Annual Report by the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council was approved by the Society's Water Resources Committee on December 18, 2001, with the concurrence of its Executive Committee. This year, the 2001 Annual Report took a significant departure from previous years reports, including a plethora of significant scientific information. Most importantly, the report outlined a plan to develop and compile critical scientific and geologic information, X-sections, maps, etc., which are needed in determining and prudently developing the water resources of the state, as the MGS's Water Resources Committee had previously recommended in their review of the council's 2000 report.

Current Activities

The committee continues its involvement with the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council in its new direction as outlined through the scientific and geologic research now being conducted through the MDEQ and others. As new information is developed from the ongoing scientific research being

conducted within the MDEQ, the committee foresees a dramatic and significant increase in its work in reviewing the data that results and in particular the conclusions which may be drawn from it. Other areas of concern to the committee are the geologic aspects related to the protection of ground water and surface water from contamination as a result of man's activities.

New developments concerning and related to ground and surface waters of the state include the formation of the Governor's Water and Sewer Task Force, whose members were appointed by the Governor and which is chaired by the Executive Director of the MDEQ. The Task Force was apparently created to study statewide issues related to water and sewer concerns. Although the MGS Water Resources Committee was not included as a member on this Task Force, we have requested and received copies of all of the recorded agendas and minutes of this group for information purposes and will continue to monitor its progress and activities.

Conclusions

The input of the Society's Water Resources Committee has made a resounding positive impact on the state's Water Resources Advisory Council, and others, which is clearly demonstrated with the current direction of ongoing scientific and geologic research noted in this report. It is understandably and reasonably expected that the need for the Society's Water Resources Committee will only continue to increase as the state continues to grow and develop its ground and surface water resources to support its ever-increasing industrial base and workforce.

The committee wishes to thank all of you, the MGS membership, who have been supportive of and contributed to our committee's work this year and in years past. Through our collective geologic knowledge we have made a significant contribution for our Society and for the geologic profession which will have a positive impact on citizens of Mississippi.

ETGS

Tech 2002 & Prospect Expo

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Harvey Hall Convention Center, Tyler, Texas
Thursday, April 11, 2002

The ETGS (East Texas Geological Society) is inviting prospect exhibitors, software developers, data vendors, and service companies to share their prospect ideas, new technologies and latest services with oil and gas professionals. This event will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m., at the Harvey Hall Convention Center, Tyler Texas. There will be an admission fee of \$20.00 pre-registration (\$25.00 on site) for attendees. Exhibitors will get two free admissions per booth space reserved. Exhibitors can also purchase additional passes for \$18.00 each to offer to clients and friends.

- The cost per booth space is \$200 (additional booths at \$150). Booths are 10 feet wide and 10 feet deep. The event committee will assign booth locations, with priority based on when the registration is received.
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- Setup hours are 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, and 6:30 a.m. — 8:00 a.m. the morning of the event. Dismantling will begin no earlier than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2002 and must be finished by 9:00 p.m.

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MGS Spring Symposium

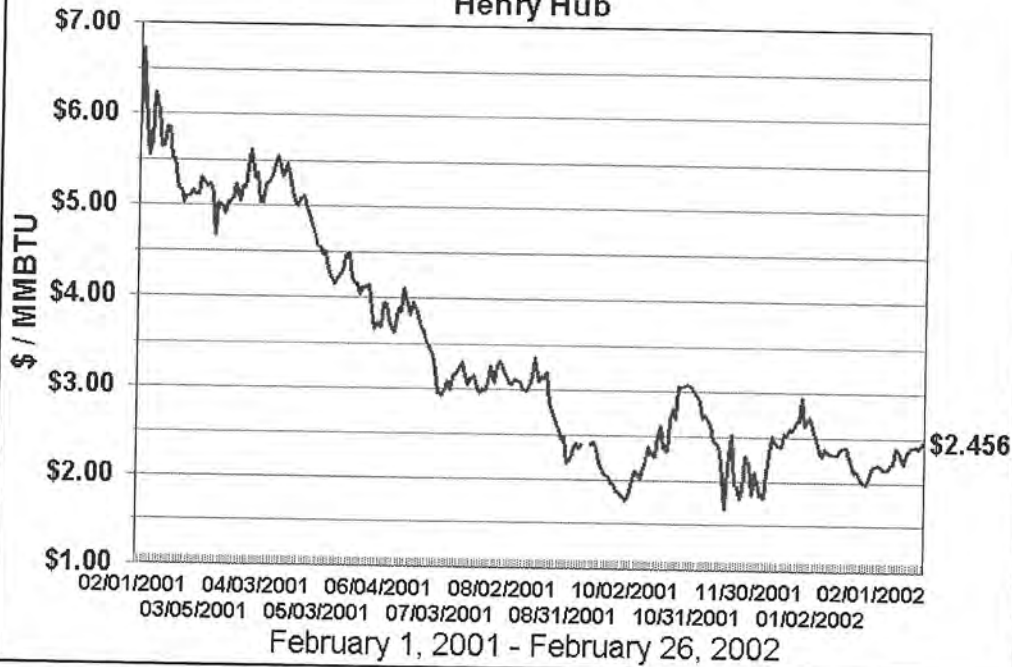


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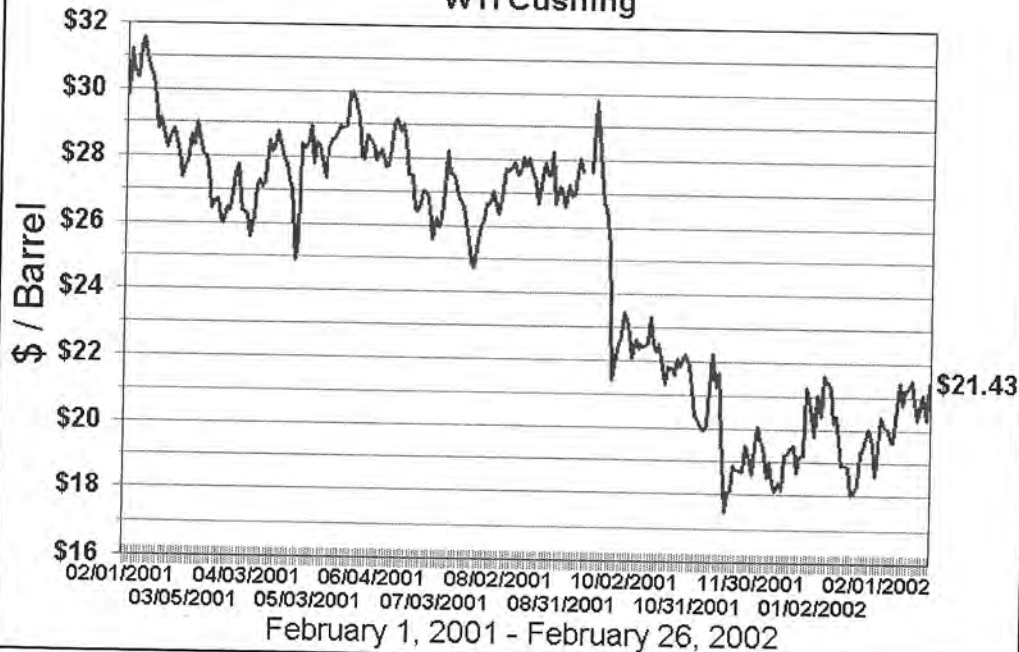
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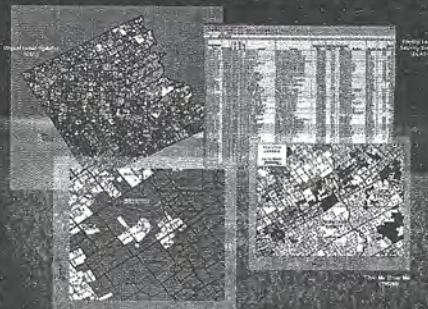
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Can you show me where the Yeti lives?
How often do you mow the tundra?
How much does Mount McKinley weigh?

Grand Canyon National Park:

Do you light it up at night?
I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom; where is it?
Is the mule train air conditioned?
Are there dining cars on the mule train?
What time does Old Faithful go off?
So where are the faces of the presidents?
What year did they build this?
Exactly why did you guys put it here?

Prince William Sound, Alaska:

(While sea kayaking) What elevation are we at?

Mesa Verde National Park:

Did people build this, or did Indians?
Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?
Why did they build ruins?
Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?
What did they worship in the kivas — their own made-up religion?
Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?

Yellowstone National Park:

Does Old Faithful erupt at night?
How do you turn it on?
Where do the animals sleep at night?
We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?
When do the deer turn into elk?
Can we eat this? (holding a handful of moose droppings that look like milk duds)

And a little more levity:

How do you catch a unique rabbit?

Unique up on it.

How do you catch a tame rabbit?

Tame way, unique up on it.

How do crazy people get through the forest?

They take the psycho path.

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

Dam!

What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long?

Polaroids.

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A nervous wreck.

Why don't blind people like to sky dive?

Because it scares the dog.

How are a Texas tornado and a Tennessee divorce alike?

Somebody's gonna lose a trailer.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

A stick.

What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spoiled milk.



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Spring Fling	_____
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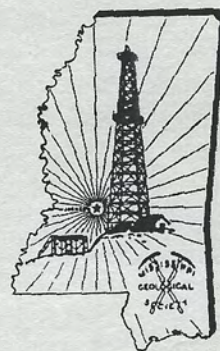
Volume 50

No. 8

April 2002

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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

By Andrew Sylte

I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter and point out another year has nearly come and gone. I hope everyone enjoys this spring weather. A quick update on the Spring Symposium on May 15th – 16th It looks like it is getting off the ground and going well (knock on wood). The feedback I am getting is that word is getting out and registration money is coming in. I would like to point out to our members that this is a limited seating event, so please get your registration in early. I would hate for our own members to miss out on the event.

However, if you do miss out on the Symposium, you are still welcome to come to the Spring Fling at 4:00 PM on May 16th. The cost for the Fling is \$10.00.

The Geophysical Golf Tournament is being held on May 17th, and registration is separate from the Symposium.

For more information on all these events, check on line at our web site, www.missgeo.com — **And please pass this on to all you know.**

If you still have not volunteered for anything, let me know and we'll volunteer for you!

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

Happy
Earth
Day!!!

April 22, 2002



In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Rig Count
Ralph Hines Honorary Membership
Speaker's Abstract
Topography of Mississippi
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Embarrassing Predictions
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS Professional Luncheon
April 9th – 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: William A. Tedesco

Topic:
“Stratigraphic and Diagenetic
Controls on Production from
Smackover Formation Reservoirs,
Womack Hill Field”

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2002	Speaker: Ezat Heydari	Capitol Club
February 12th, 2002	Speaker: Mike Spooner	Capitol Club
March 12th, 2002	Speaker: Geoffrey A. Dorn	Capitol Club
April 9th, 2002	Speaker: William A. Tedesco	Capitol Club
May 16th, 2002	Spring Fling & Symposium	Heritage Hall, MS Agricultural Museum

*Don't Forget —
May 16th*

Symposium



Followed by Spring Fling

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

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March 5, 2002

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May 7, 2002

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Weekly: North American Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 13 following a decline of 10 last week to 769 for the week of March 8, 2002.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil recovered last week's 2 rig loss to 144. Oil drilling is 1088 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 18.2 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas fell 15 to 624. Gas rig count has declined all but 3 of the last 26 weeks. There are currently 279 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 903.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 43 percent. Gas exploration is down 31 percent. Crude oil spot prices are 19 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are down by 50 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was off 22 rigs to 339 for the week of March 8, 2002. This is 195 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 534.

North American Rig Count

	03/08/02	03/01/02	03/09/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	769	782	1158	-13	-389	-1.7%	-33.6%
Offshore	115	119	170	-4	-55	-3.4%	-32.4%
Land	654	663	988	-9	-334	-1.4%	-33.8%
Inland Waters	15	16	22	-1	-7	-6.3%	-31.8%
Oil	144	142	252	2	-108	1.4%	-42.9%
Percent	18.7%	18.2%	21.8%	0.6%	-3.0%		
Gas	624	639	903	-15	-279	-2.3%	-30.9%
Percent	81.1%	81.7%	78.0%	-0.6%	3.2%		
Directional	227	226	271	1	-44	0.4%	-16.2%
Horizontal	53	54	74	-1	-21	-1.9%	-28.4%
Gulf of Mexico	110	113	165	-3	-55	-2.7%	-33.3%
Gulf Oil	20	17	56	3	-36	17.6%	-64.3%
Percent	18.2%	15.0%	33.9%	3.1%	-15.8%		
Gulf Gas	92	96	109	-4	-17	-4.2%	-15.6%
Percent	83.6%	85.0%	66.1%	-1.3%	17.6%		
Canada	339	361	534	-22	-195	-6.1%	-36.5%
North America	1108	1143	1692	-35	-584	-3.1%	-34.5%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

E. Ralph Hines
Honorary Membership

E. Ralph Hines of Jackson has been presented an honorary membership to the Mississippi Geological Society.

Presentation was made by Charles H. Williams, Jr., Chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee. The honor is given a member in good standing who, through his scientific activity and contributions to the society and the community as a whole, has brought favorable recognition to the society.

Ralph was born in 1929 and grew up in Carlisle, Texas, where at an early age his schoolmates dubbed him "Stogie", following an instance of severe nausea from chewing a cigar. This moniker has stuck with him to the present day.

He graduated from Texas Tech University in 1949, with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

His first industry job was with a seismograph company. He joined Gulf Oil Company in Shreveport in 1950. He was named district geologist with Seaboard Oil Company in 1955 in the Jackson, MS, office. In 1958 he joined with Bob and Harold Moon, his brothers-in-law, to form Miss-Tex Oil Producers. Their first prospect was the discovery of West Hub Field in 1959. In 1970 Miss-Tex and partner, Jim Furrh, discovered Dinan Field in Walthall County, where they drilled and completed 15 consecutive lower Tuscaloosa wells. Miss-Tex was dissolved in 1971, and Ralph became a partner with Bob Moon in Moon & Hines Oil Exploration & Production Company.

Moon & Hines discovered or participated in the development of 16 fields in Mississippi and 14 fields in Alabama.

In 1982, Ralph, together with Bob Moon and Terry Tigrett, formed Moon-Hines-Tigrett Operating Company, which operates 38 wells in Alabama and Mississippi.

Ralph belongs to a number of industry associations. Married in 1949, he has one daughter and two sons. Two of the sons work for Moon and Hines and Moon-Hines-Tigrett Operating Company. Scott is a landman and Todd a geologist.

ABSTRACT

Stratigraphic and Diagenetic Controls on Production from Smackover Formation Reservoirs Womack Field, Eastern Gulf Coastal Plain

William A. Tedesco, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, Major, R. P.
The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

Smackover reservoirs in the Eastern Gulf Coastal Plain commonly produce from dolomitized oolitic to oncoidal shoal grainstones and packstones. An understanding of depositional and diagenetic processes that formed these rocks is necessary for effective reservoir management.

Deposition of Upper Smackover carbonate sediments at Womack Hill Field occurred in a series of three upward-shoaling cycles. Each consists of a peloidal micrite or wackestone basal unit overlain by pelletal and oolitic wackestone and packstone. Oolitic and oncologic grainstone caps each cycle. Within each cycle there are upward trends of more complete dolomitization and increasing porosity and permeability.

Smackover diagenesis began with marine cementation of grains by fibrous aragonite. Partially preserved fabrics suggest some ooids were originally aragonite, some were mg-calcite, and some were bimineralic. These unstable sediments were highly altered by meteoric waters, creating large amounts of moldic porosity. Isopachous rim and blocky calcite cements precipitated in intergranular and moldic pores and were followed by four phases of dolomitization. The first event was a fabric-destructive dolomitization, concentrated at the Buckner Anhydrite-Smackover contact, likely caused by penecontemporaneous, downward-moving, evaporitically-concentrated marine brine. Fabric-selective dolomitization followed, completely replacing grains with inclusion-rich xenotopic microspar. A fabric-destructive phase of dolomitization created large amounts of intercrystalline porosity and increased permeability. The final phase occurred as precipitation of saddle dolomite rhombs. Burial effects include both physical and chemical compaction leading to major reductions of porosity and permeability in sediments not already dolomitized or altered to stable calcite.

Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love.

David McCullough

A loud voice cannot compete with a clear voice, even if it's a whisper.

Barry Neil Kaufman

The Topography of Mississippi

David T. Dockery III and Pat Mason

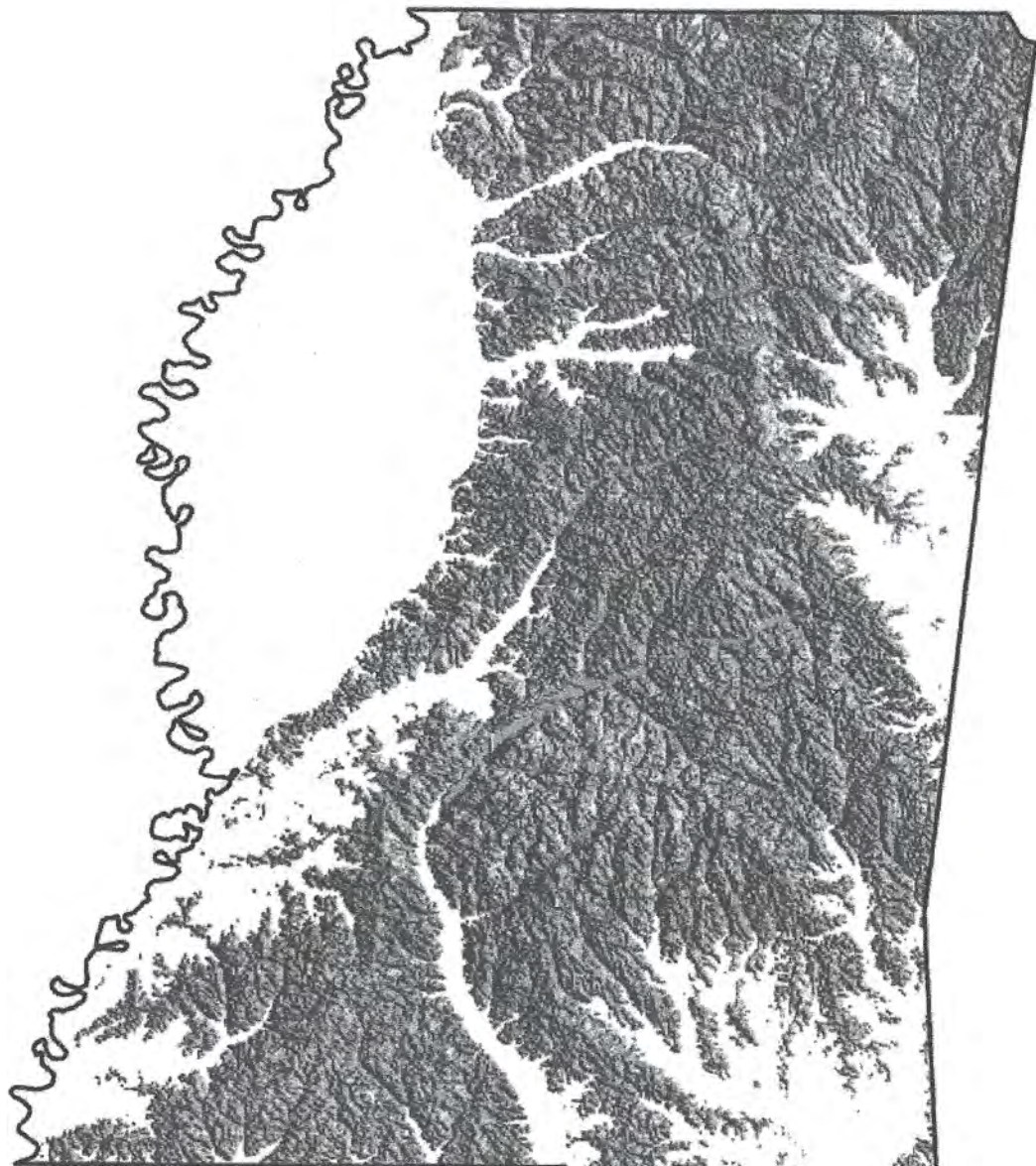
Mississippi lies largely in the Gulf Coastal Plain and has been an area of low relief since the Late Jurassic, with the exception of some Cretaceous volcanoes. Oceans covered the state in Late Cretaceous and Early Paleocene times and returned to cover most or all of the state in Middle and Late Eocene and Early Oligocene times. According to Cooke (1966), repeated fluctuations of sea level during the Quaternary Epoch drowned the Mississippi River valley to a maximum height of 360 feet. Today, a realistic maximum sea-level potential is that of Williams and Ferrigno (1999), who estimated that sea level would rise 80.44 meters or 264 feet if the world's glaciers melted. What would Mississippi look like today if sea level rose 264, 300, or 400 feet? In answering these questions, we can gain some insight into the state's topography and physiography.

Examining the state from west to east, a sea-level rise of 264 feet transforms the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain into the Mississippi Bay with the Yalobusha River valley flooded westward to Calhoun City. The Big Black River valley is flooded to the town of West in northeastern Holmes County and forms a broad bay with many inlets. Separating the Big Black from the Mississippi Bay north of Vicksburg is a ridge of loess hills. The Pearl River valley is flooded as far north as Jackson and forms a narrow bay entrenched in the Miocene/Citronelle highlands of the Piney Woods Physiographic Province. The coastal counties are flooded along with much of the Leaf and Chickasawhay river valleys. Also flooded in northeastern Mississippi are

the Tombigbee and Noxubee River valleys and the southern part of the Black Prairie and Flatwoods physiographic provinces. This flooding places the cities of Columbus, West Point, Aberdeen, and Amory under water and places Starkville on beach-front property.

A sea-level rise of 300 feet leaves only a thin broken line of loess hills north of Vicksburg between the Mississippi and Big Black bays. Waters flooding the Pearl River top the pool level (297 feet) of the Ross Barnett Reservoir north of Jackson, leaving a thin ridge of land along the Natchez Trace dividing the Big Black and Pearl bays. In southeastern Mississippi and along the southern Black Prairie and Flatwoods in northeastern Mississippi are broad flooded bays separated from each other by the Tallahatta Cuesta and associated highlands. Waters of the flooded Yalobusha River valley almost join those of the Tombigbee Bay at Houston to cut the state's landmass in two parts. Half the state is under water, with the Citronelle highlands of the Piney Woods Province emergent in the southwest, an arcuate spine of Wilcox and Claiborne highlands of the North Central Hills Province emergent in north-central Mississippi, and the Tertiary and Cretaceous highlands of the northern North Central Hills, Pontotoc Ridge, and Tennessee and Tombigbee Hills emergent in the north.

A sea-level rise of 400 feet divides the state into isolated highlands/islands. The Neshoba Fairgrounds remain dry on the central landmass, which is connected to the Alabama state line along the Tallahatta Cuesta southeast of the flooded City of Meridian. This land mass includes the southern part of the North Central Hills Province and the northern part of the Citronelle highlands where the Citronelle of the Piney Woods overlaps the Jackson



**Shaded Topographic Relief of
Emergent Mississippi Terrain
After Sea Level Rise of 264 Feet**

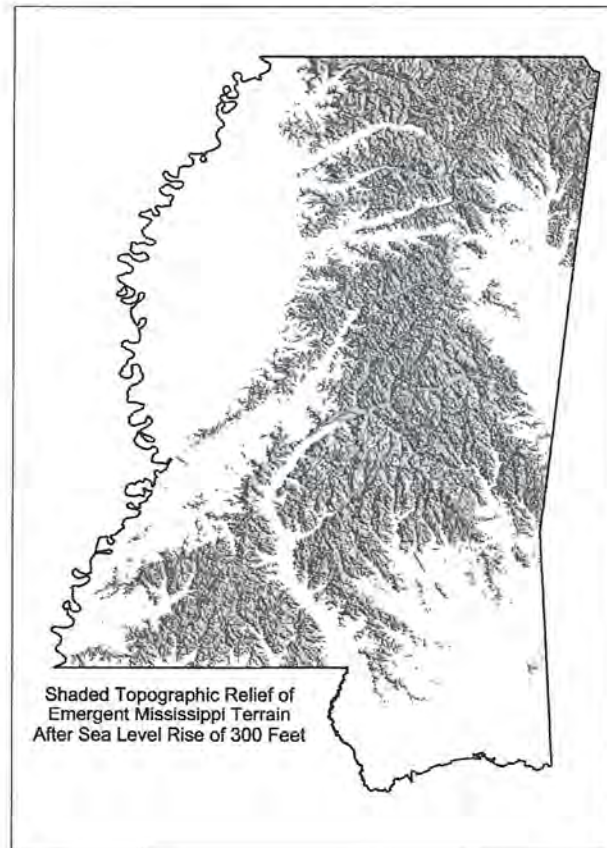
(Source: USGS DEM data, 1-degree series, over MARIS base, lat-long projection. Cartography by Pat Mason)

Prairie along the Morton-Forest-Lake section of Interstate 20. North of the drowned City of Tupelo, the northern North Central Hills, Pontotoc Ridge, and Tennessee-Tombigbee Hills remain connected along the Tennessee line. Isolated but still emergent in southern Mississippi are separate Citronelle highlands along Interstate 55 between Crystal Springs and McComb and along Highway 49 at and southwest of Magee.

A sea-level rise of 500 feet leaves only scattered islands emergent, but along their southern extent are the Citronelle highlands southwest of Magee and a northwest-southeast Citronelle ridge extending through Jasper County from a high point at Baxter on Highway 15 in the north, through Missionary, and extending southeast of Paulding. Both of these highland areas contain elevations greater than 600 feet above sea level and are the highest points south of Interstate 20.

REFERENCES

- Cooke, C. Wythe, 1966, Emerged Quaternary shore lines in the Mississippi Embayment: Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, v. 149, no. 10, 41 p.
- Williams, Richard S., and Jane G. Ferrigno, 1999, Estimated present-day area and volume of glaciers and maximum sea level rise potential.



I think it would be a good idea.

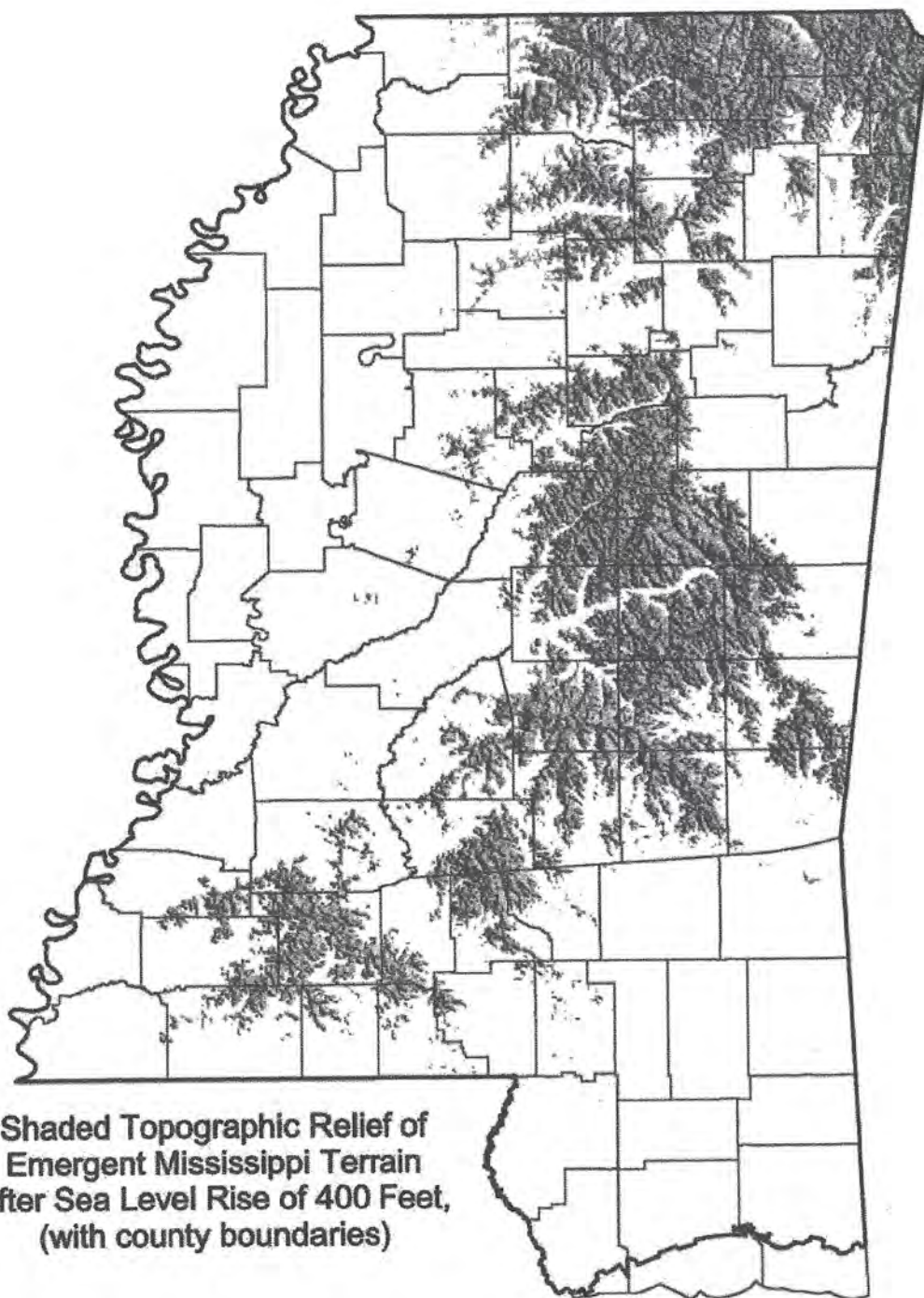
Mahatma Gandhi, when asked what he thought of Western civilization

If stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?

Will Rogers

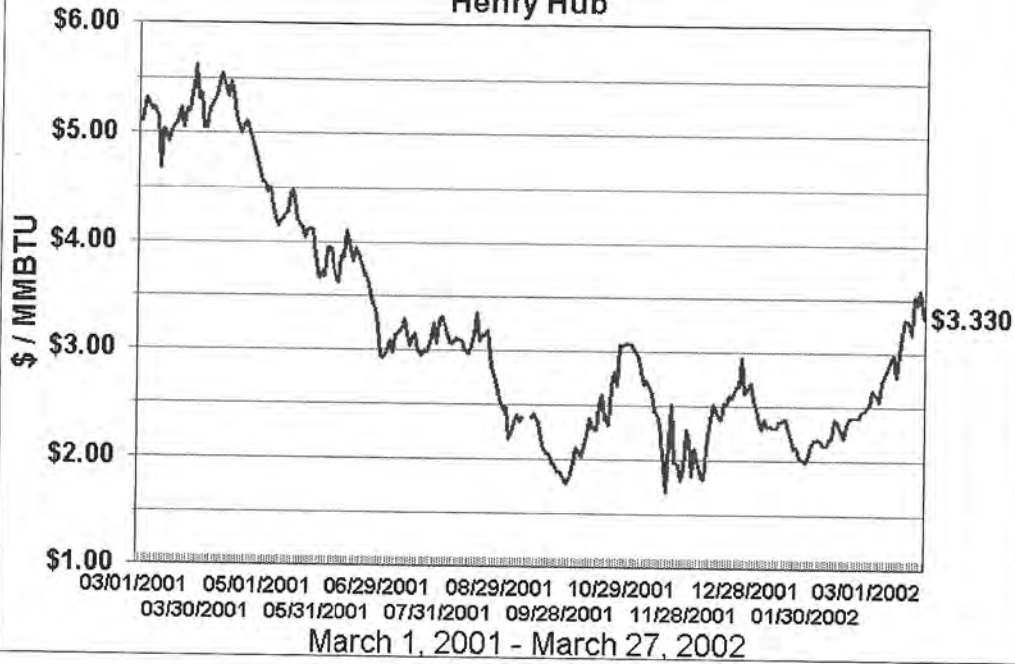
I am not young enough to know everything.

Oscar Wilde

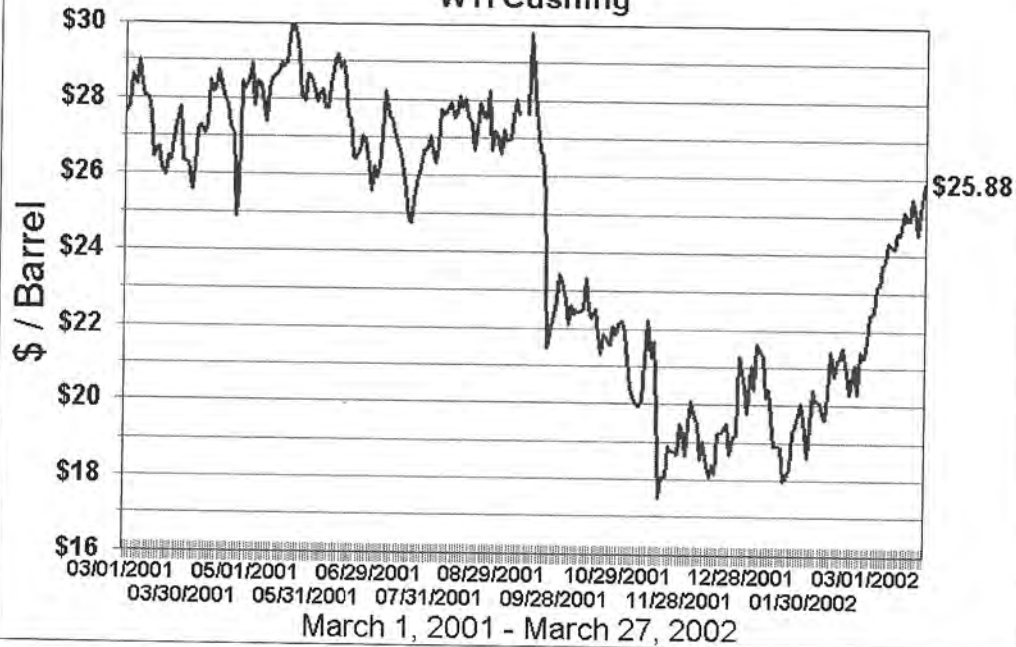


**Shaded Topographic Relief of
Emergent Mississippi Terrain
After Sea Level Rise of 400 Feet,
(with county boundaries)**

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



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Embarrassing Predictions

"But what . . . is it good for?"

Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react. He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools."

1921 New York Times editorial about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work.

"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet.'"

Apple Computer, Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get Atari and H-P interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

MGS Spring Symposium

An outline map of the states of Mississippi and Alabama, with a vertical line separating the two states. The text is centered over the map.

***“Recent Activity and
Trends in the
Mississippi - Alabama
Oil Patch”***

*May 16, 2002
Jackson, MS*

Details at www.missgeo.com

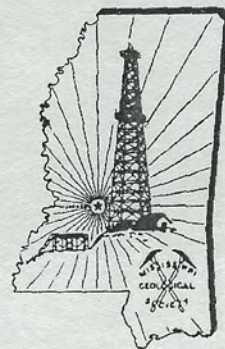
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No. 9

May 2002

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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

By Andrew Sylte

I hope all that received this letter are doing fine and well . . . it is amazing how another year has come and gone, a year with so many changes and challenges. In serving as your President, I have been allowed to see the MGS at its best.

I appreciate the help and support at all levels . . . from Jo's delicate prodding of the monthly President's Message, to Karl's ability to find the right speaker, and Steve our website builder, people who help with projectors, print bulletins, or select Scholarship Winners and Honorary Members. People who represent us as AAPG Delegates and Water Resource Committees. People who collect and count the money, find sponsors, and pay the bills. People who, when asked to run a symposium or speak at this symposium, step up and place a great deal of thought, sweat, effort, time, and money into it. And I know I left people out, not out of a lack of appreciation, but lack of publishing space to give credit where credit is due.

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Rig Count
Mississippi Oil and Gas Development
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
Embarrassing Predictions
MGS Advertising Notice

And now Aaron Lasker will step up as your President; I hope he will be as fortunate as I was.

I do want to remind everyone to spread the news on the Symposium May 16th and the golf tournament on the 17th. All the info is on www.missgeo.com. Remember to attend the Icebreaker May 15th at 5:30 PM at the Museum of Natural Science. You may come even if you do not attend the Symposium.

Take care.

Andrew Thomas Sylte
MGS President 2001-2002

P. S. Thanks, Bob.

*Don't Forget —
May 16th*

Symposium

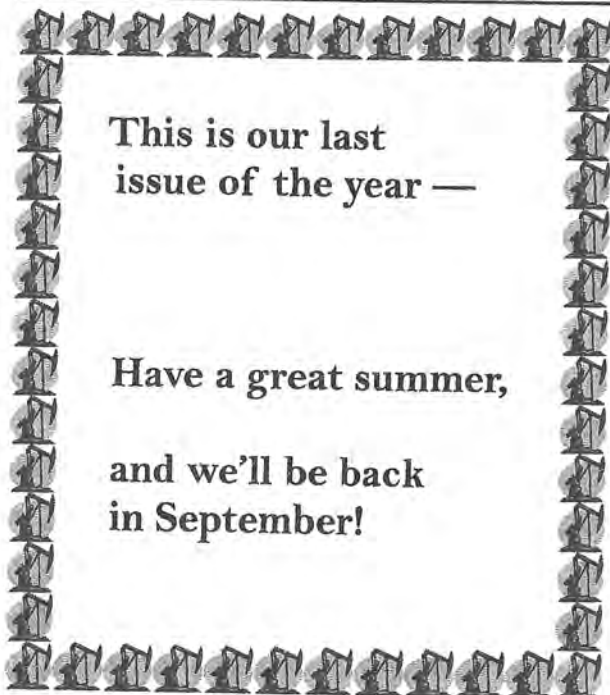
*“Recent Activity and
Trends in the
Mississippi - Alabama
Oil Patch”*



Followed by Spring Fling

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 20th, 2001	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge
October 9th, 2001	Speaker: Robert Gaston	Capitol Club
November 13th, 2001	Speaker: Pat Lasswell	Capitol Club
December 11th, 2001	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 8th, 2002	Speaker: Ezat Heydari	Capitol Club
February 12th, 2002	Speaker: Mike Spooner	Capitol Club
March 12th, 2002	Speaker: Geoffrey A. Dorn	Capitol Club
April 9th, 2002	Speaker: William A. Tedesco	Capitol Club
May 16th, 2002	Spring Fling & Symposium	Heritage Hall, MS Agricultural Museum



**This is our last
issue of the year —**

Have a great summer,

**and we'll be back
in September!**

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2001

October 2, 2001

November 6, 2001

December 4, 2001

January 3, 2002

February 5, 2002

March 5, 2002

April 2, 2002

May 7, 2002

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Weekly: North American Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 2 to 771 for the week of April 19, 2002 following a gain of 9 in the previous week.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil fell one to 134. Oil drilling is 110 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 17.9 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas gained 3 to 613. Gas rig count has declined all but 5 of the last 26 weeks. There are currently 354 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 967.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 45 percent. Gas exploration is down 37 percent. Crude oil spot prices are 9 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are down by 35 percent .

Canadian rig activity* fell 31 rigs to 96 for the week of April 19, 2002. This is 92 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 188.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
	04/19/02	04/12/02	04/20/01	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	749	747	1213	2	-464	0.3%	-38.3%
Offshore	102	106	168	-4	-66	-3.8%	-39.3%
Land	647	641	1045	6	-398	0.9%	-38.1%
Inland Waters	17	16	22	1	-5	6.3%	-22.7%
Oil	134	135	244	-1	-110	-0.7%	-45.1%
Percent	17.9%	18.1%	20.1%	-0.2%	-2.2%		
Gas	613	610	967	3	-354	0.5%	-36.6%
Percent	81.8%	81.7%	79.7%	0.2%	2.1%		
Directional	204	212	283	-8	-79	-3.8%	-27.9%
Horizontal	56	59	72	-3	-16	-5.1%	-22.2%
Gulf of Mexico	99	103	162	-4	-63	-3.9%	-38.9%
Gulf Oil	19	20	37	-1	-18	-5.0%	-48.6%
Percent	19.2%	19.4%	22.8%	-0.2%	-3.6%		
Gulf Gas	80	83	125	-3	-45	-3.6%	-36.0%
Percent	80.8%	80.6%	77.2%	0.2%	3.6%		
Canada	96	127	188	-31	-92	-24.4%	-48.9%
North America	845	874	1401	-29	-556	-3.3%	-39.7%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

Mississippi Oil and Gas Development

By Henry N. Toler

Reprinted from the Oil and Gas Journal
September 16, 1937

The first test well for oil and gas in Mississippi was drilled in Clarke County to a depth of 1,842 feet in 1903. Since this well was drilled 228 wildcat wells have been drilled in the state. As a result two gas fields have been discovered, numerous showings of oil and gas reported, and structures confirmed or discovered.

It will be noted that most of these wells were drilled only to shallow depths, there being but 23 wells drilled below 5,000 feet. The great majority of these wells were located and drilled without the use of scientific information and could hardly be considered adequate tests. The deepest well drilled in the state is the Covington County Oil Co. No. 1 Bank of Seminary, which was drilled in Covington County to a depth of 8,002 feet and abandoned in the Eutaw formation as a dry hole.

Present Activity

There has been a marked increase in geophysical work in Mississippi during the past few months, there having been as many as 25 parties working in the state at one time. The geophysical parties include seismograph, torsion balance and gravitimeter. This work has been pretty well scattered over the entire state with the greater amount of work being done in South Mississippi. There has also been some surface geological work done.

The leasing of land for oil and gas has kept pace with the geological and geophysical work. After many of the areas were worked, the companies went in and leased solid blocks of acre-age, thus probably indicating that structural conditions had been found. Thousands of acres have been leased in the past several months over the whole state, but leasing, like the exploration work, has been heavier in South Mississippi. There are approximately 4,000,000 acres under lease.



The Author

Henry N. Toler, state oil and gas supervisor of Mississippi, and a member of the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board, the regulatory body of that state. Mr. Toler is a native Mississippian; received his B.S. in geology from Louisiana State University in 1925 and his M.S. degree in geology from the University of Illinois in 1929. Outside of his extensive studies of oil and gas geology in Mississippi, he has gained similar experiences in Kentucky, Illinois, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and in South America.

Most of the recently leasing and exploration work has been done in the following counties: Greene, George, Wayne, Stone, Perry, Forrest, Jones, Pearl River, Lamar, Covington, Marion, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Pike, Amite, Wilkinson, Franklin, Jefferson and Claiborne in South Mississippi. In West and North Mississippi the following counties have seen more activity: Holmes, Humphreys, Sunflower, Washington, Bolivar, Tallahatchie, Grenada, Montgomery, Calhoun, Yalobusha and Lafayette.

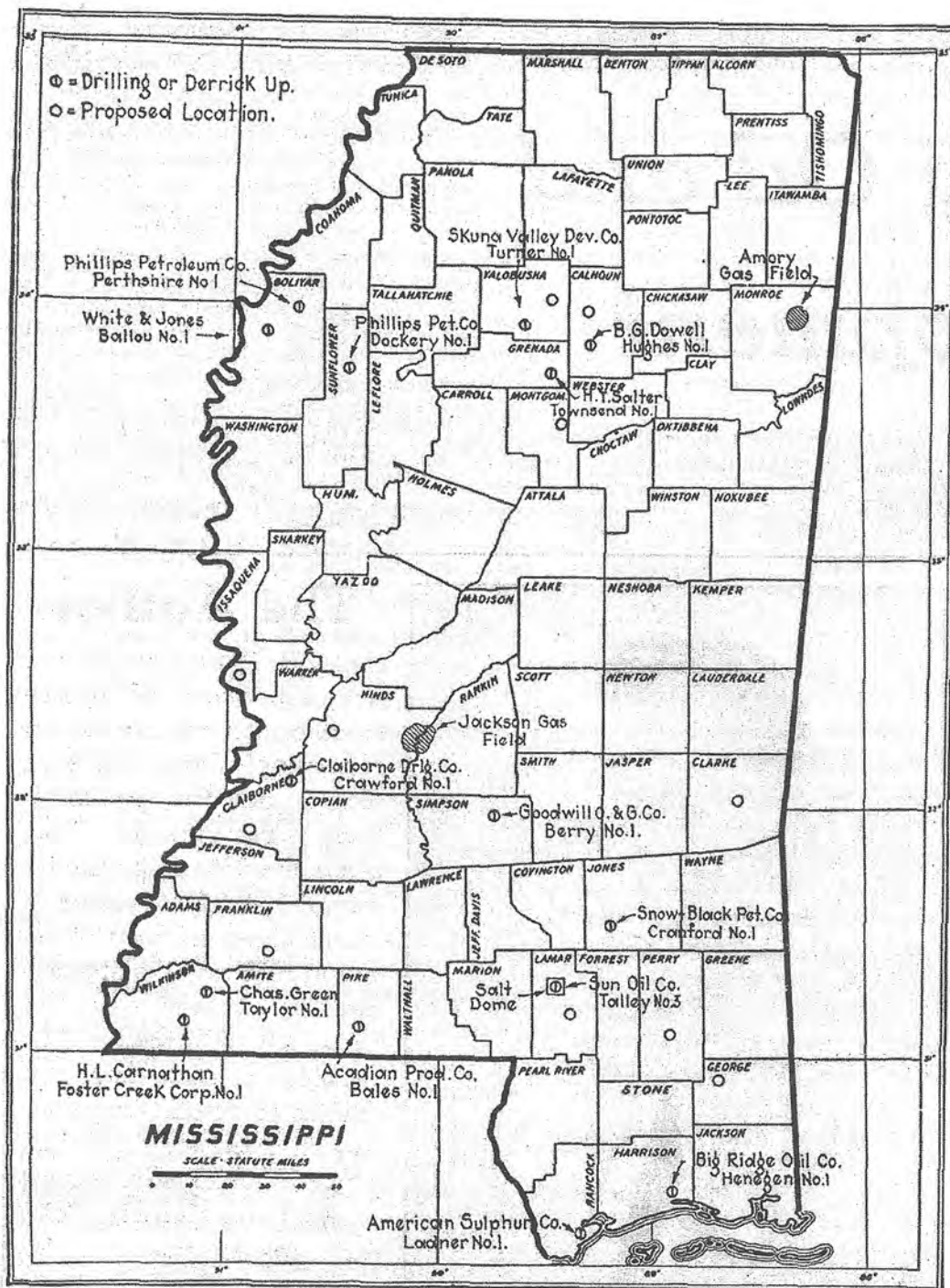
Within the past few months the State Mineral Lease Commission, which handles the leasing of all state-owned lands, has had several inquiries from companies wishing to lease some 500,000 acres or more of state-owned water bottoms along the coast. No action has been taken yet.

The following companies are active in the state, doing exploration work and leasing and having men in the area: Sun Oil Co., Gulf Refining Co., Texas Co., United Gas Public Service Co., Phillips Petroleum Co., California Co., Tide Water Associated Oil Co., Shell Petroleum Corp., Southern Natural Gas Co., Cities Service Oil Co., Magnolia Petroleum Co., Stanolind Oil & Gas Co., Humble Oil & Refining Co., Kirby Petroleum Co., Ohio Oil Co., Danger Oil & Refining Co., Louisiana Cursader Oil, Inc., Continental Oil Co., Amerada Petroleum Corp., Sinclair Prairie Oil Co., Arkansas Natural Gas Corp., Superior Oil Co. In addition to these major companies, there are also several small companies and independent operators who are active in leasing and drilling.

Wells are being drilled at present in the following counties: Bolivar County, Phillips Petroleum Co. No. 1 Perthshire, drilling at 5,600 feet, and White and Jones No. 1 Ballou, shut down at 1,782 feet; Sunflower County, Phillips Petroleum Co. No. 1 Dockery, derrick up; Calhoun County, B. G. Dowell No. 1 Hughes, drilling at 811 feet; Yalobusha County, Skuna Valley Development Co. No. 1 Turner, drilling at 900 feet; Claiborne County, Claiborne Oil & Gas Drilling Co. No. 1 Crawford, shut down at 2,200 feet; Lamar County, Sun Oil Co. No. 3 Talley, drilling at 6,294 feet; Hancock County, American Sulfur Co. No. 1 Ladner, shut down at 2,015 feet; Harrison County, Big Ridge Oil Co., No. 1 Hengen, set casing at 2,332 feet; Jones County, Snow-Black Petroleum Co. No. 1 Cranford, shut down at 4,000 feet; Simpson County, Goodwill Oil & Gas Co. No. 1 Berry, rigging up; Pike County, Acadian Production Corp. No. 1 Bales, derrick up; Wilkinson County, H. G. Carnahan and others No. 1 Foster Creek Corp., drilling at 4,219 feet, and Charles Green and others No. 1 Julian Taylor, drilling at 2,008 feet; and Grenada County, H. T. Salter No. 1 Carpenter, derrick up.

There are reliable reports that wells are to be started soon in the following counties: Calhoun, one well; Yalobusha, two wells; Clarke, one well; Montgomery, one well; Claiborne, one well; Hinds, one well; Lamar, one well; Perry, one well; George, one well; and Franklin, one well.

Some of the wells now drilling and some of those to be drilled are to be deep tests, located on structures, and they will be watched with great interest.



Wells drilling or derricks up and proposed locations

Subsurface

Formations ranging from Ordovician to Miocene are within reach of the drill. These formations are productive in other states and should be productive in Mississippi. In North and Northeast Mississippi the Paleozoic formations are within easy reach of the drill. In Central Mississippi, particularly on structure, the Paleozoic could probably be reached. The Cretaceous in West, North Central, Central and even South Mississippi will be found at depths that can be reached. The Cockfield, Jackson and the Vicksburg in South Mississippi will be found at depths from 1,000 to 6,000 feet or deeper. In the extreme southern part of the state, the Miocene could "pay off." The Cretaceous-Selma chalk, Eutaw (Blossom sand of Louisiana equivalent) and Tuscaloosa (Woodbine of Louisiana and Texas equivalent) are possible producing formations that can be tested over possibly two-thirds or more of the state. Selma chalk, the gas horizon, also produces some oil at Jackson. Eutaw is, in the opinion of the writer, the formation in which Sun Oil Co. found 152 feet of asphalt saturated sand from 5,643 to 5,795 feet in its No. 3 Talley in Lamar County. Other wells have also had shows of oil and gas in the Eutaw. The production of Blossom and Woodbine of Texas and Louisiana is, of course, well known. Under proper structural conditions, there seems to be no reason why these formations should not produce in Mississippi. The finding of so much asphalt in the Sun well definitely proves the existence of commercial source beds.

No Lower Cretaceous is exposed at the surface, but has probably been encountered in a few wells drilled. The state of Mississippi fee No. 2 in the Jackson gas field penetrated some 2,500 feet of beds, mostly red and gray shale

and gray, hard sandstone, which are thought to be Trinity in age. It is believed by some that part of the red sand and shale section found in wells in North and Northwest Mississippi were Trinity in age. At least, not all the red section in a few wells is thought to be Tuscaloosa. It is not beyond the realm of reason to think that not only this red section but Glen Rose and the so-called "Big Lime" of Smackover, probably Jurassic or Permian in age, will be found in West Mississippi. If these formations are present in South Mississippi, they may be too deep to be encountered with the drill bit, unless encountered on structures of considerable uplift such as the salt dome in Lamar County.

Reservoir sands and limes are known to be present, source beds are present — the big question in Mississippi now is: Do the necessary structural conditions for accumulation into commercial pools exist?

Structure

There are several known structures such as the Jackson anticline or dome, the Amory structure, the salt dome in Lamar County, and a "high" in South Perry County. The deep tests made in Stone County by the Gulf Refining Co. and the deep tests made in South Greene and North George Counties by the United Gas Public Service Co. were regionally high and showed some structure between wells drilled. There are some faults in Clarke and Wayne Counties, some of which have had wells drilled on them. There are some surface structures in Warren County and Western Hinds County. Subsurface structures appear to be present in the Delta section from the few wells that have been drilled in that area.

A number of geophysical "highs" have been reported from almost every section of the state. Also other surface and subsurface structures have been indicated in places, but additional detailed information is needed to make definite determination. The entire state has not been thoroughly worked by surface or geophysical methods and there is much to be learned from a thorough surface and subsurface study as to the structure and stratigraphy. Only time, lots of work and many wells drilled will finally tell the story as to the existence of structures where oil has accumulated.

The finding of a salt dome in Lamar County has opened new possibilities heretofore considered unlikely in Mississippi. It is reasonable to expect the presence of many more salt domes in the state. From the meager information available, it seems there may be a salt basin in South Central Mississippi and many salt domes will be found in this area. A study of some of the geophysical work that has been done and the leasing campaign that followed indicates some salt domes or other types of structures have already been found. Other types of structures were probably formed while the salt domes were developing. None of these recent prospects have been tested yet and as to what the final results will be no one knows, and it is perhaps hazardous to even guess.

Many of the wells already drilled have given valuable structural and stratigraphic information. Unfortunately, though, many of the wells drilled in the state, particularly those drilled several years ago, are merely holes in the ground and give no definite information.

If the exploration work continues at the present rate for the next year or two, the writer confidently predicts that one or more

commercial oil fields will be discovered in Mississippi.

All of the activity that is being carried on evidences the faith and belief of the oil industry in the possibilities of Mississippi as an important potential source of oil.

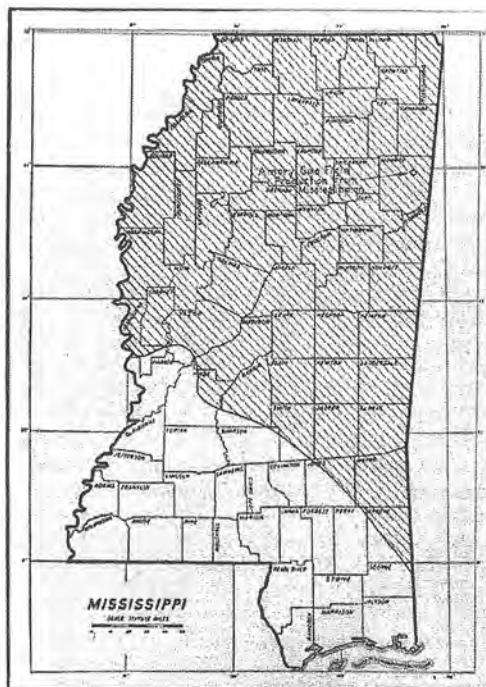
Laws and Regulations

The oil and gas laws and rules and regulations of Mississippi are somewhat similar to those of other states and seem to be reasonable and fair. There is a production tax of 2 ¹/₂ per cent on gas and 2 per cent on oil on the value of the product at the well.

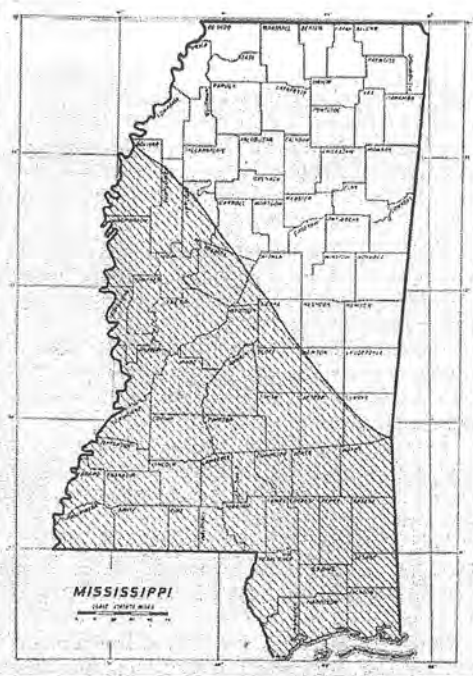
The state oil and gas board, the regulatory body, is composed of Governor Hugh L. White, Attorney General Greek L. Rice, Land Commissioner R. D. Moore, and State Oil and Gas Supervisor Henry N. Toler.

Under Governor White's plan of balancing agriculture with industry, Mississippi is becoming more industrialized and hence more "oil minded" so that those companies searching for oil and additional gas fields in the state will meet with hearty cooperation from all the state officials.

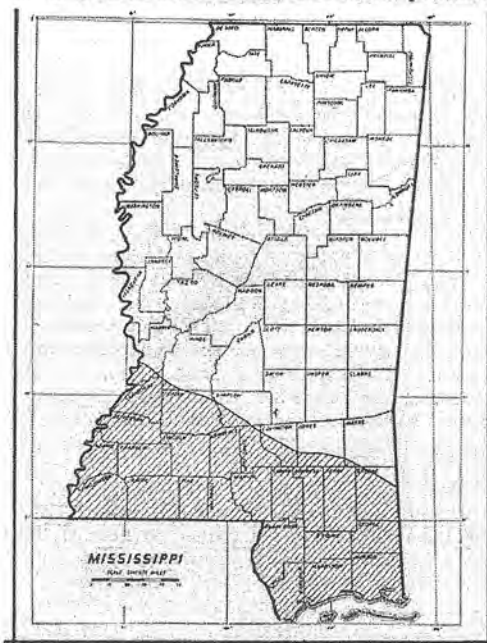
The facilities and information of the state geological survey, University, Miss., with Dr. W. C. Morse as director, and of the state oil and gas board, Jackson, Miss., are available to anyone interested.



Shaded area—approximately where Paleozoic is within reach of drill and could produce



Shaded area—approximately where Eocene is within reach of drill and could produce

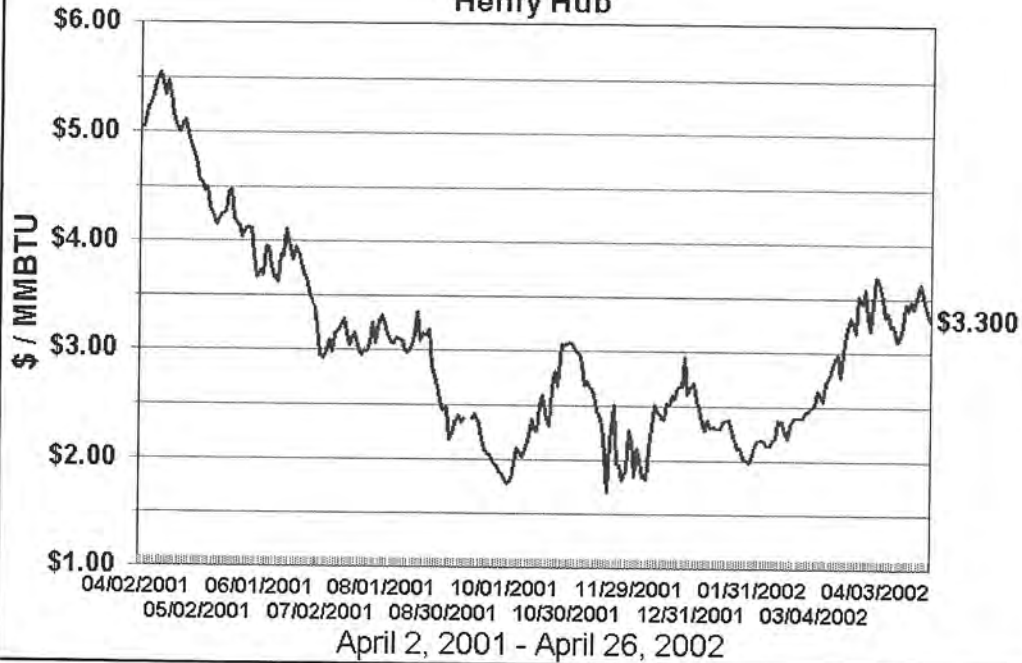


Shaded area—where Oligocene and Miocene are within reach and could produce

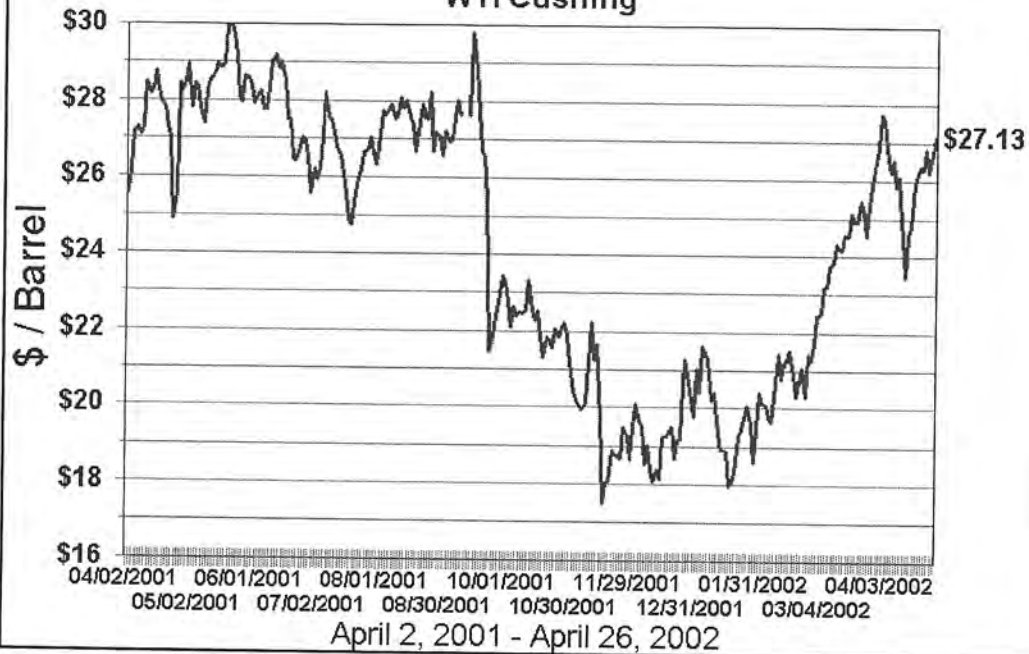
A physicist visits a colleague and notices a horseshoe hanging on the wall above the entrance. "Do you really believe that a horseshoe brings luck?" he asks. "No," replies the colleague, "but I've been told that it works even if you don't believe in it."

Told by Niels Bohrs

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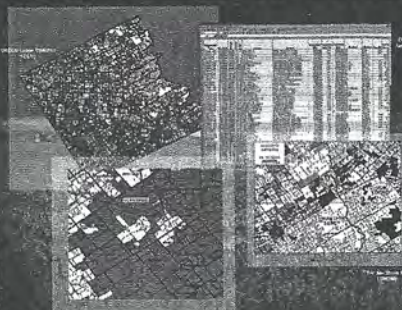
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Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."

Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, 1895.

"Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value."

Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920's.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."

Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind".

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau."

Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy."

Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

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1/4 Page Ad (3" x 4")	\$200	_____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2" x 3")	\$100	_____
Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	_____

II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

<u>Type of Web Page Ad</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Front Page Sponsor (Banner Ad – limit of 5)	\$500	_____
Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	_____
Professional Listing/Link	\$100	_____

(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

III. Sponsor for Special Events:

Sponsors to be given thanks & recognition in the Bulletin, web site & at the event.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Fall Barbecue	_____
Christmas Party	_____
Spring Fling	_____

Total Remitted _____

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 or steve_jennings@deq.state.ms.us, or Lindsey Stewart at (601) 961-5264 or lindsey_stewart@deq.state.ms.us.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422

2001-2002

Membership year is June through May

New Membership—\$20/yr Renewal—\$20/yr Student—\$5/yr Associate—\$20/yr

Last Name: _____ First: _____ MI: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail Address: _____

College/University Attended: _____

Degree(s) Obtained and year(s) awarded: _____

Professional Associations, Certifications, & License: _____