

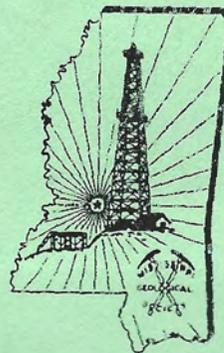
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No. 1

September 2002

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SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I would like to start by saying that it is a great honor and privilege to serve as your President of the Mississippi Geological Society for the upcoming year. The great part about my term is that I have been handed a Society coming off of one of its best years in recent memory. This is in large part due to the vision and dedication of last year's President, Andy Sylte. I would like to say a big thank you to Andy and the rest of the Board: second VP Karl Kaufman, treasurer David Hancock, editor Jo Everett, secretary John Marble, advertising director Steve Jennings and Publisher Lindsey Stewart, for doing such a wonderful job for our Society over the last year.

"Impressed with the quality of a symposium held in Jackson on May 16 by the MS Geological Society . . . and with the large turnout it attracted, NOGS is considering a somewhat similar symposium for South LA." (NOGS LOG, July 2002) It is always good when other Societies are talking about what we are doing, and this would have never been happening had it not been for the co-chairs of last year's Spring Symposium, Bob Schneeflock and Dudley Hughes. Through their hard work, along with numerous volunteers, our Society attracted close to 300 people to Jackson for a two-day symposium on our "Oil Patch." From the beautiful setting at the Natural Science Museum to the catfish at the Ag Museum, the golf tournament, and the phenomenal transactions that accompanied the event, we should all be very proud of how Bob and Dudley represented our Society.

The annual meeting of the GCAGS will be held in Austin, TX this year. The dates for the convention are October 30 – November 1, 2002. The convention will be located in the Austin Convention Center Exhibit Hall. If you need any more information concerning the convention, you can go online to www.gcags.org.

I would like to remind everybody that there is no luncheon this month, due to the Annual Fall Bar-B-Q being held in its place. The Bar-B-Q will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a viewing of a Smackover conventional core from South Alabama, made possible by

David Cate with Pruet Oil Company. The core is from the Pruet Production Company No. 1 ATIC 10-11 in the North Sardine Area of Escambia County, Alabama. Around 5:00 p.m. adult beverages will be served, and at 6:00 p.m. we will be served by the good folks from Chimneyville Smokehouse. The Bar-B-Q will be held at the Masonic Lodge on the grounds of the MS Ag and Forestry Museum. Be sure to make plans to attend, and don't forget that all significant others are invited to attend.

I would also like to remind everybody that Steve Walkinshaw has put a great deal of time and effort into the creation of our website located at www.missgeo.com. The website is there for all members, and Steve is always looking for abstracts, papers or interesting core photos to be placed on the website. I would also like to point out that there are sponsorship opportunities available on the website. If there is anything you would like to see added or changed, feel free to contact Steve or myself.

In closing, I would like to introduce the MGS officers for this year to everyone:

John Cox – First VP
Karl Kaufman – Second VP
Alvin Byrd – Secretary
Jo Everett – Editor

See you at the Bar-B-Q

Aaron

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MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
January 14th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Don't Forget !!!

**Fall Bar-B-Q — Thursday
September 19**

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OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count slipped one rigs to 853 for the week of August 16, 2002.

This week the number of rigs drilling for oil was up 6 to 133. Oil drilling is 84 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.6 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up off 8 at 718. There are currently 306 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 1024.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 39 percent. Gas exploration is down by 30 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 3 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices remain lower by 5 percent.

Canadian rig activity* slipped surged 28 rigs to 219 for the week of August 16, 2002. This is only 129 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 348.

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

North American Rig Count

	08/16/02	08/09/02	08/17/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	853	854	1242	-1	-389	-0.1%	-31.3%
Offshore	112	114	148	-2	-36	-1.8%	-24.3%
Land	741	740	1094	1	-353	0.1%	-32.3%
Inland Waters	16	19	24	-3	-8	-15.8%	-33.3%
Oil	133	127	217	6	-84	4.7%	-38.7%
Percent	15.6%	14.9%	17.5%	0.7%	-1.9%		
Gas	718	726	1024	-8	-306	-1.1%	-29.9%
Percent	84.2%	85.0%	82.4%	-0.8%	1.7%		
Directional	229	232	297	-3	-68	-1.3%	-22.9%
Horizontal	57	55	82	2	-25	3.6%	-30.5%
Gulf of Mexico	109	110	140	-1	-31	-0.9%	-22.1%
Gulf Oil	12	12	24	0	-12	0.0%	-50.0%
Percent	11.0%	10.9%	17.1%	0.1%	-6.1%		
Gulf Gas	97	98	116	-1	-19	-1.0%	-16.4%
Percent	89.0%	89.1%	82.9%	-0.1%	6.1%		
Canada	219	191	348	28	-129	14.7%	-37.1%
North America	1072	1045	1590	27	-518	2.6%	-32.6%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

Black Warrior Basin, Deep Knox Play

**Stewart Welch
Browning & Welch**

ABSTRACT

A major deep gas play is developing in the Black Warrior Basin. This play was initiated by Fina Oil and Chemical Company's No. 1 Sanders well in Maben Field, which was completed in the Upper Knox for about 6.5 MMCFGPD in 1998. Subsequent development of the field with similar production has resulted in increased interest in the area. To date, Fina has completed five producers, is doing completion work on one well, drilling one well, and has one additional location permitted. Also, a 17,000-foot wildcat has been permitted.

While the Upper Knox is the only zone being developed in Maben Field at this time, the Lower Knox and Devonian are also considered to have major potential and have had significant shows in the play area. Shallower potential also exists in the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian, which has been responsible for almost all of the older production on the shallower shelf of the basin.

Several companies are now active in this play. Seismic work is being conducted in several areas to supplement older conventional seismic data, and lease blocks are being assembled in prospect areas.

With the improved drilling and completion technologies being demonstrated, very good production rates can be established and large gas reserves proved. This play should continue to develop for many years to come.

Visit Missgeo.com to view the entire presentation given at the Spring Symposium.

"Always keep on the lookout for new ideas that others have used successfully. We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything."
Thomas A. Edison

"Imagination grows by exercise and, contrary to common belief, is more powerful in the mature than in the young."
W. Somerset Maugham



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6:00 PM Barbecue Dinner - \$10/person



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SOME OIL FIELDS MAY BE GETTING REFILLED FROM DEEPER RESERVOIRS

By Robert Cooke

(Reprinted from Houston Chronicle, 4/17/02)

Deep underwater, and deeper underground, scientists see surprising hints that gas and oil deposits can be replenished, filling up again, sometimes rapidly.

Although it sounds too good to be true, increasing evidence from the Gulf of Mexico suggests that some old oil fields are being refilled by petroleum surging up from deep below, scientists report. That may mean that current estimates of oil and gas abundance are far too low.

Recent measurements in a major oil field show "that the fluids were changing over time; that very light oil and gas were being injected from below, even as the producing was going on," said chemical oceanographer Mahlon "Chuck" Kennicutt. "They are refilling as we speak. But whether this is a worldwide phenomenon, we don't know."

Also not known, Kennicutt said, is whether the injection of new oil from deeper strata is of any economic significance, whether there will be enough to be exploitable. The discovery was unexpected, and it is still "somewhat controversial" within the oil industry.

Kennicutt, a faculty member at Texas A&M University, said it is now clear that gas and oil are coming into the known reservoirs very rapidly in terms of geologic time. The inflow of new gas, and some oil, has been detectable in as little as three to 10 years. In the past, it was not suspected that oil fields can refill because it was assumed the oil formed in

place, or nearby, rather than far below.

According to marine geologist Harry Roberts at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, "petroleum geologists don't accept it as a general phenomenon because it doesn't happen in most reservoirs. But in this case, it does seem to be happening. You have a very leaky fault system that does allow it (petroleum) to migrate in. It's directly connected to an oil and gas generating system at great depth."

What the scientists suspect is that very old petroleum – formed tens of millions of years ago – has continued migrating up into reservoirs that oil companies have been exploiting for years.

But no one had expected that depleted oil fields might be refilling themselves.

If it is found that gas and oil are coming up in significant amounts, and if the same is occurring in oil fields around the globe, then a lot more fuel than anyone expected could become available eventually. It hints that the world may not, in fact, be running out of petroleum.

"No one has been more astonished by the potential implications of our work than myself," said analytic chemist Jean Whelan, at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. "There already appears to be a large body of evidence consistent with . . . oil and gas generation and migration on very short time scales in many areas globally," she wrote in the journal *Sea Technology*.

The first sketchy evidence of this emerged in 1984, when Kennicutt and colleagues from Texas A&M University were in the Gulf of Mexico trying to understand a phenomenon called "seeps," areas on the sea floor where sometimes large amounts of oil and gas escape through natural fissures.

"Our first discovery was with trawls. We

knew it was an area of massive seepage, and we expected that the soil seeps would poison everything around" the site. But they found just the opposite.

"On the first trawl, we brought up over 2 tons of stuff. We had a tough time getting the nets back on board because they were so full" of very odd-looking sea-floor creatures, Kennicutt said. "They were long strawlike things that turned out to be tube worms.

"The clams were the first thing I noticed," he added. "They were pretty big, like the size of your hand, and it was obvious they had red blood inside, which is unusual. And these long tubes – 3, 4 and 5 feet long – we didn't know what they were, but they started bleeding red fluid, too. We didn't know what to make of it."

The biologists they consulted did know what to make of it. "The experts immediately recognized them as chemo-synthetic communities," creatures that get their energy from hydrocarbons – oil and gas – rather than from ordinary foods. So these animals are very much like, but still different from, recently discovered creatures living near very hot sea-floor vent sites in the Pacific, Atlantic and other oceans.

The difference, Kennicutt said, is that the animals living around cold seeps live on methane and oil, while the creatures growing near hot water vents exploit sulfur compounds in the hot water.

The discovery of abundant life where scientists expected a deserted sea floor also suggested that the seeps are a long-duration phenomenon. Indeed, the clams are thought to be about 100 years old, and the tube worms may live as long as 600 years or more, Kennicutt said.

The surprises kept pouring in as the re-

searchers explored further and in more detail using research submarines.

It has long been known by geologists and oil industry workers that seeps exist. In Southern California, for example, there are seeps near Santa Barbara, at a geologic feature called Coal Oil Point.

Analysis of the ancient oil that seems to be coming up from deep below in the Gulf of Mexico suggests that the flow of new oil "is coming from deeper, hotter formations" and is not simply a lateral inflow from the old deposits that surround existing oil fields, Whelan said. The chemical composition of the migrating oil also indicates it is being driven upward and is being altered by highly pressurized gases squeezing up from below.

So far, measurements involving biological and geological analysis, plus satellite images, show widespread and pervasive leakage over the entire northern slope of the Gulf of Mexico.

Ian MacDonald at Texas A&M has published remarkable satellite photographs of oil slicks that go for miles in the Gulf of Mexico in areas where no oil production is occurring.

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Ann Landers

"The average dog is a nicer person than the average person."

Andy Rooney

"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face."

Ben Williams



Mississippi Miocene Opaline Orthoquartzites

By James E. Starnes
MS Office of Geology

Opaline orthoquartzites in the extreme up-dip region of the Gulf Coast Miocene series have been well recognized and even have been developed as economic prospects along the Texas-Louisiana border. Most well known of these prospects is the "Hidden Fire Opal Mine" (Federal Mine ID No. 1601235) in Vernon Parish, Louisiana. Ken Griffin and Ben F. Stevens in the 1990's successfully mined, cabbled, and sold gem grade Miocene opal from the lower Miocene Fleming formation of Louisiana.

In contrast, the quality and character of these quartzites and their extent are rarely noted in the literature describing the eastern extent of the outcrop region. A study by the Mississippi Office of Geology's Miocene surface mapping team is recognizing this interesting, but less prominent, near-surface feature of the Miocene strata in Hinds, Copiah, and Claiborne Counties. Some Miocene sandstones contain orthoquartzites. Observations of these unusual quartzites in Mississippi reveal that the opaline matrix of the rock varies in stability, color, cementation, and in rare cases opalescence. Some specimens exhibited regular and vitreous conchoidal fracture on fresh surfaces, while other samples fractured sub-conchoidally, indicating that the bonding of the hydro-silica cement to the sand grains was of a lesser degree. These weaker bonded quartzites tend to be unstable and within hours from being chipped from the outcrop degrade to a hard, but friable, sandstone. The colors of the quartzites vary in shades from black to red and

brown. The color is probably a function of impurities of manganese and iron. Manganese staining is common on the joint surfaces of many Miocene sandstone outcrops. Iron sometimes is abundant in the form of pyrite and glauconite in these sands. Also, iron hydroxide staining is a dominant feature of the overlying Citronelle and pre-loess formations and poses a good mobile source of iron-hydroxides to color these quartzites. Opalescent quartzites display a range of iridescent colors, some of which are purple, blue, pink, and green. Some white and colorless opal-cemented quartzite specimens have been found as well.

Friable quartzites, as well as the cortex of the even harder stable quartzites, resembled the sandstones in which they formed. It was also noted that the quartzites are only found in sand units where induration occurs. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to assert that the matrix of the Miocene sandstones is leached amorphous silica, instead of kaolin cement as described by Alvin Bicker in MGS Bulletin 110, though no chemical analysis has yet been done to demonstrate this. As more outcrops containing the quartzites were located, it became apparent that the degree of opaline cementation needed to form the quartzite is confined to the basal portions of sand units. This observation also hints toward a leachate origin.

The source of the amount of free silica to produce such widespread induration and local orthoquartzites and opalescent opal is a mystery. One is led to believe that the source of free silica must be either ash-derived or biogenetic. Because quartz dissolves insignificantly at normal temperatures and pressures, it would be unreasonable in this geologic setting to assume that the silica came from dissolution by grain to grain contact or to be hydrothermal in nature.

Though the origins remain a curiosity, induration and opal-quartzite occurrence and character is being noted by the Miocene mapping efforts of the Office of Geology for correlation, economic, and descriptive purposes.

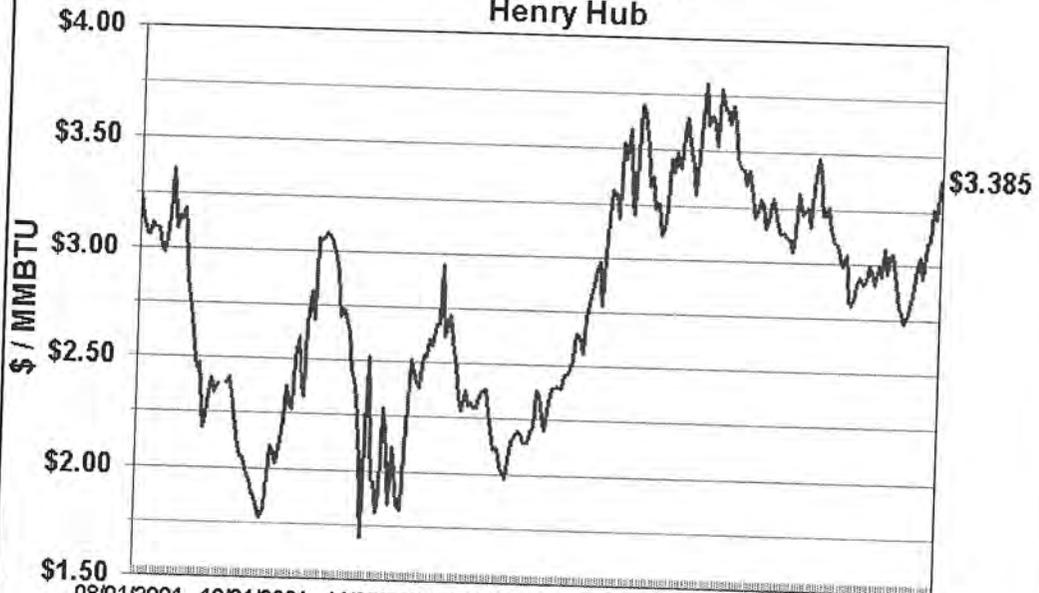
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- 1 Stevens, Ben F., Louisiana Opal, Exquisite Stone and Creations, 1999; p. 1, pp. 15-47.
- 2 Bicker, Alvin R., Copiah County Geology and Mineral Resources: MS Geological Survey Bulletin 110, p. 23.
- 3 Davis, Ken & James E. Starnes, Surface Mapping Efforts Toward Differentiating The Miocene In Mississippi, Abstract: Journal of the MS Academy of Sciences, Vol. 47, No. 1, January 2002; pp. 40-41.



Orthoquartzite ledges at Rocky Falls on Turkey Creek, July, 2001.

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



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Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



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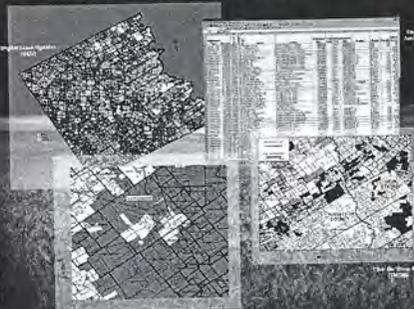
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Billy Bob's Obituary

A woman from the deepest, most southern part of Arkansas goes into the local newspaper office to see that the obituary for her recently deceased husband is written. The editor informs her that the fee for the obituary is 50 cents a word.

She pauses, reflects, and then says, "Well, then, let it read, 'Billy Bob died.'"

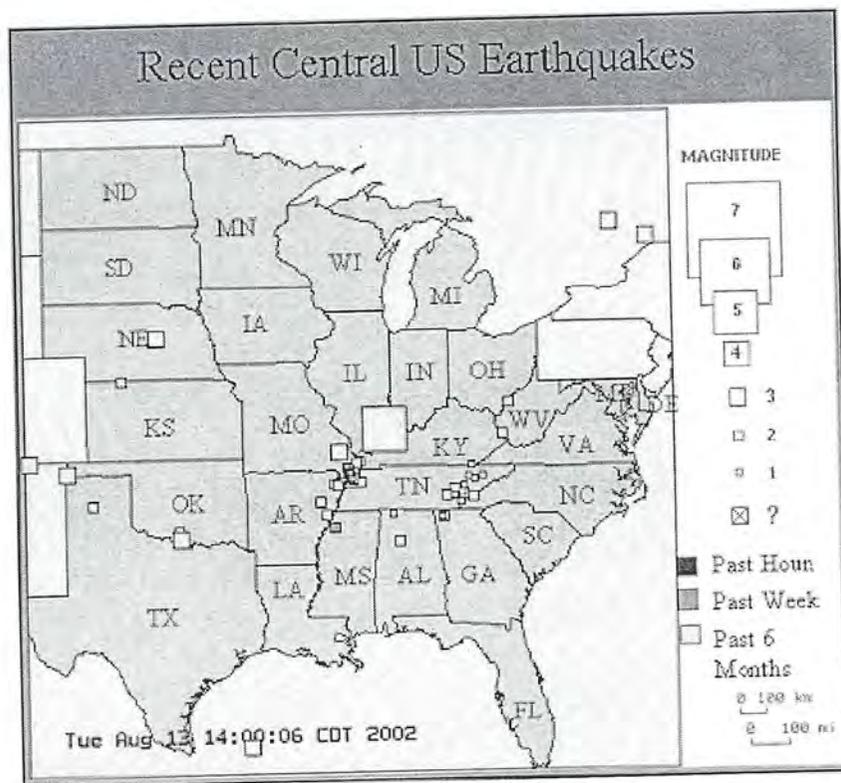
Amused at the woman's thrift, the editor says, "Sorry, Ma'am, there is a seven-word minimum on all obituaries."

Only a little flustered, she thinks things over a few seconds and says, "In that case, let it read, 'Billy Bob died — 1993 pickup for sale.'"

Did You Feel It?

A micro earthquake occurred in Mississippi on Sunday, August 11, 2002.

Magnitude: 2.7
Time: 6:19:47 PM (CDT)
Coordinates: 34 deg. 20.4 min. N, 90 deg. 10.8 min W
Distance from: Falcon, MS — 6 miles Se (130 deg.)
Sledge, MS — 7 miles SSE (160 deg.)
Marks, MS — 8 miles NE (42 deg.)
Memphis, TN — 56 miles S (188 deg.)



"You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there."

George Burns (1896-1996)

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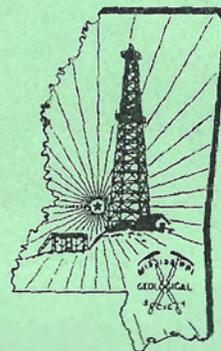
Volume 51

No. 2

October 2002

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I hope everyone is having a great start to the fall season and enjoying the cooler weather. Once again the Society got the year off to a great start with our annual Fall BBQ. We had a great turnout, which included many of the regular suspects as well as a lot of new faces. Thanks to all that attended, and a big thanks to Dave Cate for providing the conventional core and all associated geologic and seismic data from the Pruet Production No. 1 ATIC 10-11. I would also direct everyone's attention to the list of Fall BBQ sponsors found inside the bulletin. Thanks for your support.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at 11:30 a.m., where Mark Worthy from Denbury Resources will be our speaker. Mark is Denbury's Vice President of Operations, and he will be discussing Denbury's CO₂ opportunities in Mississippi. Please make plans to attend.

I would also like to remind everybody to mark their calendars for the annual meeting of the GCAGS that will be held in Austin, TX this year. The dates for the convention are October 30 — November 1, 2002. The convention will be located in the Austin Convention Center Exhibit Hall. If you need any more information concerning the convention, you can go online to www.gcags.org. We will also be celebrating Earth Science Week during the week of October 13-19. For more information regarding this event you can visit www.earthsciweek.org. I would also like to let everyone know that the Southeastern Geological Society will be hosting its annual Apalachicola River Basin field trip the weekend of November 2nd. If anyone is interested please contact me.

The Board is currently discussing the possibility of setting up some sort of a "Deal Page" on our web site and would love to get some feedback from the members on whether this would be of interest. We are also interested in any other ideas you may have for additions to the website. Please go by and have a look and send any interesting photos or stories to

Steve Walkinshaw: www.missgeo.com

On a somber note, for those who have not heard, Dr. Charles Neill passed away last weekend. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Thanks again to everyone that attended the Fall BBQ, and I look forward to seeing you all at this month's luncheon.

Aaron

MGS Professional Luncheon
October 8th, 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: Mark Worthy

Topic: "Denbury Resources' CO₂
Opportunities in Mississippi"

Mark is Vice President of Operations for Denbury Resources, Inc. and is responsible for all aspects of operations in the field. He joined Denbury in September 1992. Previously, he was with Coho Resources, Inc., as an exploitation manager. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum geology in 1984.

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Rig Count

"They Found Oil in Spite of Management"

Barbecue Sponsors

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"Balloon Man"

FY 2002 Treasurer's Report

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE		
When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
January 14th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum



Happy Halloween !!!

OFFICERS MEETINGS
September 5, 2002
October 1, 2002
November 5, 2002
December 3, 2002
January 7, 2003
February 4, 2003
March 4, 2003
April 1, 2003
May 6, 2003



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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 11 rigs to 852 for the week of September 20, 2002 following a 12 rig increase in the previous week.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 10 to 125. Oil drilling is 98 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 14.7 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 21 at 725. There are currently 237 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 962.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 44 percent. Gas exploration is down by 25 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 9 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 69 percent.

Canadian rig activity* gained 23 rigs to 264 for the week of September 20, 2002. This is 54 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 318.

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

North American Rig Count

	09/20/02	09/13/02	09/21/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	852	863	1186	-11	-334	-1.3%	-28.2%
Offshore	116	116	144	0	-28	0.0%	-19.4%
Land	736	747	1042	-11	-306	-1.5%	-29.4%
Inland Waters	19	19	23	0	-4	0.0%	-17.4%
Oil	125	115	223	10	-98	8.7%	-43.9%
Percent	14.7%	13.3%	18.8%	1.3%	-4.1%		
Gas	725	746	962	-21	-237	-2.8%	-24.6%
Percent	85.1%	86.4%	81.1%	-1.3%	4.0%		
Directional	235	241	288	-6	-53	-2.5%	-18.4%
Horizontal	58	58	86	0	-28	0.0%	-32.6%
Gulf of Mexico	114	114	137	0	-23	0.0%	-16.8%
Gulf Oil	8	8	16	0	-8	0.0%	-50.0%
Percent	7.0%	7.0%	11.7%	0.0%	-4.7%		
Gulf Gas	106	106	121	0	-15	0.0%	-12.4%
Percent	93.0%	93.0%	88.3%	0.0%	4.7%		
Canada	264	241	318	23	-54	9.5%	-17.0%
North America	1116	1104	1504	12	-388	1.1%	-25.8%

Editor's Note: The following story is a selection from a manuscript-in-progress entitled *Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South*, by Alan Cockrell. MGS members should keep in mind that the book is being written for a general readership, thus some concepts and terms may seem simplified or over-illustrated. The author welcomes comments and corrections to this story, as well as any other material related to the petroleum history of the MS/AL/FL region. Alan can be contacted by e-mail: yakdriver@comcast.net, or: 121 Featherstone Lane, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763.

They Found Oil in Spite of Management

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by
Alan Cockrell

Matt Lutz was a good company man—loyal and dedicated. And he was no job hopper; he stuck around. Upper managers liked his type. But make no mistake Lutz was no yes-man. When he got an idea in his head he didn't hesitate to buck the company's conventional wisdom. They didn't like that part of him because it forced them out of their comfort zone and sometimes left them trailing dust. As the decade of the sixties closed, Lutz preached to his bosses about a nifty new concept that could profoundly change their fortune, but they covered their ears. Eventually they would listen, but only when someone knocked on their door from the street.

Lutz, a Louisianan, took his geology degree at LSU and started with Tidewater Oil Company in 1956, working the Gulf coast. In 1968—the year that Lutz and his contemporaries dragged

Tidewater management, kicking and screaming, into some serious oil-finding—J. Paul Getty decided that his company was finally worthy of having his name on it.

Lutz was scouring the Mississippi Smackover that year, hoping to find an opportunity for Getty Oil Company. And while working at it he became close friends with a Canadian who had been transferred from Getty's Calgary office to New Orleans—Russel Check. Check's knowledge and influence channeled Lutz's efforts toward a risky but fascinating concept that had apparently never been tried in the Salt Basin, although several geologists were independently pondering it. Lutz doesn't hesitate to give Check credit. "He had carbonate experience in the years when nobody on the Gulf coast knew much about carbonates. He understood how carbonates developed, where they developed, and where reservoir type rocks developed. And he imparted a lot of that to me before he left Getty. Then it became my chore to say, 'OK, that sounds good but where do I practically apply this?'"

Lutz began by integrating subsurface mapping with gravity data—a common starting point for almost every serious geologist in those days. He picked an area where Smackover activity was already underway by other companies, but not for that reason.

Putting Check's knowledge to use he explained his reasoning: "A place to look for good carbonate rocks like in the Smackover would be places where you had a shallow water high-energy environment. You can see on a gravity map where the Appalachians plunged under Clarke and Jasper County, Mississippi. I developed a concept that these Appalachian underpinnings held up a didn't subside quite at the same rate as some of the lateral sediments in the Mississippi basin area."

Lutz knew that the best Smackover reservoir rocks were those deposited in high-energy shallow water environments. Everyone else knew that too. And everyone knew that finding those rocks would be a matter of drilling the top of the salt pillows over which Smackover porosity would have been developed by wave action. The salt pillows overlying the buried Appalachians seemed to have the best chance because they would likely have been supported by those deeper hard rocks.

But Lutz guessed that finding good Smackover might not be a matter of simply drilling on the top of a salt structure. The important point, he theorized, is where the crest of a given structure was at the time of Smackover deposition, not where it is today. "Basinal tilting" became his mantra as he probed deeper into the concept and brought others in the office, including Einar Pedersen, into the planning.

They knew that the Salt Basin continually sagged as more and more sediment poured in at the top. But any geology student understood that. The new thinking focused on what happens to a domal structure over time as it tilts. As the strata on the flanks of the basin became more inclined, the basinward side of a dome-shaped structure subsides more than the up-dip side, causing crest of the dome to "migrate" toward the down-dip side.

To illustrate the concept, a lay person can imagine holding an umbrella straight up and observing the apex of the umbrella's dome directly overhead. But when the umbrella is tilted to one side, the apex moves—the original highest point on the umbrella now becomes lower and a new highest point is established. In the case of the Smackover in that particular part of the basin the best rocks were now on the side of the tilted umbrella, not the present day highest point. Lutz needed to find the original high point.

"So we concentrated our efforts in Clark County," he said, "and there was a dry hole drilled by Southwest Gas. No one had that log. It had never been released and nobody could get the information. We had an old seismic map that showed that the well was drilled right on top of an old structure. But we didn't know what the well had encountered."

As Lutz worked to develop his ideas he mentioned one day to an independent friend that he was working on an interesting area and wished he could get the log on that old Southwest Gas well. To Lutz's astonishment the colleague said he had the whole well file. Lutz tore into the file and found, not just the usual seismic maps, logs, and test data, but also actual core chips. He quickly put the cores under a fluorescent light and, after many years lying in the file, it fluoresced. That was encouraging but not exciting—tight rocks often exhibited oil shows. It was Lutz's next move that excited him:

"I examined those core chips under a binocular microscope and saw that they were all oolite development, but in between the oolites was a sparry calcite infill that completely blocked the porosity and permeability. So, while the rock had shows, it was tight. And, what I learned from this old geologist out of Calgary was, that if you found sparry calcite in the rocks, you were very, very close to a high energy depositional environment."

Lutz decided to conceptually reverse the basinal tilting process. He must now bring the tilt out of the umbrella—at least in his mind—and find where the crest of the structure was in Smackover time, some 120 million years ago. For the answer he turned to his geophysicist, Bill Reeves. He asked Reeves to make an isopach map (a map that contours points of equal thickness). The point where the map showed that the rocks were at their thinnest should be the

original high point, or “paleo-high.” Reeves used seismic data from the Southwest file and made the map. Lutz smiled when he saw it. Sure enough, it showed a thinning south of the dry hole Southwest Gas had drilled.

“So, I drew the conclusion that as the Mississippi Salt Basin began to fill up with sediment after Smackover time and on into the Cretaceous, as it downwarped to the south, it rotated those old Smackover structures, so that the crest of the original structure pulled south.”

Now Lutz faced the hard part—convincing a conservative management to drill a stratigraphic trap in a basin that was new to them and in rock types with which they were profoundly unfamiliar. He had worked up two prospect—one based on the Southwest well, and another one nearby with similar geology. But the big bosses refused to open the purse. “When you go back that far,” he said, “very few people had done carbonate work. Everybody just drilled on top of structure.” Lutz’s proposals fell on deaf ears, and everyone in Getty’s New Orleans district office became despondent.

Jim White, a landman in the district office, told Lutz that he was sick and tired of not being able to sell management on anything. He quit. But then White called Lutz two weeks later with an interesting overture. He wanted to assemble some acreage on Lutz’s ideas and sell it, but he was afraid of a conflict of interest.

Lutz told White, “You put the deals together with the understanding that when you get them together you offer them first to Getty. They won’t have any complaint. They can take it or not take it. If they don’t, then you’ve done all you can do.”

White secured a farmout from Shell who owned most of the leases and approached Getty with the deals. Getty still didn’t like the ideas but they finally relented and took half of them.

Lutz thought that they were afraid of embarrassment if someone else took the deals and got a discovery. It wasn’t the first time a company took an outside deal that was originally generated by one of its own employees and rejected, and it wouldn’t be the last. Management cultures in oil companies continually change, which brings on frequent reversals in perceptions, attitudes, and biases toward business strategy. Lutz knew this and though he didn’t like it he strove to live with it.

Getty refused operation, wanting only the working interest. White brought Love Petroleum into one deal and Robert Mosbacher into the other, both of whom took the 50% that Getty didn’t want.

Both prospects were spudded in early 1968, and both were logged on the same day. Matt Lutz rushed from one to the other. They were both resounding Smackover discoveries.

One became the Pachuta Creek Field. It found four productive zones in the Smackover at about 13,000 feet and expanded to 65 wells covering 4,400 acres. It produced 55 million barrels making it the largest Smackover field in Mississippi. At least 16 of the wells have produced over one million barrels, and one well produced over three million barrels. The other discovery became the East Nancy Field. It found Smackover pay at 13,600 feet and has produced about 11 million barrels from twelve wells.

The two fields established Getty as the major Smackover oil producer in Mississippi, and even gave them a nice bonus zone. “I sat the wells for Getty, and I picked the core spots,” Lutz remembers.

“On East Nancy in particular, we drilled through the Smackover into what everybody thought was going to be salt. Instead of salt it turned out to be the Norphlet Sand. And when

we ran the logs we had this thick sand that was absolutely beautiful. Right at the top of that sand at the discovery well at East Nancy, was a little resistivity. So I selected some sidewall cores in the top of that sand, and low and behold, those cores were loaded with a black, asphaltic, tarry looking oil. This well was offset only 80 acres to the old Southwest Masonite well—that's how close they (Southwest) came to finding this! Once we got the core out, here was the Smackover that was loaded, and we had this little show in the Norphlet, and nobody had produced the Norphlet commercially."

Based on a dipmeter log in the discovery well, Lutz and his team thought they could get high on the Norphlet. They located the second well not only where they thought they could get the Smackover, but where they could get high on the Norphlet. As hoped for, when the second well was drilled they gained 40 feet of structure on the Norphlet and it had 40 feet of net oil pay in it. The first well was exactly at the water level for the Norphlet. The Norphlet at East Nancy ultimately made almost three million barrels—not a lot, but it was the first commercial Norphlet field in the state of Mississippi. The Norphlet never did become a sweetheart producer in Mississippi, but it was destined to put Getty Oil Company in the national spotlight in just a few years over in south Alabama.

Lutz and company continued their hunt for the subtle Smackover stratigraphic traps into the 1970's. In February of that year they logged another good strike. Lutz and Pedersen went to see the cores on the new prospect they were drilling west of East Nancy. "We cut four 60-foot cores," Lutz said, "that were all oil-bearing—240 feet of core! And when we pulled out the first core it was just loaded—a beautiful oolite section, very porous. We took a cigar from the mudlogger, Bob Legate, and blew

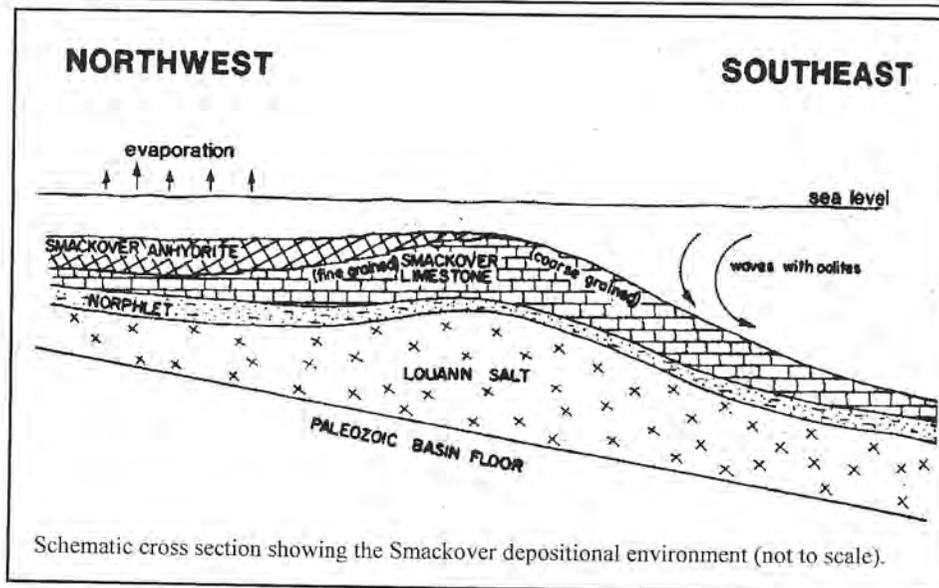
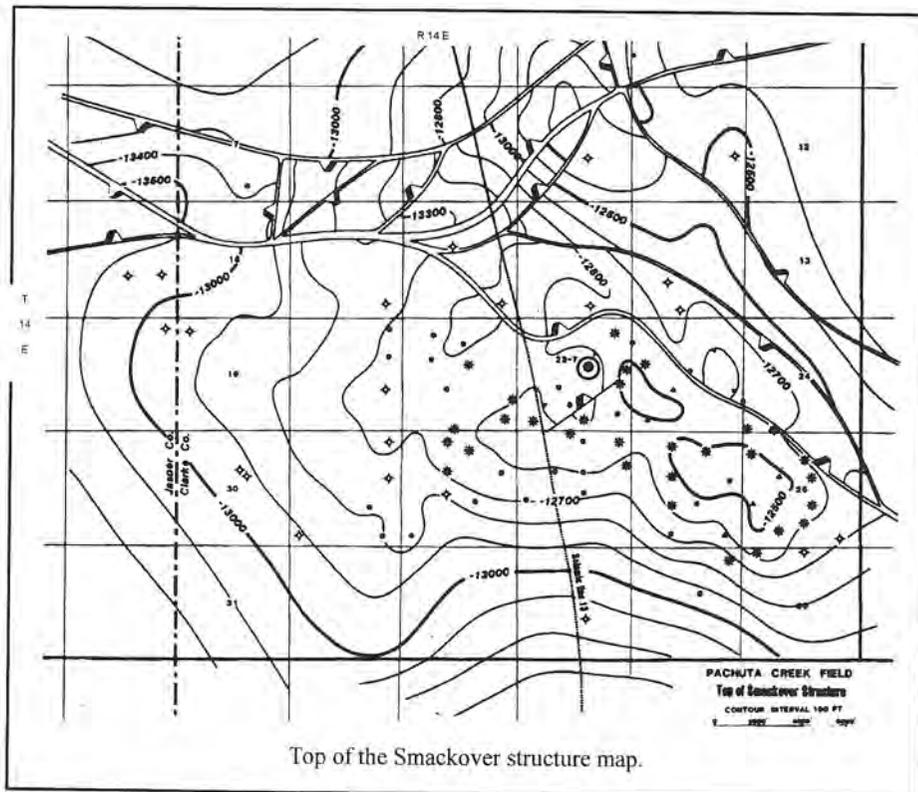
smoke through that full core, it was so porous."

Getty's No. 1 McCoy Unit 6-10 gauged a staggering 2,600 BOPD from Smackover perforations at almost 14,000 feet. The new find became the West Nancy Field and, as of January 1994, had produced about 19 million barrels from 15 wells, for a remarkable average of 1.25 million barrels per well.

Others were also pondering Lutz's paleo-structure theory at the same time. Dudley Hughes was one. He tried to get the Shell farm-out at Pachuta Creek but was too late. He and Chesley Pruet, however, took some of Mosbacher's interest. But Lutz was the one who succeeded in putting it to the test and making history with it. He and his co-workers bucked management and bucked the odds. They had some help from the carbonate wisdom of an old geologist, and some luck from a friend who had a rare well file. But they made it happen, and that's what counts among oil people. And they weren't done yet.



LUTZ, M. C.
Tidewater Oil Co.



Map & cross section reprinted from GCAGS Transactions, Volume 30.

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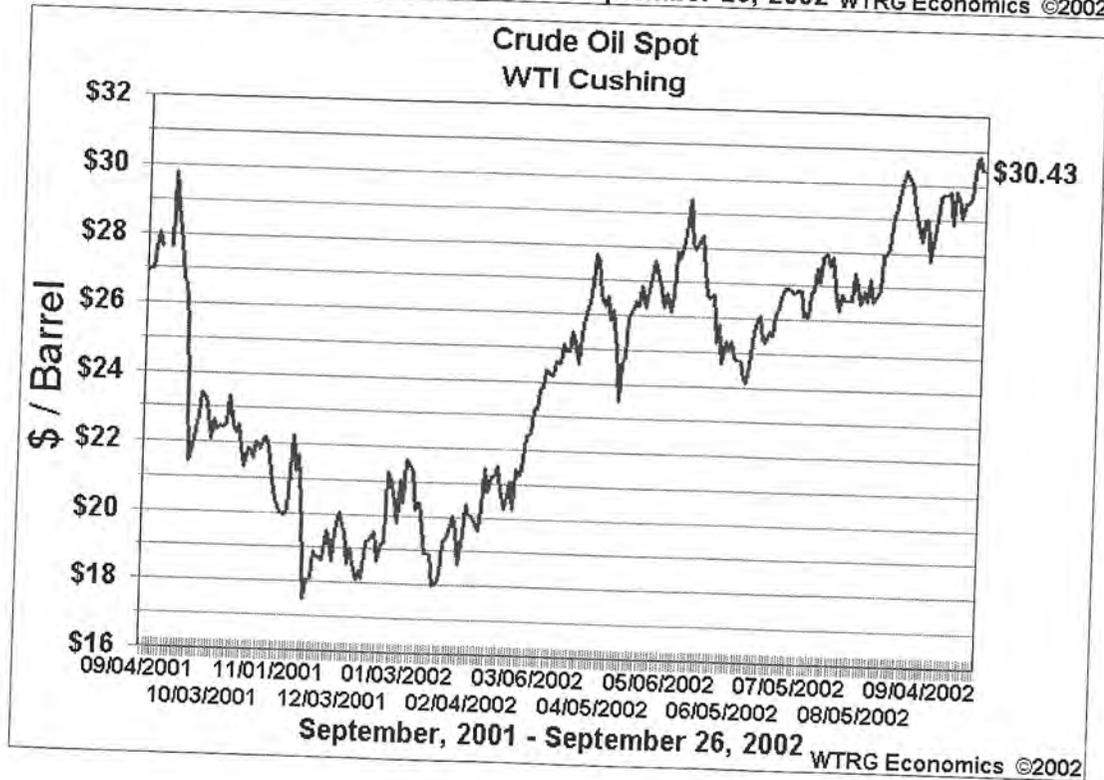
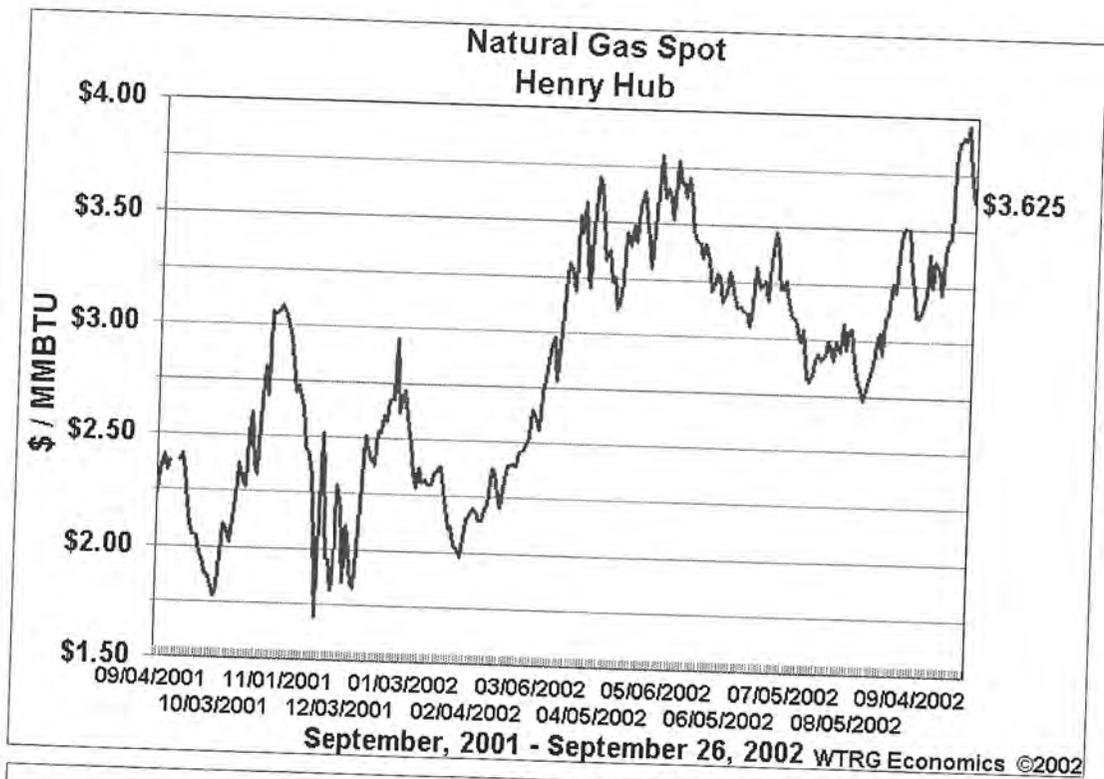


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Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Balloon Man

A man flying in a hot air balloon realizes that he is lost, so reduces his altitude and spots a man on the ground down below. Lowering the balloon a little further, the balloonist shouts, "Excuse me Sir! But can you help me? I promised my friend that I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am!"

The man on the ground replies, "Yes. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering at approximately 30 feet. You are between 40 & 41 degrees north latitude, and between 58 & 59 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a geologist," says the balloonist.

"Why, yes I am," replies the man on the ground. "How on earth did you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is well-described. It is also technically and geographically accurate. However, I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact of the matter is I have spent much valuable time conversing with you and I am still lost. Furthermore, I will not be able to make my appointment now."

The geologist below nods his head and says, "You must be a manager in an oil company."

"Why, yes I am," replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," says the geologist, "you have no idea where you are or where you are going. Also, you have made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem for you. The real fact of the matter is that you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, yet now your predicament has somehow become my fault."



FY 2002 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	
Luncheons	\$ 2,807.08	Membership Dues	\$ 1,570.00
Officers Meetings	\$ 893.56	Advertising	\$ 6,000.00
Bulletin	\$ 2,865.96	Monthly Luncheons	\$ 1,720.00
Fall BBQ	\$ 825.09	Fall BBQ	\$ 390.00
Spring Fling	\$ 1,950.60	Christmas Party	\$ 870.00
Symposium	<u>\$39,207.59</u>	Spring Fling	\$ 50.00
		Symposium	\$47,100.00
		Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 1,038.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$50,592.10	Total Revenue	<u>\$59,210.26</u>

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Ending Balance (2001)	\$13,165.66
Ending Balance (2002)	\$21,733.82
Net Gain	\$ 8,568.16

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Previous Balance (2001)	\$15,581.75
Interest	\$ 250.17
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Is not life a thousand times too short for us to bore ourselves?

Friedrich Nietzsche

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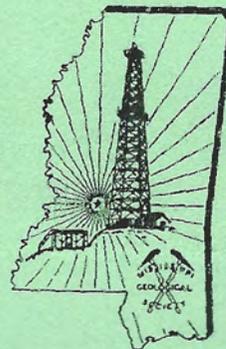
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No. 3

November 2002

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

Hopefully the falling temperatures will signal a rise in prices and in turn be the beginning of an increase in drilling activity in our area. Our Society is definitely having an increase in activity, and I believe that it can be traced back to the 2002 Spring Symposium. We, as members of the Society, have a wonderful prospect to take this opportunity to continue to grow this society in a time where many people thought it was not possible. We are seeing a constant flow of membership renewals, new member applications, and sponsorship and advertising dollars in the MGS mailbox. Now is the time to send in your renewals if you have not done so, and be sure to include your email address since we are now using that as an important means of notifying the members of upcoming events. If you have already renewed and would like to have your email added to the list, please send it to me at jackson_core@omnilabs.com.

This upswing in member involvement was never more visible than at last month's luncheon when two extra tables had to be added to allow seating for the large number that turned out, including a good number of new faces. I would like to thank Mark Worthy of Denbury Resources, Incorporated, for his presentation on "Denbury's CO₂ opportunities in Mississippi." Karl Kaufman is responsible for bringing our monthly speakers in, and is always open to ideas for future topics. November's luncheon will take place on Tuesday the 12th at 11:30 am at the Capitol Club. Dr. David Dockery, of the Mississippi Office of Geology, will speak on the discovery and excavation this past summer of a nearly complete fossil whale in Scott County. I hope to see you there, and remember

to encourage others in the industry to make it out to enjoy the talk and lunch.

Don't forget to visit www.missgeo.com. See you at the luncheon.

Aaron

MGS Professional Luncheon
November 12th, 11:30 AM
Capitol Club

Speaker: David Dockery
MS Office of Geology

Topic: "Summer 2002 Excavation of a
61-foot Long Fossil Whale in
Scott County, MS"

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Rig Count

"Recent Development of Selma Chalk Gas
Reservoirs in the MS Salt Basin"

"Basilosaurus cetoides Find in Scott Co."

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

A Mississippi Whaling Song

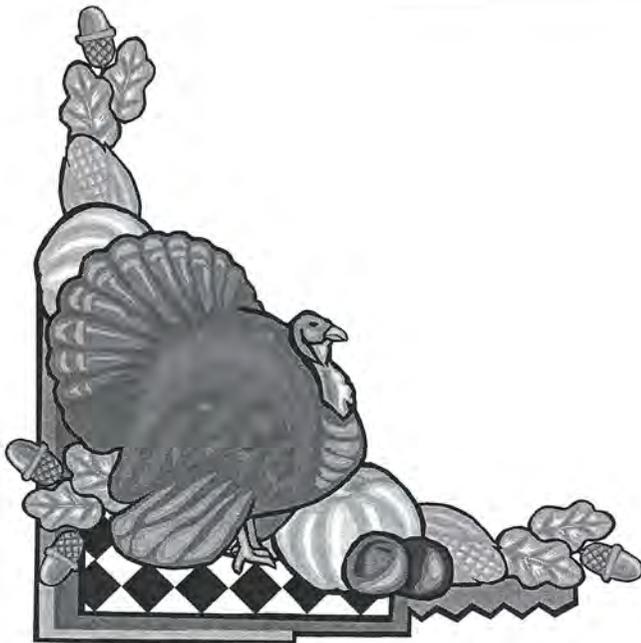
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can we explain the success of those we
don't like?"

Jean Cocteau

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2002	TBA	Capitol Club
January 14th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum



OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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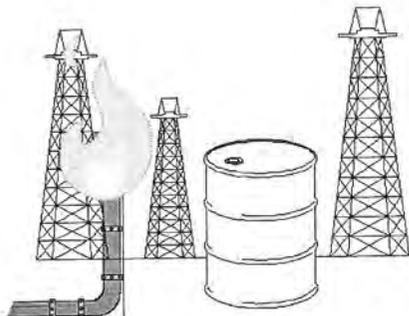
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 6 rigs to 843 for the week of October 18, 2002.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was unchanged at 137. Oil drilling is 55 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.3 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 6 at 703. There are currently 205 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 908.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 29 percent. Gas exploration is down by 23 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 35 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 72 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was down 2 rigs to 206 for the week of October 18, 2002. This is 97 rigs lower than last year's rig count of 303.

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

North American Rig Count

	10/18/02	10/11/02	10/19/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	843	849	1100	-6	-257	-0.7%	-23.4%
Offshore	111	112	129	-1	-18	-0.9%	-14.0%
Land	732	737	971	-5	-239	-0.7%	-24.6%
Inland Waters	18	16	25	2	-7	12.5%	-28.0%
Oil	137	137	192	0	-55	0.0%	-28.6%
Percent	16.3%	16.1%	17.5%	0.1%	-1.2%		
Gas	703	709	908	-6	-205	-0.8%	-22.6%
Percent	83.4%	83.5%	82.5%	-0.1%	0.8%		
Directional	226	222	275	4	-49	1.8%	-17.8%
Horizontal	67	65	74	2	-7	3.1%	-9.5%
Gulf of Mexico	108	109	125	-1	-17	-0.9%	-13.6%
Gulf Oil	10	10	18	0	-8	0.0%	-44.4%
Percent	9.3%	9.2%	14.4%	0.1%	-5.1%		
Gulf Gas	98	99	107	-1	-9	-1.0%	-8.4%
Percent	90.7%	90.8%	85.6%	-0.1%	5.1%		
Canada	206	208	303	-2	-97	-1.0%	-32.0%
North America	1049	1057	1403	-8	-354	-0.8%	-25.2%

Recent Development of Selma Chalk Gas Reservoirs in the Mississippi Salt Basin

By Carl E. Gray
EOG Resources, Inc., Tyler, TX

Development of Selma Chalk gas reservoirs in the Mississippi interior salt basin has recently experienced a highly increased level of activity resulting in the addition of large reserves. Since the 1980's, the application of hydraulic fracturing techniques has economically unlocked the gas from this long bypassed tight gas reservoir. Most of the activity has occurred in three large fields: Gwinville, Heidelberg, and Baxterville. To date, over 325 Selma Chalk completions have been made on these structures, finding long-lived reserves of potentially 150 BCFG.

The Selma gas production on these fields is found structurally trapped on very large, salt-cored, faulted anticlinal closures. The faulting at the Selma interval is of the typical collapse graben style common to salt structures and ridges in the interior basin. Established production has been from both fault-block-specific reservoirs and overall four-way closure, as is the case at Gwinville. The overlying Midway shale acts as the juxtaposing seal on fault block reservoirs and as top-seal on the overall closure. Matrix porosity appears to be the typical reservoir with only a few wells to date producing from fracture porosity, thereby reducing the likelihood of a horizontal Selma play on these large structures.

The Upper Cretaceous Selma Formation is a +/-1000' interval consisting primarily of marl and argillaceous chalk deposited in a deep, open marine environment. The chalk has been described as a fine-grained skeletal mudstone with abundant detrital micrite (carbonate mud) and contains skeletal debris consisting primarily of planktonic foraminifera, coccoliths, and assorted nannofossils. Within the upper 200' of the Selma (Taylor - Navarro Gp.) is a member of cleaner, porous chalk. This reservoir facies exhibits matrix porosity in the 14-20% range; however, permeability is typically below 0.05 millidarcies. Crossplotting measured porosity with permeability does indicate a relationship of increasing permeability with increasing porosity. SEM photomicrographs on high magnification reveal micrite-cemented fossil fragments with microporosity and extremely small, irregular interparticle pore throats. Therefore, reservoir storage capacity is fair to good, but matrix flow capacity is very low.

Conventional core analyses, including scanning electron microscopy and x-ray diffraction, of the Selma reservoirs reveals the stimulation necessary for a successful completion and likely explains the problems associated with the many previous failed completion attempts in these fields. The microporous nature of the reservoir and the minute pore throat apertures indicate a very high surface to unit volume relationship. Hydrochloric acid stimulation of this pay should result in both inefficient growth of effective porosity and migration-of-fines problems. Additionally, strong capillary forces associated with microporosity yields high retention of the injected fluids, thus reducing reservoir deliverability. Hardness values classified by Young's modulus confirm the relative softness of the pay

zone and the potential for proppant imbedment. Hydraulic fracture stimulation using energized frac gels and high proppant concentrations are necessary to minimize fluid retention and overcome imbedment problems. The typical fracture treatment has been a cross-linked gelled frac with +/- 140,000 lbs. Of 20/40 proppant ramped to 8#/gallon injection rate and leaving approximately 1.8#/sq. ft. of proppant in the fracture. Flowback is typically immediately following stimulation.

A typical Selma Chalk reservoir production profile would include an initial production rate of near 1000 MCFD with a rapid decline of up to 90% and flattening to 75-100 MCFD after the first year of production. The high initial production from the well is critical to the rate of return and payout and often indicates the range of the estimated ultimate recovery (E.U.R.) seen from that wellbore. An average E.U.R. for the Selma would be around 0.4 BCF / well with wells which range from very poor to over 1 BCFG dependent upon a variety of geological factors. Selma wells are typically low risk since wells previously drilled in fields have already logged the bypassed pay interval.

The Selma Chalk play, as with most tight gas reservoirs, is economically extremely sensitive. All project costs must be constantly monitored to maintain positive economic parameters. Drilling, completion, production, and routine operational expenses are typically scrutinized on all project, but on tight gas projects such as the Selma chalk other factors contribute to economic success. Included are "turnkey", multi-well vendor discounts on everything from locations through frac jobs, drilling "programs" that allow contractors to drill and complete wells progressively, and seasonal drilling and completion of wells taking advantage of the best seasonal pricing for the product. The Mississippi Oil and Gas Board has also been of great economic value to the play. The Selma chalk gas pool falls under statewide spacing rules of 320 acres per gas unit. Upon testimony of the extreme tight nature of the reservoir, the board has allowed wells to be drilled on a field by field, increased density basis with up to 16 wells per 320 acre unit.

The continued exploitation of the Selma chalk in the Mississippi salt basin is dependent upon the understanding of the reservoir character of the bypassed tight gas pay. Once understood, the proper stimulation linked with careful economic considerations yields a development play in a horizon previously overlooked in hundreds of wells drilled over the past five decades.

(Entire presentation coming soon to missgeo.com.)



"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

"The man with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds."

Mark Twain

Basilosaurus cetoides Find in Scott County

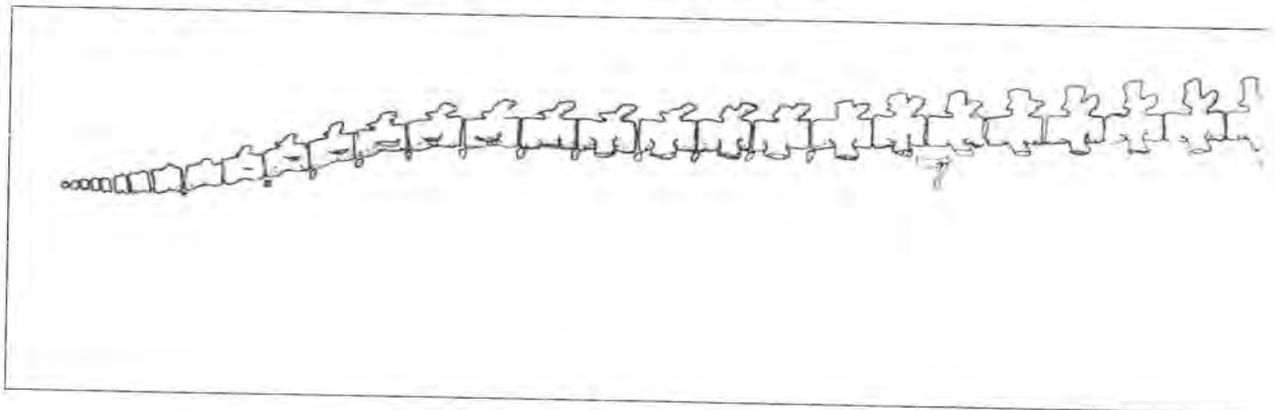
By James E. Starnes
MS Office of Geology

In August and September of 2002 the nearly complete remains of the archaeocete whale *Basilosaurus cetoides* were excavated from a Scott County landfill. The initial find of a few large vertebrae were reported by the operator of the Clearview Landfill to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. The laborious excavation of the fossil skeletal remains from the gummy Yazoo Clay by members of the two agencies lasted for three weeks. Two days of the excavation were cut short by rain, after which water had to be pumped from the excavation site.

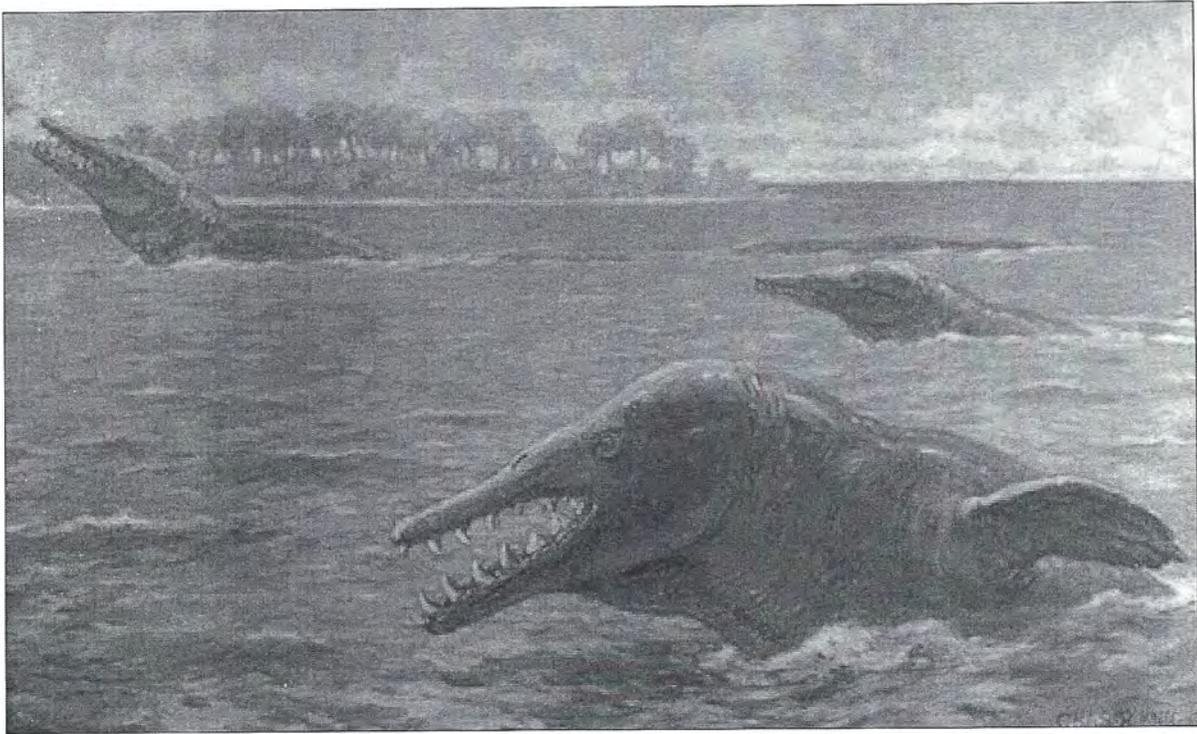
The remains extended for a length of more than 60 feet and were largely intact where they had lain for more than 34 million years. The stratigraphic position of the skeleton within the upper Yazoo Clay was measured from a nearby exposure of the Yazoo/Forest Hill contact. Also, measurements were taken on a limestone bed in the bench below the excavation. This limestone bed may prove helpful in local geophysical log correlations.

Other remains associated with the skeleton included a billfish vertebra, a sawfish rostral dentical, and several shark teeth and vertebral disks. Two iron-stained surfaces were present across the whole excavation: (1) one on which the bones lay, (2) and one just above the clay layer containing the bones.

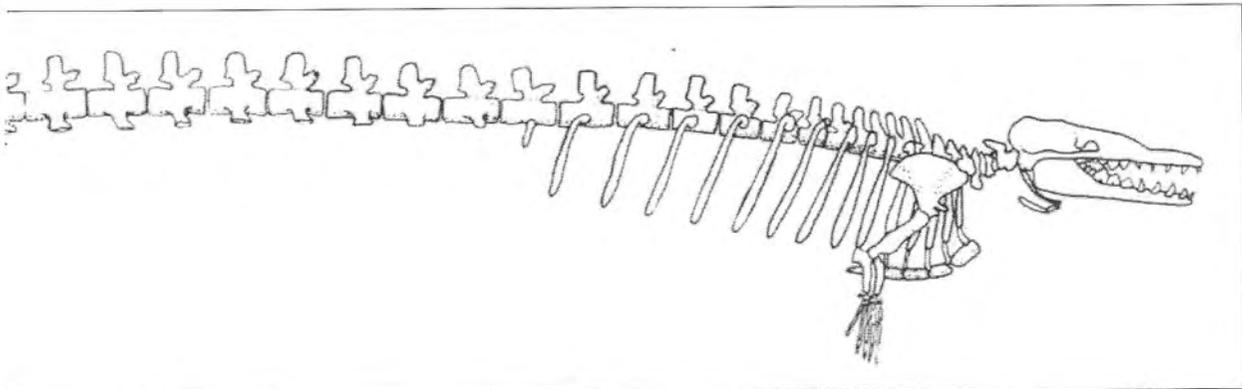
The specimen is now housed at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. It was successfully secured by the two government departments and with help from the employees of the landfill. A lengthy and well-illustrated article on the find was published in the September 11, 2002, edition of the Newton Record, where it made front page news. The excavation was also filmed by Mississippi Outdoors. Plans are being made to restore and reassemble this specimen for public display so that the people of Mississippi can learn about our rich geological past.



From Fossil Vertebrates of Alabama, by John T. Thurmond & Douglas E. Jo



Artist's conception of *B. cetoides* swimming in the Eocene sea. Painting courtesy of Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, neg. # CK26T.





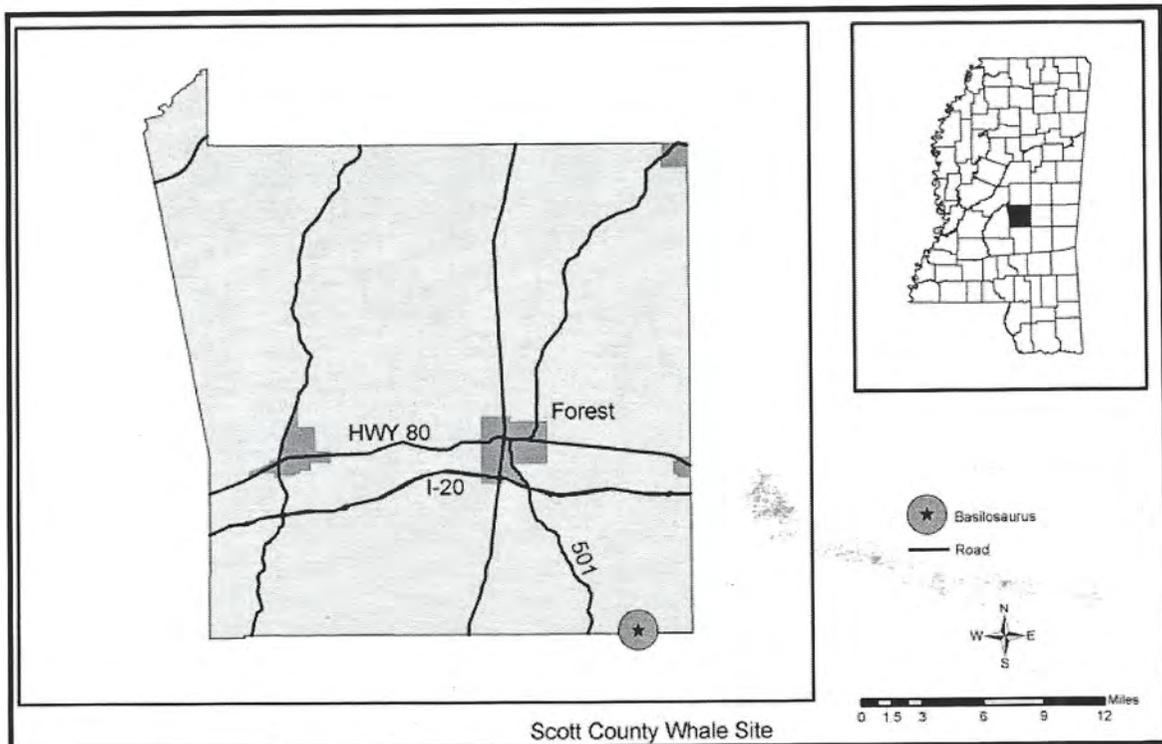
Real fun
digging in the
Yazoo Clay
through the hot
sun & rainy
muck!



Whale Ribs

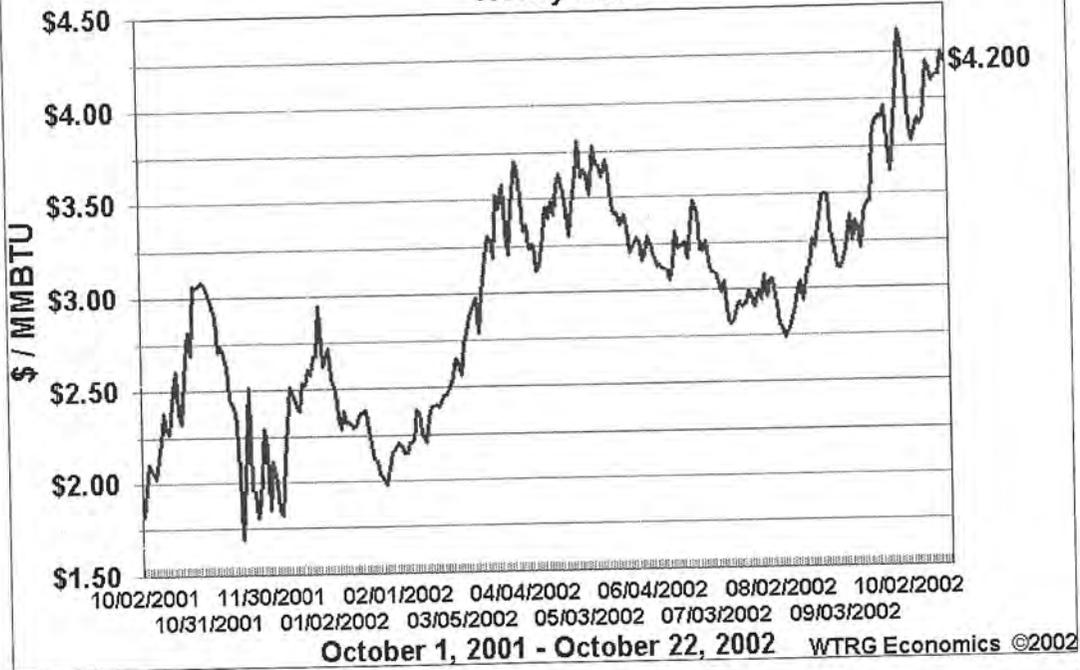


Basilosaurus vertebrae recovered from the site. Photo by James Starnes.



Maps courtesy of Jeremy Hurley and Daniel Morse, MS Office of Geology.

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



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Huntin' Rednecks

A group of rednecks went deer hunting and paired off in two's for the day. That night one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of An eight-point buck.

"Where's Billy Bob?" one of his buddies asked between spits of chewing tobacco.

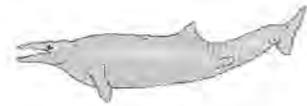
"Billy Bob looked to had a stroke of some kind. Passed right out he did! He's a couple a miles back up the trail."

"You left Billy Bob jes a-laying out there and carried this here deer back?!"

"Yeah, it were a tough call," nodded the deer-totin' redneck, "but I figured nobody's gonna steal Billy Bob!"

The Tale of the Whale

(a land shanty by Pat Mason)



The old ones went out for herring and whale in currachs, in ships, and in boats,
but seldom do we go in hunt for the prizes which swim or which drift or which float.

Til two thousand two, when the call came from Lance, they knocked on the door with a thump,
Shane spotted a whale, with his backhoe machine.
It's off in a Scott County dump, brave boys, it's off in a Scott County dump.

CHORUS: Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

Peyton tore out of his cool museum, charged out to do what he could,
located the skull in one piece with its teeth
was hot on the trail of a whale, brave boys, was hot on the trail of a whale.

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

Then Dockery left all of his fossils in cases and came out to give an I.D.,
says "Basilosaurus, I'd know anywhere
this whale will be sixty feet long, brave boys, this whale will be sixty feet long."

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

Then Starnes went to work finding bone after bone, knew just how to get each one free,
with Hurley at work in the mud and the rain,
they battled the earth for the whale, brave boys, they battled the earth for the whale.

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

They called for strong backs and they called for weak minds
and some came to answer the call,
and some came with cameras and some came to dig
and down beat the sun and the rain, brave boys, and down beat the sun and the rain.

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

Then on with our picks and our shovels and trowels, and into the blue Yazoo muck,
there's fifty-pound backbones and ribs by the score.
Heave all of it up in the truck, brave boys, heave all of it up in the truck.

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

Now sixty feet further, the crew is still out breaking their backs in the sun,
in search of the last little tail-bone of whale,
and there ends the tale of the whale, brave boys, and there ends my tale of the whale.

Up in the morning, down to the diggings, follow the buried whale.

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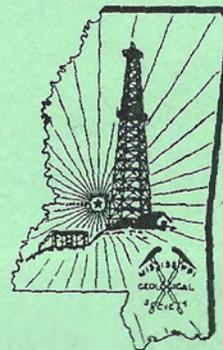
Volume 51

No. 4

December 2002

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
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BULLETIN

missgeo.com



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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

By Aaron Lasker

I hope everyone had a great start to the holiday season with a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I would also like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

I would like to congratulate this year's Boland Scholarship recipients pictured inside the bulletin. I feel that they were treated to a special award, seeing as how it was Jerry Zoble's final year as President of the Boland Scholarship Committee. I would like to give Verne Culbertson a special thanks for his words about Jerry at the luncheon. And speaking on the Society's behalf, I know that we will forever be indebted to you for the work you have done on Boland Scholarship over the last 20+ years.

We had a great turnout to see that presentation as well as enjoy David Dockery's talk on the discovery of a nearly complete whale fossil in Scott County. This month we will have our Christmas party instead of the monthly meeting.

This year's party will be held in conjunction with the MAPL on Thursday, December 12 at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. The party will commence at 6:00 p.m., with the Museum open for a tour until 7:30 and the food and drinks available until 10:00. Tickets will be \$25.00 and can be ordered from one of the MGS officers. I hope to see all of you there.

Aaron



Join Us —



MAPL/MGS Christmas Party

December 12th, 6:00 – 10:00 PM

MS Sports Hall of Fame Museum

See details inside

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

MGS Christmas Party

“The Day It Rained Money”

Boland Scholarship Recipients

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

“The Day After Christmas”

MGS Advertising Notice

Who brings Christmas gifts?

England - Father Christmas

France - Pere Noel

Germany - Christindl (Christ Child)

Spain - Papa Noel or the Three Kings

Italy - Babbo Natale

Morocco - Black Peter

Netherlands - Sinter Klaas

Finland - Joulupukki

Sweden - Jultomten

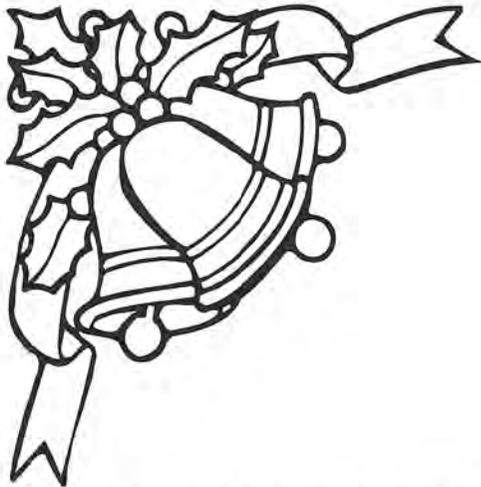
Norway - Pa Norsk

Russia - Grandfather Frost

China - Shengdan Laoren

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agriculture Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	MS Sports Hall of Fame
January 14th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agriculture Museum



"A man of genius makes no mistakes.
His errors are the portals of discovery."

James Joyce

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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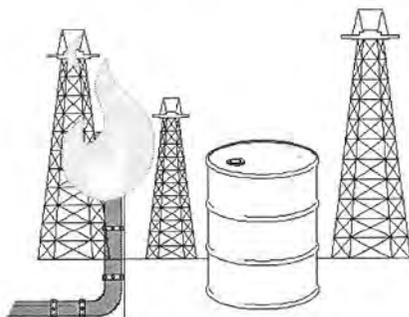
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The Day it Rained Money

By
Alan Cockrell

In the late 1800's officials of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad heard that a place along their track, about 30 miles northwest of Mobile, was the site of springs which, according to an Indian legend, held mysterious healing powers. Desperate for passenger revenue, the railroad seized the opportunity to exploit the legend. It acquired a large tract of land at the site and laid out a town. It advertised the healing springs throughout the north and soon tourists began pouring in. Eventually the town became an active railroad hub with two hotels and a bustling tourist economy.

But the boom began to fizzle about 1910 as the Yankees rode trains straight through the town to the beaming new resort areas along the Gulf coast. By the mid-twenties "For Sale" signs decorated half the town's houses. Many families moved on, while others became too poor to even pay their property taxes. The town shrank and fell into an agrarian existence that depended on an over-worked lumber and tung tree industry. Young people left in droves and older folks died, leaving their estates to be divided. Hope of a better life seemed to have altogether fled.

As the town's vitality ebbed, the mystical "healing powers" legend faded with it and the real origin of the town's name became known. It was actually named after a plant whose oil is said to drive away mosquitoes—the citronella plant. Mosquitoes or not, with the departure of the tourist trade, life in Citronelle, Alabama, became very routine and even dismal for some families. But then came Everett Eaves.

When Eaves and his brokers first came through buying oil leases no one really took much notice. Several wells had been drilled near the town over the years but all were dry. Few people held much hope but some of them leased to Eaves anyway.

In the contours of his maps Eaves had seen a vision beneath the town. He knew the town sat higher than the surrounding countryside—a topographic "high," geologists called it. This was an indication of a possible dome-like structure in the subsurface. Three earlier shallow holes had been dry but had supported the notion that a structure existed. Eaves wondered whether the recently found deeper Lower Cretaceous production at Soso in Mississippi might extend southeastward into Alabama. If so, he reasoned, it should be present on structures such as the one under Citronelle. All he had to do was convince his investors to drill deeper.

Earlier in Eaves' career, when he was working as a geologist for Mobil, he had befriended Chesley Pruet. The two had met when the Zach Brooks Drilling Company, having expanded their operations into Mississippi and Alabama, had contracted to drill a well for Mobil. Pruet remembers urging Eaves to consider going out on his own:

He was sitting on a well and I was looking after the rig. Everett said he was going to retire and go into business for himself. I told him the longer he waited the harder it would be because he would start thinking what a good retirement plan he had with the company.

The late Gene White, an engineer with the Alabama Oil and Gas Board, remembered Eaves as, “a scholarly man...very distinguished. He had a black mustache and was a tall, very handsome man. He was kind of the dean of geologists in those days. Everybody had tremendous respect for him.”

Eaves took Pruet’s advice and left the comfort and security of Mobil. Soon thereafter he acted on his hunch and began leasing at Citronelle. He also secured the necessary farmouts from acreage already under lease, most of which belong to Gulf. When he looked for investors he found a willing one in the very company that offered to drill the well—Zach Brooks Drilling Company. “The reason we took the deal,” Chesley Pruet said, “was that Gulf gave us \$70,000 bottom hole money and gave us 1/2 interest in the 6,500 acres they had leased there.”

But Eaves was still short of drilling funds and, to save location preparation money, he chose a site in town that had been an old used car lot owned by Mrs. Will Donovan. Drilling then began and, while Eaves continued to acquire leases, Citronelleans sat on the hoods of their cars watching as the days passed.

Then Pruet encountered some shows near 11,000 feet and Eaves ordered a drill stem test. Pruet remembers what happened next:

We drilled the well and were to run a drill stem test that day—the same day of closing on the lease....They ran the DST and the Haliburton guy was a young boy and he forgot and left the valve open at the top of the drill stem and we couldn’t get a blow in the bucket.



No. 1 Donovan. From the *Petroleum Engineer*, November 1965.

Pruet first thought the test was a failure—a packer had perhaps failed to properly seat against the borehole wall. But unknown to the crew 2,000 feet of oil had entered the pipe. When they began pulling out, absorbed gas in the oil blew through the water cushion and shot skyward through the crown block and into the upturned faces of the people of Citronelle. The electrifying word “Blow-out!” rang down the streets, as people scurried to tell their neighbors. Pruet knew it wasn’t blowing out. He discovered the valve that had been inadvertently left open when it should have been closed, causing the crew to believe the packer had failed to seat.

But as far as the Citronelleans were concerned, it was a blowout. Excitement spread through the town like wildfire. Eaves had struck oil. Life was about to change profoundly.

The Zach Brooks Drilling Company went on to complete the No. 1 Donovan on October 13, 1955, flowing 445 BOPD of sweet 45 degree gravity oil from the Rodessa at almost 11,000 feet. The gross pay interval was 850 feet thick. Initial bottom hole pressure clocked-in at almost 5,000 pounds per square inch.

Mr. Richard Stechmann, who eventually became the Citronelle Field’s Unit Manager, speaking in 1995 at the 50th anniversary of the Alabama Oil and Gas Board, described the geologic characteristics of the field:

As new wells were completed and more geologic data became available, the reservoir was identified as being composed of a series of stacked sand lenses draped across a broad dome-shaped substructure....The sand bodies themselves are irregular in size, shape, and thickness, and are generally non-continuous. One can get an idea of the structure by visualizing hundreds of pancakes of various sizes being thrown out on top of a rounded table....The characteristics of the reservoir sands suggest that the environment during the time of deposition [approximately 130 million years ago] was similar to the present day Mobile Bay. Some 330 separate oil bearing zones have been identified; however, the bulk of the oil reserves are located in about 100 of the thicker, more permeable sand bodies.

Citronelle’s fortune, it seemed, had come full circle. And, predictably, a tidal wave of lease brokers washed across the unsuspecting community, throwing money at anyone they thought might own mineral property. The *Saturday Evening Post*, in its June 16, 1956 issue reported on the feeding frenzy in a feature article entitled “The Day it Rained Money.”

One family, the *Post* said, leased only for the amount of debts they owed, then found out they could have leased for three times as much. Another elderly landowner committed suicide under the pressure of being courted by numerous brokers. According to the *Post*, a broker was overheard on a phone assuring his company that the old man had signed with him prior to killing himself.

Another man, a small crop farmer on the edge of town, named John Henry, held brokers in suspense for days while rocking in the yard and talking about bird dogs and his days playing farm club baseball with the Birmingham Barons. One exasperated broker eventually jumped up and shouted, “I don’t want to hear any more about bird dogs. I came here to do business!” He then threw down a bundle of money in the dirt at John Henry’s feet. The farmer called for his daughter to pick up the money and give it back to the man, and then he continued his discourse on training

dogs. Eventually John Henry leased for \$1,000 per acre and an unspecified royalty.

The *Post* story also revealed Citronelle's character when it reported numerous accounts of cash poor citizens who stuck to their word, even when more money was later offered. The most compelling such story was of Carlton Stallworth, a used car dealer. Stallworth had agreed to lease his family's 6,000 acres for \$180,000. But after days of dickering he was too tired to review and sign the contract. He asked that it be brought to his office the next morning. When morning came, another oilman appeared with a lease for \$300,000. Stallworth looked at the two documents then stared out the window for a long time. Finally he scrawled his name on the \$180,000 lease.

As the field developed and the size of the strike became apparent, leasing began to give way to trading of another kind. Everett Eaves' discovery well had been drilled on Mrs. Donovan's property on the town's north edge. The second big producer came in two miles south, on land owned by the Boy Scouts of America. This revelation—that the bulk of the field actually lay underneath Citronelle—presented both problems and opportunities for the herds of brokers, speculators, title busters, and swindlers that had descended on the town.

With almost 2,500 small landowners, almost anyone with some cash had a shot at getting a lease or buying mineral rights. When Alabama's state geologist, Dr. Walter B. Jones, visited the town, he was accosted by a lease broker wanting to know if he had anything to lease.

There was abundant opportunity for title busters to track down absentee owners, and to challenge deeds that had never been recorded by people who were accustomed to doing business with handshakes. Complicating the situation, many records had been lost in a courthouse fire. The pickings were ripe for crafty opportunists. The townspeople were simply overwhelmed by their offers, schemes, and claims.



← Q. U. Thompson, one of the mineral owners who went from rags to riches. From the *Saturday Evening Post*, June 16, 1956.

The *Post* story reported that, "The sea of the tax-deed buyers and their more reprehensible cohorts, the title busters, has led to some tense situations." One man showed up at the Methodist Church with a tax deed on its cemetery. He claimed that the taxes on the property were long overdue and he had paid them, thus earning title to the property. This was a gutsy bluff, since church property is not taxable in Alabama. The church's deacons—among them Carlton Stallworth, the man who had demonstrated his word was more important than \$120,000—didn't fall for it. The deacons invited the man for an edifying walk in the woods, where he was persuaded to give up his claim.

Citronelle soon burgeoned into a discovery of a gargantuan magnitude. It became every oilman's dream—a 'giant' oil field. It would ultimately prove to be the Deep South's biggest Lower Cretaceous field and would produce over 150 million barrels of oil from almost 500 wells. Alabama was no longer a fringe producer. It had finally joined the oil fraternity with a might bang. And Everett Eaves had joined the ranks of the few oilmen to become giant killers.

Predictably, John Henry and most of Citronelle's other 2,500 small landowners never got rich. But houses got repaired and painted; some new pick-ups appeared around town; and church tithes doubled. John Henry, himself, according to the *Post*, was happy to afford some new bird dogs and a fine horse to ride alongside his pack.

The *Saturday Evening Post* was wrong in one respect. It never really rained money on the town named for the citronella plant. But hope descended in torrents.

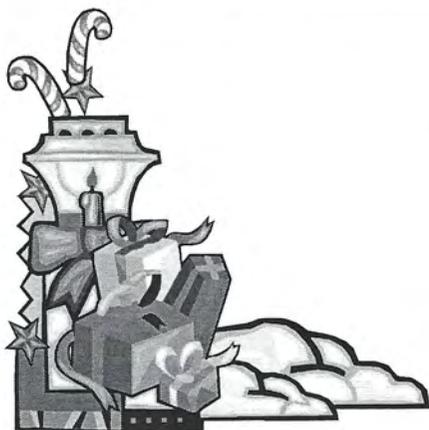


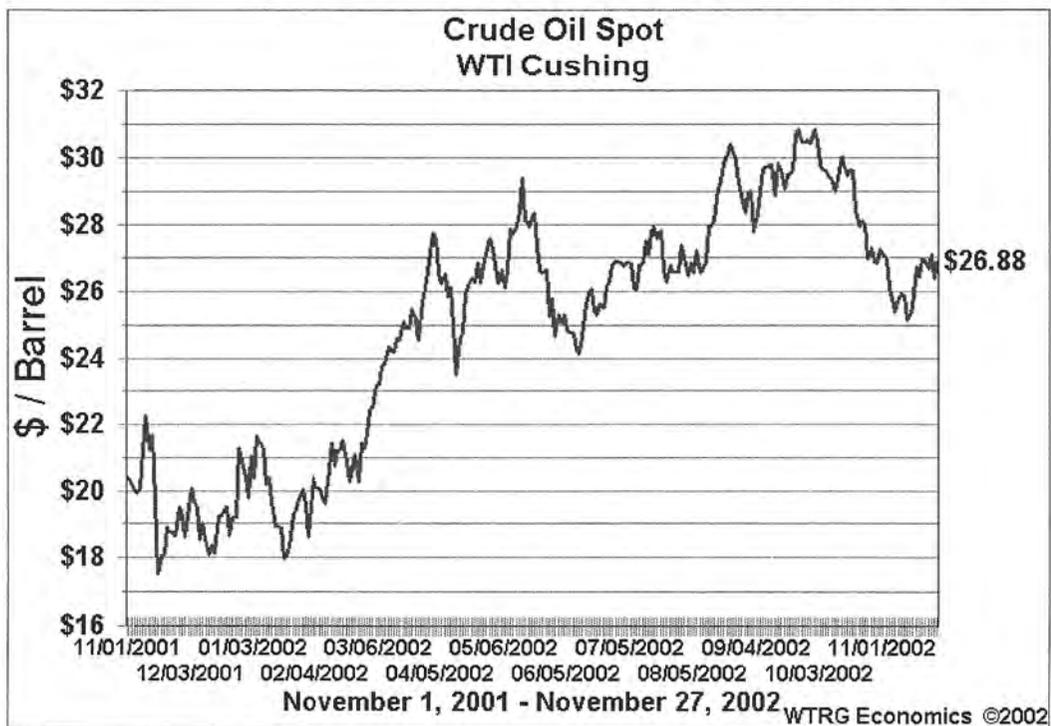
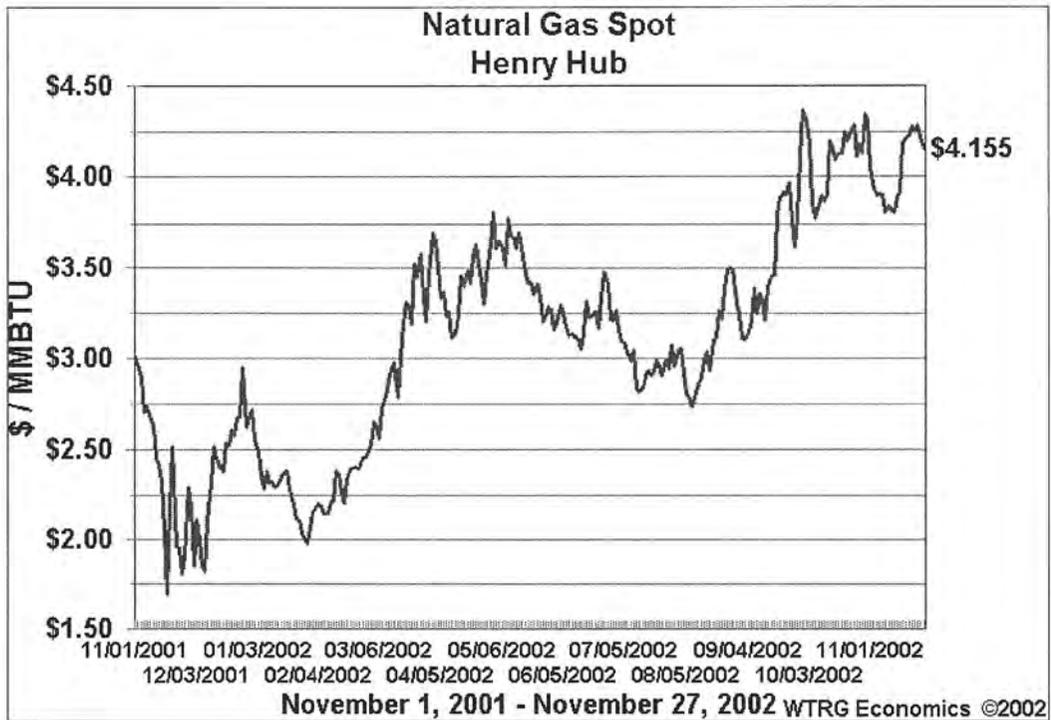
Lawyer Z. B. Skinner, Citronelle Councilman Sam Hester, & Mineral Owner John Donovan.
From the *Saturday Evening Post*, June 16, 1956.



Boland Scholarship Recipients & Their Professors

Left to right: Dr. Rick Major and Matthew Sleep of the University of Mississippi, Dr. Maurice A. Meylan and John E. Allen of the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Darrel W. Schmitz and Amie Seiter of Mississippi State University, and Jeannie Bryson and Dr. Stan Galicki of Millsaps College.





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Marilyn Moats Kennedy

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(From humormatters.com)

Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house,
Every creature was hurtin', even the mouse.

The toys were all broken, their batteries dead;
Santa passed out, with some ice on his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor,
While upstairs the family continued to snore.

And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans,
I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the sink to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a little white truck, with an oversized mirror.

The driver was smiling, so lively and grand;
The patch on his jacket said "U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox.
Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox.

Bill after bill, they still came.
Whistling and shouting, he called them by name:

"Now Dillard's, now Broadway's, now Penny's and Sears
Here's Robinson's, Levitz's and Target's and Mervyn's.

To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall,
Now chargeaway—chargeaway—chargeaway all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work.
He filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk.

He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road,
Driving much faster with just half a load.

Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer,
"ENJOY WHAT YOU BOUGHT. . . .
YOU'LL BE PAYING ALL YEAR!"

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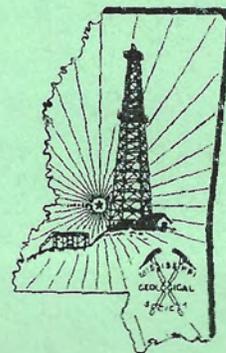
Volume 51

No. 5

January 2003

MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I am hopeful that everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and wishing that everyone has a prosperous and blessed New Year. The Society has a lot of great memories and successful events to reflect on from the past year, and many great ideas for the year to come. It is essential that we continue to get participation from all the members as we look to continue to grow our Society.

The MGS-MAPL Christmas Party was a big success, with the MS Sports Hall of Fame providing a wonderful backdrop for the joyous occasion. Thanks to everyone that attended, and I look forward to MGS and MAPL making this an annual event.

This month's meeting will be on the 14th of January at Capitol Club. Roy Cullimore will be speaking on "Microbes and a Living Planet". I am hopeful that it will continue to be necessary to provide additional seating for the overflow, so remember to grab a friend and join us for food, fellowship and Roy Cullimore's talk. Also remember to give any ideas for future speakers to Karl Kaufman.

In the next two months the Society will be putting together the Membership Directory, and in order to be listed you must be current with your dues. We also want to be sure that we have everyone's email address. If you have not been receiving monthly reminders from me via your email, please take a minute and send me an email at jackson_core@omnilabs.com. Be sure to include your name and state that you want to be added to the list.

Aaron



Happy
New
Year !!!

MGS Professional Luncheon
January 14th, 2003
Capitol Club

Speaker: Roy Cullimore

Topic: Microbes And A Living Planet

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Speaker's Abstract
Rig Count
MS Oil & Gas Production Map
"Field Investigations In SW MS Uncover
Ancient Economic Endeavors"
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
"And The Children Shall Lead You"
"Ticket Please !"
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	MS Sports Hall of Fame
January 14th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Microbes And A Living Planet By Roy Cullimore

Planet Earth is endowed with a wide variety of environments in which life occurs in various forms. Microbes are already recognized to be essential through performing many functions, some of which are recognized while others remain to be understood. Microbes permeate the soils, the waters, the clouds and are also in the crust. The roles they play are diverse, and general examples will be given of the impacts they are having on ground waters, gas and oil wells, the sunken (RMS Titanic) and the stored (high level nuclear waste and sulfur), recycling, and the "growing" of concrete. Specific examples which will then be presented to illustrate the ubiquitous nature of microbes are: (1) the potential roles of microorganisms in the formation of paraffins and anthracenes that subsequently affect the operating efficiency of the oil well through plugging; and (2) bioprospecting for oil and gas reserves through changes in the microbial composition of ground water being extracted from water wells impacted by the reserves.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002
October 1, 2002
November 5, 2002
December 3, 2002
January 7, 2003
February 4, 2003
March 4, 2003
April 1, 2003
May 6, 2003



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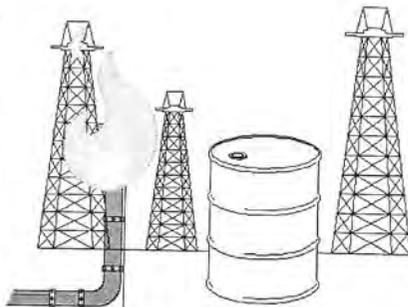
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 2 rigs to 850 for the week of December 13, 2002.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 9 at 133. Oil drilling is 17 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.6 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 6 at 711. There are currently 46 fewer rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 757.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is 11.3 percent. Gas exploration is up by 2.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 51 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 90 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was up 58 rigs to 382 for the week of December 13, 2002. This is 93 rigs higher than last year's rig count of 289.

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

North American Rig Count

	12/13/02	12/06/02	12/14/01	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	850	852	907	-2	-57	-0.2%	-6.3%
Offshore	113	113	119	0	-6	0.0%	-5.0%
Land	737	739	788	-2	-51	-0.3%	-6.5%
Inland Waters	15	17	19	-2	-4	-11.8%	-21.1%
Oil	133	142	150	-9	-17	-6.3%	-11.3%
Percent	15.6%	16.7%	16.5%	-1.0%	-0.9%		
Gas	711	705	757	6	-46	0.9%	-6.1%
Percent	83.6%	82.7%	83.5%	0.9%	0.2%		
Directional	212	223	240	-11	-28	-4.9%	-11.7%
Horizontal	55	55	72	0	-17	0.0%	-23.6%
Gulf of Mexico	110	110	114	0	-4	0.0%	-3.5%
Gulf Oil	9	8	15	1	-6	12.5%	-40.0%
Percent	8.2%	7.3%	13.2%	0.9%	-5.0%		
Gulf Gas	101	102	99	-1	2	-1.0%	2.0%
Percent	91.8%	92.7%	86.8%	-0.9%	5.0%		
Canada	382	324	289	58	93	17.9%	32.2%
North America	1232	1176	1196	56	36	4.8%	3.0%

Taken from WTRG.com web site

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OIL & GAS PRODUCTION INDEX MAP PROJECT STATUS



**Completed
Counties available
from MOG
Publications and
on the web**



January, 2003

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OIL & GAS PRODUCTION INDEX MAP

The Mississippi Office of Geology announces the completion of its Mississippi County Oil & Gas Production Index Map project. The project consists of a series of 47 Open-File Reports by Stephen D. Champlin. Oil and gas production has been reported from 47 of Mississippi's 82 counties.

The Open-File Reports are individual county oil and gas production index maps printed in color at an approximate scale of 1 inch equals 3 miles. The maps show the location of oil and gas fields in each county with each field's producing formations indicated by color code.

The County Maps are also presented on the Office of Geology's "online geological data" web site at <http://library.geology.deq.state.ms.us>, and are linked to the Energy Section's well and field information database.

The Open-File Reports may be purchased from the Office of Geology at Southport Center, 2380 Highway 80 West, Jackson, for \$5.00 per copy. Mail orders will be accepted when accompanied by payment (\$5.00 per copy, plus a postage and handling charge of \$5.00 for rolled maps (1-3 maps) or \$2.00 for folded maps (1-3 maps). Send mail orders (with check or money order) to:

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Field Investigations in Southwest Mississippi Uncover Ancient Economic Endeavors

By James Starnes, Mississippi Office of Geology

The first Native Americans to arrive in Mississippi had to adjust to survive in the Gulf Coastal Plain. Game might have been plentiful and the new climate more hospitable, but the surface geology was greatly different from the hard-rock terrain to the north. This new land with its lush biota lacked the usual bedrock resources needed for tool making.

This dilemma repeated itself, as each new wave of immigrants reached the state. It was some 10,000 years ago, when the first immigrants scoured outcrops and creeks looking for lithic materials sufficient for knapping spear points and drills. Some 4,500 years ago, tribes of the Woodland Culture also scoured creek banks for clay resources to manufacture their pottery. Many of the outcrops that were tested and utilized by these Native Americans are being examined anew today by those exploring for mineral resources and by geologists of the Mississippi Office of Geology, who are employed in the state's geologic mapping program.

In the course of mapping the state's surface geology at a scale of 1:24,000, it is not uncommon to find lithic sources that were utilized by Native Americans. Even old pits and quarries have been found where quartzites of knappable quality occurred as hard beds or layers in the sedimentary section. Recently, geological and archaeological investigations in southwestern Mississippi have led to the discovery of high-quality quartzites in the Hattiesburg Formation. These quartzites were new discoveries to those mapping the surface geology, but were known and used by Native Americans thousands of years ago.

The discovery of outcrops, such as the quartzite of the Hattiesburg Formation, brings the disciplines of archaeology and geology into mutually beneficial cooperative research efforts. Geologists are often able to trace stone tools made of quartzite to their bedrock source by examining their unique lithic characteristics. Sometimes lithic tools indicate a bedrock source known to Native Americans but unknown to the science of today. At present, most quartzite tools and projectile points can be traced to the Tallahatta outcrops in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, and to the Kosciusko outcrops in Attala County, Mississippi. Some recently identified tools and points are known from the quartzites of the Catahoula and Hattiesburg Formations. Lithic materials from the formations mentioned above were circulated by tribes across the state and were often traded with tribes in other states. The identification of a lithic tool with its bedrock source is important to the understanding of ancient immigration patterns and trade routes. A presentation by Federal archaeologists with the Homochitto National Forest, in cooperation with the Mississippi Office of Geology, was given at the November 2002 meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Society to showcase current archaeological and geological research into the sources of native lithic materials.

REFERENCES

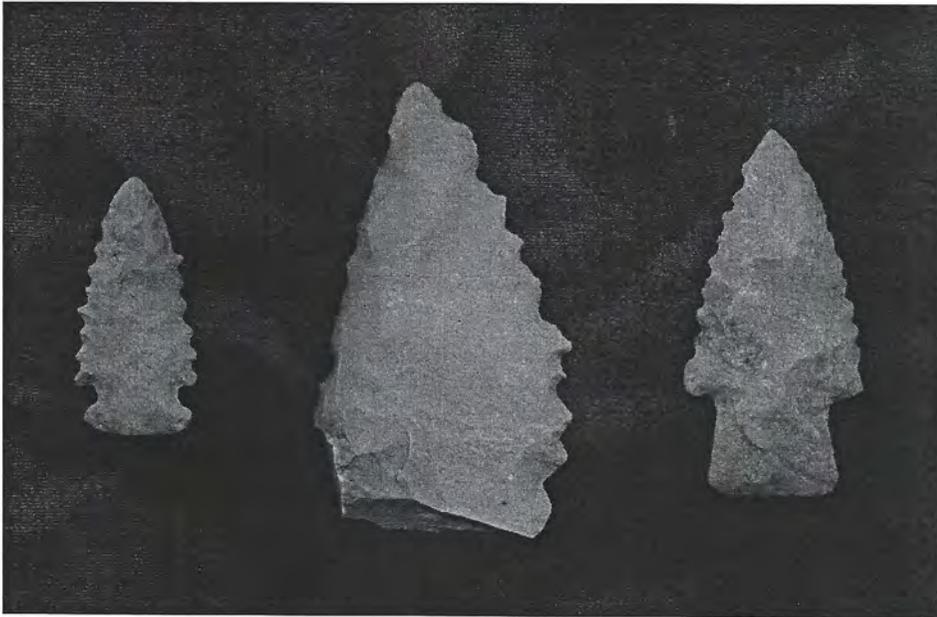
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- 3 Dukes, Joel & Shannon Ascher & James Starnes, *Quartzite Quarries in Southwest Mississippi*, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Bulletin 45, 2002, pp. 18-19.



Looking North Across Pre-historic Quarry of Hattiesburg Quartzite-Bearing Siltstone in Franklin County. Photo by Joel Dukes, U.S. National Forest Service Archaeologist.



Pre-historic Debris Scattered Across Franklin County Quarry. Photo by Joel Dukes.

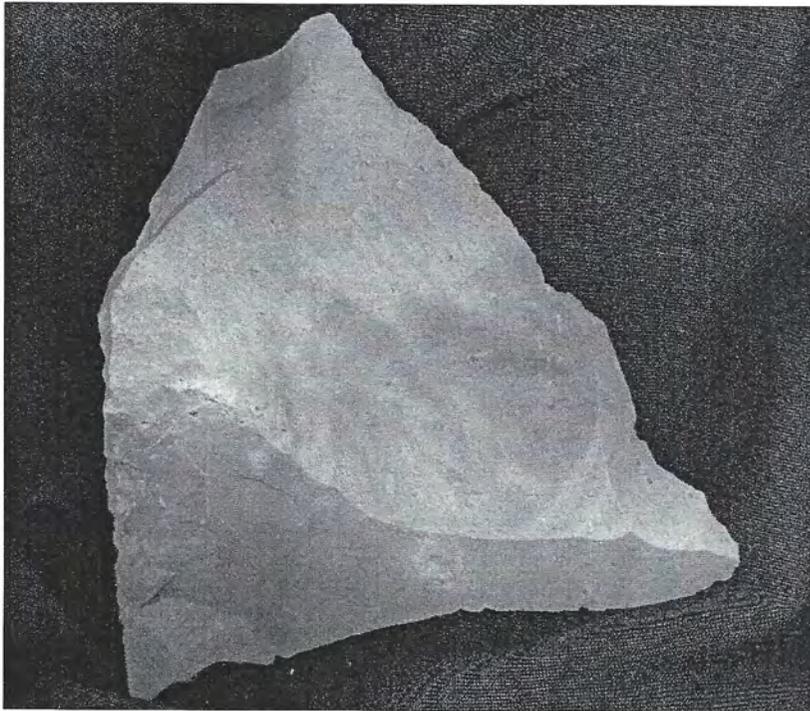


Kosciusko

Hattiesburg

Tallahatta

Replicas of Quartzite Points



Raw Material Showing Excellent Conchoidal Fracture.
Photos By Pat Mason, MS Office of Land & Water Resources.

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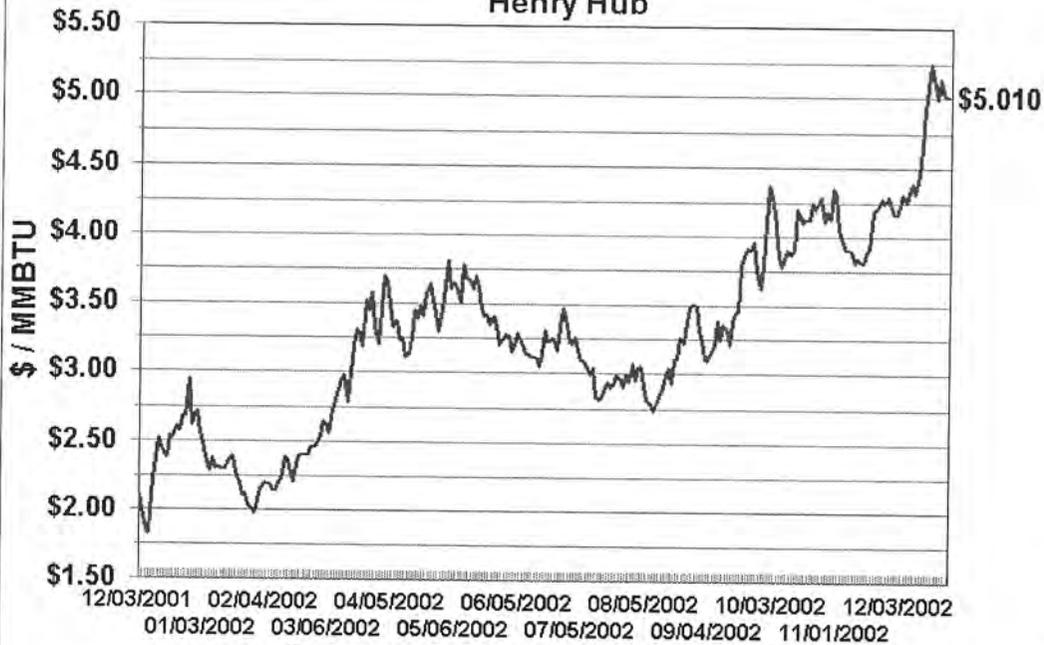
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And the Children Shall Lead You From "Funny Times", November, 2002

A first grade teacher gave each of her students the first half of a popular proverb and asked them to come up with the rest —

Better to be safe than . . .	punch a 5th grader.
Strike while the . . .	bug is close.
It's always darkest before . . .	Daylight Savings Time.
Never underestimate the power of . . .	termites.
Don't bite the hand that . . .	looks dirty.
No news is . . .	impossible.
You can't teach an old dog new . . .	math.
The pen is mightier than the . . .	pigs
Where there's smoke there's . . .	pollution.
Happy is the bride who . . .	gets all the presents.
A penny saved is . . .	not much
Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you . . .	have to blow your nose.
Children should be seen and . . .	spanked or grounded.
If at first you don't succeed . . .	get new batteries.
You get out of something only what you . . .	see in the picture on the box.

Ticket Please !

Three Southerners and three Yankees are traveling by train to the Super Bowl. At the station, the three Northerners each buy a ticket and watch as the three Southerners buy just one ticket. "How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" Asks one of the Yankees.

"Watch and learn," answers one of the men from the South. They all board the train. The three Yankee men take their respective seats, but all three Southerners cram into a toilet together and close the door. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The Yankees see this happen and agree it was quite a clever idea. So, after the game they decide to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. They then see, to their astonishment, that the three Southerners don't buy any ticket at all. "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Yankee. "Watch and learn," answers one of the Southerners.

When they board the train, the three Northerners cram themselves into a toilet, and the three Southerners cram into another toilet just down the way. Shortly after the train is on its way, one of the Southerners leaves their toilet and walks over to the toilet in which the Yankees are hiding. The Southerner knocks on their door and says, "Ticket, please."

On Tenacity:

"Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go."

William Feather

"Diamonds are nothing more than chunks of coal that stuck to their jobs."

Malcolm S. Forbes

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

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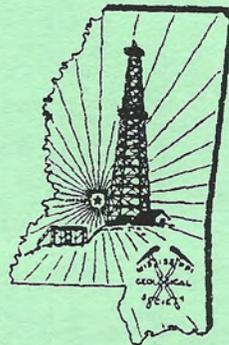
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February 2003

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I am hopeful that NAPE was a great success for all that attended, and that many new projects will result from the meeting. It seems that NAPE has become a means of getting the pulse of the oil field activity for the upcoming year, and here is to hoping for a loud and steady pulse for the year.

I am very thankful for the members' great support that we have gotten the entire year for our monthly meetings. We had another great turnout for Bob Woolsey's talk last month. This month's meeting will be on February 11th, and our speaker will be Mr. Bill Shedd. Mr. Shedd works at the MMS and will be speaking on "Gas Hydrates in a Complex Geologic Province, Northern Gulf of Mexico". I hope that we will have another great turnout.

I also want to remind everyone that we will be publishing our Society Directory next month, and in order to be included you must have paid you dues for the year. We will have a list of those that are currently set to be included in the Directory Issue at the Capitol Club on the 11th. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Until next month,

Aaron Lasker

Happy
Valentines
Day



Happy
Presidents
Day



MGS Professional Luncheon
February 11th, 2003
Capitol Club

Speaker: Bill Shedd, MMS

Topic:
Gas Hydrates in a Complex Geologic
Province, Northern Gulf of Mexico

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Rig Count

Speaker's Abstract

"The Walking Stick"

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"The HR Manager"

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	MS Sports Hall of Fame
January 14th, 2003	Speaker: Roy Cullimore	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	Speaker: Bill Shedd	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Thibodeaux was placing some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started to leave when he noticed Boudreaux kneeling at another grave.

Boudreaux seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "Why you died?...Why you died?...Why you died?"

Thibodeaux approached Boudreaux and said, "Boudreaux, I don't want to disturb your grief, but I ain't never seen you in pain like dis before. Who is you in mourning for like dis? One of your kids? Your mama? Your papa?"

Boudreaux took a moment to collect himself, then replied . . . "My wife's first husband."

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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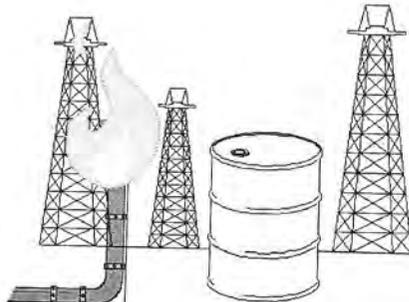
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 17 rigs to 862 for the week of January 24, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 3 at 133. Oil drilling is 11 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.4 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 14 at 726. There are currently 14 more rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 714.

The year over year decrease in oil exploration in the U.S. is down 7.4 percent. Gas exploration is up by 1.7 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 79 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 178 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was up 8 rigs to 528 for the week of January 24, 2003. This is 69 rigs higher than last year's rig count of 459.

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

North American Rig Count

	01/24/03	01/17/03	01/25/02	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	862	845	859	17	3	2.0%	0.3%
Offshore	110	112	124	-2	-14	-1.8%	-11.3%
Land	752	733	735	19	17	2.6%	2.3%
Inland Waters	19	20	19	-1	0	-5.0%	0.0%
Oil	133	130	144	3	-11	2.3%	-7.6%
Percent	15.4%	15.4%	16.8%	0.0%	-1.3%		
Gas	726	712	714	14	12	2.0%	1.7%
Percent	84.2%	84.3%	83.1%	-0.0%	1.1%		
Directional	234	230	232	4	2	1.7%	0.9%
Horizontal	54	54	61	0	-7	0.0%	-11.5%
Gulf of Mexico	106	107	117	-1	-11	-0.9%	-9.4%
Gulf Oil	11	12	22	-1	-11	-8.3%	-50.0%
Percent	10.4%	11.2%	18.8%	-0.8%	-8.4%		
Gulf Gas	95	95	95	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Percent	89.6%	88.8%	81.2%	0.8%	8.4%		
Canada	528	520	459	8	69	1.5%	15.0%
North America	1390	1365	1318	25	72	1.8%	5.5%

Gas Hydrates in a Complex Geologic Province, Northern Gulf of Mexico

Harry H. Roberts, Coastal Studies Institute, Louisiana State University; James M. Coleman, Coastal Studies Institute; J. L. Hunt, Minerals Management Service; W. W. Shedd, Minerals Management Service; A. V. Milkov, Texas A & M University; and Roger Sassen, Geochemical and Environmental Research Group, Texas A & M University

Nearly the entire continental slope of the northern Gulf of Mexico is documented by large, overlapping tracks of high quality 3D-seismic data. Analysis of these data by industry, MMS, and academic geoscientists emphasizes the extreme geologic complexity imposed on this deepwater province by salt and sediments. In this framework faults are confirmed conduits for fluids and gases from deep hydrocarbon-generating areas as well as shallower parts of the sediment column. Within the gas hydrate stability zone this flux produces gas hydrate composed largely of thermogenic gases. Flux rate of fluids and gases conducted to the shallow subsurface and seafloor can preclude or encourage hydrate formation, depending on the heat transfer from deep geothermally heated zones. Therefore, in rapid transport cases, the gas hydrate stability field may be eliminated or highly modified by heat transfer to the seafloor. In contrast, moderate-to-slow flux systems result in massive gas hydrate deposits that fill fractures within fault zones, resulting in mounds of various dimensions at the seafloor. Frequent gas seeps and larger plumes over hydrate zones suggest that fault-supplied gas is consistently bypassing the surface and near-subsurface hydrate deposits and entering the water column, thus providing a constant supply of gas for hydrate formation. Seafloor experiments indicate that exposed hydrate decomposes in sync with water temperature changes ranging in temporal scale from hours to months. 3D-seismic surface amplitude data, wave-form analysis, and manned submersibles reveal associations that have helped identify probable sites of exposed hydrates that span the full depth range of the slope.

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Calvin Coolidge

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."

Thomas Jefferson

The Walking Stick

By Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled “Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South.” All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author’s permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.

E-mail: yakdriver@comcast.net)

Sometime after the turn of the century a 12-year-old boy arrived in America from Russia and found himself in a bizarre and esoteric place called Tuscaloosa, Alabama. His father was a distiller of vodka for the Czar. When the czar business in Russia went bad the family moved to the United States, where he joined his uncle as a “backpack peddler.” They carried merchandise in a pack and walked from farmhouse to farmhouse, selling needles, thread, and such. When they couldn’t sell, they bartered. That evolved into a wagon operation, and the wagon evolved into a store. Eventually they had a department store. They were well-suited for the American way, and some people said the boy got his name changed to something that sounded more American.

As the years went by the young Russian immigrant, now known as Louie Hodges, acquired the biggest department store in Fayette, Alabama—a three story building. He had arrived in Fayette about the time the old Fayette Gas Field was being discovered. The city’s streetlights were fueled with the gas. The gas sellers convinced everybody to buy gas stoves and gas water heaters. Then the gas ran out. The problem was that the drillers-of-old didn’t use cement; they wrapped a burlap bag around the bottom of the pipe string and jammed it down in the hole. The field simply bled to death.

Hodges was hopelessly caught up in the fever. He became utterly impassioned with the idea that raw energy could be tapped from the earth, like water. Methodically, he put his energy fascination to practical use. A lot of his customers in the 20s and 30s didn’t have money for clothes and household things. He would barter their minerals but he would never barter more than half of them. Eventually he became a large mineral owner and was delighted any time anyone would show enough interest in oil and gas to let him talk.

Occasionally during those years someone would pop a hole down and Hodges would invariably put money into it. He even traveled frequently in search of oil investors for his adopted home county. He related that he once met an Alabama-born geologist who passed through Fayette. He took the guy out to the old Fayette Gas Field. He showed the fellow the little spring in which natural gas still bubbles to the surface. The man told him, “I’ve got to go to Texas to drill a well. When I get through, I’ll come back to Fayette.” The man went out to Texas and drilled the Daisy Bradford—the discovery well for the giant East Texas Field. The world renowned “Dad” Joiner never came back to Fayette. But Hodges didn’t give up.

In the late fifties the big discovery at Citronelle, Alabama excited Hodges to the core, and he went down there to be among the oil crowd and glean what information he could about the ways of the business. He hoped he could bend a few ears while he was there about Fayette. It was a long

shot, but he went anyway. He determined that his first stop would be at the newly opened field office of the Alabama Oil and Gas Board. That turned out to be a choice so profound as to have a divine underpinning.

Hodges got off the bus almost in front of the Board's office. He gathered his crude maps and papers, bundled them under his arm, and went in. A man looked up at him and got up from his desk. Hodges' eyes swept upward, following the enormous frame that rose above him. The man towered over him like a derrick, the broad shoulders casting an imposing presence over Hodges. Thick black hair hovered over a forehead that jutted out and guarded a set of penetrating eyes. A massive hand reached out to take his. The man was William Tucker.

"He was a traveling file cabinet," Bill Tucker recalled. "He had papers stuffed everywhere." Tucker's grandfather, a legislator, was the father of the gasoline tax law in Alabama, and his father worked for Standard Oil of Kentucky as a pipeline terminal supervisor. At the age of ten he had decided to become an oilman after reading an issue of a magazine called "The Lamp," which explained the geology of oil deposits. He went to LSU for his petroleum engineering degree because, "Alabama at that time didn't have a petroleum engineering school, and the geology school was focused mainly on coal and iron ore mining." He hired on with Halliburton for the summer after his freshman year and was alarmed when they told him he would be in the logging department. He thought he would be cutting trees to build drilling rigs.



Well 10-A, Fayette Gas Field, making about two gallons of heavy oil a day. Photo by W. B. Jones, 1927. From Geological Survey of Alabama Special Report 15, *Oil and Gas in Alabama*, July 1929.

In 1959 he joined the Alabama Oil and Gas Board and was appointed a field agent in Citronelle. It was not the job Tucker wanted to stay in, but it was one that would allow him to learn more about the industry.

Tucker invited Hodges to sit down and listened with increasing interest as the elderly man prattled. "He had heard of my appointment," Tucker said, "and that I was supposed to be a hot shot oilman from Louisiana and Texas. He wanted to tell me all about the oil and gas prospects in Fayette County, which he did so for the next six hours." After Tucker transferred to the Board's main office in Tuscaloosa Hodges became a frequent haunter of the Board's halls and offices. Gene White, another of the Board's staff engineers, recalled Hodges' inquisitive visits. "Louie would come into my office and sit down, and I'd be trying to get ready for a Board hearing. He'd sit and watch me and make a few comments, then I'd have to excuse myself to go to the hearing. When I got back, several hours later, he'd be sitting right there, holding his cane!"

While the whole staff of the oil and gas board politely tolerated Mr. Hodges, he remained a special friend to Bill Tucker. The two rode through the old Fayette Gas Field, where Hodges told Tucker about the streetlights that had been left on 24 hours a day because it was cheaper to do that than to hire somebody to turn them off and on. He told him about the gas stoves and heaters that everybody had bought. He said that there was even an excursion train that came over from Birmingham bringing visitors to see the curious new gas field. They visited the old wells and opened the valves and watched them blow and fizzle. "Over the years we had a wonderful experience with each other," Tucker said. "We spent many enjoyable hours talking and sharing his dreams, and capturing me into those dreams."

After working various assignments that gave him a great deal of exposure to drilling, field operations, and a knowledge of the subsurface geology of north Alabama, Tucker conceived an idea to promote the state's potential to commercial investors. He initiated the effort with the approval of State Geologist Phillip LaMoreaux. When visitors came from out of state to look for oil in Alabama he would put on a presentation for them. "Soon I had a pretty good song and dance routine that I could go into, as soon as somebody arrived on the doorstep, about all the virtues of drilling in Alabama, especially in Fayette County. My audience was somewhat inappreciative. You have to realize that gas was selling for 12 to 16 cents [per mcf]. There was not a pipeline there anyway, so what difference did it make? Gas was considered during that time period more of something you had to deal and cope with rather than a valuable resource." Eventually Tucker took the plunge and went independent. He raised \$60,000 and bought leases in Fayette County but quickly ran into unexpected trouble finding an affordable rig that would make the trip to Fayette from distant oil regions. Undaunted, he searched for a rig of his own and found a repossessed one in Louisiana, which he bought from the county for \$8,000. It was a big one by Warrior Basin standards—capable of depths to 12,000 feet, which was much more drilling power that he needed.

"I felt like James Dean in the movie *Giant* putting that rig together. You have to put this operation in the proper context to appreciate the magnitude, in my brain anyway, of this struggle. We were 200 miles from the nearest oil field. Experienced labor did not exist. The only people I had were a driller and a derrick man from Ohio. The three of us trained every pulpwood cutter we could find on how to work on a rig. I was the driller on the 3 till 11 tour. Only collectively did we have the experience of one good man. Total disaster was seconds away at any time, but we finally got the well drilled."

He tested 400 MCF per day from the Carter Sand and increased it to 2.5 million after fracing it. The new discovery, the No. 1 Hollis-Collins, became the discovery well for the West Fayette Field—Alabama's first truly significant Black Warrior Basin strike. With no close pipelines, Tucker sold the gas to a nearby asphalt plant for .58 per MCF. He kept drilling, adding five development wells to the Hollis-Collins. Over the next few years Tucker built a sizeable company, drilled scores of wells, and made dozens of discoveries.

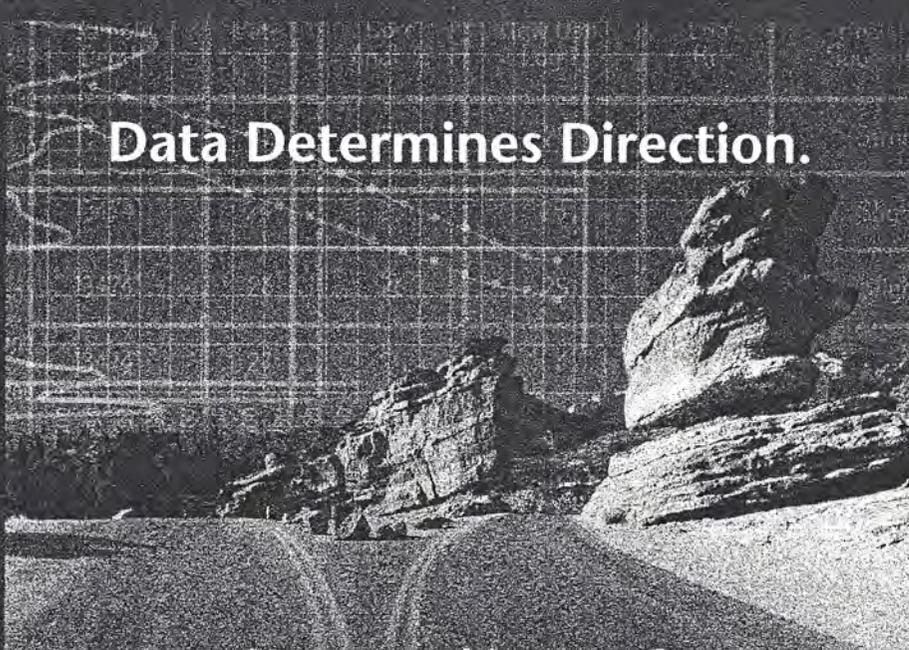
But he never forgot his old friend Louie Hodges, whose health was failing every day. Shortly after the West Fayette discovery, he picked up Hodges and drove him out to the first offset to the Hollis-Collins. They had just fraced the well and tested it at over three million cubic feet of gas per day. They had laid two joints of tubing from the wellhead to the reserve pit and staked it down securely. They placed a half-inch choke in it and lit a flare pot at the end of the line. The crew waited for Tucker and his frail guest. They arrived at the location, and Tucker helped Mr. Hodges from the car. Shriveled and hunched over, the man ambled along toward the well with his cane—an exotic hand-carved stick that he had bought in Mexico. When they got as close as Tucker dared they stopped and he signaled the crew to open the wellhead valve.

The ground trembled as the massive stream of gas exploded from the tubing and ignited. The flame spat out across the reserve pit with a staggering roar and lifted skyward, the orange flames billowing upward. They instantly felt the wall of heat and smelled the sweet odor of burning crude. For the first time in years, Louie Hodges straightened. His face—awash with the glow of the flare—lifted upward. His eyes widened. Tucker saw him smile. Then he watched in awe as the elderly man lifted his walking stick high and held it back. Twenty-six years later, Bill Tucker said with wet eyes and a barely audible breaking voice, “He threw that stick toward that flame.”

As the tumbling stick arched toward the flare, Tucker realized that two men’s visions had become a profound reality and with it, a coming-of-age for the region. It was perhaps the defining moment that petroleum exploration in North Alabama became a compelling endeavor for Bill Tucker and for many more to come.



Bill Tucker. Photo courtesy of Alan Cockrell.



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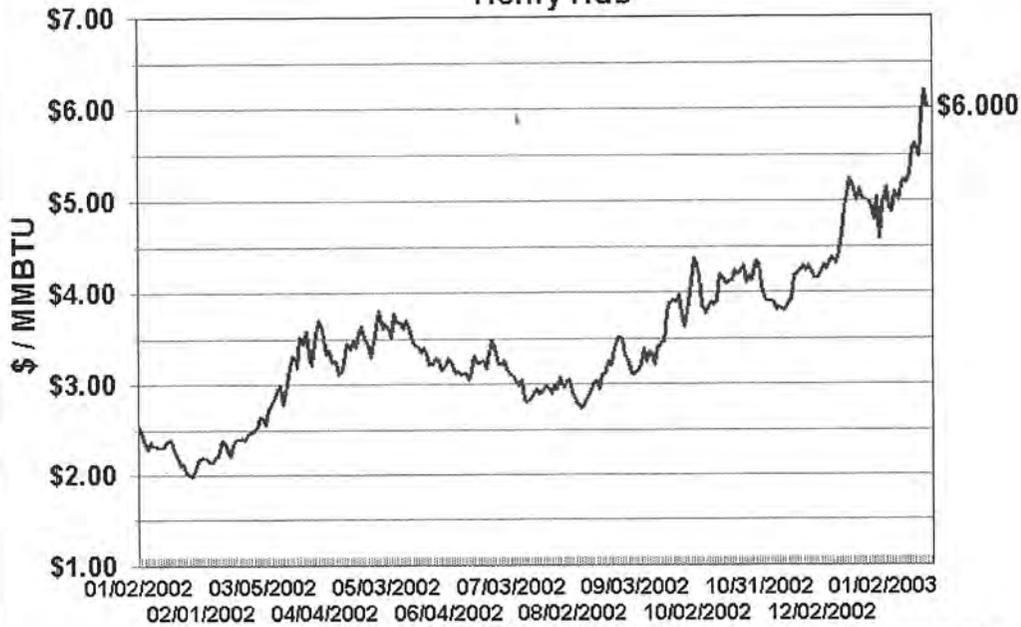
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The HR Manager

One day while walking downtown, a woman supervisor in the human resources department was hit by a bus and tragically killed.

When her soul arrived in heaven, she was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself.

"Welcome to Heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you get settled in, though, it seems we have a problem. You see, strangely enough, we have never once had an HR manager make it this far, and we're not at all sure what to do with you."

"No problem," said the woman. "Just let me in."

"Well, I'd like to, but I have higher orders. What we're going to do is to let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven. Then you can choose whichever one you want to spend an eternity in," the saint replied.

"Actually, I think I've already made up my mind. . . I would prefer to stay in Heaven."

"Sorry, but we have rules." And with that St. Peter put the HR manager in an elevator and down-down-down it went to Hell.

When the elevator doors opened, the HR manager found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance, there was a country club, and standing just in front of her were many of her old friends - fellow HR professionals that she had once worked with.

They were all dressed in evening gowns, and everyone was cheering for her. They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks, and she had a wonderful time talking with everyone about old times.

They then played an excellent round of golf, and that night they went to the country club, where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner.

At the clubhouse, she met the Devil, who was actually a really nice guy (kinda cute), and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. The HR manager was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook her hand and waved goodbye as she got on the elevator. The elevator went up-up-up, and the door opened back up at the Pearly Gates where St. Peter was waiting for her.

"Now it's time to spend a day in Heaven," he said.

So the HR manager spent the next 24 hours lounging around the clouds, playing the harp and singing. She had a great time and before she knew it, her 24 hours in Heaven were up and St. Peter came and got her.

"So, you've now spent a day in Hell and a day in Heaven. It is time for you to choose your eternity," he said.

The HR manager paused for a second and then replied, "Well, I never thought I'd say this. I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell." So St. Peter escorted her back to the elevator and again the consultant went down-down-down to Hell.

When the doors opened, she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. To her horror, she saw that her friends were now dressed in rags and picking up garbage to put in sacks for the evening meal.

The Devil came up to her, put his arm around her, and laughed.

"I don't understand," stammered the HR manager. "Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a country club, and we ate lobster and danced and had a great time. Now all there is is a wasteland of garbage, and my friends look miserable."

The Devil looked at her and grinned, "That's because yesterday we were recruiting you, but today you're staff!"

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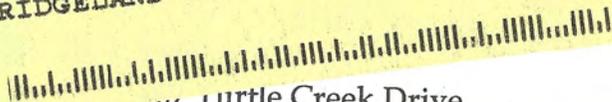
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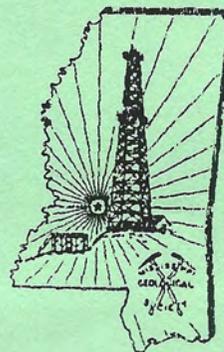
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No. 7

March 2003

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I am sure that everyone is tired of me bugging them about making sure their dues are up to date, but since we have not had a membership directory in a few years I want to be sure to all of you a chance to be included in the directory. The directory will be mailed out later this month, and I want to thank Jo Everett and Lindsey Stewart for their work on this project as well as all the time and effort they put in to getting the bulletins out every month. If your address label is marked with a red "x", your dues are not currently up to date, and you will not be listed in the directory. Please contact me by phone or email (jackson_core@omnilabs.com) as soon as possible to rectify the situation before we publish the directory.

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for March 11th. Dr. Joel Walls will be our speaker, and his talk is entitled "Well Logs are not Rocks." Dr. Walls is the Senior VP and Chief Petrophysist at Rock Solid Images. I hope to see all of you there. I would also like to thank Bill Shedd and Jesse Hunt from the MMS for their talk on Gas Hydrates at February's luncheon.

I also want to point out that the PTTC will be holding a one-day workshop on Wednesday March 12th starting at 8:30 AM at the Capitol Club. The workshop is entitled "Exploration and Evaluation of Fractured Reservoirs with Emphasis on Fault-Related Fracture Systems." Dr. Ronald A. Nelson will be the workshop instructor. Please contact Ernest Mancini at emancini@wgs.geo.ua.edu or (205)348-4319 for more information.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Spring Fling scheduled for May 8th.

Until next month

Aaron Lasker

Happy

St. Patrick's

Day

MGS Professional Luncheon
March 11th, 2003
Capitol Club

Speaker: Dr. Joel Walls

Topic:
Well Logs Are Not Rocks

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Speaker's Abstract

"An Occurrence of Heavy Minerals Along
Clark's Creek in Claiborne County"

"The Geologist's Come-All-Ye"

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"Ultimate Urban Myth"

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	MS Sports Hall of Fame
January 14th, 2003	Speaker: Roy Cullimore	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	Speaker: Bill Shedd	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	Speaker: Joel Walls	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
May 8th, 2003	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Dr. Joel Walls
Senior VP & Chief Petrophysicist, Rock Solid Images

Dr. Walls graduated from East Texas State University in 1975 with a BS in physics. He joined Phillips Petroleum that year and worked at the Bartlesville Research Center until 1977. He then attended Stanford University where he received his MS (1981) and PhD (1983) in geophysics. He studied under Dr. Amos Nur. Dr. Walls was a co-founder of Petrophysical Services, Inc. (PSI) in 1981. The company was acquired in 1984 by Western Geophysical (division of Litton Industries). Dr. Walls remained with Litton Core Laboratories and served as a director of the Petrophysics Division in Dallas from 1987 to 1989. He was appointed general manager of the special core analysis operation in Dallas from 1989 to 1990. Dr. Walls was a founding member of the Society of Core Analysts and is a member of SEG, SPE, and SPWLA. He founded PetroSoft Inc. in 1992 with Drs. Nur, Mavko, and Dvorkin from Stanford. PetroSoft Inc. merged with Discovery Bay and Seismic Research Corp. in 1998 to form Rock Solid Images.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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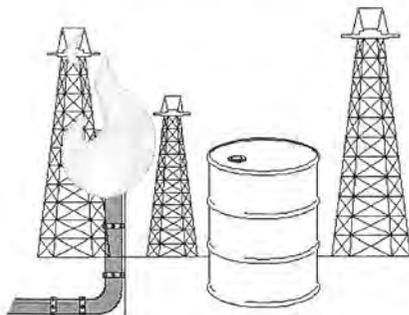
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"Exploration and Evaluation of Fractured Reservoirs with Emphasis on Fault-Related Fracture Systems"

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Wednesday, March 12, 2003
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The Eastern Gulf Region of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council invites oil and gas producing and related companies operating in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida to participate in a Technology Workshop entitled, ***"Exploration and Evaluation of Fractured Reservoirs with Emphasis on Fault-Related Fracture Systems."*** The purpose of the workshop is to cover the basic elements needed in the evaluation of fractured petroleum reservoirs from both an exploration and development point of view. Emphasis will be given to fault-related fracture systems. A general sequence of study will be presented, as well as the data types needed to complete the study. Techniques presented will emphasize outcrop and subsurface rock data, petrophysical data, rock mechanic principle, and reservoir performance data. A multidisciplinary approach to the study of these reservoirs will be stressed. Major topics of the course include: a workflow for fractured reservoir studies, fracture system origin, determining reservoir properties of the fracture system, fracture and matrix porosity interaction, classification of fractured reservoirs, predicting production and development problems by reservoir type, predicting and imaging "sweet spots" in fault-related fracture systems, determining optimum well paths in fault-related fracture systems, and preparing for reservoir simulation in fractured reservoirs.

Dr. Ronald A. Nelson will be the workshop instructor. He has worked with fractured reservoirs for over 27 years with Amoco, BP Amoco and now Broken N Consulting, Inc. He has taught numerous courses on fractured reservoirs and has authored numerous publications on the subject, including the 1985 and 2001 editions of his textbook entitled "Geologic Analysis of Naturally Fractured Reservoirs."

It is essential that we have an accurate accounting of those who plan to attend the workshop. Therefore, we request a reply no later than March 5, 2003. Please contact Ernest A. Mancini:

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University of Alabama, Box 870338
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Well Logs Are Not Rocks

Dr. Joel Walls
Rock Solid Images

Most reservoir characterization methods involve constructing physical models that are consistent with the seismic reflections and known geology. The known geology is most often inferred from well log response. Geophysicists understand the need for high quality seismic data in this process. However, as the title of this talk suggests, the well log data and physical relationships from which the models are constructed are not always subjected to the same degree of scrutiny as the seismic data.

Well bores are messy and complicated environments in which to make experimental measurements. Shale zones can be particularly troublesome since the well bore tends to be irregular. As with most areas of geophysics, correct interpretation is mainly a matter of paying attention to details. But getting to a reliable model or set of models is not always simple. The key is to establish a *process* and to follow that process carefully for each well or project. Rock physics plays a crucial role in the process as it provides deterministic relationships between different logging measurements. It also allows us to perturb our models in order to quantify seismic response in terms of key reservoir performance indicators.

In this presentation we will discuss some of the requirements for obtaining high quality geophysical log data. We will also show how to model this data for possible changes away from the wellbore. In particular we will focus on the following key areas:

- Curve editing, washouts (depth of investigation of common logging tools)
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- Mud filtrate invasion
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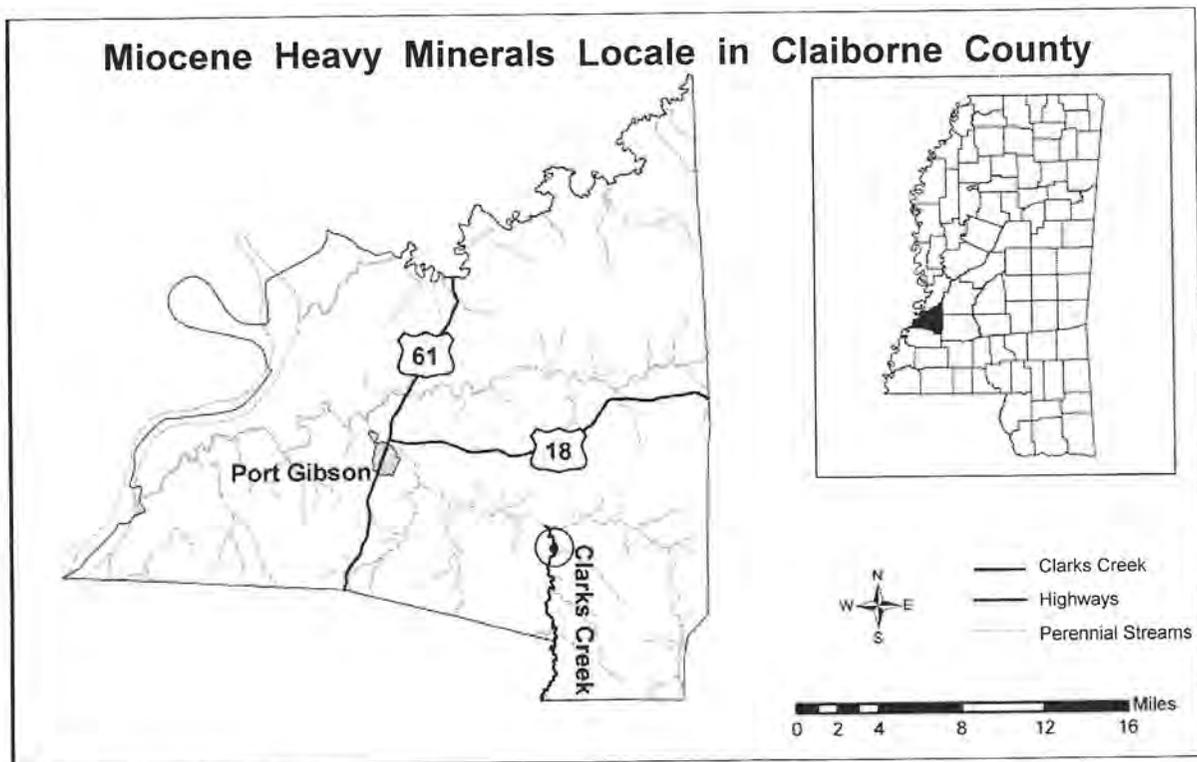
These topics are eventually encountered by all geophysicists and petrophysicists who want to integrate seismic and well log data. Once the correct interpretation and modeling is performed, establishing a reliable tie to seismic becomes much more likely. This in turn provides a firmer foundation for extending reservoir property models away from the wellbore. By minding the small and not-so-small details, your log data can become an invaluable asset in finding and exploiting oil and gas resources.

An Occurrence of Heavy Minerals Along Clark's Creek in Claiborne County

By James Starnes
Mississippi Office of Geology

Minerals with a specific gravity of a minimum of 2.72 are commonly termed "heavy minerals." These minerals often are rich in titanium, zirconium, iron, aluminum, and other metals. Most of these minerals originated from metamorphic and igneous sources, while others such as pyrite and limonite formed in situ or by process of secondary alteration. Concentrations of heavies often occur as beds winnowed by wind and wave action in strandline deposits. They can be also associated with bedding planes in alluvial and deltaic environments. Traces of these minerals occur throughout many of the formations, surficial deposits, and soils found in Mississippi.

Documentation of the occurrences of heavy minerals during field investigations is important for a variety of reasons. The ultimate source regions of sedimentary deposits can be inferred by petrographic analysis of the heavies. Heavies that are authigenic, or secondary in nature, can also be helpful in the understanding of depositional and post-depositional environments as well. Concentrations of heavy minerals can possibly be of economic value, as a source of titanium, zirconium, and other metals.



One of these occurrences was identified by the Mississippi Office of Geology during a Miocene field investigation last summer on Clark's Creek in Claiborne County. At this outcrop (sample pictured), an indurated fine-grained Miocene sandstone formed a ledge in the creek. A concentration of heavy minerals about 6 inches thick was isolated to the upper-most extent of the exposure. Upon closer inspection of the ore-bearing portion of the deposit, it appeared that the greatest concentrations of heavies were isolated to the bedding planes of the thinly bedded sandstone.

A sample of the heavy minerals was taken from the stream sediment below the outcrop where erosion had concentrated them even more. Later that summer, Donnie Wilkerson, a visiting petrologist, volunteered to analyze a 500-grain count of the sample for the M. O. G. The results are listed in the table below. The findings are consistent with an ultimate source in the crystalline Appalachians but differ from those percentages reported in Bulletin 63 for the Jackson Eocene where kyanite is abundant in the greatest percentages. This may be due to a difference in depositional environment or possibly the single sample was not representative of the deposit as a whole. Pyrite and limonite were not present. This could be because the sample was taken from a weathered source.

In short, knowledge of the presence of heavy mineral deposits in a lithologic unit can help a geologist to understand its depositional history and future economic potential as an ore body.

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3. Klein, Cornelis and Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr., Manual of Mineralogy, 1993, pp. 654-667

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Outcrop sample showing concentrations of heavy minerals isolated to the bedding planes of indurated fine-grained Miocene sandstone.

Mineral	Grain Count	Specific Gravity	Relative % Fraction	Weight Value
Amphibole	2	3.3	0.4	6.6
Garnet	2	3.8	0.4	7.6
Ilmenite	263	4.5	52.6	1183.5
Kyanite/Sillimanite	3	3.5	0.6	10.5
Leucoxene	53	3.5	10.6	185.5
Magnetite	37	5.2	7.4	192.4
Rutile	10	4.2	2.0	42.0
Staurolite	19	3.7	3.8	70.3
Zircon	110	4.7	22.0	517.0
Other	1	2.9	0.2	2.9

Random 500-grain count petrographic analysis of heavy minerals concentrate from Miocene age sandstone outcrop in Clarks Creek, Claiborne Co. Analysis performed by Donnie Wilkerson.

The Geologist's Come-All-Ye (a folksong)

By Brenna Lorenz

Come all ye lads and you will hear
About the life that we love dear.

Geologists all bold and strong,
We are the subject of this song.

We get up with the rising sun
And map until the day is done.

We walk two hundred miles a day,
And study rocks along the way.

We fight our way through brush and trees
And slog through bog up to our knees.

When flies are thick, then we don't walk.
They carry us from rock to rock.

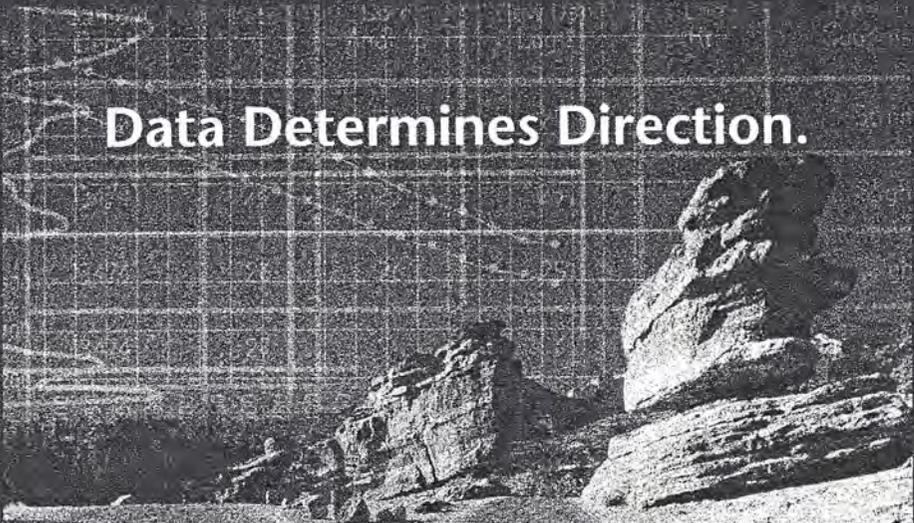
We swing our hammers with a whack,
Take home an outcrop on our backs.

Nine hundred pounds of rock or more
Is just an average daily score.

If we run out of food to eat
There's always rock beneath our feet.

There's nothing quite like granite stew,
Though graptolites are some good, too.

In the evening to the clubs we flock,
To drink Dominion and Old Stock.



Data Determines Direction.

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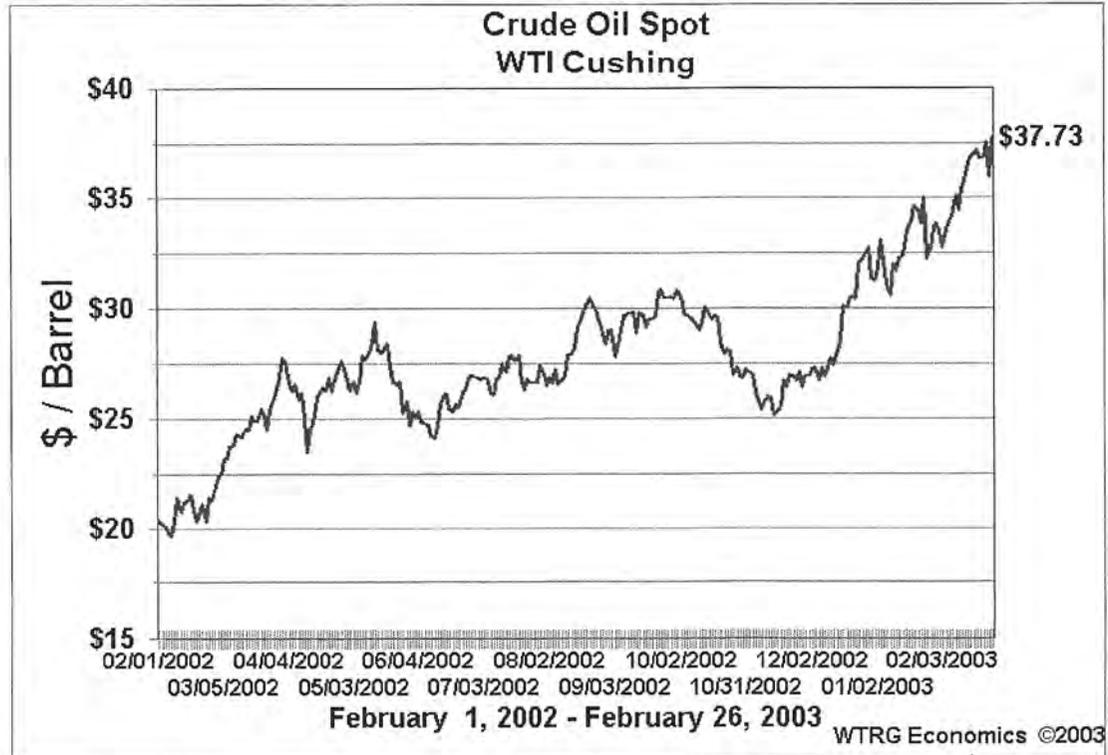
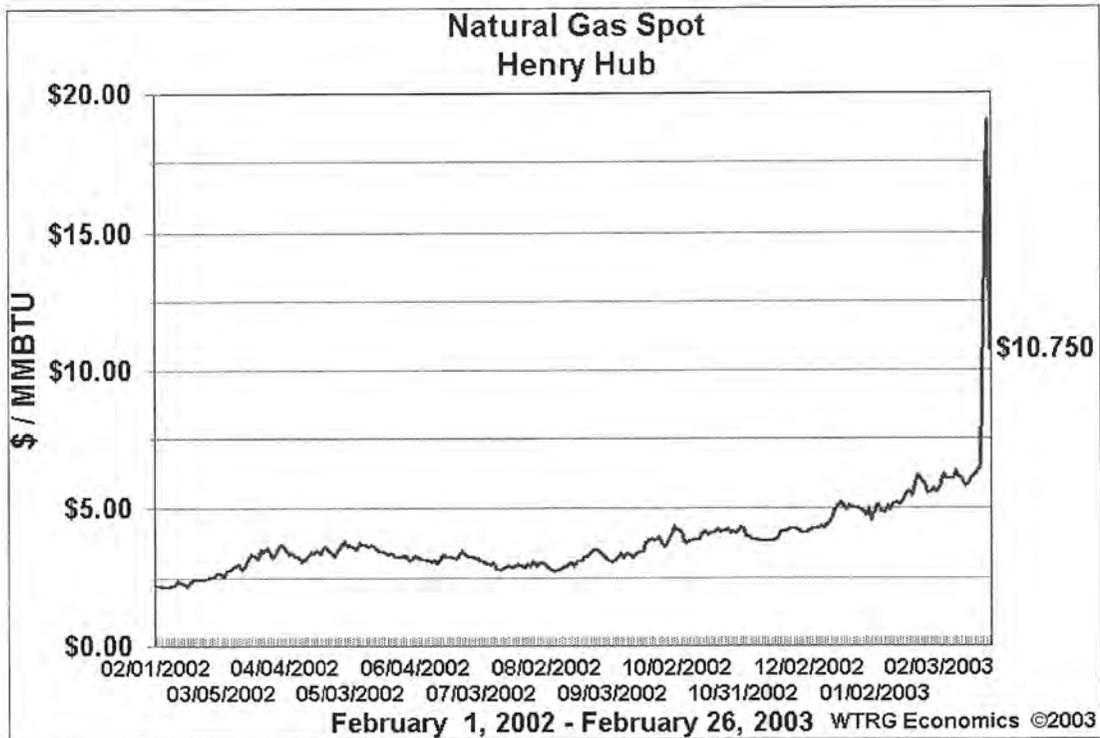
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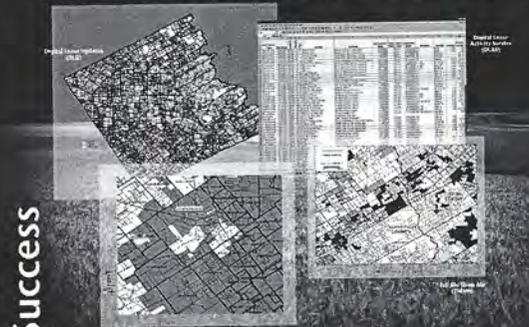
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Ultimate Urban Myth

I know this guy whose neighbor, a young man, was home recovering from having been served a rat in his bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. So, anyway, one day he went to sleep, and when he awoke he was in his bathtub and it was full of ice and he was sore all over. When he got out of the tub he realized that HIS KIDNEYS HAD BEEN STOLEN and he saw a note on his mirror that said "Call 911!" But he was afraid to use his phone because it was connected to his computer, and there was a virus on his computer that would destroy his hard drive if he opened an email entitled "Join the crew!" He knew it wasn't a hoax because he himself was a computer programmer who was working on software to save us from Armageddon when the year 2000 rolls around. His program will prevent a global disaster in which all the computers get together and distribute the \$600 Neiman-Marcus cookie recipe under the leadership of Bill Gates. (It's true - I read it all last week in a mass email from BILL GATES HIMSELF, who was also promising me a free Disneyworld vacation and \$5,000 if I would forward the email to everyone I know.)

The poor man then tried to call 911 from a pay phone to report his missing kidneys, but reaching into the coin-return slot he got jabbed with an HIV-infected needle around which was wrapped a note that said, "Welcome to the world of AIDS." Luckily he was only a few blocks from the hospital - the one, actually, where that little boy who is dying of cancer is, the one whose last wish is for everyone in the world to send him an email and the American Cancer Society has agreed to pay him a nickel for every email he receives. I sent him two emails and one of them was a bunch of x's and o's in the shape of an angel (if you get it and forward it to twenty people you will have good luck, but ten people you will only have OK luck, and if you send it to less than ten people you will have BAD LUCK FOR SEVEN YEARS).

So, anyway, the poor guy tried to drive himself to the hospital, but on the way he noticed another car driving along without his lights on. To be helpful, he flashed his lights at him and was promptly shot as part of a gang initiation.

And it's a little-known fact that the Y1K problem caused the Dark Ages.

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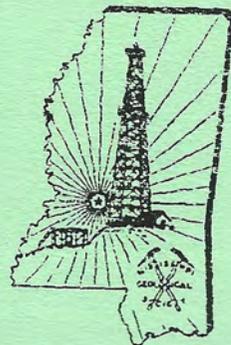
Volume 51

No. 8

April 2003

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

With our nation at war, I would like to start by offering my thoughts, prayers and support to all of our servicemen and women, and their families. I also hope for as quick an end to this war as possible with a limited loss of life.

I would like to thank Dr. Joel Walls for giving a great presentation at last month's meeting. This month our meeting is scheduled for April 8th. Steven J. Maione will be giving a talk entitled "Discovery and Petroleum Exploration Significance of Ring Faults Associated with Salt Withdrawal Basins of Early Cretaceous Age in the East Texas Basin." Steven is a senior staff geologist for the Reservoir Technology Division of Core Laboratories in Houston. Without a Spring Break conflict, I hope to have a great turnout for the luncheon this month.

I would also like for everyone to begin thinking about possible candidates for next MGS officers. If you have any ideas, please contact either John Cox or myself. Remember that in order to make this society successful we need everyone to volunteer their time.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Spring Fling, scheduled for May 8th.

Until next month

Aaron Lasker

In Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.



— Margaret Atwood



MGS Professional Luncheon
April 8th, 2003
Capitol Club

Speaker: Steven J. Maione

Topic:
Discovery and Petroleum Exploration Significance of Ring Faults Associated with Salt Withdrawal Basins of Early Cretaceous Age in the East Texas Basin

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Rig Count

Speaker's Abstract

"Those Funny Little Sands"

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"Coach Boudreaux"

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	MS Sports Hall of Fame
January 14th, 2003	Speaker: Roy Cullimore	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	Speaker: Bill Shedd	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	Speaker: Joel Walls	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	Speaker: Steven J. Maione	Capitol Club
May 8th, 2003	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Steven J. Maione

Steven J. Maione, senior staff geologist for the Reservoir Technology Division of Core Laboratories, received degrees in geological engineering and geology from the Colorado School of Mines. In 1971 he joined Union Oil Company of California (now Unocal Corp.) as an exploration petroleum geologist in Casper, Wyoming. He later worked in Unocal's Geothermal Division and Worldwide Exploration Division.

In 1997, Steve became an Associate of Valenti Engineering Services of Kingwood, Texas, where he specialized in 3-D seismic interpretation.

In 1998 he joined Coherence Technology Company (CTC) in Houston, specializing in integrating Coherence Cube data into 3-D seismic interpretations. Following acquisition of CTC by Core Laboratories, his activities expanded into integrated reservoir projects.

Steve is a member of the Houston Geological and Geophysical Societies, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Sigma Xi, Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, and AAPG.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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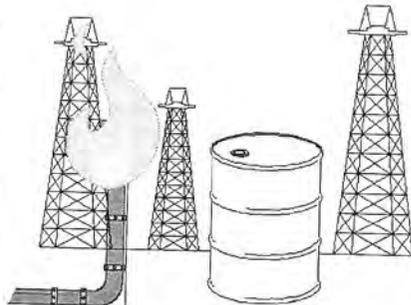
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 16 rigs to 962 for the week of March 28, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 11 at 178. Oil drilling is 28 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 18.5 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 5 at 781. There are currently 172 more rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 609.

The year over year increase in oil exploration in the U.S. is up 18.7 percent. Gas exploration is up by 28.2 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 13 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 48 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was down 165 rigs to 288 for the week of March 28. This is 37 rigs higher than last year's rig count of 251.

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

North American Rig Count

	03/28/03	03/21/03	03/29/02	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	962	946	761	16	201	1.7%	26.4%
Offshore	104	104	114	0	-10	0.0%	-8.8%
Land	858	842	647	16	211	1.9%	32.6%
Inland Waters	16	18	13	-2	3	-11.1%	23.1%
Oil	178	167	150	11	28	6.6%	18.7%
Percent	18.5%	17.7%	19.7%	0.8%	-1.2%		
Gas	781	776	609	5	172	0.6%	28.2%
Percent	81.2%	82.0%	80.0%	-0.8%	1.2%		
Directional	242	243	224	-1	18	-0.4%	8.0%
Horizontal	64	62	58	2	6	3.2%	10.3%
Gulf of Mexico	98	99	109	-1	-11	-1.0%	-10.1%
Gulf Oil	7	5	22	2	-15	40.0%	-68.2%
Percent	7.1%	5.1%	20.2%	2.1%	-13.0%		
Gulf Gas	91	94	87	-3	4	-3.2%	4.6%
Percent	92.9%	94.9%	79.8%	-2.1%	13.0%		
Canada	288	453	251	-165	37	-36.4%	14.7%
North America	1250	1399	1012	-149	238	-10.7%	23.5%

Discovery and Petroleum Exploration Significance of Ring Faults Associated with Salt Withdrawal Basins of Early Cretaceous Age in the East Texas Basin

Steven J. Maione
Senior Staff Geologist, Core Laboratories Company

The Jurassic Louann salt in the East Texas Basin has played a dominant role in influencing the structural and depositional history of the basin, particularly during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Salt tectonics is closely associated with sandstone distribution, depositional facies, and reef growth, and consequently with petroleum traps in the basin. Salt withdrawal basins, developed during the Early Cretaceous in response to salt movement, dissolution and diapir growth, are characterized by the presence of an expanded section of Lower Cretaceous marine and deltaic sedimentary rocks. Recognition of fault sets associated with the evolution of these salt-withdrawal basins has gone undetected until the recent Coherence Cube processing of a nonexclusive 3-D seismic survey conducted by Schlumberger in the La Rue dome-Fairway Field area, Henderson and Anderson Counties, Texas.

Images from Coherence Cube processing aptly exhibit extraordinary sets of concentric ring faults that comprise the periphery of two salt withdrawal basins. The Fairway oil field (com. Prod. 209 MMBO and 790 BCF) is located at the junction of two sets of ring faults. Early Cretaceous age of the ring faults establishes that these faults are a significant structural element in evaluating petroleum migration patterns and traps within the basin.

The recognition of the ring fault system organization and its association with the Lower Cretaceous age salt withdrawal basins provides a guide to exploration for a variety of structural traps that can occur among the ring faults. The most common trap geometry would be defined by two- or three-way dip closures between a pair of parallel ring faults. Where complex relative ring fault displacement are present a horst block trap can occur between a pair of ring faults. This latter type of trap has been found productive in the Sand Trap gas field (cum. prod. 37 BCF). A more speculative play type is the expectation that closely-spaced ring faults may host fractured reservoirs within low porosity and permeability limestone and sandstone formations that comprise the greater part of the Lower Cretaceous rocks. The discovery of Early Cretaceous ring faults in the East Texas Basin by Coherence Cube processing brings new perspective to development and exploration drilling in this mature petroleum province.

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Those Funny Little Sands

By Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled “Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South.” All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author’s permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.

E-mail: yakdriver@comcast.net)

In late 1946 two of the most consequential men in Mississippi oil history were pouring over the log of a recently plugged hole—a Lower Tuscaloosa test in Adams County. The completion attempt had been a costly failure. But something up hole had caught Bud Norman’s eye.

Norman, a Texan, had signed on with Gulf after collecting his geology degree from TCU in 1929. Gulf had sent him to the wild frontier state of Mississippi to map the Pickens/Pollard/Gilbertown fault zone. Later he worked in Texas until being assigned back to Mississippi after the Tinsley strike. He left Gulf in 1942 and threw in with Buzz Morgan, an independent who had just found production in the Pickens Field. Later he joined independents Emmett and Bill Vaughey.

Norman had taken the log to his friend Wilbur Knight and pointed at the log. “What do you think about these funny little sands here in the Wilcox? Why don’t we try them?”

Knight, raised in Laramie, was a product of the University of Wyoming’s geology department. Union Producing Company had hired him as a geological scout immediately after graduation and sent him to Jackson where he did Tinsley Field development work. He worked his way up to district geologist, where he was actively involved in almost every major play in the Southeast in the forties and fifties.

At that time there were a number of good Wilcox fields in Louisiana yet none east of the river, despite numerous good oil shows that had appeared in Lower Tuscaloosa tests. But Norman knew that early Wilcox exploration efforts were beset with problems. “Trying them” wasn’t as simple as it sounded and the two men knew it. The Wilcox sands occurred at approximately 6,000 feet in the well. However, the base of the casing was almost a mile deeper at 10,500 feet, where the Lower Tuscaloosa completion had been attempted. This presented a serious problem.

At Norman’s insistence the engineers had circulated cement back up to the Wilcox at 6,000 feet from the hole’s TD. But everyone, including Norman, doubted that a sufficient cement seal existed behind pipe in the brittle and crumbling Wilcox sands. In fact, most engineers thought that circulating cement across the Wilcox not only failed to seal it, but damaged it as well. In their minds a perforation attempt would only draw saltwater from some higher or lower water zone through imperfections in the cement seal, as earlier Wilcox completion attempts had done. It was a problem that had long plagued and discouraged exploration and development of the Wilcox.

No—trying the funny little sands would not be easy, but Norman had an idea. Based on his Texas experience, he would perforate above and below the Wilcox sands and ‘squeeze’ more cement

behind the pipe to ensure a better concrete seal. Maybe this 'squeeze job' would prevent cement failures like those they had experience elsewhere. Knight became convinced that it could be done and the two sold their idea to the operators.

Norman recalled the procedure as if he's still at it. "So now, I'm squeezing below, or re-cementing—was the way I looked at it—below pipe and keeping the pressures low. . . about 2,600-2,700 psi maximum. The squeeze job appeared to be all right."

When they perforated the well kicked off, flowing 300 BOPD, water free, establishing the No. 1 Baker-Maier as the discovery well for the LaGrange Field. "We had erased the belief that you ruined the Wilcox Sand [by squeezing cement into it]," Norman added. Production engineers had pulled their hair out with the Wilcox water problems, but the person who solved it—resulting in a stampede in Wilcox exploration—was a geologist.

Time would prove LaGrange to be the largest Wilcox field in Mississippi, producing 45 million barrels. Following the discovery companies stampeded into southwest Mississippi to get at the Wilcox. But what they saw when they turned their landmen loose caused them to pull the plug. The land map in the counties along the Mississippi River were a landman's nightmare. They had been divided by old Spanish land grants, with section boundaries running along creeks, roads, ridges, rivers, or whatever suited the surveyors' fancies in the early days of settlement. It made land maps look like jigsaw puzzles. This irregularity made it extremely awkward to form square, systematic 40-acre drilling units. The problem was a real head-scratcher until J. P. Evans, Sr., figured it out.

Evans, a landman from Shreveport, had an eye for sorting out opportunity in the midst of mayhem. Evans eyed the jagged, patchy land patterns along the Mississippi side of the river and crafted a clever scheme that would open the area for easy leasing and drilling and make him a ton of money in the process. Knowing the oil companies were interested in the area, he leased a core area of 8,500 acres in Adams County and sub-divided it into 40-acre square lots with each given a number. The lot boundaries were independent of official section boundaries. Most landowners agreed to accept these as drilling units, sharing the royalty in proportion to the number of acres that each owned in the 40-acre lots.

Next, Evans offered some 215 of these lots for sale to the industry. His block became known as the "J. P. Evans Subdivision." George Buchanan, vice president in charge of exploration for Sohio Oil Company, approved a major investment in the prospect. Others buying the lots included Kemp, Roeser & Pendleton, Union Producing Company, and Big Chief Drilling Company, as well as a small company that would figure prominently in all aspects of the region's oil business in the years to come—Vaughey and Vaughey, Inc.

The beckoning Wilcox intrigued oil hunters as soon as they came in to hunt it. The funny little sands often exhibited strange, almost unpredictable geological characteristics. Mack Cox, who studied the sands, discovered that there were also some strange people living above them.

After the successes at LaGrange and elsewhere, Phillips Petroleum took notice and set out to find themselves some Wilcox prospects. They had just transferred Mack Cox to Jackson from Shreveport to build up their Mississippi subsurface maps. Cox was a second-generation oilman

who earned his geology degree from the University of Texas and his practical experience from the University of Hard Knocks. “Phillips,” he said, “was a firm believer that a man being groomed for leadership should be accustomed to the end of a shovel.” As a new geologist, he had laid pipe and set tank batteries as a roustabout before he was ever allowed to lay eyes on a log or pick up a contouring pencil.

Cox eagerly tackled the Wilcox geology and quickly prompted Phillips to send brokers into Adams County. Soon after beginning leasing operations the brokers reported an encounter with a rather strange, mystical family—the Artmans. Cox tells of the bizarre meeting that led to a very sweet oil field. “The Artmans, who owned the land, were spiritualists. They required that the formal signing of the lease should occur in the eerie atmosphere of the Natchez Trace, all covered with moss, along the banks of the Mississippi, at midnight, under a full moon.”

Phillips went along with the strange idea, and in December 1946 they completed the No. 1 Artman, flowing 105 BOPD, discovering the Pine Ridge Field. It was possibly the first exploratory well to be targeted exclusively for the Wilcox. But the Artman family’s strange ways dogged them every step of the way.

“On subsequent locations after the discovery,” Cox recounts, “old man Artman was always right on with his predictions whether we would get a producer or a dry hole. I finally told Bartlesville [Bartlesville, Oklahoma: company headquarters] that his information was better than



Bud Norman



Wilbur Knight

mine and must be coming from the stars, and they didn't need me, but should retain Artman to make future locations. I don't know whether they seriously considered that." They didn't.

Mr. Artman followed Phillip's men around wherever they went in their field operations. Cox got a call from a seismic party chief telling him that most every time they started drilling a shot hole Mr. Artman wanted to move it to prevent drilling into pots of gold and precious jewels.

The old wizard soon proved correct again—the shot-hole locations were slightly moved upon his urging and not a single pot of gold or jewels was disturbed. And his name became indelibly etched in oil history, as the sand dubbed the 'Artman' developed into a favorite drilling objective of the Wilcox players.

The finicky nature of the funny little sands forced the emergence of a new breed of oil hunter to pursue them. Over the years dozens of meticulous geologists, in small, back alley offices in Natchez and Jackson, would pour over well logs in the densely drilled Wilcox trend. In trying to track down the elusive sands, they sometimes worked with maps scaled at 1 inch = 500 feet while using structural contours of only five- or ten-foot contour intervals. Precise attention to minute detail became the recognized mark of a Wilcox geologist.

As the trend matured these specialists typically generated small four to five well prospects that exhibited no more than 20 to 30 feet of structural closure. The equally numerous stratigraphic prospects they worked up were commonly lenticular sands draped across a plunging structural nose. These risky little deals drew an abundant cadre of small investors because of the relatively cheap drilling costs and the close proximity to Wilcox production—sometimes only a stone's throw away.

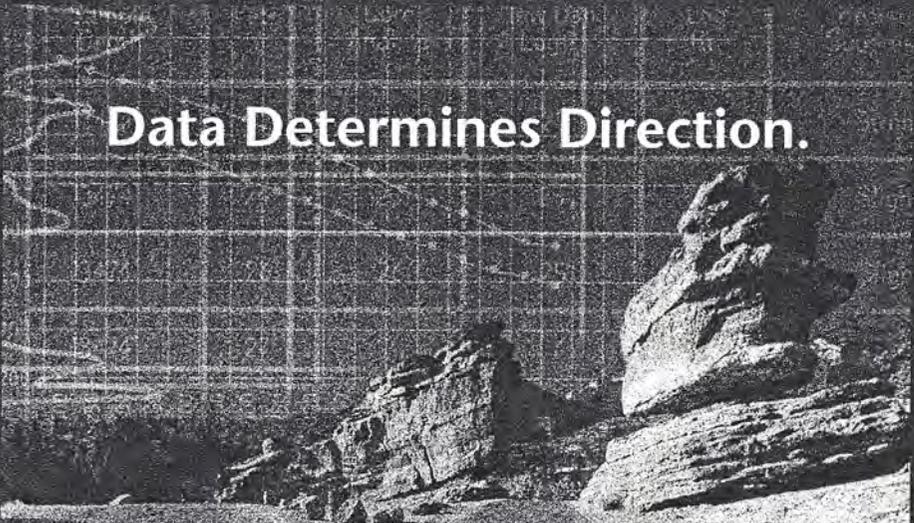
But the chief reason the Wilcox afforded so much romance to investors was the role of serendipity. In essence, a Wilcox prospect was only an excuse to drill; the funny little sands, themselves, would offer up their own surprises to those who were bold enough to sink a hole and have a look.

The explorers, investors and companies who have persevered in their hunt for the Wilcox owe their success to the early pioneers. For sure 'legacy' was the last thing on their minds; they worked for oil and money. But the sweet satisfaction of success was what they especially relished.

J. P. Evans died in 1954—killed in a plane crash while returning from a duck hunt with several other prominent oilmen from Louisiana. He never saw the Wilcox play that he had helped start reach its boom stage.

Bud Norman's contribution would earn him the appropriate title "Father of the Wilcox." He would go on in the years ahead to add immeasurably to oil-finding success across the region.

Wilbur Knight, who died in 1988, went on to become an institution among Gulf coast geologists. In his later years as a consultant, Wil used his depth of knowledge and his vast experience to establish a lucrative consulting business. His specialty was appearing before various regulatory agencies as a geological expert witness on behalf of his clients. In that respect, some will remember him as a hired gun. But a fair view of history will cast him as one of the Deep South's premier trailblazers in the hunt for oil.



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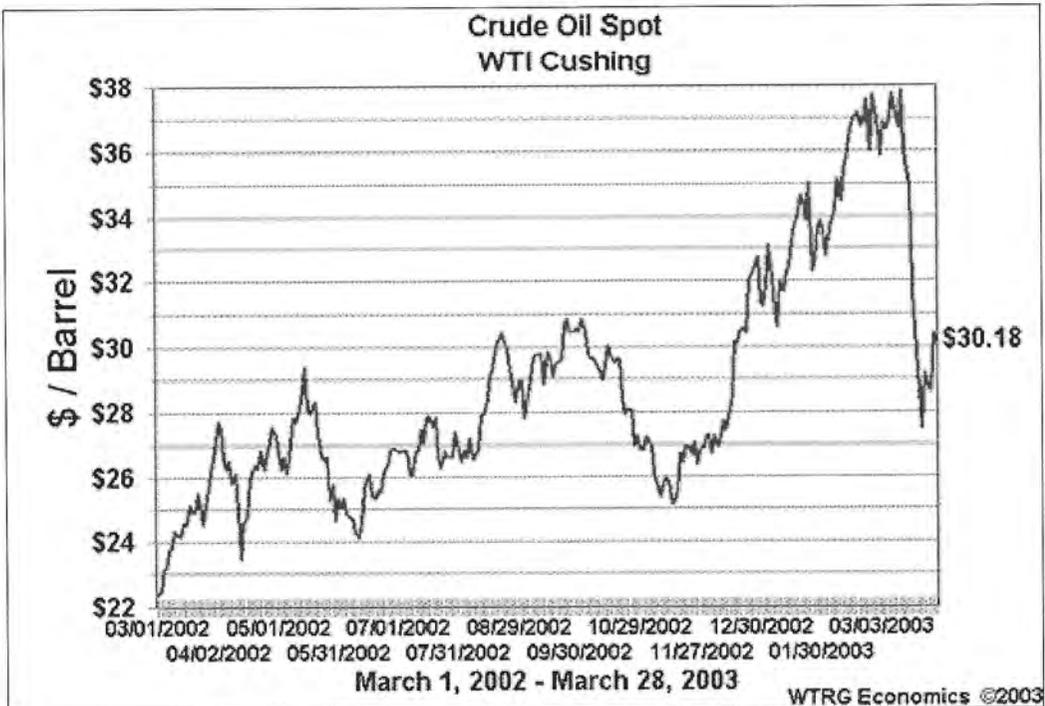
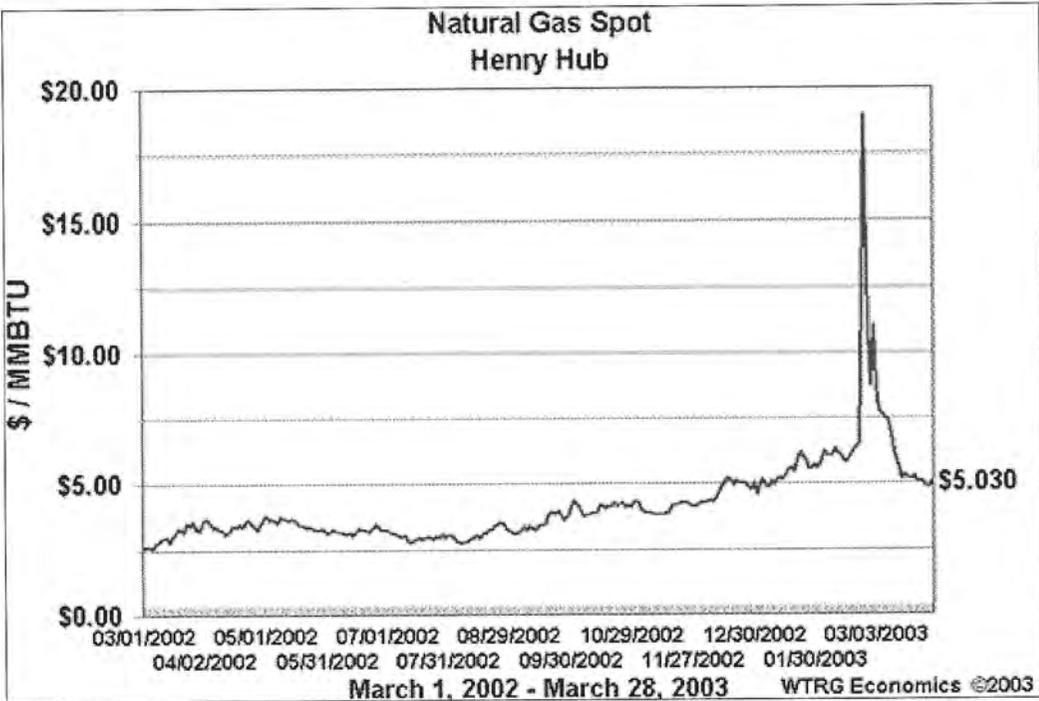
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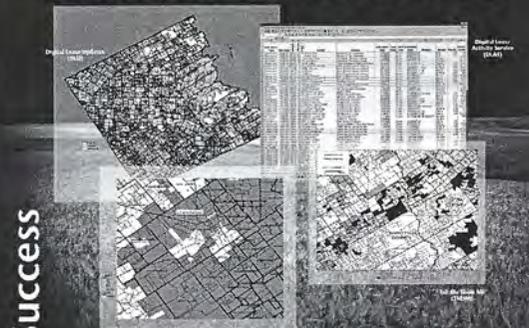
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The coaches in St. Landry Parish went to a coaches' retreat, and to save money they had to room together. No one wanted to room with Coach Boudreaux because he snores so bad. They decide it's not fair to make one of dem stay wit him the whole time, so they vote to take turns.

Coach Fontenot sleeps wit him, and he comes to breakfast next morning hair a mess, eyes all bloodshot. They say, "Man, what happened to you?" He say, "Man, that Boudreaux snore so loud, I watch him all night."

Next night Coach Guidry's turn. In the morning, same thing — hair all standing up, eyes all bloodshot. They say, "Man, what happened to you? You look awful!" He say, "Man, no, that Boudreaux shake the roof. I watched him all night!"

Third night, Coach Doucet's turn. Next morning he comes to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. "Good morning you all." They can't believe! They say, "Man, what happened?"

He say, "Well, we get ready for bed. I go and tuck Boudreaux into bed and kiss him good night. He watch me all night long."



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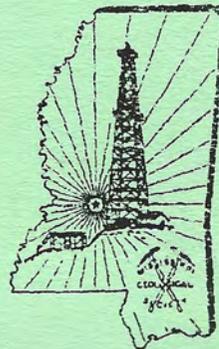
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By Aaron Lasker

I am certain that Jo and Lindsey will be glad that this is the last time they have to bother me for a President's letter.

I would like to start by saying that it has been a great honor to have served as President of the Mississippi Geological Society for the last year. There have been many great Presidents before me, and I am certain that John Cox will carry the torch very effectively. Please remember that without the help of the other officers and many behind-the-scene volunteers no President could be successful. If John calls on you to help next year, please take it very seriously.

I would like to thank Steven J. Maione for his very interesting presentation at last month's luncheon. There will not be a monthly luncheon in May because our annual Spring Fling will be held on May 8th. I look forward to seeing you all at the Masonic Lodge starting at 4:00 PM with a core viewing. Norphlet cores from the Spooner Petroleum No. 1 Burns & Perkins Oil Co.—Mary Ann Brown 23-16 and the Spooner Petroleum No. 1 Curtis Smith 23-7 will be on display. Catfish will follow the core viewing from Penn's Fishhouse, along with cold beverages. So bring yourself and a significant other to enjoy a fun-filled evening with friends. We will also be holding elections for next year's officers at this time.

I would also like to remind everybody that the New Orleans Geological Society will be hosting the South Louisiana Onshore Petroleum Exploration Symposium (SLOPES) on May 22. If you need any additional information on the symposium, look at www.nogs.org or give George Rhodes a call at (504) 592-6873.

Again, I would like to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve the Mississippi Geological Society as President for the last year, and would like to thank all of the officers for their help in making this another great year. I look forward to serving the Society in other capacities in future.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lasker

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"A Louisiana Ghost Story"

MGS Advertising Notice



Masonic Lodge

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 19th, 2002	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agriculture Museum
October 8th, 2002	Speaker: Mark Worthy	Capitol Club
November 12th, 2002	Speaker: David Dockery	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2002	Christmas Party	Capitol Club
January 14th, 2003	Speaker: Roy Cullimore	Capitol Club
February 11th, 2003	Speaker: Bill Shedd	Capitol Club
March 11th, 2003	Speaker: Joel Walls	Capitol Club
April 8th, 2003	Speaker: Steven J. Maione	Capitol Club
May 8th, 2003	Spring Fling	Masonic Lodge MS Agriculture Museum

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MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum
Masonic Lodge

Thursday, May 8th

4:00 PM Core Viewing

6:00 PM Catfish Dinner

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OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 5, 2002

October 1, 2002

November 5, 2002

December 3, 2002

January 7, 2003

February 4, 2003

March 4, 2003

April 1, 2003

May 6, 2003



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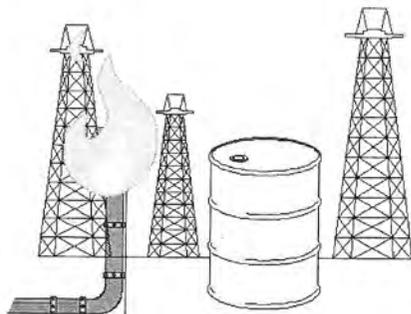
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 15 rigs to 994 for the week of April 18, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was unchanged at 186. Oil drilling is 52 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 18.7 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 15 at 805. There are currently 192 more rigs drilling for gas than last year's level of 613.

The year over year increase in oil exploration in the U.S. is up 38.8 percent. Gas exploration is up by 31.3 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 11 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 61 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was down 66 rigs to 109 for the week of April 18, 2003. This is 13 rigs higher than last year's rig count of 96. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

*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	
	04/18/03	04/11/03	04/19/02	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	994	979	749	15	245	1.5%	32.7%
Offshore	106	102	102	4	4	3.9%	3.9%
Land	888	877	647	11	241	1.3%	37.2%
Inland Waters	18	18	17	0	1	0.0%	5.9%
Oil	186	186	134	0	52	0.0%	38.8%
Percent	18.7%	19.0%	17.9%	-0.3%	0.8%		
Gas	805	790	613	15	192	1.9%	31.3%
Percent	81.0%	80.7%	81.8%	0.3%	-0.9%		
Directional	246	233	204	13	42	5.6%	20.6%
Horizontal	65	65	56	0	9	0.0%	16.1%
Gulf of Mexico	101	97	99	4	2	4.1%	2.0%
Gulf Oil	5	6	19	-1	-14	-16.7%	-73.7%
Percent	5.0%	6.2%	19.2%	-1.2%	-14.2%		
Gulf Gas	96	91	80	5	16	5.5%	20.0%
Percent	95.0%	93.8%	80.8%	1.2%	14.2%		
Canada	109	175	96	-66	13	-37.7%	13.5%
North America	1103	1154	845	-51	258	-4.4%	30.5%

Petrologic Clues to Help Differentiate the Citronelle and Pre-loess Gravels in Southwestern Mississippi

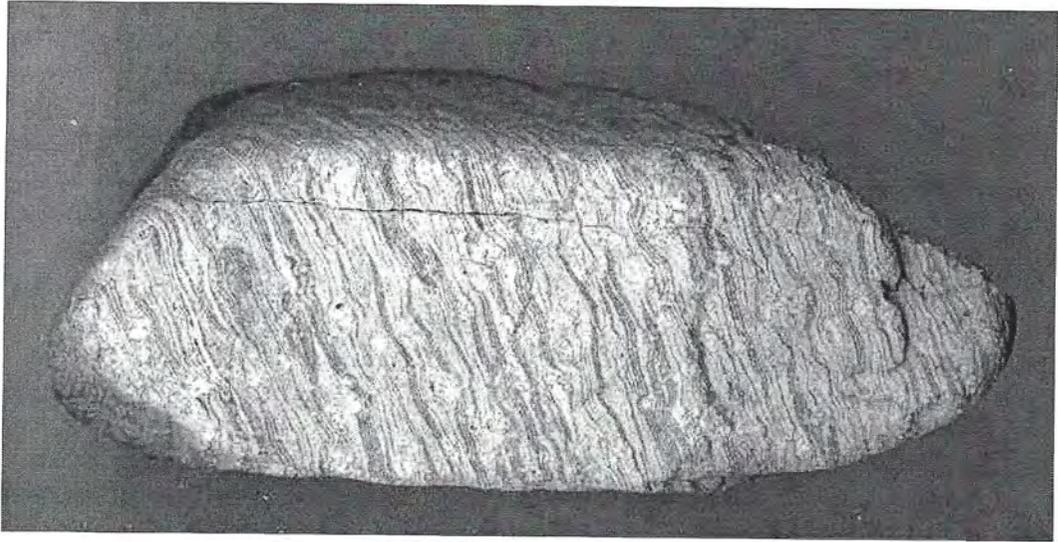
By James Starnes
Mississippi Office of Geology

A large continuous belt of high level terraces designated as Citronelle overlie Miocene sands, silts, and clays in southwest Mississippi. These terraces occur above elevations of 400 feet in Covich County, gently sloping south through Pike County. Recent surface geology mapping in Claiborne and Southwestern Hinds County by the Mississippi Office of Geology have identified outliers of the Citronelle overlain by loess. Westward, along the loess hills, a series of extensive sand and gravel deposits, designated pre-loess terrace deposits, occur at elevations below 400 feet in this area. Similar to the outliers of the Citronelle under the loess, these pre-loess deposits are often heavily dissected and redeposited at lower elevations. While elevation and the continuity of these terrace deposits across drainages are the primary factors in their stratigraphic determination, there are also minor petrologic differences between the Citronelle and pre-loess deposits as well.

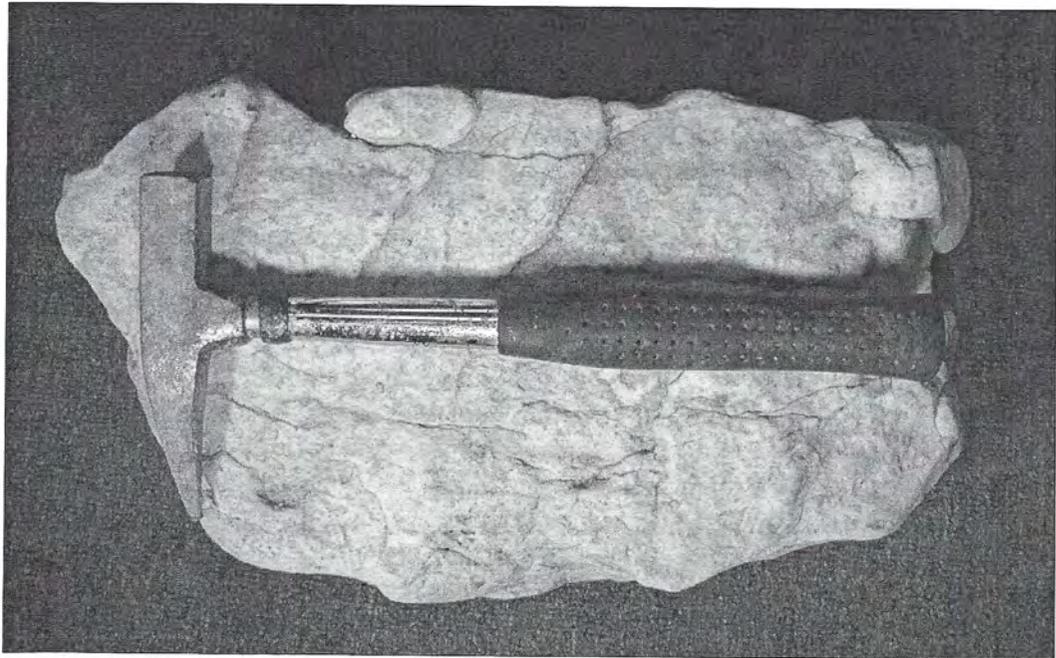
Although the Citronelle and pre-loess deposits are predominantly sand, differences can be seen best in the coarsest fraction at the outcrop. The gravels of the Citronelle contain pea- to cobble-size, honey-colored chert, with minor amounts of milky quartz pebbles (usually confined to the pea gravel clast size range), agate, carnelian, and quartzite. These aggregates were most likely derived from Paleozoics in the Northeast. The pre-loess terrace deposit gravels contain a similar suite, but with recognizable differences. These deposits also contain clasts similar to those in the modern day Mississippi River alluvium. Often large angular boulder-size clasts of pure quartz sandstone and chert occupy the coarsest basal portions of the pre-loess deposits. Also, quartz pebbles from the Pre-loess are often many times larger than those of the Citronelle. Finally, lavender-colored banded quartzites and rare volcanics, such as rhyolites and granite, can be found in the pre-loess deposits. The occurrence of these volcanics points to the addition of central continental sources.

REFERENCES

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2. Bicker, Alvin R., MGS Bulletin 107: Claiborne County Geology and Mineral Resources, 1966, pp. 30-36.
3. Dockery, David T. III and David E. Thompson, North Central Section (36th) and Southeastern Section (51st) Joint Annual Meeting (April 3-5, 2002), Paper No. 22-0, Abstract: [A River Runs Through It.](#)
4. Davis, George H., [Structural Geology of Rocks and Regions](#), 1984, John Wiley and Sons, p. 422.



Pre-loess Rhyolite



Pre-loess quartz sandstone boulder from Horsepen Creek near the Copiah and Claiborne County line.

Motley Band of Bravehearts

By Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled “Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South.” All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author’s permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.)

E-mail: yakdriver@comcast.net

In 1947 a couple of young but streetwise oil hunters decided, independently of each other, to play the same hunch. One of them was a popular, out-going type of fellow who regarded his idea so highly that he boldly declared he had an oil field—before he even drilled it. The other one, who played his cards closer, was driven by a determination so intense that it was characterized by a cocky, swaggering style, which often rubbed people the wrong way. The two opposites were about to meet head-on at the spud point.

Merrill Harris was another Sooner drawn to Mississippi. He came out of an Oklahoma town even Will Rogers had never heard of and took a geology degree from OU. He also brandished a hot trombone in a ragtime band, which kept bread on his table until Union Sulfur picked him up for its expanding oil and gas operation. They had sent him to Jackson during the Tinsley fervor. After a few years he turned independent, partnered with Butch Payne, and opened a consulting office in Jackson. Union Sulfur retained him as a consultant.

Harris had been scoping out an area near Waynesboro, Mississippi where Humble Oil and Refining Company was busily probing a graben structure they had found with gravity and seismic work. Humble had put five holes down at various points on the structure. All turned up dry. Then, Harris learned, Humble dropped a major lease on the prospect belonging to the Masonite Corporation. Apparently they had given up. But Harris was not satisfied that Humble had drilled in the right place. His assessment was simple.

“The last well Humble drilled, of course, was...downthrown, just barely into the graben and then out here on the other side was a well [with] about two feet of oil show...and, of course, Geology 101 says that if you can get that, come up to the fault [and] you’ve got an oil field!”

Harris oversimplified the concept. It was not something to be learned in a classroom. Generally it took lots of log study and subsurface mapping to understand his idea. But it didn’t necessarily take a geology degree to comprehend it either, as Harris was about to find out.

He worked out a deal to lease the Masonite acreage and then went to New Orleans to get a farmout on the rest of Humble’s block. Upon arriving at Humble’s office with his farmout proposal, Harris learned that a shrewd poker player named Walter Sistrunk had upstaged him. Sistrunk was a self-made man who had bolted for the oil patch after an abortive attempt at college. He paid his dues roughnecking but when the rest of the crew went home after their tours, he would stay and pick the brains of the geologists, engineers, and landmen. Eventually he built enough knowledge to try his hand at wildcatting and began a career that would ride the roller coaster of fortune and famish. But Sistrunk thought that was the most thrilling ride in the oil park.

Harris found out that Sistrunk had gotten to Humble first, and they had offered him two 80-acre tracts plus \$10,000 dry hole money to drill a Eutaw test. Harris rubbed his chin wondering how to approach the plucky Sistrunk, then proceeded to meet him. "I saw Walter," recalled Harris, "and I said, 'Well, that suits me.'" Maverick though he was, Sistrunk was also a realist. He knew when it was time to become a team player.

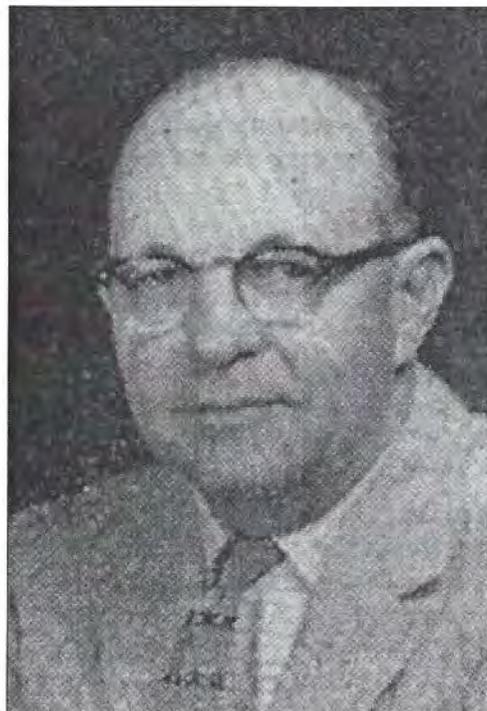
"So I called Lyle," Harris said, "and told him I had an oil field for him." Lyle Cashion, a drilling contractor, had just moved in an enormous rig from South America and was looking for a place to drill. In 1928 Cashion had been the first petroleum engineer to graduate from Rice University. He had spent most of his career with Gulf before forming his own company. Harris could hardly believe his eyes when he had seen the rig earlier. "I went down...to see that rig come in, and it came in on flatcars. Looked like the Barnum Bailey Circus. He had flatcars stretched for two miles."

Harris offered to use Cashion to drill the hole if he would take a piece of the deal. Cashion presented the proposal to his financial backers at Mid-Continent, Inc. of Ft. Worth. He was rebuffed. Mid-Continent's manager told him, "You can't drill that; not enough money; not enough acreage; we don't want to support it."

Cashion told Harris that he couldn't do it. But Harris was a persistent guy. He said, "I'll give you one more chance to take this deal; if you don't take it you're going to kick yourself for the rest of your life because this is an oil field!"



Walter Sistrunk



Merrill Harris

Harris' certainty of his remark, "This is an oil field," was more than presumptuous, especially in light of Humble's five dusters. His was a brazen—even arrogant—self-confidence that was, and still is, the compelling obsession of oil explorers. But the same could be said of lunatics, fools, and gamblers. The big difference is the oilman is a visionary. Or at least he regards himself as one.

"Let me talk to them again," Cashion said. He, too, was persistent. He pressed his appeal again and Mid-Continent finally loosened its purse strings.

Meanwhile, Walt Sistrunk crossed paths with J. Willis Hughes, yet another Oklahoman, at the Walthall Hotel in Jackson (No relation to Dudley Hughes). Hughes had been sent to Mississippi in 1943 with Atlantic Refining Company and had since become an independent. The two of them sounded each other out and Sistrunk offered to sell Hughes part of his interest in the deal. But Hughes wasn't interested in going after Humble's risky culls. He turned Sistrunk down. After a while Sistrunk pitched his proposal to Hughes again and was shown the door a second time. The tenacious Sistrunk then made a third run at Hughes with a proposal to trade one half his interest in the deal, which they had named the Yellow Creek Prospect, for half of Hughes' interest in a salt dome prospect that Hughes was preparing to drill. Like that of Harris and Cashion, Sistrunk's dogged persistence also paid off. Hughes finally relented and threw in with the group. New partners were showing up in the deal like title-busters at a blowout but at last it came together.

Cashion spudded with his circus rig, drilled ahead and reached the Eutaw in December 1947. They took a wire line core and pulled it out. They all examined it. They smelled it. They tasted it. All of them, that is, except Willis Hughes—he couldn't bear to watch. He stayed in his car. But Harris and his seasoned partners knew the sweet taste of crude. "It [the core] was as pretty as anything you've seen in your life," he said. They ordered production casing.

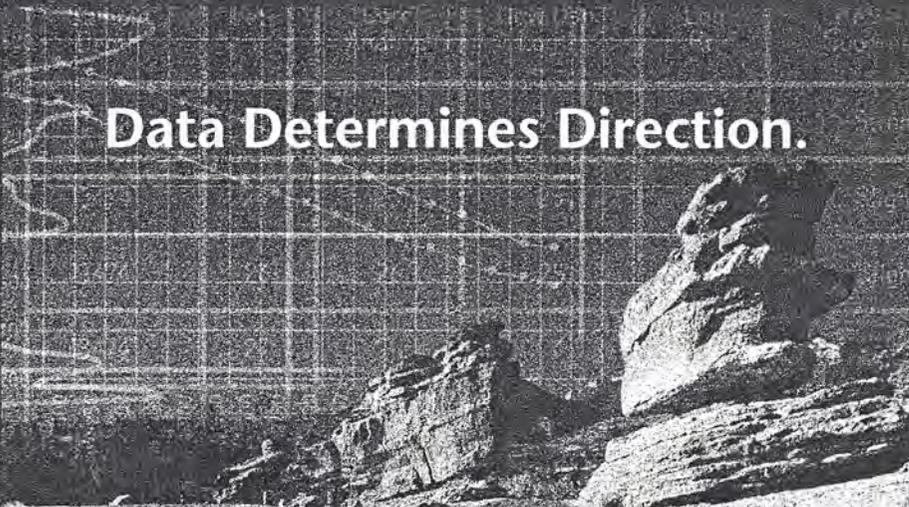
Harris went up to where Hughes sat in the car with his wife and children. "After I got through smelling and tasting and aahing about it, I went to Willis and I said, 'Don't you want to come see what you've got?' He said, 'I don't know whether I want to, or not.'"

Hughes finally got the nerve and went to have a look. He promptly rejoined his family and drove to Florida for a lavish vacation.

Officially completed on December 21, 1947, the Sistrunk and Hughes No. 1 GM&O Land Co. was declared the discovery well of the Yellow Creek Field. It flowed 183 barrels of 19.5 degree gravity oil per day from a depth of some 5,000 feet. The following year Walt Sistrunk, with most of the same partners, drilled a well two miles to the east and discovered the east segment to the Yellow Creek structure. That well was completed as the East Yellow Creek Field flowing 188 BOPD. By 1956 a total of 123 producing wells had been drilled in the West and East Yellow Creek Fields, which would ultimately produce 35 million barrels of oil.

Each of the artisans who helped pioneer the early Eutaw play in south Mississippi went on to make a significant impact on the Deep South's oil history. Merrill Harris helped open the Lower Cretaceous a few years later. J. Willis Hughes put together scores of Wilcox deals. Lyle Cashion established a legendary drilling and operating company in Mississippi. And the eccentric Walt Sistrunk would eventually become a key player in exploring the Black Warrior Basin of northwest Alabama.

All four of them were vastly different in their personalities, their backgrounds, and their methods. But they all had a couple of traits in common; they didn't recognize the word "no," and "quitting" wasn't in their vocabulary. And there were many others like them.



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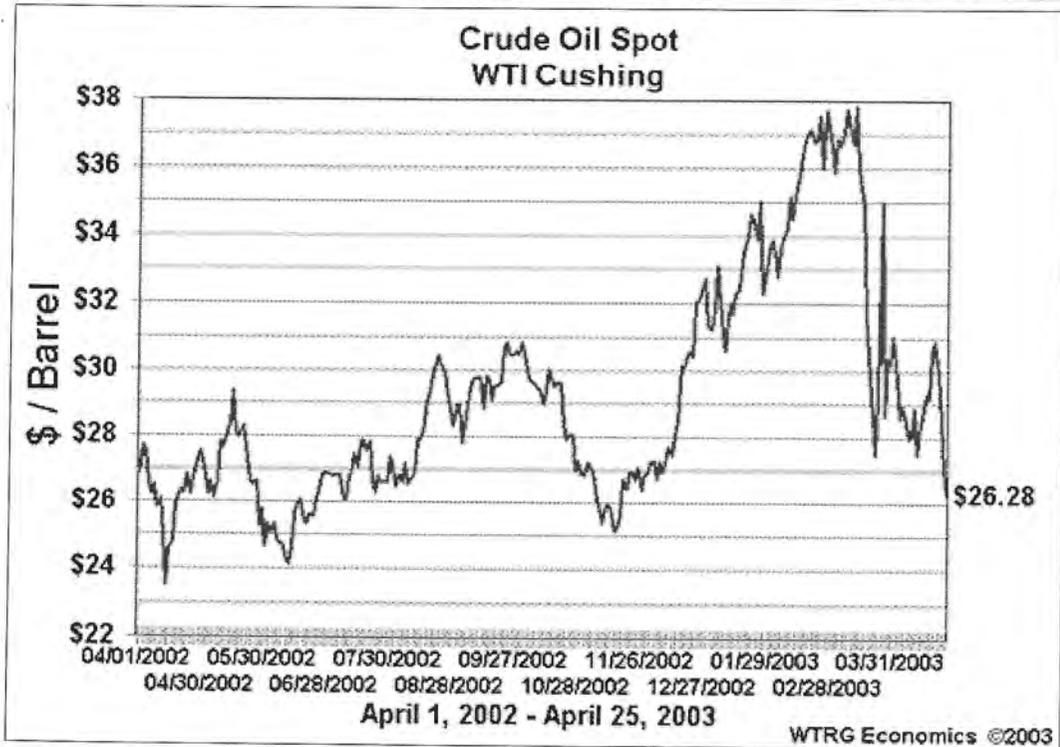
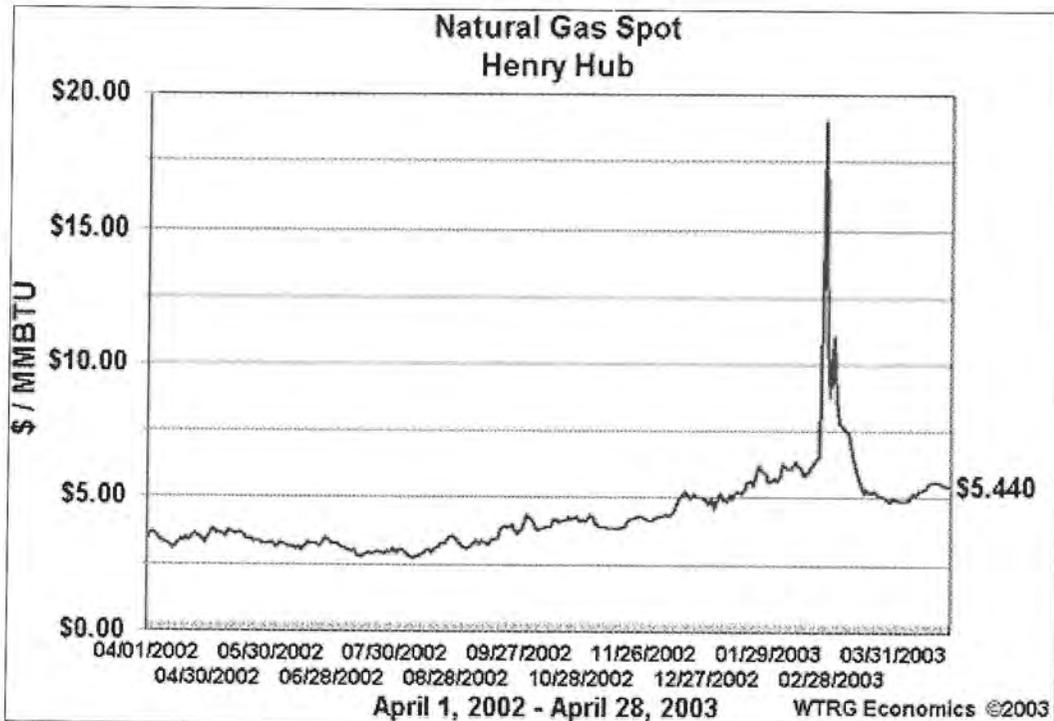
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Louisiana Ghost Story

This story happened about a month ago near a little town in Louisiana, and while it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's real. Read to the end.

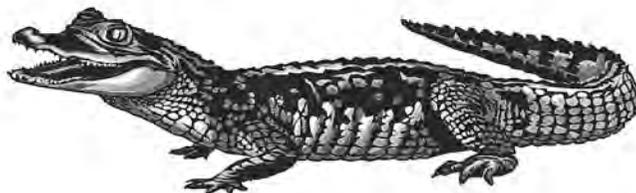
This guy was on the side of the road, hitchhiking on a very dark night in the middle of a storm. The night passed slowly and no cars went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly he saw a car slowly looming, ghostlike, out of the gloom. It slowly crept toward him and stopped. Reflexively, the guy got into the car and closed the door, then realized that there was nobody behind the wheel. The car slowly started moving again. The guy was terrified, too scared to think of jumping out and running. He saw that the car was slowly approaching a sharp curve. The guy started to pray, begging for his life; he was sure the ghost car would go off the road and he would plunge to his death in the bayou, when just before the curve, a hand appeared through the window and turned the steering wheel, guiding the car safely around the bend.

Paralyzed with terror, the guy watched the hand reappear every time they reached a curve. Finally, he gathered his wits and leaped from the car and ran to the nearest town.

Wet and in shock, he went into a bar and, voice quavering, ordered two shots of tequila and told everybody about his horrible, supernatural experience. A silence enveloped everybody when they realized the guy was apparently sane and not drunk.

About half an hour later, two guys walked into the same bar. One says to the other, "Look, Boudreaux, there's the idiot dat rode in our car while we was pushin' it in the rain."



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