

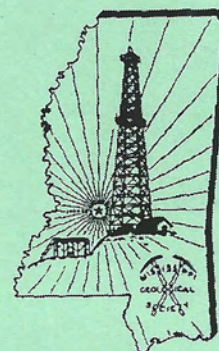
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September 2004

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

I want to welcome everyone back after our traditional summer hiatus. I also want to extend an invitation to our student geologists and other geo-scientists in Mississippi to participate in this year's activities. I hope everyone had a safe and happy summer . . . Now, back to work we go.

This year we have a very able and diversified staff, representing three state agencies and two private natural resource companies. Many of you already know our first and second vice-presidents, Todd Hines of Moon-Hines-Tigrett Co. (also our Boland Scholarship President) and Mike Blackwell of MOCO. I would also like to introduce two new members to our Society who will be serving on this year's Board: Curtis Odom, of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board, who will serve as treasurer, and our Secretary, Paul Parrish, of the Mississippi Office of Land and Water Resources. I would like to extend a special thanks for their continued dedication to our newsletter our editor, Jo Everett, and our publisher, Lindsey Stewart.

These days are exciting times for the geosciences. Our ever-growing challenges for energy, water, and other natural resources, while respecting nature herself and coupled with ever-developing knowledge, technologies, and special skills, have diversified our profession beyond our imagination. As dedicated geologists, we are up to the challenges of today.

In closing, I encourage everyone to try and share their knowledge and experience with the young geologists of tomorrow and to contribute to the Boland Scholarship Fund. Sadly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Gerald

Kinsley, V. Monta Currie, Jr., and Paul Kaminski. In addition, I would also like everyone to keep former State Geologist Bill Moore and his family in your prayers. Bill is a very special man to us all.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve,

James E. Starnes, Geologist

**Don't
Forget ~**



**Fall
Barbecue!**

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

"Spirits and Wisps of Mist: Rediscovery of the Nanih Waiya Cave Mound"

Fall Barbecue Announcement

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA
January 11th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Boudreaux was sitting in a bar in Maurice, Louisiana, one Saturday night, and had several beers under his belt. After a while, he looked at the guy sitting next to him and asked, "Hey, you wanna hear a good Aggie joke, you?"

The big guy replied, "Let me tell you something. I'm an oil field roughneck, I weigh 270 pounds, & I don't like Cajuns. My buddy here is a pro football player, weighs 300 pounds, & he doesn't like Cajuns either. His friend on the other side is a professional wrestler, weighs 320 pounds, & he likes Cajuns even less than we do, & we are all Aggies. Do you really want to tell us an Aggie joke?"

Boudreaux, all 150 pounds of Cajun attitude, told him, "Mais, I guess not. After all, I don't wanna have to explain it t'ree times!"

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005



Fall Bar-B-Q



Thursday, September 23rd

MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum

Masonic Lodge

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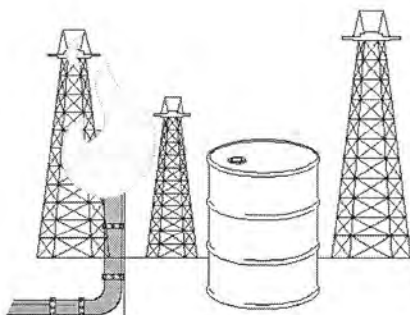
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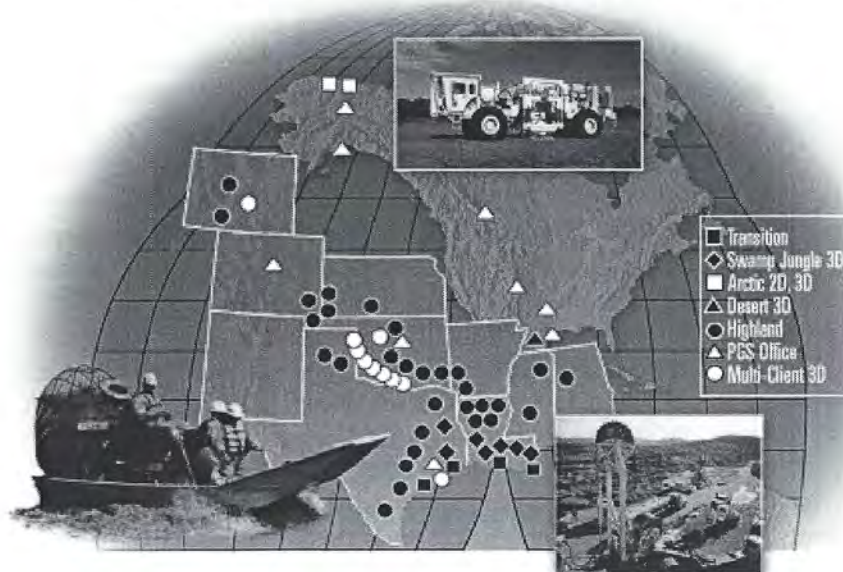
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Spirits and Wisps of Mist: Rediscovery of the Nanih Waiya Cave Mound

David E. Thompson, RPG
Mississippi Office of Geology, MDEQ

Nanih Waiya State Park is a remote locale, tucked away in the hardwood bottoms along the uppermost tributaries of the Pearl River. Currently, the park is in danger of being closed by decree of the legislature as part of an overall effort to reduce the state's budget. The primary attractions of the park are a couple of mounds, one man-made and the other a natural feature. The main mound, or temple mound, is in extreme southern Winston County along County Road 393 and near the confluence of Tallahaga and Nanih Waiya Creeks. The temple mound is thought to have been constructed between 1500 and 2000 years ago by prehistoric Indians of the Middle Woodland period. It is oblong in shape along its base, approximately 40 feet high, and flat-topped. Exactly how the Indians used the mound is unclear, but it may have been built as a shrine to the dead, a location for religious or ceremonial events, or dwelling place for the elite class. Brown (1926) reported an apparent smaller burial mound, being plowed over, 250 yards north of the temple mound. At any rate, this area is steeped in Indian folklore as the birthplace of the Choctaw Indian Nation. The creation legend conveys that the first creation of men was in Nanih Waiya. The Muscogees, the first to emerge from Nanih Waiya, sunned and dried themselves on the earthen rampart and then traveled eastward. Next, the Cherokees emerged likewise and eventually made their way north. Then came the Chickasaws, who in similar fashion, settled northward near the Cherokees. The Choctaws emerged last, and upon drying themselves, settled this area as their own. Key to this legend is emergence from within Nanih Waiya, through a cave opening. Brown (1926) described a tunnel being cut into the temple mound in 1896 by hopeful treasure hunters. This seems an unlikely location for the emergence legend.

Another site, which may be the source of the emergence myth, is the natural mound referred to previously. Nanih Waiya Cave Mound is located about a mile and a half east of the temple mound, along the south side of Nanih Waiya Creek, just inside the confines of Neshoba County. The idea of a natural cave existing in the middle of the Wilcox Group outcrop, far removed from any significant limestone occurrences, seems odd to say the least. I must admit, initially I discounted the idea outright. It must surely be an excavation, I thought. To date, there has not been an authoritative account of the cave's origin. Jack Elliott, an archeologist with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), mentioned that geologists and archaeologists from MSU investigated the site back in the 1970's and concluded that it was of natural origin, however, no report of their investigation could be located.

Presently, there is a single, circular cave opening of human origin, along the northeastern base of the hill. There were other entrances in the recent past, and perhaps other larger openings in the distant past. When the state acquired the site in about 1960, most of the entrance openings were covered, probably for safety reasons. One such covered opening is just below a pavilion, on the northern slope of the hill. There are stories too, of larger openings in contact with Nanih Waiya Creek, where Indians could float canoes into the confines of the cave.

Late last spring, I had the opportunity to investigate the cave mound along with David Dockery (MDEQ), Jack D. Elliott, Jr. (MDAH), David Abbott (MDAH), Jim Atkinson (retired archaeologist with the National Park Service), and several other interested archeologists and enthusiasts. Jack had contacted us with the idea of a multi-disciplined mass assault on the cave. We agreed on a meeting there at Nanih Waiya, and as the day approached, Jack mentioned the need for flash lights, gear, and even considered the possibility of pumping water out of the flooded portions of the cave. For David Dockery and me, this expedition was now officially losing some of its appeal. Spelunking in an earthen cave sounds like a little more fun than we were up for. However, we still planned to meet with the intrepid archeologists, and were confident we could ascertain some geological understanding without being buried alive.

We met at the site on May 13, 2004. Actually we met at the gate to the site, which was locked, and walked about a half mile in the drizzling rain back to the cave mound. There it was, a nifty circular hole right at the base (Figure 1).

Upon inspection, you could tell that the entrance takes an almost immediate right turn and slopes downward. This entrance was part of a man-made excavation in the side of the hill. It apparently dates to 1957 when a group interested in the cave used earth moving equipment to gouge out the side of the hill until they uncovered the eastern end of the cave. The cave strata looked to be a dense clay shale. I stuck my head inside and peered into the dankness. "Looks like a real bad idea", I told myself, as the group of archeologists were sorting their gear and apparently preparing their onslaught into the abyss. Meanwhile, Dockery and I decided to look around the outside and top of the natural mound. I had been working at a surface geology mapping project in the area and my projections placed

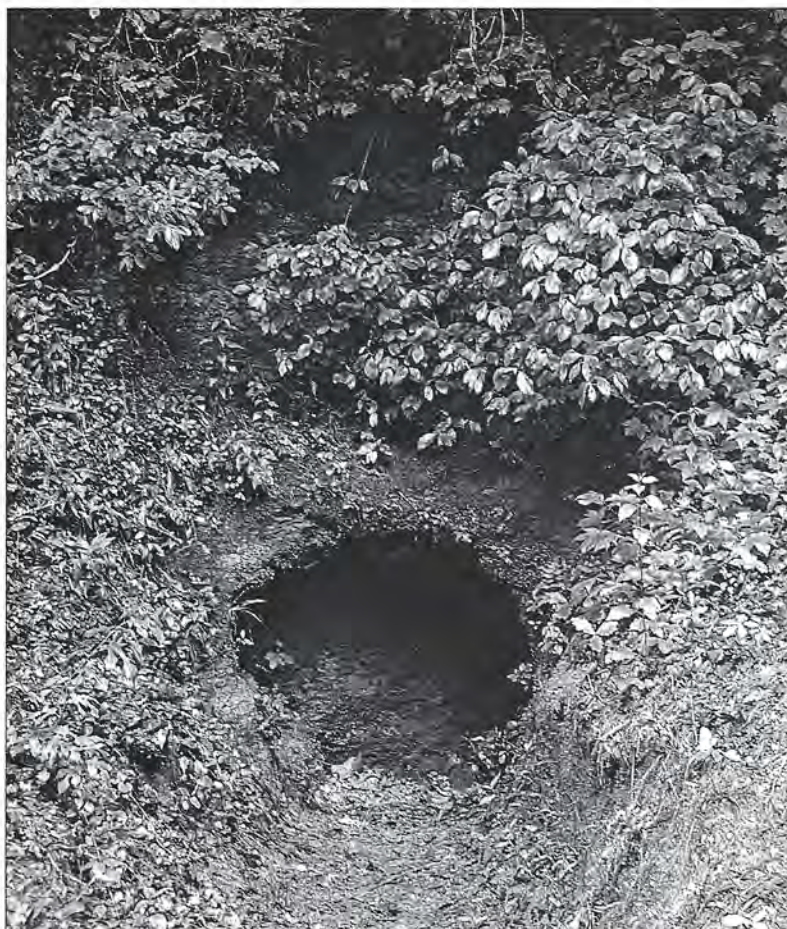


Figure 1. Entrance to the cave at Nanih Waiya Cave Mound

a geologic contact about midway up the slope of the mound at about 420 feet msl. We walked up the hill, and it was apparent that the lithology higher up on the slope was sandy. My geologic contact seemed to be in order, right where I expected to find it. Enlivened by my obvious brilliance, we walked around the top of the mound and took it all in. It looked to be close to 50 feet high and quite a bit larger in circumference than its neighbor the temple mound. As Dockery moved down the western side of the mound, I decided to go back down the other side and check on the rest of our investigative team. When I got back to the cave entrance, there was no one around. Some of their gear, hats, and notebooks lay around on the ground. "No they didn't," I told myself, as I peered back into the darkness of the cave. Just then, I was sure I heard voices back deep in the cave. I heard also the sound of water dripping. A half dozen people? In there? At this point I began to think dangerously. "Heck, if they can go all the way back in there, surely it is safe for me to go in a short distance." I squatted down like a duck, took the right turn, and inched down the slope inside the cave. Very quickly, near-complete darkness enveloped me. Of course, I had no flashlight. I did not need one, because I was not going inside the cave. Yet here I was. The floor was wet and muddy, as rain water must surely make its way in through the entrance. The slope was pretty steep and I could not see the height of the roof. I chose to sit down and "bounce" down the cave floor on my backside. Wetness seeped into my pants, not yet a result of fear, but from the muddy floor. Suddenly, I panicked that I might lose my wallet down there and I checked quickly to make sure all was well. It was still there, just a little damp. I paused, and could hear the water dripping more loudly. It was dripping into a pool, very close to me it seemed. I was acutely aware that there were no other people down there with me. I never heard any more voices, and quickly realized I was not going much further. "What am I doing," I thought as my pulse raced a little. "Dockery doesn't even know I'm down here." "No one knows I'm down here."

I may not have had a flashlight, but I had my digital camera and it had a flash. I decided to take some photos before I scrambled out of there. As I pulled my camera out, I began to think of some of the other myths about the caves of Nanih Waiya. Some Choctaws tell of bizarre creatures that dwell in the caves and surrounding woods. There is the Shampe, a giant, hairy, odiferous manlike creature who conceals himself in the caves during daylight hours; similar to the Bigfoot or Sasquatch legends. Another resident is the Bohpoli, a magical dwarf prone to throwing stones at interlopers. There are stories of gigantic serpents and of the Nalusa Falaya (Long Black Being), a creature with pointed ears who slithers on his stomach like a snake. The Nalusa Chito (Big Black Being) routinely ascends from the caves in search of women and children to dine on.

"Ridiculous tales," I told myself as I hurriedly readied my camera for action. As the flash beamed, I was allowed brief glimpses of my surroundings. The walls were tan clay, shiny with wetness, likely from water percolating down through the overlying sand capping the mound. The walls arched upward, narrowing to the roof. There looked to be room to stand and I considered that prospect momentarily, then decided I was perfectly comfortable seated. The camera flash also allowed me a glimpse of the reflection from the pool. My feet were not far from the water's edge. The cave seemed to stop abruptly at the back of the pool, but certainly extended further, deeper, and flooded. Truthfully, I was probably less than ten feet inside the cave, yet I felt quite removed from the world, quite alone. Having completed the photographic documentation of my excursion,

and with Bohpoli surely taking aim at me, I decided I had worn out my welcome and trudged my way out, slipping and sliding. As I was looking at the photo images on the digital camera, Dockery showed up on the scene. We noticed that some of the images had a white filmy or hazy look. I became upset, sure that my photos were marred by a fogged up lens.

Where the heck were those archaeologists anyway? Taken by creatures of the cave? We followed a trail traversing between the mound and cypress-adorned Nanih Waiya Creek, and noticed wooden pilings at the creek's edge, where a swinging bridge had once stood. There were other natural openings we noticed along the base of the mound; however, they did not penetrate deeply and were either buried remnants or were never developed to begin with.

We found the archeologists at the base of the pavilion, along the slope of the mound, where another human excavation once provided access to the natural cave. They were working diligently, with pick and axe, to reopen the entrance and explore the cave on this side of the hill.

They said they hoped to enter the abyss in the afternoon and refill the entrance prior to leaving that evening. Dockery and I, satisfied with our examination and having appointments back in Jackson, bid farewell and set out on our trek back to the truck.

Later, upon close examination of my photos, I realized that the lens was not fogged up after all. There were well focused wisps of mist eerily wafting through the cave (Figure 2).

What was this? Water vapor emanating from the damp environment? Exotic gases from the deep? My wife's uncle, who lives in the area, later told me of a local rumor that the entrances had originally been covered due to poisonous gases



Figure 2. Wisps of mist in the cave

in the cave. Or perhaps, was the mist a sign of the spirits and creatures of Nanih Waiya legend?

Jack Elliott contacted us a few days later and relayed their success at entering the previously buried entrance. He conveyed the following narrative:

“After you left, we continued to dig down inside the pit under the pavilion until we were able to open a narrow entrance into the cave. This created a very cramped access leading from our excavation down for almost three feet followed by a 90 degree turn to the left into the cave. With considerable difficulty, considering the restricted space, Jim Atkinson was able to slide feet first into the cave where he found himself on something of a talus slope created by dirt sliding in. While he was inside I could hear him very loudly gasping for breath, which he soon determined was not merely from exertion but was to a large degree due to bad air being present. Upon beginning to feel light headed he decided that he had better exit as soon as possible which he did with even more difficulty than he encountered upon entering largely due to his inability to maneuver his limbs to push himself out. Back outside he reported seeing a mist inside the cave.

“David Abbott (MDAH), who is at least 30 years younger than Jim, smaller, and considerably more flexible, then entered with the digital camera, and took some pictures. He too began to feel faint and promptly exited. After catching his breath, he then entered again briefly to take a few more pictures. He also observed the mist in the cave which incidentally shows up on some of his photos.

“Upon looking into the cave entrance I could see that its walls and ceiling were glistening wet from water seepage. Given the acoustics I could also hear a constant dripping into the water that was standing in the cave bottom. We then determined that given the nature of the air in the cave and given the difficulty in entering and leaving it that it would not be wise to spend much time there for fear that someone might actually pass out. If that happened getting them out might be very difficult. Consequently we filled our entrance hole in and departed soon after.”

At this point, there has yet to be an authoritative case for the cave's origins. However, we were able to come up with some observations, insights, and a plausible derivation. Nanih Waiya Cave Mound is in a monadnock of the Wilcox Group that stands above the flood plain of Nanih Waiya Creek in the SW/4, SW/4, SW/4, NW/4, NE/4 of Section 1 in T. 12 N, R. 13 E. (32deg 55' 26" N lat., 88deg 55' 19" W long.) in Neshoba County. This cave has been attributed to both natural processes and human excavation. However, it was determined during an inspection on May 13, 2004, by geologists and archaeologists to have been formed from natural erosional processes acting along joint planes (Figure 3) in the upper Grampian Hills shale just below the upper contact with the basal Tuscahoma sand. The ceiling of the cave is supported by shale blocks between linear joints in the Grampian Hills, the outer joints forming flat walls with an inverted v-shaped profile. The middle of the cave was water filled when inspected with water dripping from the jointed ceiling.

Acknowledgments

Personal Communication: Jack D. Elliott, Jr., Historical Archaeologist, Northeast Mississippi Field Office, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Calvin S. Brown, Archeologist of Mississippi, 1926, Mississippi State Geological Survey, 372 p.

William Michael Mott, *The Deep Dwellers*, 2000,
<http://www.davidicke.net/emagazine/vol10/articles/pics/dwellers1.html>

National Register of Historic Places, <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/welcome.html>

Indian Burial and Sacred Grounds Watch, <http://www.ibsgwatch.imageadjinn.com/index.htm>

Kenneth H. Carleton, "Nanih Waiya (22W1500): An Historical and Archaeological Overview,"

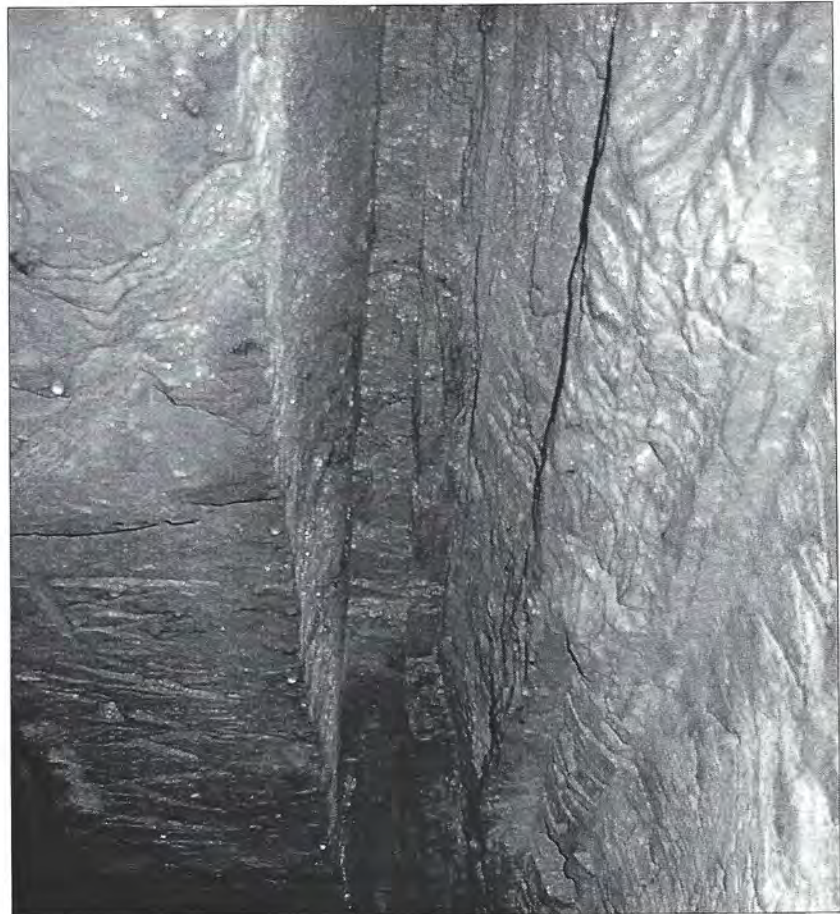
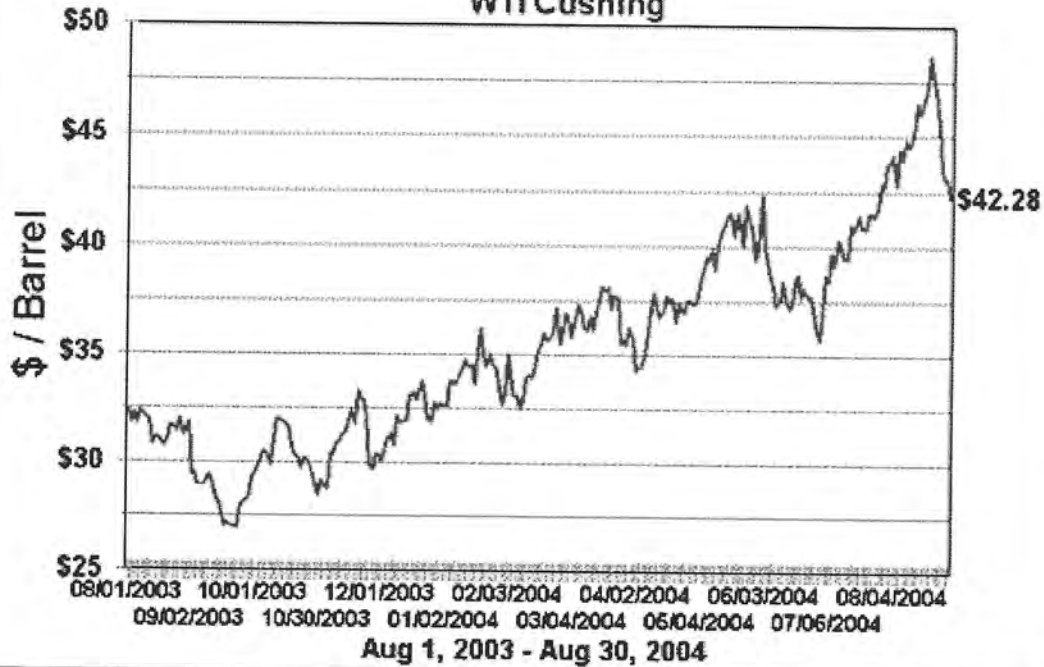
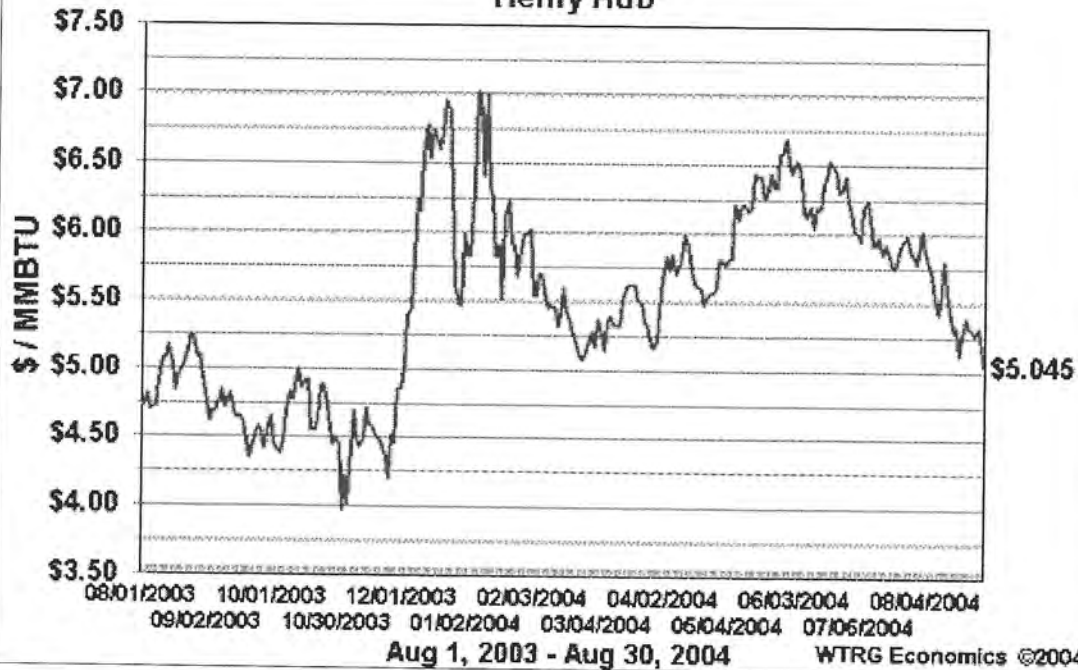


Figure 3. View of the cave's arched ceiling and jointed features.

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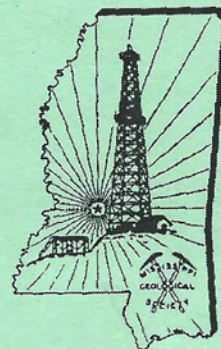
Volume 53

No. 2

October 2004

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

We had an exceptional turnout at this year's Fall Barbecue, including a good showing from academia as well as from our future colleagues who have joined us as student members. A special thanks goes to these students who have shown an interest in our organization and the Science. Also, a special thanks to Omni Laboratories for their sponsorship and the interesting South Alabama Smackover core. It spurred lively conversation about lithology, depositional environments, and primary and secondary structures.

This month we are gearing up for the Bolland Scholarship. These scholarships recognize student achievement in the Geo-sciences and well-roundedness outside the classroom. Scholarship President Todd Hines and Scholarship Secretary Dave Cate are in the process of coordinating with the committee in the assessment of resumes and scheduling of interviews with the nominees. This is always a difficult process, because we are continually blessed with so many motivated, bright, young people. When you renew your membership or when you register for any of the luncheons, please donate to the scholarship. The more we can give each year to the recipients, the better.

Also, October 12th starts our noon luncheons at the Capital-Petroleum Club. This month's speaker is Bob Schneeflock, and he will be demonstrating the Petra-Petraseis system, Structuremaps.com, and an emailable PowerPoint presentation. If any of you have interesting talk topics, papers you would like to give at our luncheons, or short articles for the MGS Bulletin, please contact John Cox, Jo

Everett, or any one of our staff.

In closing, I want us to remember our friend, William H. Moore. Bill was a dedicated State Geologist and a supporter and honorary member of MGS who was loved by all who knew him. There is a manuscript circulating in honor of Mr. Moore that is a growing compilation of "Moore Stories." If you have any stories about this great man (PC or not), we ask that you please share them with us.

—See you at the October Meeting,



Happy Halloween !!

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

"Red Hills Lignite Mine"

"Baraboo/Sioux Quartzite Cobbles in
Mississippi Pre-loess Gravels"

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2003	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA
January 11th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Abstract — “No Paper”

Can maps, x-sections, logs, seismic sections, scout cards, and production info be worked and presented without paper?

Schnee will demonstrate the Petra-Petraseis system, structuremaps.com, and an emailable PowerPoint presentation. Petra-Petraseis can be used as an electronic light table that enables you to bring up digitized layers behind your maps. Layers can be GCS or Geomap products, pipeline maps, seismic stick maps, velocity surveys, etc. Tops and production for each of 85,000 wells in his project were bulk-loaded for quick and easy access. Wells can then be filtered by formation, TD, API #, operator, and many other items. Well tops are posted onto raster 2-d seismic for quick interpretation. Screen dumps of maps, etc., into PowerPoint make an emailable presentation.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004


January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005



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"The sooner you make your first five thousand mistakes, the sooner you will be able to correct them." — Kimon Nicolaidis

Your editor's mistakes in this issue:

Stanley King's correct phone number is (601) 842-3539.

James B. Furrh, Jr., Inc. has moved to 1635 Lelia Dr., Ste. 201, Jackson, MS 39216

... plus a couple of typos in the Red Hills Mine article.

Sorry, guys.

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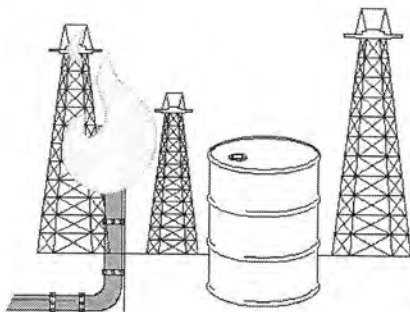
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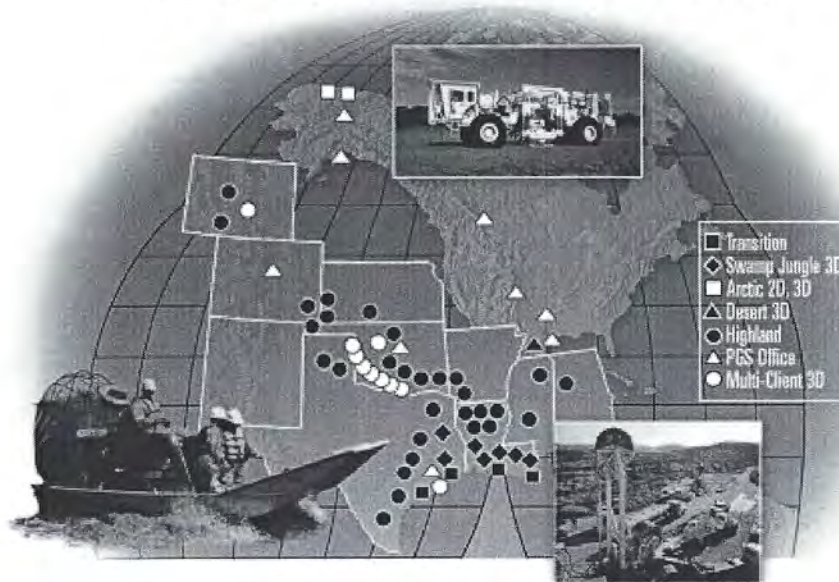
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David T. Dockery III

The Red Hills Lignite Mine began an initial boxcut in April 1999 and began mining lignite in December 1999. Today it produces 3.3 million tons of lignite a year as fuel for electric power generation at the neighboring Red Hills Power Plant. The stratigraphic nomenclature used at the mine is based on the geologic map and stratigraphic sections of the mine site (and of the Akerman, Mississippi, area) published by David Thompson in the September 1995 issue of *Mississippi Geology*. This stratigraphy and the occurrence of lignites seams was explained by mine environmental specialist Benson Chow during a tour of the mine by Ken Davis and David Dockery (Mississippi Office of Geology) on September 29, 2004. The purpose of the mine visit was to photograph the mine's western highwall during the deepest cut of the mine's lifetime.

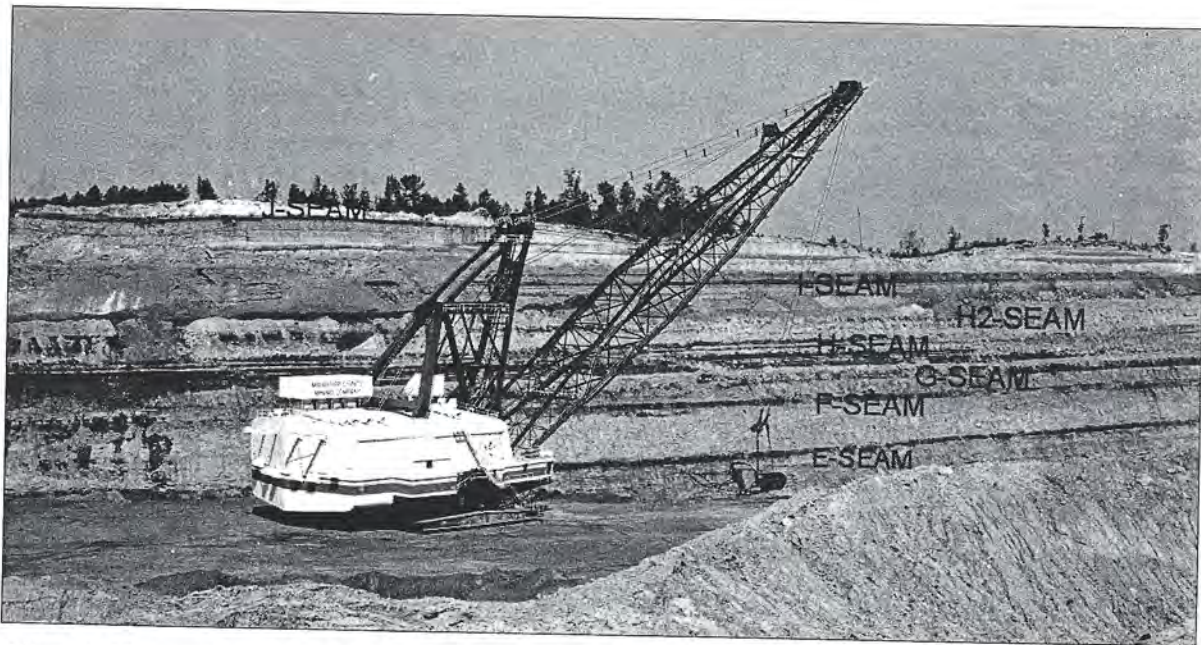


Figure 1. The upper part of the western highwall to the left of the dragline's rooftop cable support is a channel sand in the lower Tuscahoma that cuts out the H2 and I lignite seams (but not the H seam), which can be seen to the right of the cable support; a segment of the I seam can be seen to the left of the cable support where it appears from below talus cover. Above this channel sand at the top of the highwall is the J seam. The horizontal beam about halfway up the rooftop cable support is along the line of the H seam. The dragline is resting on the E seam in the Grampian Hills Member of the Nanafalia Formation and is mining down to the top of the D seam in the middle of the Grampian Hills Member. The E seam is just above the dragline bucket; this seam is distinguished by its diagnostic aqua-green colored underburden.

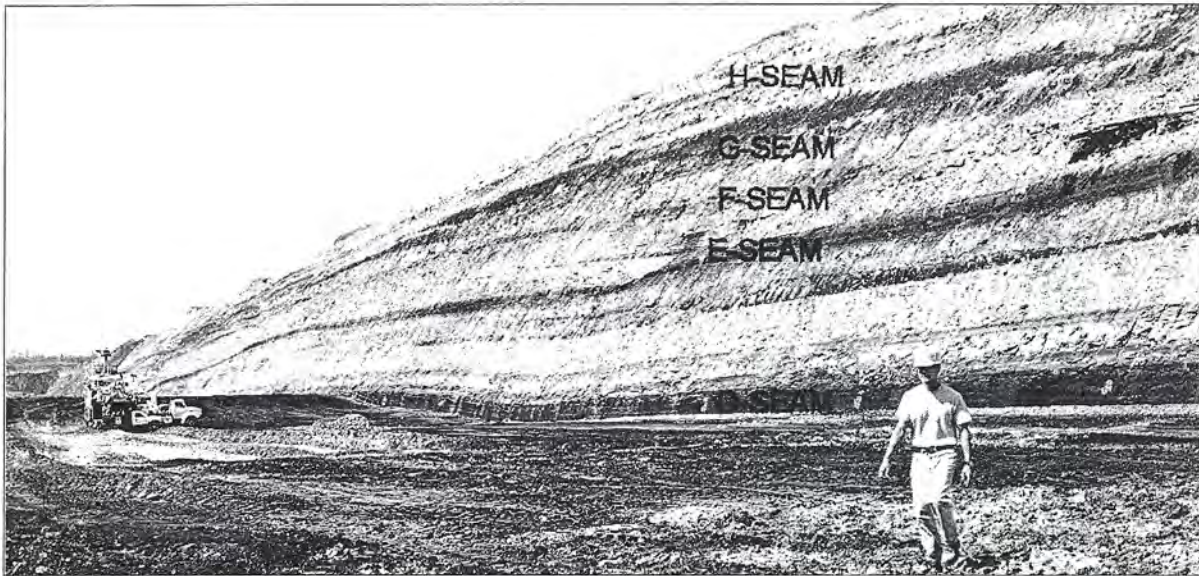


Figure 3. Highwall with the D seam at the base, the E, G, F, and H seams above. Notice the gentle undulation of the lignite seams, best seen in the E seam, along the west quarry wall.

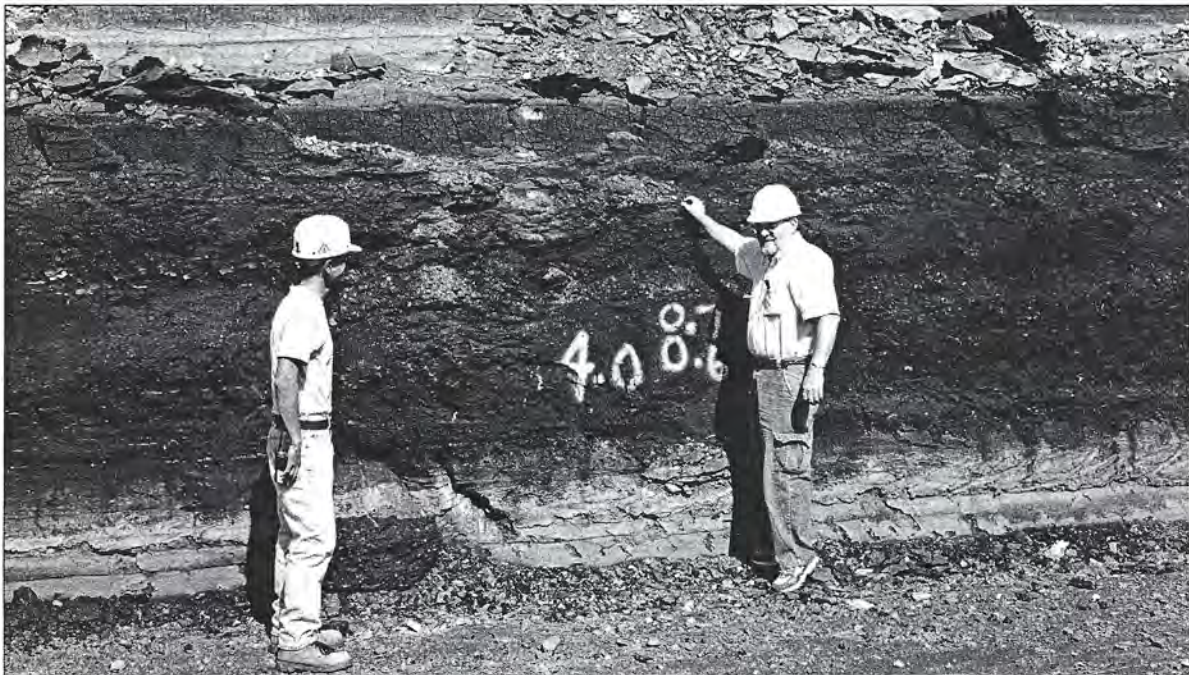


Figure 4. Benson Chow and Ken Davis beside the D seam, which is marked in bright yellow spray paint as 4.0 feet in thickness.

Baraboo/Sioux Quartzite Cobbles in Mississippi's Pre-loess Gravels

By: James Starnes, D. T. Dockery III, K. Davis
Mississippi Office of Geology

The "pre-loess" terrace deposits of Mississippi's western Loess Belt are perched Pliocene-Pleistocene channel deposits of the ancestral Mississippi River System. While the higher and older of these strongly-eroded deposits may be of late Pliocene age, an Early Pleistocene age can be attributed to deposits in which the base of the "pre-loess" gravels are at elevations of 300 to 150 feet above sea level. Key to this age determination is the presence of the Precambrian (1.7-billion-year-old) Sioux/Baraboo Quartzite. This quartzite occurs as fine- to coarse-grained, purple to pink and often banded quartzite cobbles and pebbles, sometimes with disseminated quartz pea gravel. This quartzite has also been reported from the Grover Gravel of Missouri, which caps the divide between the Missouri and Meramec Rivers at 620 to 750 feet above sea level.

The bedrock source area for the Sioux Quartzite is the Missouri River drainage basin in South Dakota and in southwestern Minnesota, while the source area of the Baraboo Quartzite is the Baraboo Ranges in south-central Wisconsin. In Late Pliocene time, the Missouri River flowed eastward and northward to Hudson Bay. This route was blocked by glacial ice in Early Pleistocene time, which impounded the Missouri River Basin until the river cut a new course to join the Mississippi River and a route to the Gulf of Mexico about 600,000 years ago. This diversion occurred during the Kansan Glaciation of the older literature. Boulders and cobbles of Sioux Quartzite are common in Kansan glacial deposits over much of the State of Kansas. When the Missouri River cut its new course to the Mississippi, it brought with it a bed load of Sioux Quartzite as well as ice-rafted large cobbles.

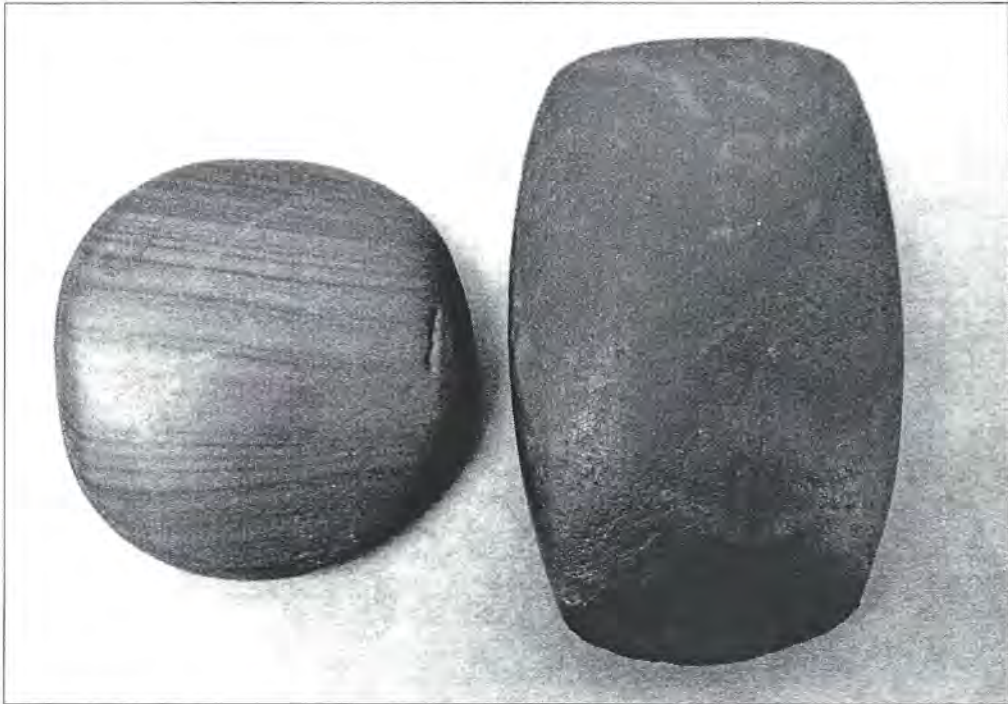
In Mississippi, pre-loess cobbles and pebbles of Sioux quartzite have been found in the Hammett Gravel pit near Lexington in Holmes County, Thompson and Techeva Creeks in Yazoo County, Clear and Muddy Creeks in Warren County, Drake's Bayou, Sand Creek, Little Sand Creek (and tributaries), and Ragsdall Creek in Claiborne County, James Creek in Jefferson County, and an unspecified locality in Wilkinson County. The hardness, durability, attractive coloration, and large size of Sioux Quartzite cobbles in these areas made this material a choice lithic of Mississippi's pre-historic Native American populations for the manufacture of ground and polished stone tools and ornaments such as celts, banner-stones, discoidals, and beads.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The authors express their appreciation to Dr. Wakefield Dort, Department of Geology, University of Kansas, for sending a box of Sioux Quartzite cobbles from a house-site excavation located on the southwestern-most extent of Pleistocene glaciers in North America. The site is on glacial deposits about four miles south of Wamego, Kansas, and the rocks sent represented the general spread of lithologic varieties of the Sioux Quartzite as found in "Kansan" tills. They were helpful for comparisons with Sioux Quartzite cobbles from Mississippi.



Base of pre-loess gravel unconformably overlying clays in the Catahoula Formation along Ragsdall Creek in Claiborne County, Mississippi, at an elevation of about 150 feet above sea level.



Exquisitely crafted, ground and polished pre-historic artifacts of Baraboo/Sioux quartzite from the Loess Bluff region, near Vicksburg. Courtesy of the Dr. James May Collection.

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 4 rigs to 1,243 for the week of October 1, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 4 at 161. Rigs targeting oil are 6 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 13.0 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 8 to 1,081. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 149 greater than last year's level of 932.

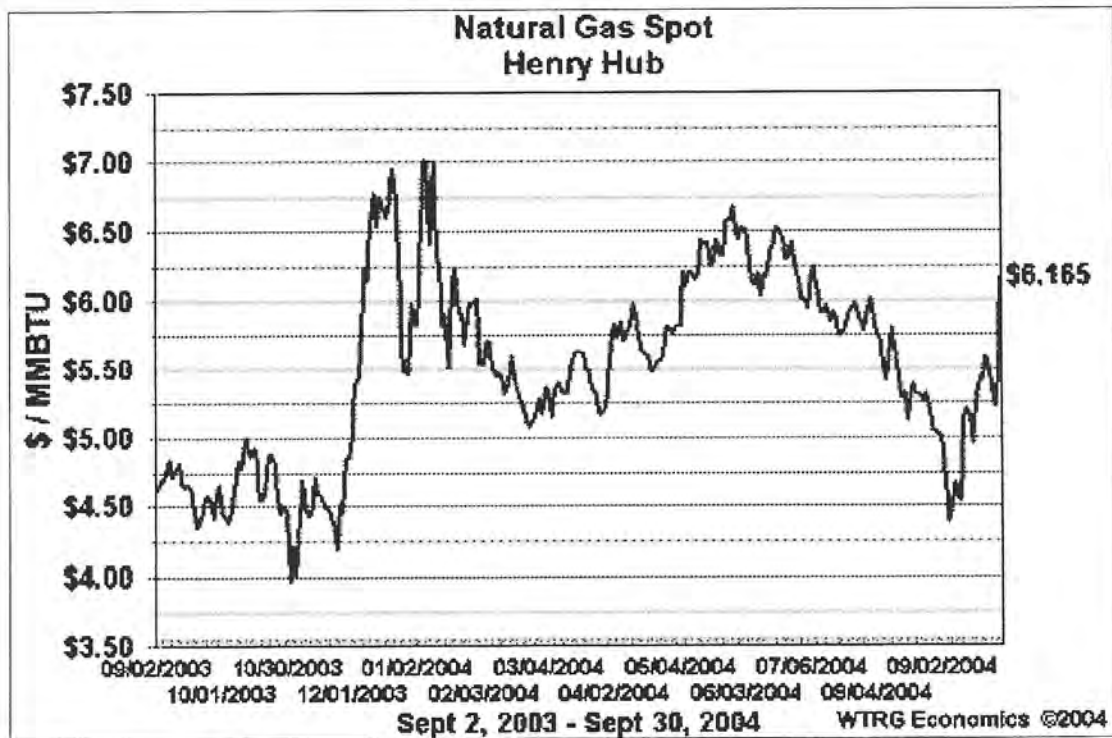
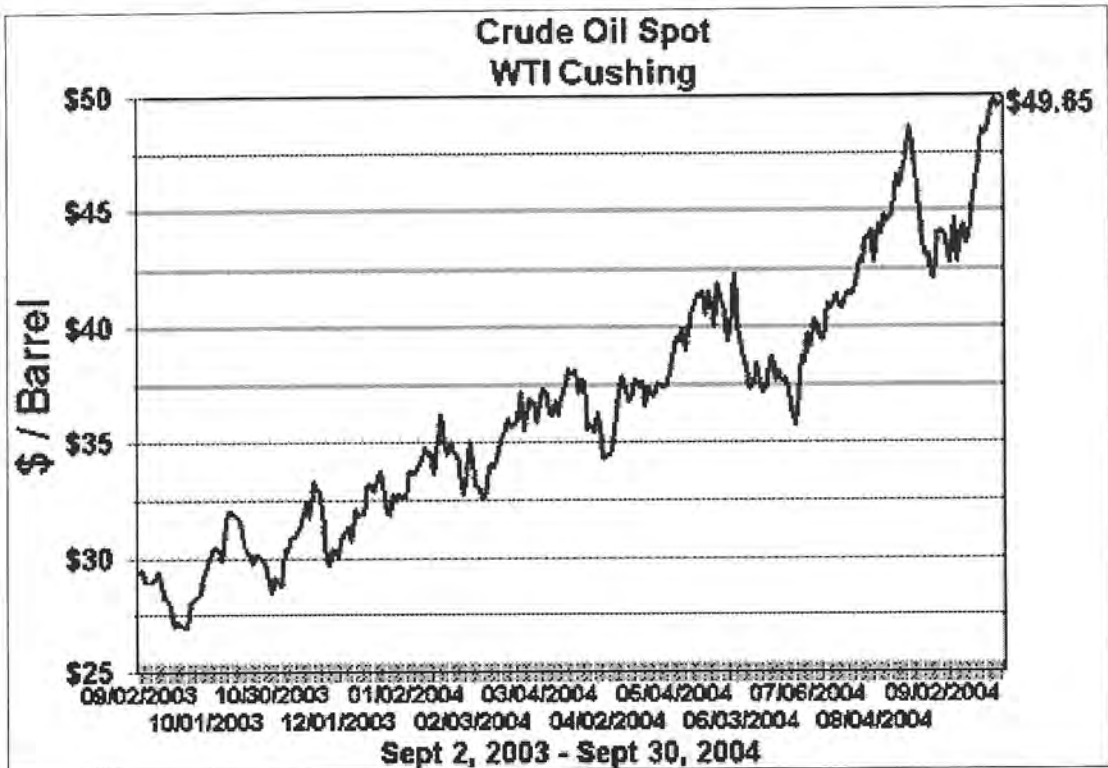
Year-over-year oil exploration in the U.S. is higher by 3.9 percent. Gas exploration is up 16.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 68.8 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 23.5 percent.

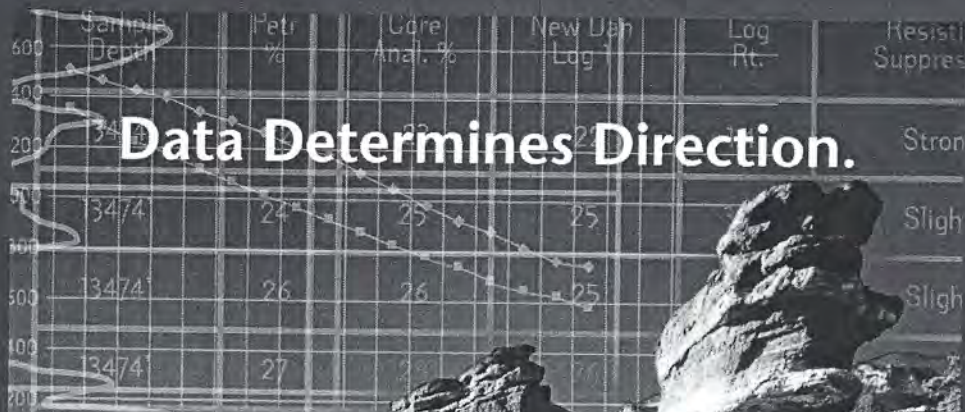
Canadian rig activity* was up 24 rigs to 315 for the week of October 1 and is 81 rigs lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

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

North American Rig Count

	10/01/04	09/24/04	10/03/03	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1243	1239	1091	4	152	0.3%	13.9%
Offshore	98	87	108	11	-10	12.6%	-9.3%
Land	1145	1152	983	-7	162	-0.6%	16.5%
Inland Waters	18	18	20	0	-2	0.0%	-10.0%
Oil	161	165	155	-4	6	-2.4%	3.9%
Percent	13.0%	13.3%	14.2%	-0.4%	-1.3%		
Gas	1081	1073	932	8	149	0.7%	16.0%
Percent	87.0%	86.6%	85.4%	0.4%	1.5%		
Directional	331	336	289	-5	42	-1.5%	14.5%
Horizontal	120	116	88	4	32	3.4%	36.4%
Gulf of Mexico	93	83	104	10	-11	12.0%	-10.6%
Gulf Oil	3	4	12	-1	-9	-25.0%	-75.0%
Percent	3.2%	4.8%	11.5%	-1.6%	-8.3%		
Gulf Gas	90	79	92	11	-2	13.9%	-2.2%
Percent	96.8%	95.2%	88.5%	1.6%	8.3%		
Canada	315	291	396	24	-81	8.2%	-20.5%
North America	1558	1530	1487	28	71	1.8%	4.8%





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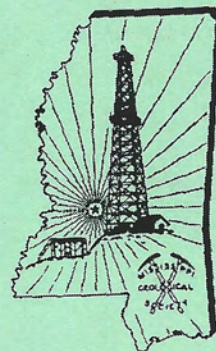
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November 2004

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

I want to congratulate our 2004 Boland Scholarship winners. Many thanks go to the work of this year's committee: President Todd Hines, Secretary Dave Cate, Jerry Zoble, and Vernon Culbertson, and . After meeting with all of the nominees, we are confident that the future of our profession is in very good hands. All of our nominees will be great assets to the field of geology. We will be presenting the scholarships at our luncheon meeting next Tuesday, November 9. A special thanks to those who donated to the scholarship fund, and please continue to do so in the future.

At our November meeting we have a special guest speaker, Richard Green, of LaRoche Petroleum Consultants in Dallas. He will be speaking on a subject important to many of us — predicting future oil and gas prices. We are looking forward to his visit and his insight on the subject. Plan to attend!

Finally, I hope you all were able to vote in the election. Have a safe and happy holiday.

—See you at the November Meeting,

James E. Starnes, Geologist

Every time a man puts a new idea across
he finds ten men who thought of it before
he did —but they only thought of it.

Unknown

Happy

Thanksgiving



In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule & Abstract
Speaker's Biography
Rig Count
GCAGS Call for Papers
Remembering Bill Moore
FY 2004 Treasurer's Report
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2003	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA
January 11th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Abstract — “Predicting Future Product Prices”

The history of the oil industry has repeated periods of both low and high commodity prices and boom or bust cycles. The actual price received for the product becomes the cost critical factor in profitability once the hydrocarbon has been found. Unfortunately, it is the least understood although the most non-technical factor.

Most experts attempt to use reserves or perceived lack of reserves to estimate future product prices. The author believes this is incorrect. Price is determined partially by supply and demand and indirectly by reserves but, most importantly, by deliverability to the market. The author believes history can be a useful guideline in predicting future price trends and periods of boom or bust. Understanding these historical trends and creating company models of price prediction is as critical to making correct business decisions as any reservoir model or probability methodology.

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September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

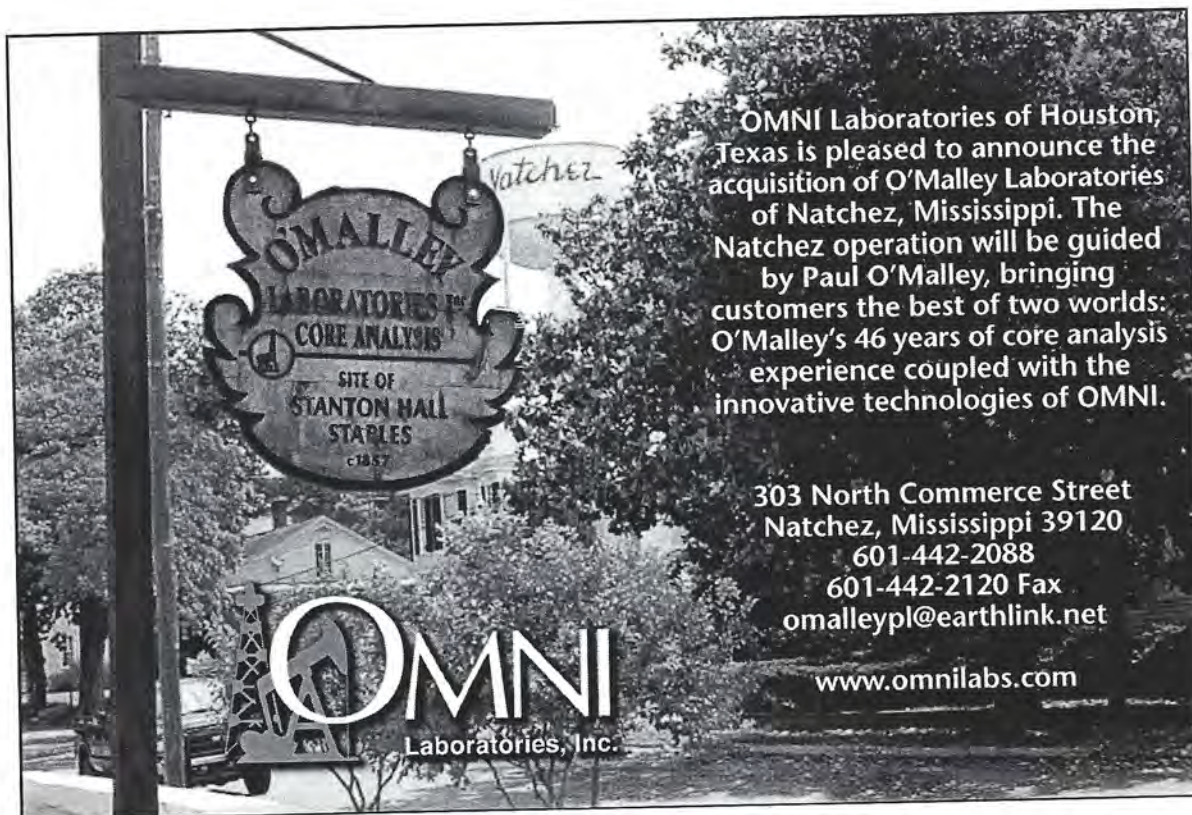
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Richard Green, LaRoche Petroleum Consultants, Dallas Texas

Richard Green began his career in New Orleans with Shell Oil Company in 1973, after graduating from Kansas State University with a BS degree in geology. In 1978, he accepted a position with DeGolyer and MacNaughton Consultants in Dallas, Texas. From 1980 to 1986, Mr. Green worked for several small Dallas independent oil companies concentrating on exploration and development in the Permian Basin, Mid-continent, and Gulf Coast of the United States prior to co-founding his own firm, Dallas Petroleum Partners, in 1986. He generated and drilled prospects in Kansas, Montana, Louisiana, Colorado, and Oklahoma. He then joined Netherland Sewell and Associates in 1994 as Vice-President-Geology (geologic manager) and gained extensive international experience in West Africa, Russia, and South America. He co-founded LaRoche Petroleum Consultants in 1996 and has performed numerous studies both domestically and internationally since that date.

Mr. Green is an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and a Registered Geoscientist in the states of Kansas and Texas. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Sigma Gamma Epsilon (Alumnus), the Kansas Geological Society, the Dallas Geological Society (Honorary Life Member), the Society of Professional Earth Scientists, the Paleontological Society, and the Dallas Petroleum Club.

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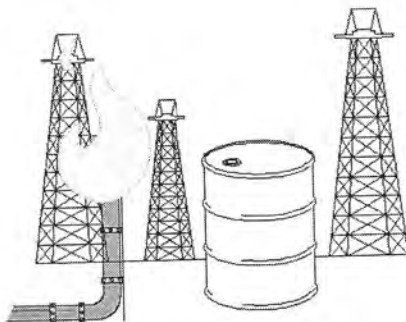
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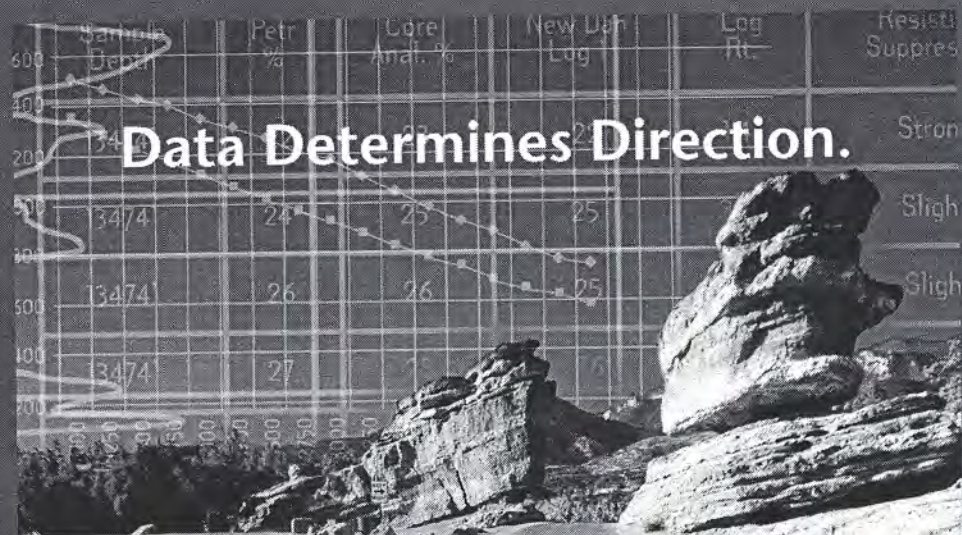
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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 25 rigs to 1,250 for the week of October 22, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 11 at 178. Rigs targeting oil are 20 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for oil currently represent 14.2 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 14 to 1,071. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 141 greater than last year's level of 930.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the U.S. is higher by 12.7 percent. Gas exploration is up 15.2 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 79.7 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 38.6 percent.

Canadian rig activity* was down 54 rigs to 356 for the week of October 22 and is 33 rigs lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

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

North American Rig Count

	10/22/04	10/15/04	10/24/03	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1250	1225	1090	25	160	2.0%	14.7%
Offshore	95	92	105	3	-10	3.3%	-9.5%
Land	1155	1133	985	22	170	1.9%	17.3%
Inland Waters	20	18	15	2	5	11.1%	33.3%
Oil	178	167	158	11	20	6.6%	12.7%
Percent	14.2%	13.6%	14.5%	0.6%	-0.3%		
Gas	1071	1057	930	14	141	1.3%	15.2%
Percent	85.7%	86.3%	85.3%	-0.6%	0.4%		
Directional	341	334	253	7	88	2.1%	34.8%
Horizontal	129	125	93	4	36	3.2%	38.7%
Gulf of Mexico	90	87	101	3	-11	3.4%	-10.9%
Gulf Oil	2	2	9	0	-7	0.0%	-77.8%
Percent	2.2%	2.3%	8.9%	-0.1%	-6.7%		
Gulf Gas	88	85	92	3	-4	3.5%	-4.3%
Percent	97.8%	97.7%	91.1%	0.1%	6.7%		
Canada	356	410	389	-54	-33	-13.2%	-8.5%
North America	1606	1635	1479	-29	127	-1.8%	8.6%

Remembering Bill Moore

As you probably all know, Bill Moore passed away last month after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He had been a member of the Society since 1951 and was among the longest term active members. He had been an honorary member of MGS for several years..

Some of Bill's contributions to MGS were: Editor of the Bulletin (2 years); Publications Chairman (2 years); Chairman Jurassic Study Group; Editor of three fieldtrip guidebooks; Fieldtrip Leader (twice); Vice-President of GCAGS 1974; President of GCAGS 1975; Entertainment Chairman 1983; assisted in editing GCAGS transactions 1968, 1975, & 1981; Boland Scholarship Committee member; Public Affairs Chairman 1990-91; frequent speaker at Society meetings; presented papers at GCAGS; and judged numerous GCAGS and AAPG presentations.

Bill had a long and distinguished career in geology, beginning as a stratigrapher with Shell Oil Company. He joined the Mississippi Geological Survey in 1960 and became State Geologist and Director of the Survey in 1965. In 1980, he resigned from the Survey to become a partner in the geological consulting firm, Kern and Moore. Bill rejoined the Survey in 1990 and remained until he retired in 1994.

Bill made many contributions to the understanding of Mississippi's geology and to the geological profession in general. He was also responsible for giving many young geologists their first shot in the profession.

Bill Moore will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Bill was well known for his tales concerning his life and career. A few of these stories follow.

~ Just a Few Bill Moore Stories ~

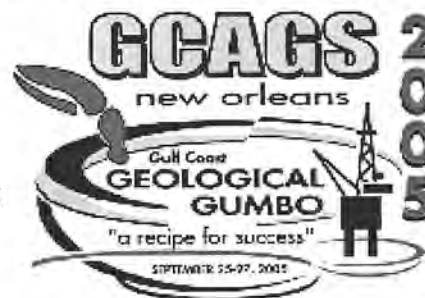
Collected by David Thompson

One day, while Bill was working diligently in his office at the front of the Survey building, a visitor came by with a mineral sample for inspection. This happens all the time, so Bill took it in stride and welcomed the man into his office. The man was adamant that he had a gold sample he'd collected from an undisclosed location in Mississippi. Bill looked at the shiny, gold mineral and calmly explained that it was pyrite—fool's gold. The man continued to argue his case, and Bill listened patiently. Bill said he was sorry to disappoint him and thanked the fellow for coming by. On the way out the door, the man stopped abruptly at the secretary's desk next to Bill's office. He said to her, "Nice fellow, but he don't know much about gold, does he?" Jean Spearman, without missing a beat, responded, "Why no . . . He doesn't." With that, the man left satisfied, his dreams of wealth and gold preserved.

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Holocene – Recent Gulf Coast Geology	Environmental and Coastal Studies	

HOW AND WHEN TO SUBMIT

Abstracts of all proposed presentations must be submitted in standard format (250 words or less, no figures) by **January 17, 2005**.

There are two ways to submit abstracts:

- 1) Connect to the GCAGS 2005 website, <http://www.gcags2005.com> and follow the instructions. You can cut and paste a prepared text.
- 2) Mail a diskette or CD with the abstract in a .doc or .rtf format, and a short note indicating your address, phone number and email address. Also, indicate your preferred theme and preferred mode of presentation to:

Technical Programs – GCAGS 2005, 810 Union Street, Suite 300, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Oral, poster, visualization, or core presentations will be accepted. Authors will be notified of acceptance on February 20, 2005. All presenters must submit a paper of < 11 pages or an extended abstract with key figures of ~2-4 pages by April 10, 2005. These will be published in the *Transactions*. Instructions and a template will be posted on the GCAGS2005 website.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2005! Questions should be directed to Mike Ledet at abstracts@gcags2005.com.

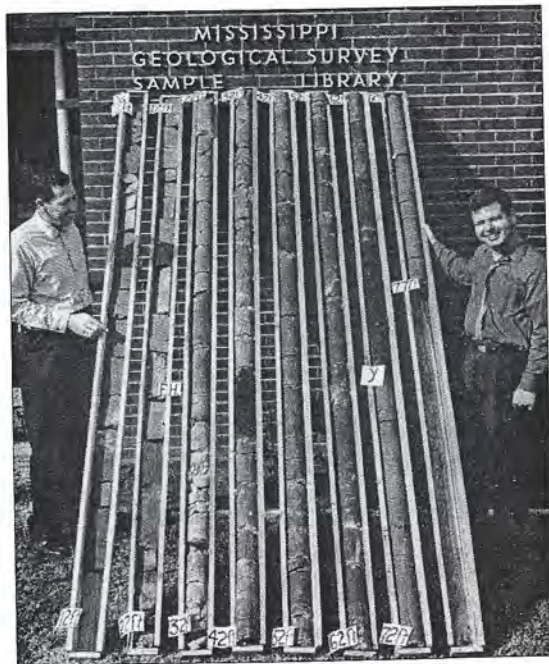
When Bill was new to the oil patch he was on a drill site, and the tool pusher was showing him around. Bill was green at the time and careful to keep his lack of experience close to the vest. These sites were notoriously rough and replete with roughnecks who liked to make life hard for an inexperienced college boy. The tool pusher shared with him the story of an unfortunate chap who got too close to the drilling cable spool and was unceremoniously wrapped up onto the spool. Bill meekly responded, "Did it hurt him?" The tool pusher paused, and then exclaimed, "Did it hurt him?! Did it hurt him?! . . . It broke every bone in his body and flattened him as thin as a pancake! . . . Did it hurt him?! Harumph!" All the roughnecks were looking in his direction and guffawing. Bill then wisely decided it might be best to keep his eyes wide open and his questions to a bare minimum.

Once, Bill had a USGS geologist with him in the field. While driving down the road, the fellow implored him to stop the vehicle. Excitedly, the scientist jumped out of the car and pounced upon an exposure of hard gray rock and began whacking it with his rock hammer. Bill managed to gain his attention and calmly informed him he was in the process of sampling a concrete highway culvert.

While working on the Hinds County Bulletin, Fred Mellen commented to Bill that he was not spending enough time in the field. With that said, Bill spent the next several months exclusively doing fieldwork. Finally, Fred called Bill's wife, Anne, and asked her, "Is Bill ever coming back to the office?"



Photograph of Bill Moore taken from GCAGS Transactions, Vol. 25, 1975.



Marshall Kern and Bill in 1964 with a core taken to sample the Forest Hill Sand. From MS Geological Survey Bulletin 105, "Hinds County Geology and Mineral Resources."

TREASURER'S REPORT — FISCAL YEAR 2004

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
From FY 2003	\$ 89.15
Monthly Luncheons:	
Capitol Club	2,718.51
Speaker Gifts	246.47
Bulletin:	
Printing Supplies	1,095.98
Postage	1,300.00
Executive Committee Meetings	943.05
Fall BBQ	987.14
Christmas Party	593.99
Spring Fling	1,050.00
Seq. Stratigraphy Short-course	
Instructor	1,800.00
Expenses	879.76
Capitol Club	866.44
Postage	74.00
Miscellaneous:	
Bank Charges	87.24
Boland Scholarship	3,000.00
MS Academy of Science	250.00
P.O. Box Rental	38.00
Officer Awards	449.89
Tax Preparation	150.00
Total Expenses	\$16,619.62

<u>REVENUES</u>	
Membership Dues	\$ 1,680.00
Advertising	5,600.00
Monthly Luncheons	3,299.75
Fall BBQ	870.00
Spring Fling	450.00
Boland Scholarship Fund	2,600.00
Seq. Stratigraphy Short-course	1,150.00
Publications	431.63
Sponsorships	650.00
Total Revenues	\$16,731.38

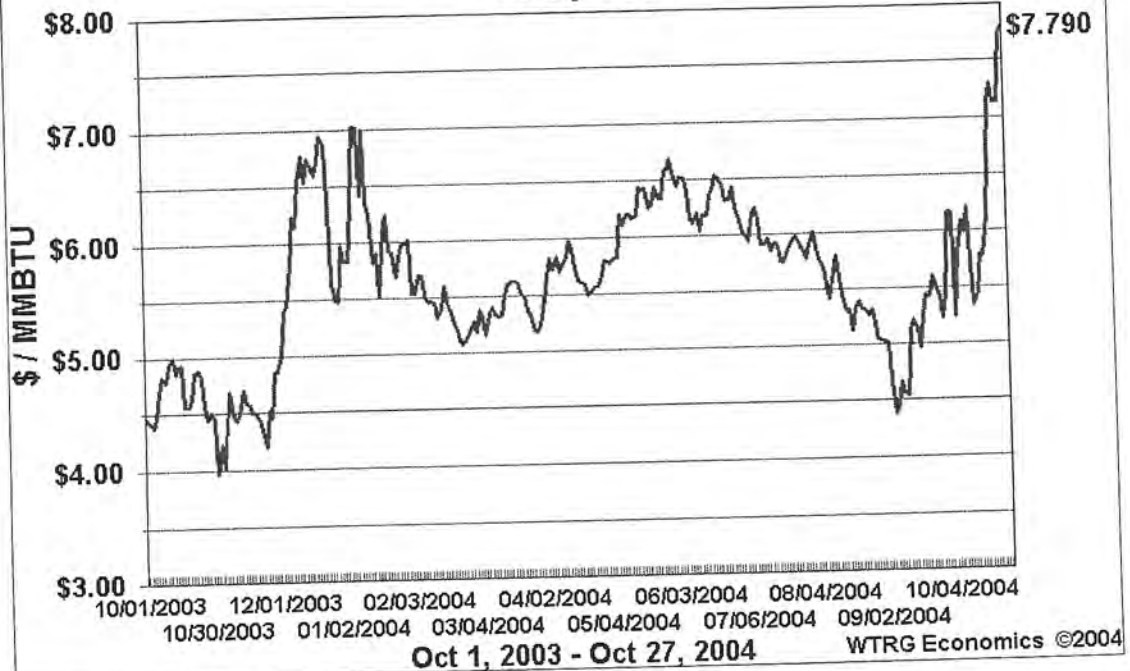
<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$23,870.25
Deposits	16,731.38
Withdrawals	16,619.62
Ending Balance	\$23,982.01

<u>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$15,937.97
Interest	40.24
Ending Balance (5/31/04)	\$15,978.21

Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



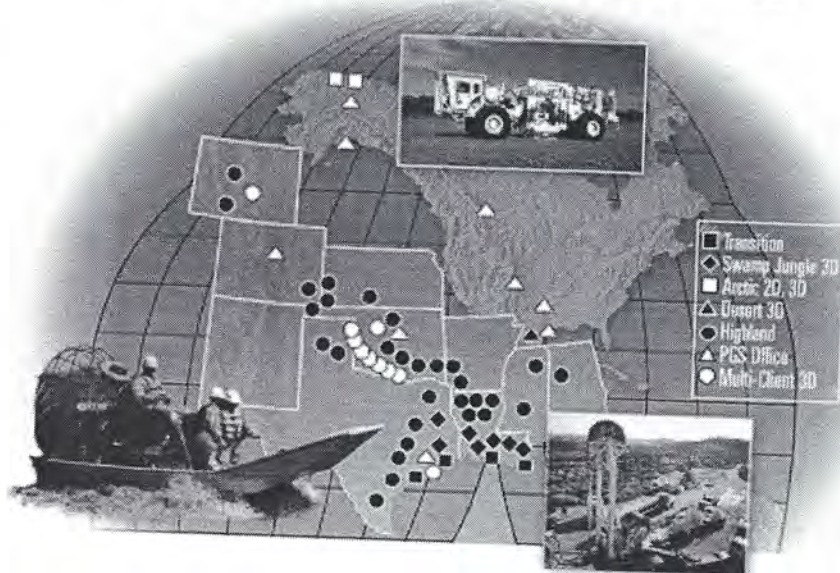
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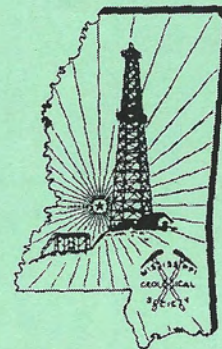
Volume 53

No. 4

December 2004

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

Season's greetings this holiday. In this time of giving and sharing with family and friends, let us also remember those who are without this Christmas — especially those whose loved ones are voluntarily sacrificing, serving our great nation in foreign lands, while we are caught up in the frenzy of holiday shopping, decorating, stuffing our faces, and watching bowl games on TV; please take some time out to hold these brave men and women in your prayers. They fight each day to keep what we often take for granted.

Secondly, I would like to mention that one of our staff, Curtis Odom of the Oil and Gas Board, will be leaving us to take a job in Florida after the New Year. Curtis has been an important asset to the Society as he has served as treasurer. He has done an excellent job and will be dearly missed. So, if you see Curtis around over the holidays, thank him for his hard work and wish him well.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas everyone. I'll see you next year!

James E. Starnes, Geologist

An economist's guess is liable to be just as good as anybody else's.

Will Rogers



Merry

Christmas



In This Issue:

- Meeting Schedule & Abstract
- "Prescription for Revenge"
- GCAGS Call for Papers
- "Weminuche Woes"
- Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
- MGS Membership Application
- MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — "No Paper"	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — "Predicting Future Product Prices"	Capitol Club
December 17th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack C. Pashin, 2004-05 Distinguished Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Prescription for Revenge

Clotile Boudreaux went to the local drug store and asked the pharmacist, Thibodeaux, for arsenic.

"What do you want that for?" asked Thibodeaux.

"I want to kill my husband," Clotile replied. "He's been having an affair with another woman."

"I can't sell you arsenic to kill your husband," said Thibodeaux, "even if he is cheating on you."

Clotile pulled out a picture of her husband with the pharmacist's wife.

"Oh, I didn't realize you had a prescription!" Thibodeaux said.

From The Daily Iberian

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

OMNI Laboratories of Houston, Texas is pleased to announce the acquisition of O'Malley Laboratories of Natchez, Mississippi. The Natchez operation will be guided by Paul O'Malley, bringing customers the best of two worlds: O'Malley's 46 years of core analysis experience coupled with the innovative technologies of OMNI.

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The image shows a wooden sign for O'Malley Laboratories with the text 'O'MALLEY LABORATORIES CORE ANALYSIS' and 'SITE OF STANTON HALL STAPLES c.1857'. In the background, a building is visible with a sign that says 'Natchez'. The OMNI logo is prominently displayed in the foreground.



This year's Boland Scholarship recipients & their professors: Dr. Darrell Schmitz & Jason McIlwain, MSU; Dr. Maurice Meylan & Katherine Cassady, USM; Dr. Richard Major & Stephanie Rice, UM; and Dr. Delbert Gann & Angela Pell, Millsaps College.

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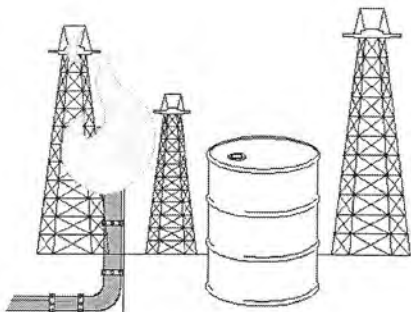
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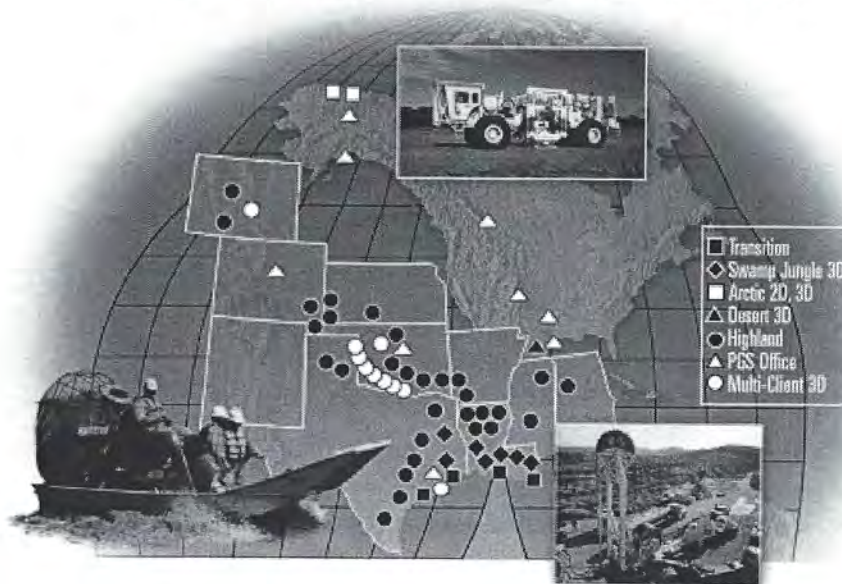
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HOW AND WHEN TO SUBMIT

Abstracts of all proposed presentations must be submitted in standard format (250 words or less, no figures) by **January 17, 2005**.

There are two ways to submit abstracts:

- 1) Connect to the GCAGS 2005 website, <http://www.gcags2005.com> and follow the instructions. You can cut and paste a prepared text.
- 2) Mail a diskette or CD with the abstract in a .doc or .rtf format, and a short note indicating your address, phone number and email address. Also, indicate your preferred theme and preferred mode of presentation to:

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Oral, poster, visualization, or core presentations will be accepted. Authors will be notified of acceptance on February 20, 2005. All presenters must submit a paper of < 11 pages or an extended abstract with key figures of ~2-4 pages by April 10, 2005. These will be published in the *Transactions*. Instructions and a template will be posted on the GCAGS2005 website.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2005! Questions should be directed to Mike Ledet at abstracts@gcags2005.com.

Weminuche Woes
(Tale of a Mississippi Flatlander in the Mountain West)

David E. Thompson, RPG

My brother and I watched the Weather Channel all week long. He had called me with yet another idea for a mountain backpacking trip. I told him reasonably emphatically that I couldn't...now I was packing...and watching the weather reports for the Four Corners region. He has been roping me into these adventures since I was 14 years old. A majority of his former backpacking cohorts are now aged, preoccupied, or wiser and are no longer up for these adventures. Lucky for him, there is still younger brother to cajole. We were headed to the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado; specifically the Weminuche Wilderness between Durango and Silverton. The Weather Channel was telling us that the weather out there at the end of September would be iffy, at best. I wholeheartedly agree with the axiom whereby: The only thing worse than being cold is being wet and cold. I feared that the worse might be realized on this outing.

I met my brother, Byron, in Texas, and we headed out for Durango, resting for the night in Tucumcari, NM. When we arrived in Durango the following afternoon, we decided to reconnoiter up Highway 550 and inspect the mountain weather conditions. Highway 550 basically parallels the Durango/Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and the Animas River northward to Silverton. Our



Figure 1. View into the jagged Needle Mountains along Hwy. 550

plan was to take the railroad the following day to the Needle Creek Trailhead; a drop off point about halfway between Durango and Silverton. The Needle Creek Trail advances upward into the Chicago Basin and Needle Mountains, where there are several peaks exceeding 14,000 feet in elevation (Windom, Eolus, and Sunlight). We pulled the car over along Highway 550, locating a vantage point where we could see into the Needles (Figure 1). It was definitely snowy white along the higher elevations. The weather band radio suggested that the weather over the coming days would be "unsettled", and provided for an unsettling of our nerves. However, we were steadfast in our plans and decided we would continue with our adventure as long as the weather would allow. We stowed our backpacks that evening and compared pack weights, both thoroughly convinced his own was the heavier.

Early the next morning, we boarded the Durango/Silverton Railroad. Much of the crowd appeared to be "blue-haired" retirees on vacation. I can comfortably exploit that adjective, sadly, as my own hair has become rather hoary in recent years. The conductor entered our car and pointed us out to the other passengers, declaring, "The train will be stopping a couple of times, first to reload with water and later to drop these guys off in the wilderness for a few days, so don't anyone else get off the train.....unless you want to stay." The passengers stared at us, some rather wild-eyed, some with apparent pity. Several asked us questions about where we were going, why we were going, and even why we would want to go? One fellow looked at me perceptively and inquired, "Do you guys take any protection?" I responded, "What, like guns?" "Yeah", he said. "Wild animals and all, you know?" I told him I was not worried, "Just elk, mule deer, perhaps a mountain lion, but they only go after small women and children. No bears to worry about." About that time, my brother came back from the food car and enlightened me that there were indeed likely to be some black bears in the mountains. The inquiring fellow looked satisfied, vindicated and assured that we were making a considerable mistake going in unarmed. I thought to myself, "At least there are no grizzlies."

We disembarked at the Needleton Trailhead, on the edge of the Weminuche Wilderness. All the "blue hairs" waved goodbye and cheered to us from the train, and I felt quite manly and heroic heading off into the unknown. The weather appeared to be holding, albeit it cloudy and misty. The trail followed the Animas River back south about .9 miles, relatively flat along the flood plain, until the actual trailhead was reached. At this point, the trail began its steady ascent and would continue as such all the way to Chicago Basin (elevation 11,200 feet), approx. 7 miles distant with a relief change of about 3,000 feet. Our packs were around 50-60 pounds (entirely too much for an out of shape Mississippi flatlander). Of course, it is difficult to breath at these higher elevations, so we utilized a breathing technique of expelling air with a great blowing "whush". We both sounded a little like the steam train we had abandoned, now chugging its way toward Silverton. We persisted on slowly, and took only a few breaks for rest and sustenance. Our hope was to reach the basin before sundown. We had no intention of stopping halfway up the trail to camp. Especially since the trail guidebook author had made it abundantly clear that only physically unfit people fail to make all the way up to the Basin in an afternoon. It sleeted and thundered some along the way, but nothing too severe. We passed a few people who were on their way down the trail, apparently to catch the train back from Silverton, their excursion coming to an end. Most looked chipper and spry, with an obvious spring to their step. I, on the other hand, was on the verge of vomitus. We exchanged momentary pleasantries between gasps for air, whereby they would exclaim the common farewell among backpackers, "Enjoy!"

Nearing our destination, we turned a ridge corner, and there it was, a gorgeous view of the Chi-

cago Basin and its surrounding jagged, bare granite peaks (Windom, Eolus, and Sunlight). The higher altitudes were dressed in snow and you could discern the contour of a high trail winding up along Columbine Pass. That high trail looked quite precipitous and treacherous from our position. It was a spectacular view, the view I had hoped for at the outset of our trip. I briefly considered taking some photos, however, I was too exhausted to take my pack off and retrieve the camera. I would later regret that decision.

Although we could see our ultimate campsite destination ahead, an area near the trail and just below tree-line, there was still about a mile remaining in our trek. It began to cloud up, with some light snow and thunder. Apparently, I had not been hydrating myself adequately, as I began to experience cramping from toes to thighs. As we neared tree-line, we left the trail and crossed Needle Creek in order to locate a prime, level lodging area. We found what looked to be an ideal spot, nestled in the last stand of trees. We erected our small two-man tent and I headed down to the creek to replenish our water. It never ceases to amaze me that even the simple task of bending over to fill water bottles causes significant interruptions in necessary oxygen and produces stars and dizziness. I've heard tell of dreadful stories about backpackers who never adjust to the higher elevations and suffer constant crushing headaches. The only cure for these unfortunate souls is to get off the mountain. Our adjustment period to the high elevation might have been improved had we camped for the night halfway up, yet we were happy to have made it all the way into the basin. Over the next three days, this site would be our staging area where we could undertake day hikes to the peaks above, without heavy packs, and return to the warmth and shelter of our tent and supplies at the end of day.

Dead tired and cramped, we prepared a scrumptious meal of freeze-dried tuna noodle surprise and retired to the tent as the sun was setting. We began to feel better, physically recovering from the exertion, and discussed our plans for the coming days.



Figure 2. A snowy last look into the Chicago Basin

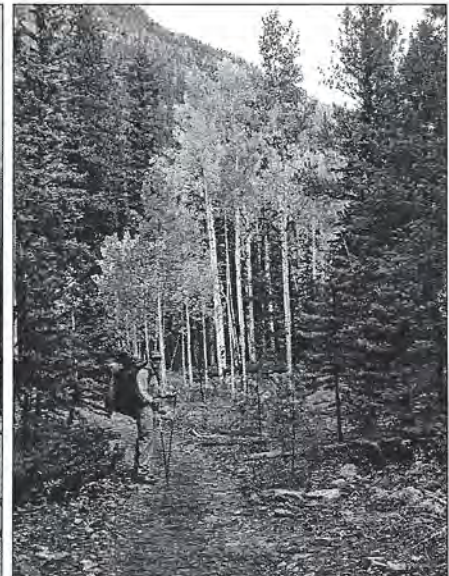


Figure 3. Byron on the trail in the Weminuche

Tomorrow morning we would try our hand at climbing Mt. Windom. The following day we might work our way up the Columbine Pass trail. Our final full day in the Needles, we thought we might try to get up Mt. Eolus. I nestled into my sleeping bag, my mind racing in anticipation of our excitement ahead.

Around 8:30 pm, I went outside to take care of some business, and saw the moon shining brightly. About 9:30 pm we could hear the definite sound of winter precipitation lightly pelting our tent. Later, we could hear clumps of snow sliding down the tent roof. It continued all night long. In the morning, as the sun came up, the snow which had delicately collected in the trees above us began to crash down as large bombs, and it was still snowing steadily. We didn't know what to do: venture out, wait it out, leave, stay. Eventually, some of the snow bombs piling on our tent began melting and leaking/dripping into the tent. The probability of being cold AND wet was steadily escalating. The weather forecast had anticipated even more precipitation in store for tomorrow. About 12:30 pm, with substantial angst and gnashing of teeth, we decided to break camp, repack, and move down the trail, hopefully to an elevation without blizzard conditions. Before leaving, I tried to take some photos through the dense clouds and swirling snow. These photos proved to be sad indeed; a virtual white-out (Figure 2). We worked our way up basin to find a decent place to cross Needle Creek and pick up the trail. The landmarks had changed (been erased) by approximately 6-8 inches of snow. We eventually found the "trail" and made our way down. I had water-proofed my boots prior to this trip, nevertheless, the deep snow was seeping through and my socks became soggy and uncomfortable.

A few miles down the trail, the snow decreased and gradually became rain and drizzle. As we padded silently down through the golden aspen, each resigned to our own thoughts and misgivings, we happened upon a young couple making their way up trail. They had apparently gotten off of the train that morning. We enlightened them regarding the wintry conditions higher in the mountains. They seemed unfazed. The youthful wisp of a girl asked us in her yankee accent, "Did youse guys make the somit"? Sheepishly, I responded, "Naw, the bad weather ran us outta there". Her male counterpart closed with the usual, "Enjoy!", and they bounded off up the path. Surely, I thought, those two have no idea what they are heading into. Or perhaps, the prospect of a winter storm is of no consequence to them. Byron and I began to second guess our decision to abort, but the decision had been made and we continued our way down (Figure 3).

We camped along Needle Creek about 4 miles down the trail from the basin, with 3 miles to go in the morning to catch the train to Silverton. With our campsite made, I took some time to investigate the creek and surrounding geology. The floor of Needle Creek was black metamorphic gneiss veined with white schistose quartzite. These rocks of the ancient Precambrian Irving Formation are visible at lower elevations; all the way down to the Animas River. The gneiss and schist is overlain by a thick sequence of younger Precambrian pink granite (Eolus Granite), which forms the jagged, glacier-sculpted, mountaintops. Large boulders of the pink granite littered the creek bed. These Precambrian rocks are the central core of a Laramide uplift, and form the high mountains in the western portion of the Weminuche. Successively younger sedimentary rocks encircle and tilt away from the high mountainous bulls-eye. The ride on the train north from Durango is instructive and impressive, as one can see dipping sedimentary beds of Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic, and Paleozoic age. Thick sequences of even younger Tertiary volcanics, which catastrophically blanketed the landscape, are

evident to the east and north and likewise form resistant mountainous terrain. This region of the San Juan Mountains is pockmarked with remnants of a feverishly intense mining period at the close of the 19th century. Abandoned mine shafts and tallus slopes abound; many along high mountain slopes. Some produced significant quantities of gold, silver, zinc, and other precious metals, while most were unproductive and unsuccessful. I'm certain that the men who worked these mines in the 1880s were tough as nails. The living and working conditions were undoubtedly extreme to say the least. One account I read stated that the winter avalanche was their greatest fear and took many lives.

The drizzle continued to fall and the temperature dropped as the sun set and we settled in for the night. The following morning was beautiful and clear. I snapped numerous photos as we made our way down to the tracks, trying to atone for the paucity of images to this point. As we arrived at the Animas River and its parallel railroad tracks, we looked back at the mountains to our east (Figure 4). The highest elevations were covered with a thick blanket of snow. "Very inhospitable environment," we reflected. As we waited for our train, storm clouds began to gather again. It would snow and rain furiously into the night. I wondered how the young couple was faring on the mountain slopes, and felt somewhat envious of them. Then, I felt my still soggy socks and thought better of my circumstances.

We spent the next few days making day hikes in some beautiful mountain areas and drove around sightseeing. Byron and I take these excursions less frequently as the years go by, but I relish the beauty, solitude and effort required. True, our plans on this trip did not work out as we had hoped. But now, we have a prime reason to come back soon, hopefully with cooperative weather. Then, my fantasies on the mountain summit will be realized.

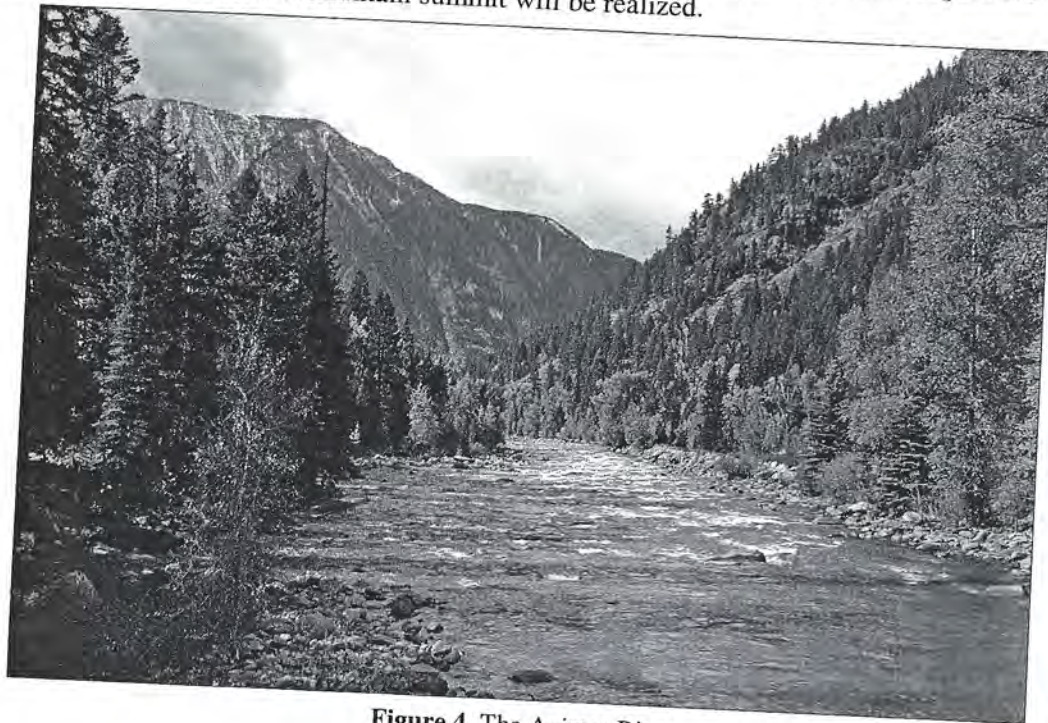
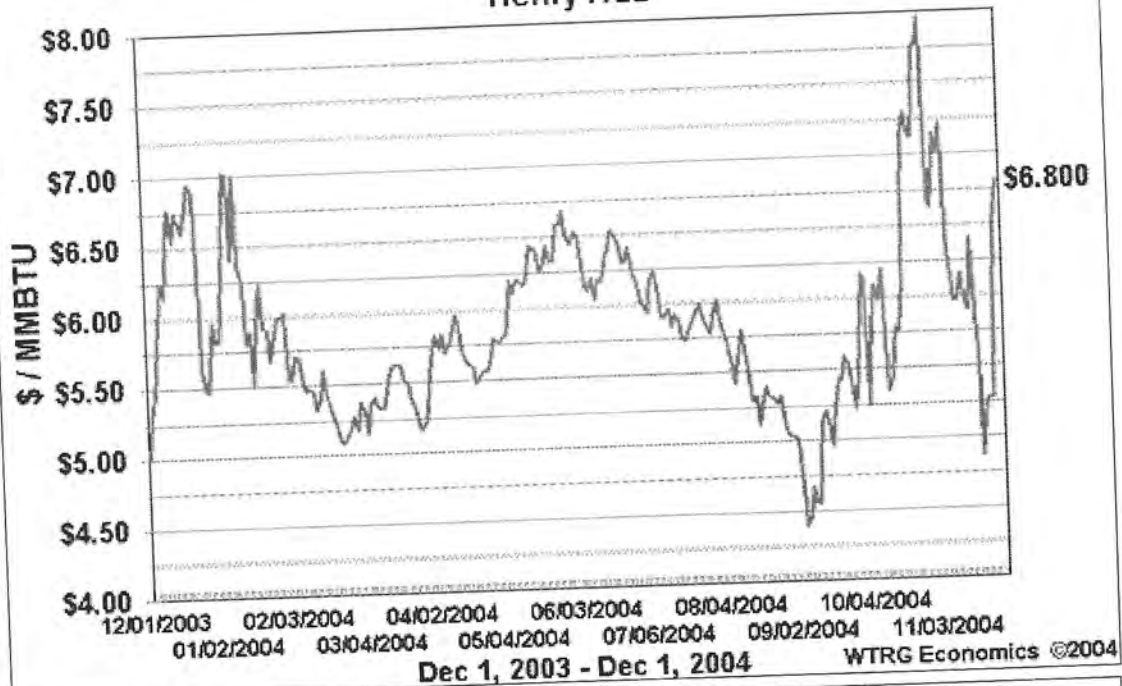
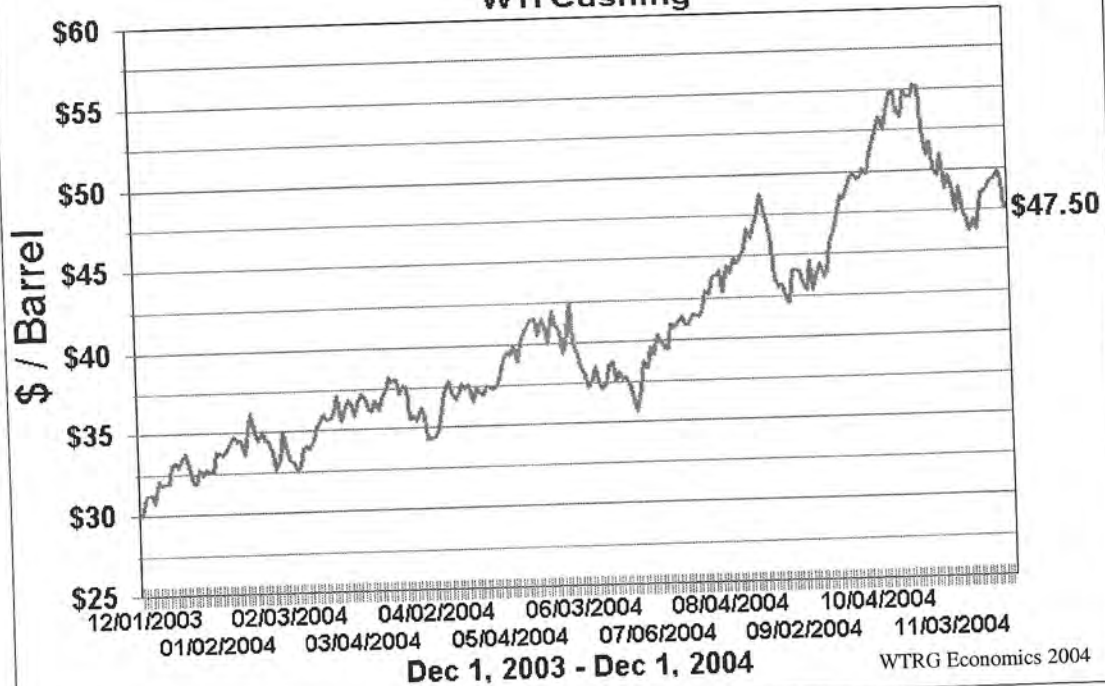


Figure 4. The Animas River

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



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Thibodeaux asked Boudreaux, "What do you take for insomnia?"

"A glass of wine at regular intervals," replied Boudreaux.

"Does that help you sleep?" asked Thibodeaux.

Boudreaux replied, "No, but it makes me satisfied to stay awake."

T-Boy Broussard was hobbling down St. Peter Street with one shoe on, when this tourist drove by and saw him. Feeling sorry for the boy, the tourist stopped and asked, "Son, did you lose one of your shoes?"

T-Boy looked at him and replied, "Mais no, me, I just found one."

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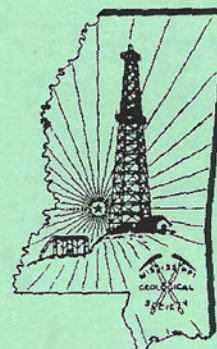
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January 2005

**MISSISSIPPI
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

I hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas.

I want to thank everyone who donated to the Boland Scholarship this year and I also want to encourage you to support this important cause if you have not already. This year we have raised over seven hundred dollars to contribute to the foundation. These young men and women are the future of our profession and as the tragic events unfolded in South East Asia we were reminded of how important it is to further the interest of the understanding of geology. Most people outside our profession do not realize how complex our Earth really is.

I hope everyone has had a safe, happy, prosperous New Year. I will see you in 2005.

James E. Starnes, Geologist

In This Issue:

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"Parade of Champions"

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MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

New Year's Affirmations

(From HumorMatters.com)

I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else's fault.

In some cultures what I do would be considered normal.

My intuition nearly makes up for my lack of wisdom and judgment.

I need not suffer in silence while I can still moan, whimper, and complain.

I am at one with my duality.

I will strive to live each day as if it were my 50th birthday.

I honor and express all facets of my being, regardless of state and local laws.

Today I will gladly share my experience and advice, for there are no sweeter words than, "I told you so!"

A scapegoat is almost as good as a solution.

I will no longer waste my time reliving the past; I will spend it worrying about the future.

The complete lack of evidence is the surest proof that the conspiracy is working.

Before I criticize a man, I walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he's a mile away and barefoot.

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — "No Paper"	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — "Predicting Future Product Prices"	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack C. Pashin, 2004-05 Distinguished Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Boudreaux Pays Respect

Boudreaux, Thibodeaux, & Gautreaux were playing a big round of golf for \$200. As Boudreaux was lining up his putt, a funeral procession started to pass by. Boudreaux sat down his putter, took his hat off, placed it over his chest, & waited for the funeral procession to pass by. After it passed, Boudreaux picked up his putter & returned to lining up his putt.

Seeing this, Thibodeaux said, "Mais cher, dat was de most touching ting I never seen befo. I can't believe you stopped playing, possibly losing all you concentration, to pay you respects."

"Well," Boudreaux replies, "we were married 25 years."

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

Speaker's Biography

Jack C. Pashin earned his B.S. in Geological Sciences from Bradley University in 1982. He went on to earn his M.S. in 1985 and his Ph.D. in 1990, both in Geology from the University of Kentucky. He has worked for the Geological Survey of Alabama in Tuscaloosa since 1988 and has served as Manager of the Energy and Mineral Unit since 1994.

Dr. Pashin is the author or co-author of more than 80 scientific papers, monographs, and guidebooks. His memberships include the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Alabama Geological Society, Geological Society of America, International Association for Mathematical Geology, International Association of Sedimentologists, Paleontological Society, Society for Sedimentary Geology, and Sigma Xi. He currently serves in the following capacities: Coal Committee Chairman, AAPG EMD; Associate Editor, AAPG Bulletin; AAPG Publications Committee member; and Editorial Board member, International Journal of Coal Geology.

Geologic Heterogeneity in Coalbed Methane Reservoirs of the Black Warrior Basin: Implications for Gas Production and CO₂ Sequestration

Coal is classified as a continuous-type unconventional gas reservoir, yet geologic heterogeneity has a profound effect on the performance of coalbed methane wells and the CO₂ sequestration potential of coal. Heterogeneity in Pennsylvanian-age coalbed methane reservoirs of the Black Warrior Basin arises from an interplay among depositional, tectonic, hydrologic and petrologic variables, and each of these variables poses different challenges for gas production and sequestration.

Reservoir coal beds in the Black Warrior Basin of Alabama are distributed through 1,000 to 2,000 m of section and are thus ideally suited for multiple-seam well-completion techniques. Coal beds are within fluvial-deltaic allocycles of glacial-eustatic origin, and bed geometry and coal quality are variable. Although coal thickness is a fundamental control on resource distribution, it is a subordinate control on production performance. Thin-skinned folds and faults of extensional and compressional origin are abundant in the Black Warrior coalbed methane fields. Normal faults partition coalbed methane reservoirs, and productivity sweet spots exist along compressional fold hinges.

Hydrologic parameters affecting production and sequestration potential include water chemistry and pressure-temperature conditions. Meteoric recharge of coal beds exposed in fold limbs has resulted in freshwater plumes that extend deep into the basin. These plumes promote late-stage bacterial methanogenesis, and hence exceptionally high gas content in coal. The salinity of formation water influences how produced water can be disposed and is a legal constraint on where CO₂ can be injected.

Coal rank and ash content affect the capacity of coal to hold gas. The gas sorption capacity of coal, moreover, correlates negatively with temperature and positively with pressure. Virgin pressure is heterogeneous, indicating compartmentalization, and pressure has been depleted to less than 100 psi in mature reservoirs. Injection of CO₂ into pressure-depleted reservoirs has strong potential to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also to enhance coalbed methane recovery, thereby forming a basis for an 18% expansion of coalbed methane reserves in the Black Warrior Basin.

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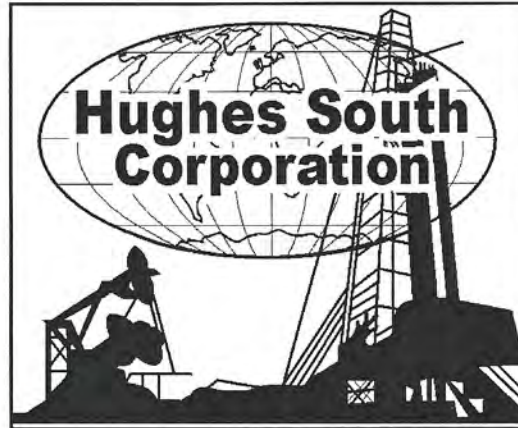
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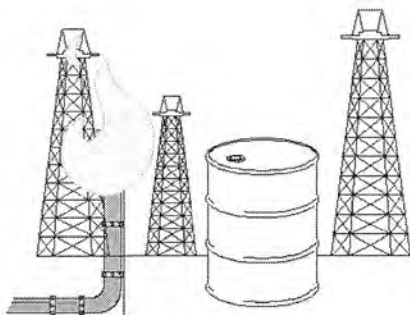
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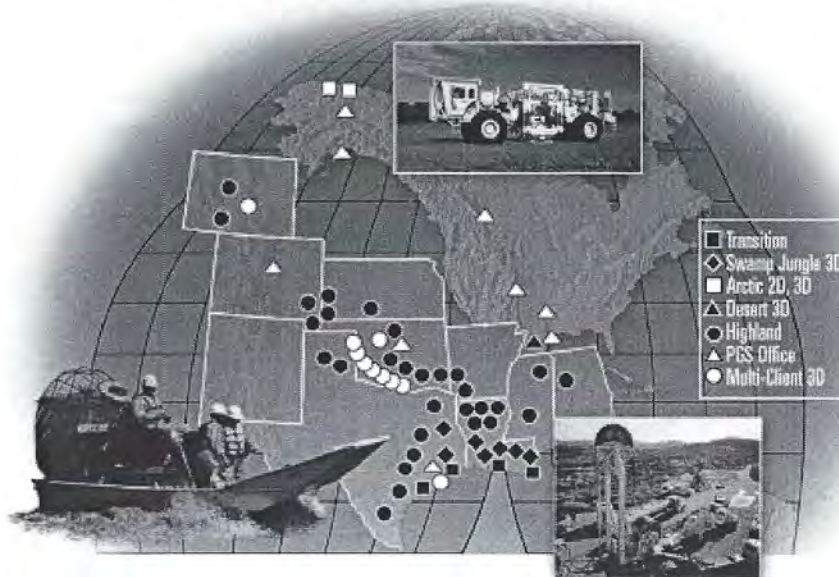
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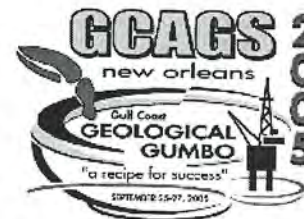
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ABSTRACT DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2005! Questions should be directed to Mike Ledet at abstracts@gcags2005.com.

Parade of Champions

A Historical Commentary

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.

Suppose the oil community of today applied for a parade permit, complete with floats, decorated classic cars, banners, marching bands and an oil queen? Surely the mayor would steadfastly refuse. Nothing but trouble would result, he would say. The Autobahn Society would certainly protest or demand counterpoint floats of their own. And if Greenpeace got wind of it they might lie down in front of the oil floats. The local news media would canvass the scowling crowds for opinions on gasoline prices. Tempers would flare. Bad idea.

But in 1951 they did it. And the people loved it. Here’s what happened.

The occasion was “Oil Progress Week.” There was good reason to celebrate oil progress. The Wilcox Play was booming. Discoveries were coming in at an astonishing rate. Most of them weren’t very big, but at the time they seemed big. People like Bud Norman, Bill Payne, J. P. Evans, and Mac Cox were lighting the Wilcox up like fireworks. Sparky McGlothlin, Wil Knight, Merrill Harris, Lyle Cashion and Marshall Young, among many others, were making the lower Tuscaloosa Play hemorrhage its slimy riches. In the north, Union Producing Company had followed the lead of an impetuous mule farmer by the name of Howard Nason and opened very respectable gas reserves at Muldon Field. Promising opportunities beckoned for more of the same in the hard rock country of the Black Warrior Basin. Mississippi was now an active oil province on three fronts. Oil folks were itching to celebrate.

Irene Coen, of Hazelhurst, felt the excitement. She had hired on as a secretary with Vaughey and Vaughey in 1949 at the tender age of 20. She quickly learned the nuances of the oil business and its quirky jargon. She got so good at it the Vaughey brothers put her in charge of their company’s lifeblood—their land records. Her organizational skills helped her get elected president of the Jackson Desk and Derrick Club. The Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs had been chartered in 1949 in New Orleans. It’s not clear who came up with the parade idea, but Irene was tapped to orchestrate it.

In October 1951 the parade was launched. Naturally it started with geological floats, which included the swelling Mississippi Geological Society and Mississippi State College’s geology department. Landmen floats followed next and then drilling, production, pipeline, and refinery floats. At the end of the parade were the distribution floats. Somewhere along the way the newly formed Jackson Petroleum Club, later to become the Capital City Petroleum Club, inserted its car. And of course there was the Jackson Desk and Derrick Club car, with Irene beaming in the front seat. One wonders where in the sequence the blockbusters may have sought to put their float had Irene allowed them.

The parade flowed past the Governor's mansion, the stately Walthall Hotel, the popular Mayflower Café, and the Standard Life Building, where most of the oil companies kept their haunts. The Hotel King Edward was enjoying its heyday when Irene's oil parade glided past it. It was the pulse of Jackson's social and financial heartbeat. It was a jewel in the rough—a symbol of hope and revival for an agrarian state still struggling to shake off the devastation of minds and material by the Civil War.

Irene's parade was the biggest Jackson had ever seen at that time, with the exception of Governor Hugh White's inaugural parade. It was also the last oil parade Jackson ever had.

The Jackson oil parade was a barometer of public attitudes toward the oil industry throughout the 1950's and early 60's. Those were years of peace and trust between the oil industry and the consuming public. America's industrial might was maturing. Oil was the key to that might, and the architect of jobs and prosperity for all who were willing to work. Mississippians knew that, and they liked oil.

Time and again the public respect for the oil industry surfaced in newspapers, community service organizations, consumer businesses, and educational institutions. Kelly Tires advertised in newspapers that oil "keeps the wheels of progress turning." An ad in the *Laurel Leader-Call* urged



oilmen to keep their boots in good repair. Businesses in Hattiesburg, Laurel, McComb, Natchez, and Jackson knew who bought their products—oilmen, to a great degree. And they appreciated it.

News reporters got excited, as well. A writer in the *Brewton Standard* kept a daily scorecard for its readers during the discovery of the Pollard Field in 1952. He explained oil field terms to them and described the costs and processes of drilling and evaluation. He wrote, “Well, just what is an oil play? I never saw one when Miller High took on Neal. Or, maybe that’s what beat Alabama!”

In 1959 the *Mobile Register* did something absolutely astounding and incomprehensible in today’s politically correct quagmire—they urged young people to get involved in oil. In conjunction with local businesses, the *Register* offered Mobile County high school seniors scholarships for the best essays on the topic, “Development of Oil and Gas Production in Southern Alabama and Mississippi—Its Present and Potential Importance to the Mobile Area.”

The public’s admiration and respect for the oil industry came to an abrupt end when a cement job failed and oil gushed from around a borehole in California’s Santa Barbara channel in 1969. Beaches became marred with crude. Birds flopped around in the goo and fish floated belly up in the slime. The age of television brought the images into American living rooms, and the activists convinced the public that “Big Oil” can never be trusted again.



The petro-politics of the turbulent decades that followed left domestic oil people feeling like the now-abandoned King Edward Hotel—proud and noble but empty and worn. It's a sobering symbol to Jackson oil people who know only too well what happens when politicians pander to votes instead of seeing to the needs of the people.

Petroleum professionals today can only compensate by maintaining mutual respect and trust for one another, educating the public at every opportunity that becomes available, and drilling ahead with determination and perseverance.

Still, it's a gratifying feeling to look back at Irene Coen and her colleagues parading along before a waving, smiling, admiring crowd of citizens—grateful citizens, for what a great industry had done for their standard of living. And maybe someday the parades will again plan their route past a rejuvenated King Edward. And there just might be an oil float or two.



North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 20 rigs to 1,257 for the week of December 24, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 2 at 184. The number of rigs targeting oil is 31 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling currently for oil represent 14.6 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 20 at 1,070. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 111 greater than last year's level of 959.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is higher by 20.3 percent. Gas exploration is up 11.6 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 39.2 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 20.5 percent.

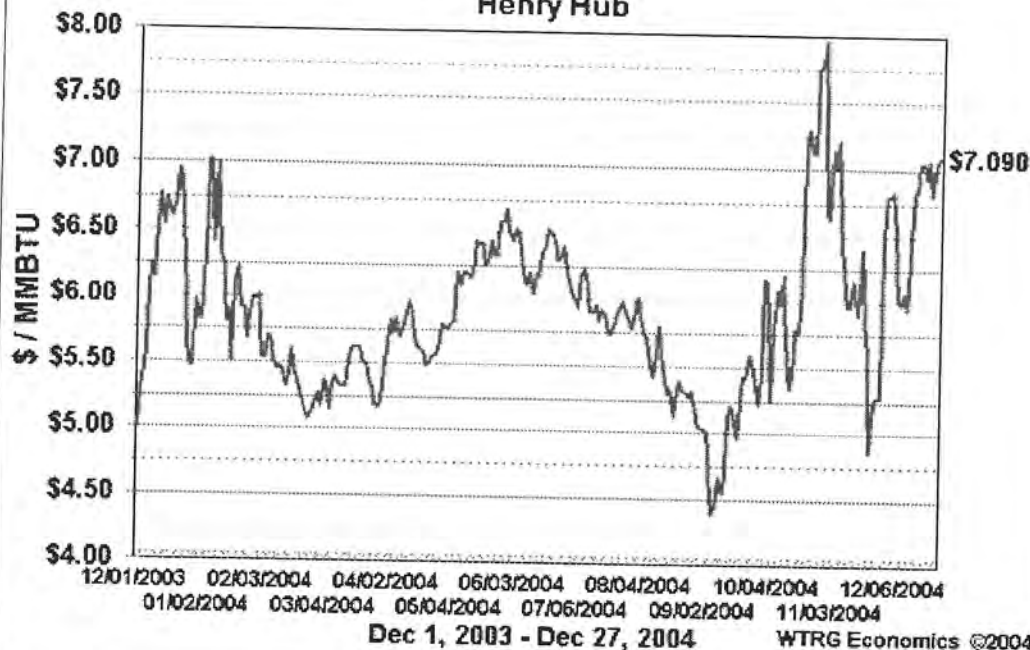
Canadian rig activity* was down 153 rigs to 371 for the week of December 24 and is 63 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

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

North American Rig Count

	12/24/04	12/17/04	12/26/03	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1257	1234	1114	23	143	1.9%	12.8%
Offshore	107	107	104	0	3	0.0%	2.9%
Land	1150	1127	1010	23	140	2.0%	13.9%
Inland Waters	21	21	17	0	4	0.0%	23.5%
Oil	184	182	153	2	31	1.1%	20.3%
Percent	14.6%	14.7%	13.7%	-0.1%	0.9%		
Gas	1070	1050	959	20	111	1.9%	11.6%
Percent	85.1%	85.1%	86.1%	0.0%	-1.0%		
Directional	314	315	265	-1	49	-0.3%	18.5%
Horizontal	132	126	98	6	34	4.8%	34.7%
Gulf of Mexico	101	100	101	1	0	1.0%	0.0%
Gulf Oil	8	8	7	0	1	0.0%	14.3%
Percent	7.9%	8.0%	6.9%	-0.1%	1.0%		
Gulf Gas	93	92	94	1	-1	1.1%	-1.1%
Percent	92.1%	92.0%	93.1%	0.1%	-1.0%		
Canada	371	524	308	-153	63	-29.2%	20.5%
North America	1628	1758	1422	-130	206	-7.4%	14.5%

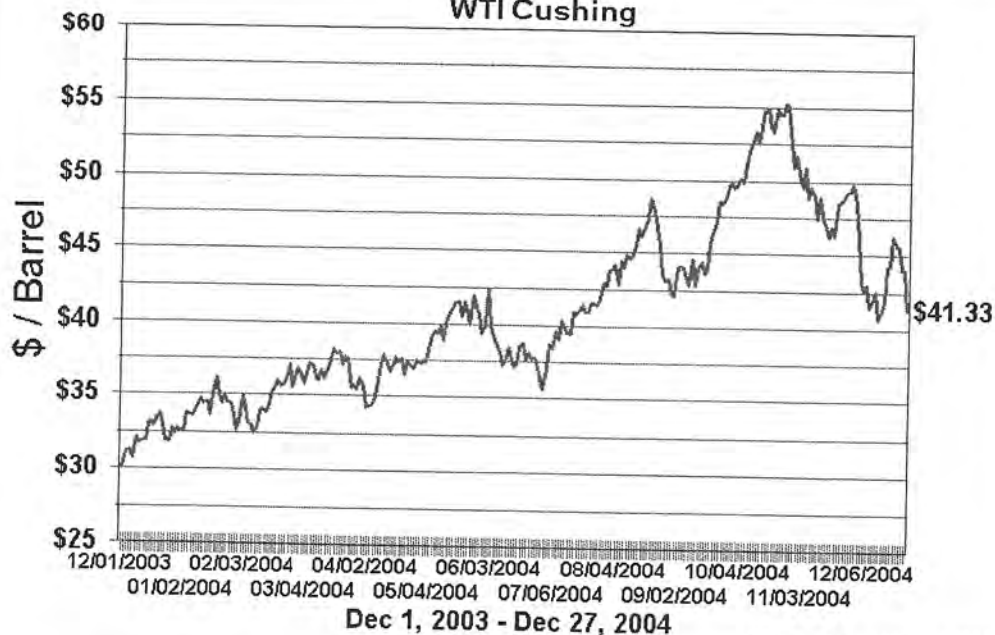
Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



Dec 1, 2003 - Dec 27, 2004

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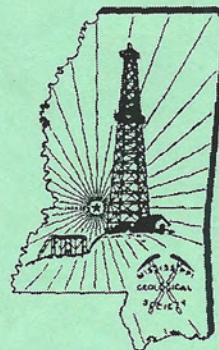
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February 2005

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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

Remember the bumper snicker, "Please, Lord give me another oil boom and I promise not to mess this one up"? Well, after hearing several reports as to how NAPE (North American Prospect Expo) was last week, it sounds like the exploration business is about to boom again. There were reports of more money available than prospects and companies hiring geologists, and the general consensus was that prices were going to be good for quite some time. Maybe we've turned the corner, so let's try not to mess this one up.

On another note, we witnessed an historic day of change in the Middle East this past Sunday. Neither the long lines nor the acts of violence (committed by a few) aimed at derailing this election were enough to keep people from voting and participating in their future. In some areas the polling reports were so high that it makes our own presidential election appear somewhat taken for granted. As good scientists, we wait with anticipation and hope for greater horizons filled with new knowledge and opportunities for a freer and brighter future for everyone.

Sincerely,
James E. Starnes, Geologist

P.S.—Let us also remember our troops still in harm's way, both in Iraq and Afghanistan. May we pray for them and their families as they continue to sacrifice in the name of freedom.

**The Mississippi Geological Society
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In This Issue:

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GCAGS Call for Papers
"A Field Book of Calvin S. Brown"
Rig Count
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack Pashin, 2004-05 Dist. Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	Dr. Ezat Heydari— “Dolomitization of Smackover Fm.	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Dolomitization of Smackover Formation and Its Implications For Hydrocarbon Exploration in Mississippi

In Mississippi, the Upper Jurassic Smackover Formation consists of limestone except on crests of high-rise salt structures where nearly the entire thickness of this unit was dolomitized forming excellent oil and gas reservoirs. In contrast, adjacent undolomitized strata on the same structures lack porosity and permeability. This unique system is studied to answer critical questions about dolomitization process and its application to hydrocarbon exploration in Mississippi and similar situations elsewhere.

The investigation concludes that dolomitization postdated deposition of the Smackover Formation, but it was contemporaneous with the precipitation of Buckner Anhydrite. Dolomitization took place by seepage of Mg-rich, Ca-deficient Buckner brine into Smackover grainstones through subaerial exposure surfaces that developed on crests of salt domes. This brine was derived by evaporation of Buckner seawater to anhydrite saturation in lagoonal environments between salt domes. Dolomitization was possible only when salt movement exposed porous and permeable grainstones close to sea-level. A rapid rise of salt domes would have displaced grainstones beyond the reach of the brines. A slow salt movement would have left them in subtidal environments where deposition of anhydrite or lime mudstone would have shut down brine seepage.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

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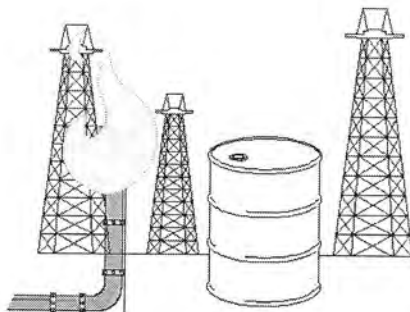
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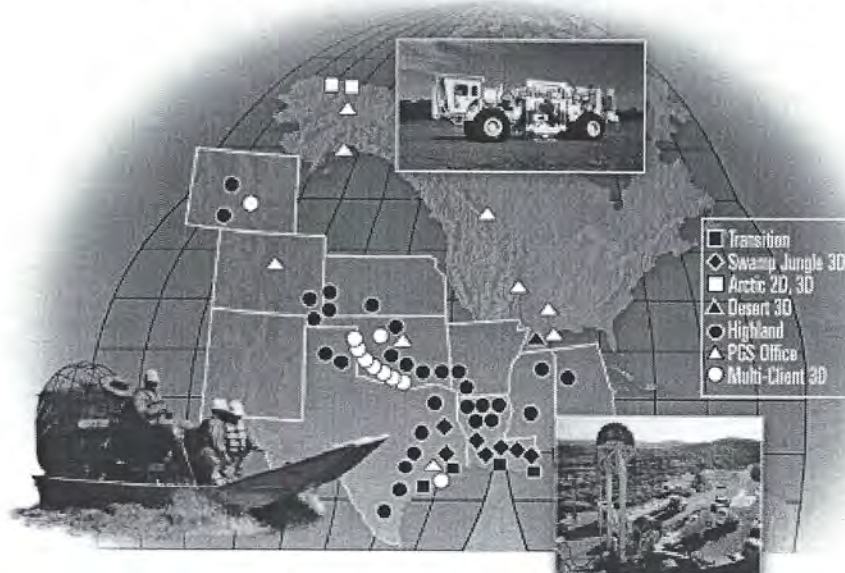
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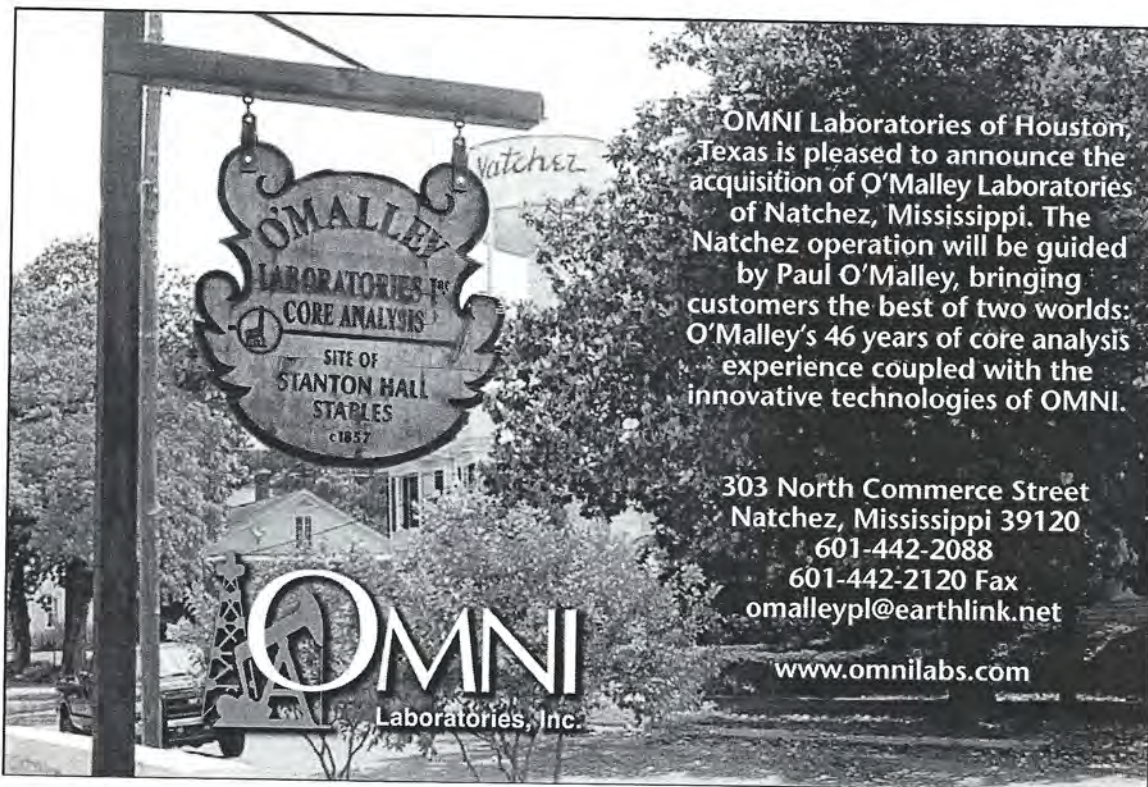
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LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

Hi, I'm Jim Zotkiewicz, Chairman of the GCAGS Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans, September 25th - 27th, 2005.

Thanks to you, the Gulf Coast geologic community, we have had a very positive response to our Call for Papers, with approximately 74 submittals. We are excited and looking forward to our Annual Meeting and hope you will attend.

The New Orleans Technical Committee is extending the Call for Papers until February 11th to ensure we have reached everyone who would like to submit a paper. If you would like to share a technical paper at the GCAGS2005 convention, please go to our website: www.gcags2005.com for details. All submittals are welcome, and we are particularly interested in onshore Louisiana, Texas, and OCS Shelf papers.

A Field Book of Calvin S. Brown
“The Lignites of Mississippi”

David E. Thompson, RPG

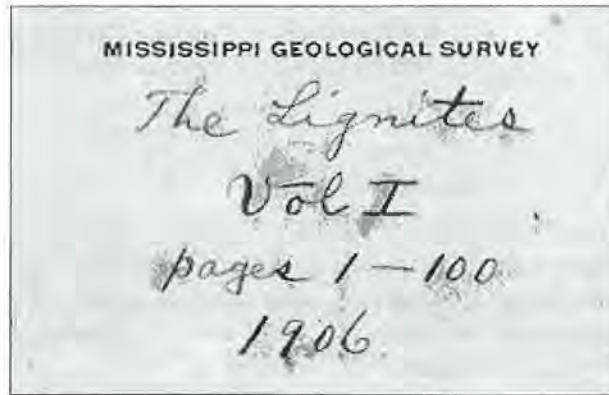
Several years back, while perusing the dark recesses of the old Mississippi Geological Survey building, I came across a true gem — a handwritten field book / diary of Calvin S. Brown, circa 1906. The data contained in that field book eventually became Mississippi State Geological Survey Bulletin No. 3, The Lignite of Mississippi, 1907.

Brown had recently arrived (1905) at Ole Miss and the Mississippi Geological Survey. He would later, in 1926, publish the widely known book, Archeology of Mississippi (1926), also for the Mississippi Geological Survey. Prior to his arrival in Mississippi, Brown had spent time studying in Europe during the later part of the 19th century and held a number of degrees and interests, including geology, archaeology, English, comparative literature, poetry, and music. He remained at Ole Miss and the Geological Survey, holding the position of archaeologist, until his death in 1945.

But in 1906 he was assistant geologist to A. F. Crider, and working on mineral resources such as lignite coal. His field book unquestionably contains a large amount of detailed geologic information, which might not be of interest to the average reader. Yet, a closer inspection reveals personal and historical commentary which was not included in the final published bulletin. It was a different world back then to be sure. When Brown refers to “driving out” to a locality, it was not in a Jeep Cherokee; more like a mule-drawn buggy. More lengthy distances traveled were by train.

It has been noted that Brown, during his fieldwork for Archeology of Mississippi (1926), routinely solicited information from the people he met, and the bulk of his time was spent contacting people and traveling about the state to inventory collections and localities. Based on his field book entries, Brown subscribed to a similar method of operation in 1906 as well. He would frequently partake of the graciousness of acquaintances and lodge in their homes during his outings. Some of the more appealing and humorous excerpts from his field book follow. It is apparent from his writings that Professor Calvin S. Brown was intelligent, thoughtful, persistent, witty, and a fine geologist.

(Editor’s note: The following is the first in a series of excerpts from Calvin Brown’s field book that David Thompson has contributed.)



Oxford, Monday, June 4, 1906

Left Oxford, Miss., early in the morning in company with Mr. A. F. Crider, state geologist. Went to the west through county with Columbia loam, then Lafayette sand, and Wilcox below. In some places two plain divisions of the Columbia, with "buckshot" in lower.

At 10 o'clock passed through Burgess. Water is found here at 112-130 ft. About 1 m. further passed Clear Creek. —Wallace.

Short distance beyond Sandy P.O. (18 or 19 m. from Oxford) heavy iron sandstone with peculiar columnar structure found across the road in Lafayette.

Short distance beyond, the Wilcox is eroded into a formation like stalagmites. Came to first appearance of Lafayette gravel about 9 m. from Batesville (21 m. from Oxford), which continues to within 3 m. of Batesville. Claystone in Lafayette.

Three Indian mounds in valley between the road and railroad 3 m. N.E. of Batesville. Flowing artesian water in Batesville, depth 302 ft.; iron, alum., and sulfur.

On to Tocowa. Strike hills five m. from Batesville. Loess, sometimes 11 to 16 ft. thick; gravel under it. Lignite behind hotel at Tocowa, probably 15 inches. Took small sample, expecting to return to it tomorrow. Also dark lignitic clay.

Tocowa, Tuesday, June 5, 1906

Early in the morning went down the valley 3/4 or 1 m. to outcrop of lignite in bed of stream some distance up ravine. Lignite firm and apparently good. Probably 17 to 19 in. thick. Took bag of samples from the stream. No. 2

Clay bed behind the hotel garden, immediately below the gravel; hence apparently Wilcox. This clay contains leaf impressions. The gravel bed is apparently persistent about here. Pudding stone. Tulip-trees and beeches.

Left for Oxford at 7:45 am. By way of Courtland. Travel to Courtland, over the sand. At one place 1 1/2 m. west of Courtland gravel 8 ft. thick.

Courtland – East of Courtland again thick gravel, which rapidly thins out, and finally disappears about 4 or 5 m. east of Courtland.

Orwood – A few small pebbles in Lafayette about 1 m. east of Orwood.

Taylor – From Taylor to Oxford the road is frequently in Lafayette sand, the Columbia often missing. Search revealed the Columbia on the highest hill.

About halfway to Oxford found a boulder weighing several hundred lbs. And a number of large quartzitic stones, some between 1000 & 2000 lbs. In weight, with peculiar columnar or crystalline structure; the simple columns several inches across, apparently pentagonal. The presence of these stones is hard to explain. Reached Oxford after 8 o'clock.

Tupelo, Monday, June 18, 1906

Left in the morning for Greenwood Springs, where Mr. B. F. Clark is very positive he saw coal in two outcrops. The R.R. runs down Old Town Creek bottom to the Tombigbee. At Amory, where I stopped half an hour, a flowing well, heavy with iron. No rumor of lignite. Gravel beyond Amory. Cucumber tree (*Magnolia macrophylla?*), pine.

Greenwood Springs, Monroe Co., T. 13, R. 17. Went to places in road mapped by Mr. Clark, but found no indication of coal or lignite. Talked with Mr. Dean 1 1/2 m. beyond the springs, who some ten years ago tried to dig two wells and abandoned each of them in turn. In first well struck at 25 ft. solid lignite into which he went only about 6 inches. Tried second well lower down hill. Struck 8 in. hard lignite at 23 ft. After 2 ft. of very tough clay struck 3 ft. of lignite 1/2 ft. soft, 2 1/2 ft. solid). Gave off troublesome gas. Would not burn well. Crumbled after exposure. By digging in old well heap I found pieces of this lignite, which showed distinct woody structure.

Then went about 3 m. to a school house, near which there is an outcrop of tough lignitic clay. In a wall near by "black dirt" was struck. Water of Greenwood Springs, according to an analysis, contains iron, lime, magnesia, organic matter, etc.

Abundance of gravel, some of which is quite angular, showing little wear. Sweetgum, Tupelo gum, cucumber (*M. macrophylla?*), bay, beech, oak, "poplar" (*L. tulipifera*), ash, short-leafed pine, papaw, chestnut, maple, sourwood, dogwood, sycamore, hickory, elm.

Greenwood Springs, Tuesday, June 19, 1906

Drove to Mr. Wm. Wise's place, four m. south of Greenwood Sp'gs station. His outcrop of lignite is very small and the material scarcely more than wood.

Then on to Mr. Whittaker's farm one m. further. A thick bed of dark tenacious heavily lignitic clay, which would not burn when placed in a wood fire. Below this clay Mr. Whittaker says there is "coal" from 4 to 6 in. thick, but we could not get to the bottom owing to the water which (ran) out above the clay and to lack of time.

Mr. Morrow who lives about a mile away is also reported to have coal, but I did not examine his outcrop.

Abundance of gravel; a fine bed just beyond the Buttahatchie River. Got back to Greenwood Station too late for the 11 o'clock train west.

Arrived in Aberdeen late in the afternoon. Several flowing wells along the main street. Walked down to the Tombigbee River, passing Lafayette Sand. In the Tombigbee Sand (Cretaceous) found some giant ammonites and other fossils and large peculiar concretions. A button factory has been cutting buttons from the recent river shells and perforated shells are to be seen on the streets. Spent the night in Aberdeen.

Wednesday, June 20, 1906

Left Aberdeen in the morning over the Illinois Central RR. Cretaceous shells in some of the cuts and gullys. Some good farming land.

From West Point to Starkville. Selma Chalk (rotten limestone) exposed in many places. Stopped at Ackerman.

Afternoon, out six (6) m. from town to southeast corner of township, T. 17, R. 11 E, where I found on W. A. Collin's land an outcrop of 29 inches of apparently good lignite. There is sand above, with but little thickness however immediately over the exposure. The hills are steep though on each side of the ravine. Below lignite is clay. Near the top of the lignite shows a decided structure, but lower down is better. Cannot tell the lateral extent, but strike it 28 feet up stream at depth of 2 ft. Noticed some pyrite. No lignitic clay on top.

(To be continued . . .)

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Boudreaux's Dead Give-away

Boudreaux staggered home late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Thibodeaux. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Clotile.

He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Boudreaux sprang up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the mirror to see that his cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Boudreaux woke up with searing pain in his head and rear. Clotile was staring at him from across the room. She said, "You were drunk again last night, weren't you Boudreaux?"

Boudreaux said, "Mais chere, why you say such a mean thing?"

"Well," Clotile said, "it could be the open front door; it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs; it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house; it could be your bloodshot eyes; but, mostly . . . It's all those Band-Aids stuck on the downstairs mirror!"

While attending a marriage seminar in Maurice dealing with communication, Boudreaux and Clotile listened to the instructor, Theophile.

"It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other," Theophile said, addressing the men. "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Boudreaux leaned over, touched Clotile's arm gently, and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"

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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 7 rigs at 1,256 for the week of January 28, 2005 and is 15.9 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 8 at 185. The number of rigs targeting oil is 43 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling currently for oil represent 14.7 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 15 at 1,069. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 131 greater than last year's level of 938.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is higher by 30.3 percent. Gas exploration is up 14.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 45.2 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 9.1 percent.

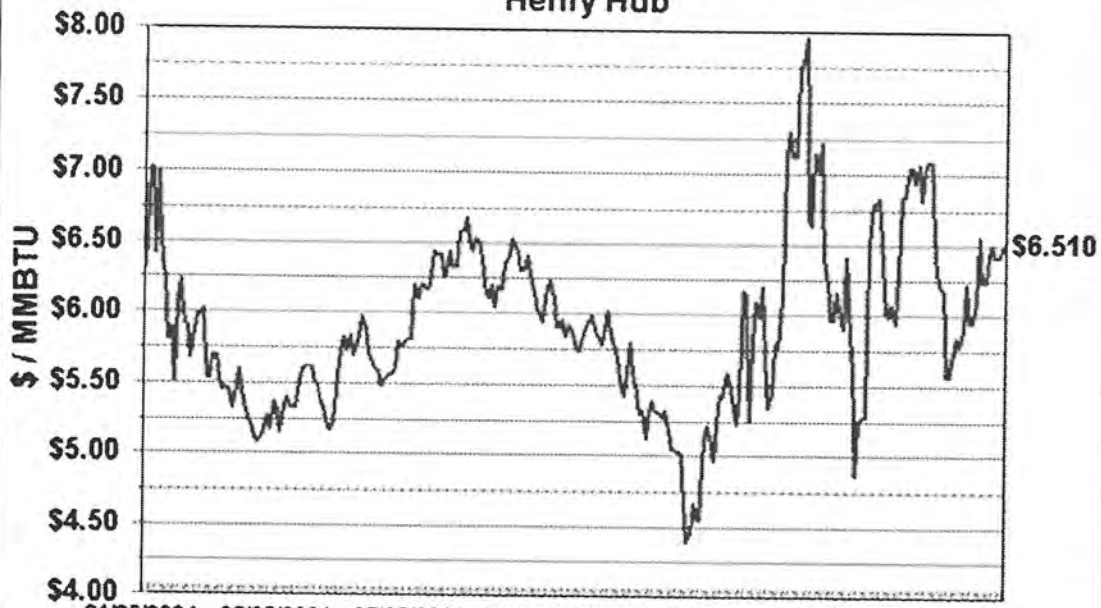
Canadian rig activity* was down 2 rigs to 594 for the week of January 28 and is 9 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*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	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
	01/28/05	01/21/05	01/30/04				
Total U.S.	1256	1263	1084	-7	172	-0.6%	15.9%
Offshore	102	99	96	3	6	3.0%	6.3%
Land	1154	1164	988	-10	166	-0.9%	16.8%
Inland Waters	24	23	15	1	9	4.3%	60.0%
Oil	185	177	142	8	43	4.5%	30.3%
Percent	14.7%	14.0%	13.1%	0.7%	1.6%		
Gas	1069	1084	938	-15	131	-1.4%	14.0%
Percent	85.1%	85.8%	86.5%	-0.7%	-1.4%		
Directional	331	324	268	7	63	2.2%	23.5%
Horizontal	135	141	94	-6	41	-4.3%	43.6%
Gulf of Mexico	95	95	95	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Gulf Oil	7	7	3	0	4	0.0%	133.3%
Percent	7.4%	7.4%	3.2%	0.0%	4.2%		
Gulf Gas	88	88	92	0	-4	0.0%	-4.3%
Percent	92.6%	92.6%	96.8%	0.0%	-4.2%		
Canada	594	596	585	-2	9	-0.3%	1.5%
North America	1850	1859	1669	-9	181	-0.5%	10.8%

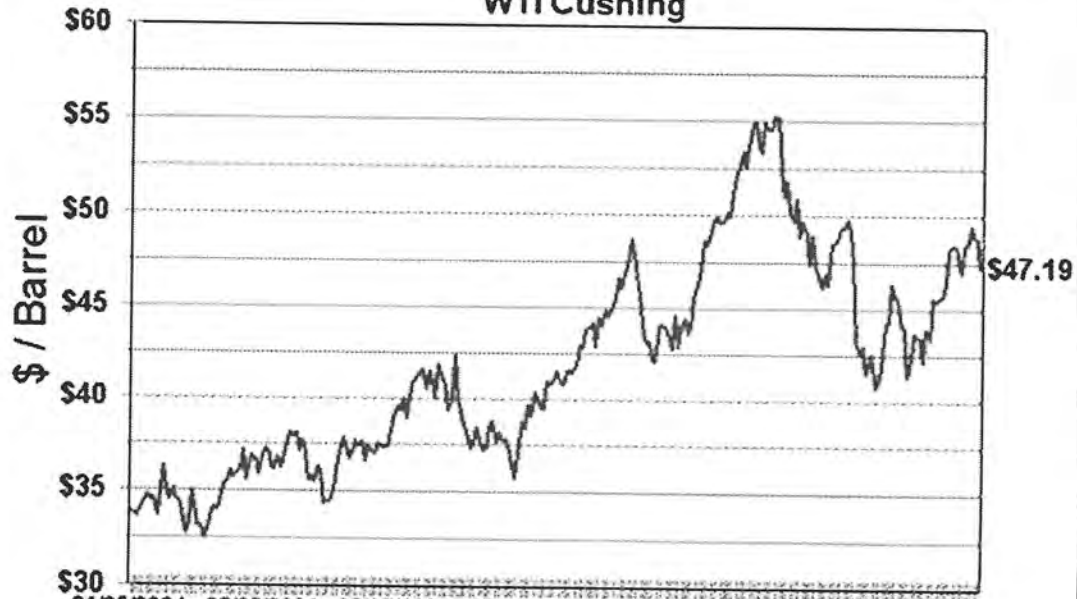
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Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



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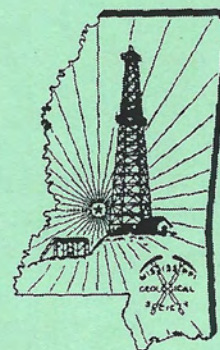
Volume 53

No. 7

March 2005

**MISSISSIPPI
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

I know everyone enjoyed listening to one of our own last month at the luncheon. Dr. Ezat Heydari (the Cajun native) always draws a crowd. This month we are looking forward to seeing another member of our group at the podium. The program will be presented by the accomplished geologist and author, Mr. Alan Cockrell. Entitled, *Drilling Ahead: The Quest for Oil in the Deep South, 1945-2005*, this program is sure to make a great connection with many of you who have personally played a part or witnessed many of these historical events firsthand as they unfolded.

Congratulations to our Mississippi Geological Society Student Paper Award recipient, graduate student Amy Seiter, with the support of her professor, Dr. David Ufnar of the University of Southern Mississippi. Their paper, *Implications of a Quaternary Soil Chronosequence to Landscape Development in Southeastern Mississippi*, was presented at the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting in Oxford, MS, last month. It is encouraging to see the abilities of these promising young geologists from our Mississippi schools. They are definitely equipped to handle the opportunities and challenges of our future. They, too, are certainly destined to play a part in the making of history in our science.

Sincerely,
James E. Starnes, Geologist



Amy Seiter, recipient of the MGS Student Paper Award

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Speaker's Abstract
"A Field Book of Calvin S. Brown"
Rig Count
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack Pashin, 2004-05 Dist. Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	Dr. Ezat Heydari— “Dolomitization of Smackover Fm.”	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	Alan Cockrell—“Drilling Ahead”	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Alan Cockrell March Speaker

Alan Cockrell, a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, earned a B.S. in Geology from the University of Alabama in 1972. After serving five years in the USAF as a pilot, he returned to Tuscaloosa to work for the Alabama Oil and Gas Board. In 1978 he moved to Jackson and worked with Grace Petroleum, becoming district geologist. Later, he worked with PWR Exploration, Pruet Oil, and Coastal Exploration. During his years in Jackson he continued to fly with the Mississippi Air Guard. In 1989 he switched careers and joined United Airlines. He is currently a Boeing 737 captain, based in Chicago. His book, *Tail of the Storm*, was published in 1995. He also published several magazine stories and was a columnist for the *Huntsville Times*. In 1996 his story *Discovery at Oscar's Duster*, an oil story, took First Prize, Ethel Harvey Award for Non-fiction, at the Deep South Writer's Conference. He lives with his family in Huntsville, Alabama.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

Drilling Ahead: The Quest for Oil in the Deep South, 1945—2005

Abstract

In his book *Oil in the Deep South: A History of Oil Exploration in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, 1889-1945* Dudley Hughes wrote inspiring stories about oil people and their accomplishments that forever changed the way of life in the Deep South and in some ways the entire country. *Drilling Ahead* begins where Hughes' account ended, at the close of WW II, and follows the development of the oil and gas industry in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.

It is the story of a region and a people whose dreams, risks, hard work, and dedication have affected the economic life of the entire country. It covers most of the significant discoveries in the Deep South and even a few miserable failures, with a focus on people more than events. Much of the story is told through the words of those who made the history or saw it happen. *Drilling Ahead* emphasizes the meritorious and lasting impact on the quality of modern life that oil people produced. The University Press of Mississippi has scheduled its release in September 2005.

Earthquake Q&A

(From www.space.com)

What was the deadliest known earthquake?

The world's deadliest recorded earthquake occurred in 1557 in central China. It struck a region where most people lived in caves carved from soft rock. The dwellings collapsed, killing an estimated 830,000 people. In 1976 an earthquake in Tangshan, China, killed more than 250,000 people.

What was the strongest earthquake in recent times?

In 1960 an earthquake off the coast of Chile had a magnitude of 9.6 and broke a fault more than 1,000 miles long.

Which earthquake was larger, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake or the 1964 quake in Anchorage, Alaska?

The Anchorage earthquake had a magnitude of 9.2, whereas the San Francisco earthquake was a magnitude 7.8. This difference equates to 125 times more energy being released in the 1964 quake and accounts for why the Anchorage earthquake was felt over an area of almost 500,000 square miles.

What is the most earthquake-prone state in the US?

Alaska experiences a magnitude 7 earthquake almost every year, and a magnitude 8 or greater on average every 14 years. Florida and North Dakota get the fewest earthquakes in the states.

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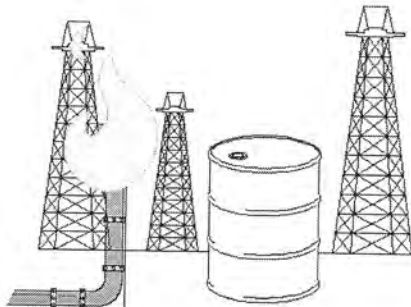
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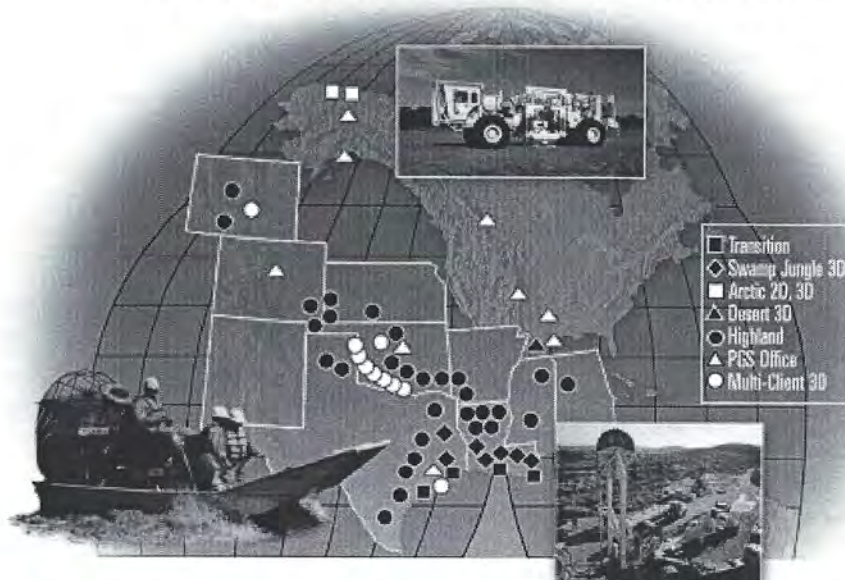
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Boudreaux Wins A Bet

A Texan walked into the City Bar last weekend and started bragging that nobody could drink like Texans can. He bet that if any of the Cajuns there could drink a whole case of beer in an hour or less he would pay him \$100.

No one took him up on his offer, and in fact Boudreaux got up and walked out. A little while later, Boudreaux came back inside and asked the Texan if his offer was still good. The Texan said it was, and he would even pay for the beer.

Boudreaux told the bartender to line 'em up, and he made short order of the case of beer, finishing it in well less than the hour.

The totally amazed Texan held up his part of the deal and paid him the hundred dollars. But he was a little curious and asked Boudreaux, "By the way, when I made the offer, you left. Where did you go?"

Boudreaux answered, "Mais, I went to de other bar across de street. I had to make sure I could do it!"

A Field Book of Calvin S. Brown
"The Lignites of Mississippi"

David E. Thompson, RPG
(Continued from last month)

Ackerman, Thursday, June 21, 1906

Out on the Chester road to northwest. Lafayette sand, overlain in places by Columbia; further out, the Columbia becomes more common.

At Chester 6 m. from Ackerman at the spring just below the jail there is an outcrop of about 20 to 22 inches of lignite underlain by about 9 in. of poorer lignite or lignitic clay. Cannot estimate extent. Above the bed is sandy clay; below tough clay. Hill rather steep above. Took specimen No. 7.

At another spring SW about 100 yds. is another outcrop, probably of same horizon, and apparently somewhat thinner. The gentleman with me said there was a third outcrop 100 yds. further on. I did not see it. Has been worked in the shop, but would not weld. Between the 1st and 2nd outcrop is a petrified log, with some coloring matter. To the old Moses Bridges place, now J. R. Ray's mothers, S. 33, T. 18, R 10 E, presumably the place mentioned by Hilgard 1860, p. 162 (Mr. Ray says he has known the outcrop 46 years.). Here the bed of the creek has been turned aside and the lignite buried to considerable depth. The hole dug three years ago is full of water, so that we could not use it for getting samples or taking measurement. After working for an hour or more and failing to get through the hard sandy clay (with vegetable remains) at another place took samples from of the lignite thrown out 2 or 3 yrs. ago and covered by earth. This appears to be of good quality and in larger blocks than most found heretofore. Shows plant traces. Saw no sulphur. Mr. J. R. Ray says he put some in his fire at home but it smelled so bad he threw it out. My driver put some on small wood fire on the roadside; ignites with difficulty; burning two hours later as we returned. Mr. Ray found this seam to be 18 or 20 in., but after thinking about it he reported an hour later his recollection was nearly 3 ft. Even the latter does not come up to Hilgard's estimate or measurement - 4 ft. Sample No. 8, 2 years old, but covered with earth the while.

About 1 m. from this bed is another outcrop on Mr. Patric Ray's land. S. 32, T. 18, R 10 E; thickness probably 12 to 15 inches, underlain by about equal thickness of lignitic laminated shale or clay, which splits easily and shows small plant remains. This shale seems to have considerable lignitic matter in it. Took sample No. 9, including some of the shale from beneath. A spring runs out above this lignite. Hill with gentle slope. Cannot estimate extent of bed, beyond 35 - ft. on one side, where it shows again under a spring.

On the hill just this side of P. Ray's house are a number of ferruginous sandstone tubes, which have been more or less broken by cultivation; the longest perfect tube I noticed was 14 inches, with fracture at each end. Many old fields turned out and growing up in pines. These fields are cleared again after some thirty years, they say, and make good land.

Ackerman, Friday, June 22, 1906

Left for the M. Busby place 10 miles north of Ackerman and 3 m. of Reform. Approaching the place, found twice outcrops of lignitic clay (probably same horizon). Mr. T. B. Bruce, who lives on the Busby place reports that he bored two wells, near here, and at about 40 ft. struck lignite, which he estimates at 10 to 15 ft. thick. Made two trips with two different parties to the place where the Busby outcrop is said to be, but neither party could find it. Found the lignitic clay there. The earth from above may have covered this outcrop. It is said to have been three (3) ft. thick and to have caught fire four years ago and burned several days. Several outcrops of "black dirt" about here.

Mr. T. B. Bruce reports that 3 m. from Chester, 1 ½ m from the Woods place visited yesterday there is an outcrop of shaly lignite which can be used in shop for sharpening, but not for welding. Reform, a new station.

Picked up a box-tortoise.

Dido. – A girl here says her father picked coal in his field 1 ½ m. away.

From Dido to Sand Creek (toward Ackerman). Considerable ferruginous sandstone on the top of hills. Silicified wood near Sand Creek.

On Mr. E. W. Oswalt's land, sec. 2, T. 17, R 11 E. there are four outcrops of lignite, two of which I saw. The second, which I examined in detail, was 32 in, the top 22 in. being fairly good while the lower 10 in. passes into a lignitic shale or laminated claystone. All the bed seems to have a high percentage of clay; contains pyrites. Beneath is blue clay. Valley rather gentle slopes of sandy material. Sample No. 10.

Mr. Oswalt thinks the two outcrops in the next valley of about the same nature.

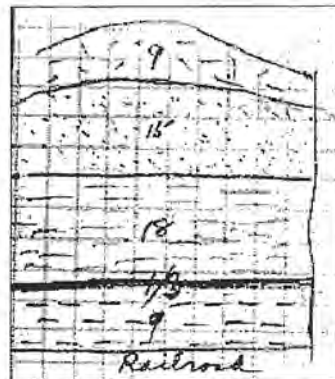
Near by in S. 15, T 17, R 11 E, there is some good lignite in Mr. Snow's field at the spring. Did not have time to go to the bottom of it, but the coal looks so good at a hasty inspection that I took a sample – No. 11- hoping to learn the thickness later.

Another tortoise, which the heartless driver threw against a tree.

Ackerman, Saturday, June 23, 1906.

Big celebration, and could get no livery. Walked out the I. C. R.R. east about 1 1/2 m. to deep cut. There is a thin stratum of lignitic clay and shale running through a considerable part of the cut. The following section was roughly taken on the north side of the cut at the deepest part:

9 ft. Columbia
15 ft. Lafayette Sand
18 ft. stratified clay & laminated shale
4 in. lignitic shale & clay
9 ft. stratified clay, etc



Went to Louisville, Winston Co., on the one o'clock train.

Interviewed the mayor, editor, sheriff, county superintendent, doctor, clerk, and others in regard to lignite. The reports indicate numerous outcrops. Inspected a well that is being drilled at the livery stable, but owing to the powdered and watery condition of the material could make nothing of it. They say they struck lignite at about 40 ft.; and lower down "ink", with which they could write very well, a brown chocolate-colored writing. They have now drilled about 200 ft.

Wednesday, June 27, 1906

Took train from Louisville to Philadelphia. Columbia Loam predominant all the way. Inquired for lignite at two intervening stations but heard of none along the way. Crossed Pearl River-very small here.

There are no outcrops near Philadelphia and it is difficult to know how much credence to give these reports because of constant confusion of black clay and lignite. One man, who is digging a well in the north of town, said he had struck a very thick bed of lignite, but when I reached the place his lignite proved to be clay, most of it even without a lignitic stain. Mr. Donald, a merchant, discredits both Mr. Ray & Mr. Hanna and inclines to think that all or most of these reports have their origin in clay.

Left Philadelphia at 2:30 p.m. to drive east to DeKalb. Could find no reports of lignite along the way. Yellow loam prevails, with very little sand, especially the first ten miles. Spent the night with Dr. Land at Pearidge 18 miles out. Owls and Whip-Poor-Wills.

Thursday, June 28, 1906

Left Pearidge at six for DeKalb. At one place saw moss hanging on oak, pine, hickory. About Hull the sand became much more abundant, and between Hull and DeKalb is frequently hardened by iron into large sandstones. No reports of lignite.

DeKalb - Saw an excellent piece of "fulgorite" tube. Sand predominates about DeKalb. In the old burying ground at DeKalb there are some quaint old tombs made of the local sandstone by a local workman.

Saturday, June 30, 1906

Back to Topton. Drove to the deep cut on M & O two miles above Lockhart.

Considerable lignitic clay on the way. This cut is also reported to have been on fire for some time, but I saw no traces of burning. There is much lignitic earth, but very little true lignite.

Stopped a few minutes upon my return at the pottery located a mile from town. Here they make jugs, jars, flower pots, etc. from a clay near by. This clay has streaks of sand running through it which they trim out. Returned to Meridian.

Tuesday, July 3, 1906

Went to Brandon on early train. The old railroad cut through the town no longer gives a section of the different strata, as it has long since been abandoned, and now shows only the orange sand at top. A zeugledon vertebra lies on the porch of the hotel.

Drove southeast to the quarry (4 miles), where the limestone was obtained for the foundation of the new state capitol at Jackson. Between the strata of limestone rich marls, abounding in fossils of the Vicksburg group----- pecten, oibitoides, mortonia, etc. Some of the limestone is also fossiliferous. On to Rankin.

Mr. J.A.Speer tells me that in a test well at the tank they struck at 30-33 ft a stratum of 3 ft. of lignite. The well at the mill struck two thin strata and a thicker one. In cut just beyond Rankin thin bed of poor lignite. At S. R. Williams well 3 m. southeast of Rankin struck 18 in. of solid lignite; comes out in lumps good quality. Examined hastily the outcrop in the cut at station, which is only ten or eleven inches thick & rather soft.

Returned to Brandon. On to Jackson.

Jackson, Wednesday, July 4, 1906

Met Mr. Crider and talked over matters with him. To the office of Walter Kirkpatrick, engineer. According to an unreliable record of a test well for the city of Jackson lignite was struck at about 350 ft and about 400 ft. No mention of thickness.

Went to this well on the river, where a fine stream of water is going to waste because there is too much saline matter in it. Depth between 1100 & 1200; water warm. Near Pearl River is exposed the Columbia Loam, the Lafayette here consisting largely of pebbles or gravel, and the Jackson Marl.

Collected a number of Jackson (Eocene) shells. Most of them crumble rather easily when taken from the marl. Picked up some beautiful pearly recent shells. Then to the old capitol building where some Mississippi sandstone may be seen crumbling. Then to Milsaps College, where Prof. Sullivan showed us his private collection and the college museum.

Jackson, July 5, 1906

To the new state capitol with Mr. Crider. Broken stone from Brandon quarry used in the concrete of the base. Body of building of stone from Bedford, Ind. Marbles used in the interior, and also composition material.

Went to Canton, could learn of no lignite outcropping or occurring in wells near by. Flowing wells at ice factory 1000 ft deep; water 78°, other flowing wells in town. To the brick factory. Mr. G. J. Smith uses 5% cinders in his brick. Took one as a sample. Some poor limestone from the SW part of this county used about the courthouse and elsewhere. Made arrangement for going out to Pearl River to-morrow, where there are reports of thick lignite.

Canton, July 6, 1906

Started for Pearl River by way of Sharon. Tortoise. Cotton-wood. Columbia principally exposed. About 5 m. from town clay bank with vertical incomplete tubes. Lafayette has considerable gravel at places.

At Sharon took Mr. William Richards as guide. About 3 miles of river bottom, with virgin forest; pasture of broom-sedge, cane, and wild peas. Reached the river at Richards Ranch, 1 ½ m below Alligator Lake. At the ranch and old ox-bow of Pearl River, which until recently had alligators, also the lake of that name. Mr. Richards says he has killed many a one and that there are still a few in the river. Some pearl fishing in river along here.

Rowed down the river by Coal Bluff to Partin's Bluff where Sycamore Creek flows in. There is no lignite here, only lignitic earth. Above Alligator Lake some two m. further up the river Mr. Richards says there is considerable lignite.

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 15 rigs at 1,295 for the week of February 18, 2005 and is 16.2 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 4 at 197. The number of rigs targeting oil is 42 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling currently for oil represent 15.2 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 10 at 1,096. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 142 greater than last year's level of 954.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is higher by 27.1 percent. Gas exploration is up 14.9 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 34.1 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 10.7 percent.

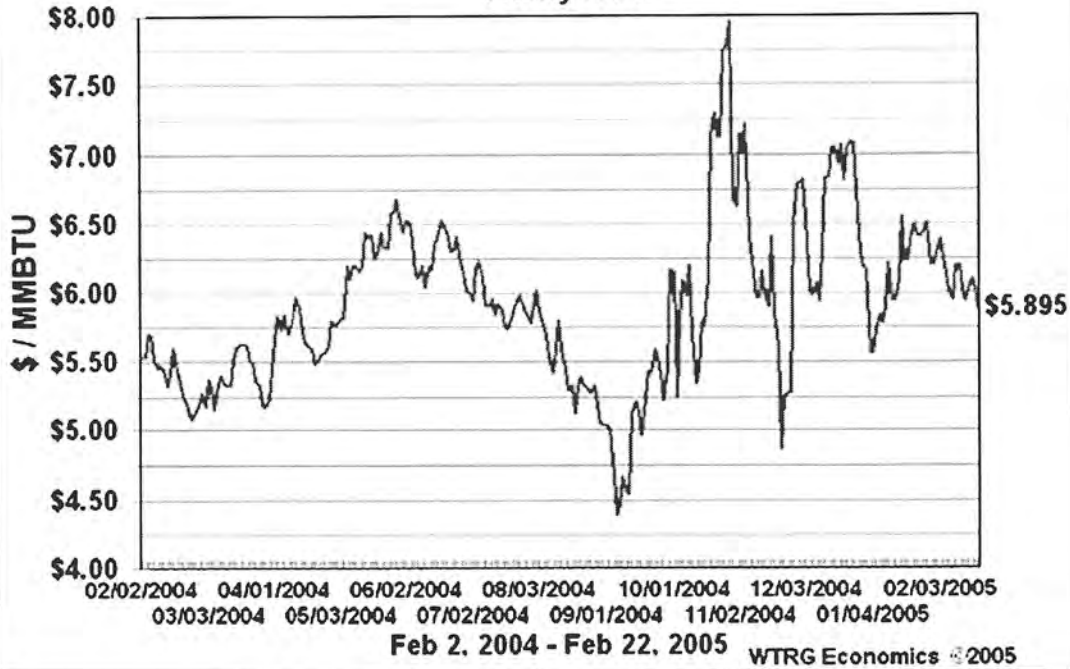
Canadian rig activity* was up unchanged at 589 for the week of February 18 and is 15 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*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	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
	02/18/05	02/11/05	02/20/04				
Total U.S.	1295	1280	1114	15	181	1.2%	16.2%
Offshore	107	105	100	2	7	1.9%	7.0%
Land	1188	1175	1014	13	174	1.1%	17.2%
Inland Waters	28	25	20	3	8	12.0%	40.0%
Oil	197	193	155	4	42	2.1%	27.1%
Percent	15.2%	15.1%	13.9%	0.1%	1.3%		
Gas	1096	1086	954	10	142	0.9%	14.9%
Percent	84.6%	84.8%	85.6%	-0.2%	-1.0%		
Directional	353	339	289	14	64	4.1%	22.1%
Horizontal	147	145	95	2	52	1.4%	54.7%
Gulf of Mexico	100	98	99	2	1	2.0%	1.0%
Gulf Oil	8	7	3	1	5	14.3%	166.7%
Percent	8.0%	7.1%	3.0%	0.9%	5.0%		
Gulf Gas	92	91	96	1	-4	1.1%	-4.2%
Percent	92.0%	92.9%	97.0%	-0.9%	-5.0%		
Canada	589	589	574	0	15	0.0%	2.6%
North America	1884	1869	1688	15	196	0.8%	11.6%

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



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if we agree with him"

Mark Twain

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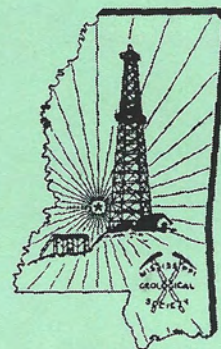
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No. 8

April 2005

**MISSISSIPPI
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~ **PRESIDENT'S LETTER** ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

This season's talks are coming to a close. Before our traditional summer hiatus, we have this final luncheon on April 12th and then our Spring Fling on May 19th. Thanks to the hard work of John Cox we have had an outstanding slate of speakers this year. After our active season is over the hard work by our editor and publisher, Jo Everett and Lindsey Stewart, continues. If you have any contributions — short stories, interesting articles, or announcements — that you would like to share, please contact them.

It is now time to be thinking about officers for next year's administration. Todd Hines, who many of you all know well, will be taking over the position as the Society's President. If any of you are interested in volunteering to serve on next year's board in some capacity, or if any one of you would like to contribute as a representative on one of our committees, then please contact Todd or me some time before the Spring Fling.

I am pleased to announce an upcoming, post-season program that the Society will be sponsoring. We all were impressed by the capabilities of the Petra software at the luncheon program given by our own Bob Schneeflock. Because of much inquiry about the software, an educational program will be put on at Eagle Ridge Conference Center on June 7th and 8th. With energy prices the way they are now, compounded by the ever-growing need of the industry to gather and present geologic information in a high-tech manner, this class may be important to many of you. The cost of this class is \$180 (make

checks payable to MGS). For additional information, please call Bob Schneeflock @ (601) 853-0701.

Sincerely,

James E. Starnes, Geologist

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Speaker's Abstract

"Hole Drilled at Millsaps College by
Mississippi Office of Geology"

"SE Section GSA Field Trip 3"

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

"Some luck lies in not getting what you thought you wanted but getting what you have, which once you have got it you may be smart enough to see is what you would have wanted had you known."

Garrison Keillor

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack Pashin, 2004-05 Dist. Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	Dr. Ezat Heydari— “Dolomitization of Smackover Fm.	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	Alan Cockrell—”Drilling Ahead”	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	“Factors Controlling Oil Production from Within the Washita Fredricks- berg & Paluxy Formations”	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

John “Jay” Cottingham III April Speaker

Graduated from Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, 1984
with Bachelor of Science Degree

Graduated from University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, 1987
With Master of Science Degree

Employment:

Samedan Oil Corporation, 1988-1989

Richland Resources, Inc., 1989-1990

Cook Energy Company, 1990

Gulf South Resources, Inc., 1990-2004

Currently employed with and partner in Tiger Production
Company, LLC, as a geologist

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

Factors Controlling Oil Production from within the Washita Fredricksberg and Paluxy Formations in Fields Located within the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin

Abstract

Although significant oil producers in the State of Mississippi, the Lower Cretaceous Washita-Fredricksberg and Paluxy Formations tend to be secondary objectives in exploration attempts in the Interior Salt Basin. Because of its intermediate depth in rock section, the Washita-Fredricksberg/Paluxy is generally evaluated only after drilling has progressed to deeper objectives. In light of this fact, completions attempted in sands in these formations have a high failure rate.

In spite of the challenges of achieving a successful completion, Washita-Fredricksberg and Paluxy Fields tend to be very prolific. Factors causing these reservoirs to be prolific include: 1.) Geologic controls which cause multiple reservoirs to "stack" one above the other, often resulting in total oil columns exceeding 100 feet; 2.) Low gas to oil ratios coupled with the relatively high porosity of the individual productive sand members, resulting in high volumes of initial oil in place; and 3.) Efficient reservoir sweep mechanisms through high permeability sands by water drive, which can recover over 60% of the initial oil in place.

Successful completions are governed by drilling and completion practices. Because oil reservoirs are frequently interspersed with water-bearing sands within the Washita-Fredricksberg/Paluxy interval or the reservoirs will actually be "on water", it is essential that a drilling/completion program insure the adequacy of the primary cement sheath around the production casing to completely isolate water-bearing sands from productive reservoirs. This can be accomplished without any special technologies, but with a general awareness of the challenges involved and plan to carry out special procedures. When these considerations are met, producers can be rewarded with significant long life production from sands within the Washita-Fredricksberg/Paluxy Formation.

I could have been:

- ... a traprock producer, but I kept getting stoned.
- ... a big oil man, but I depleted my allowance.
- ... a coal baron, but I wouldn't strip.
- ... an oceanographer, but I got in over my depth.

From *Pandora's Bauxite*, Robert L. Bates

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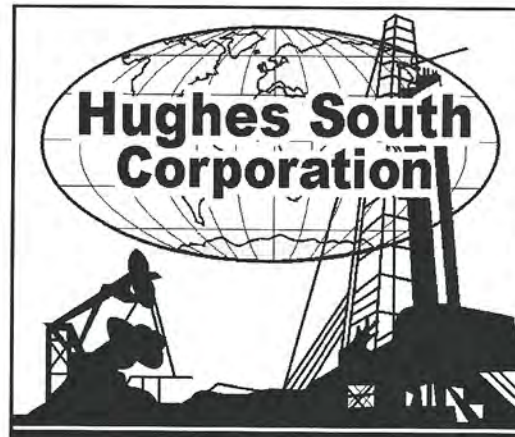
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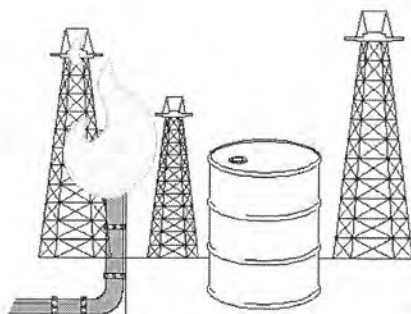
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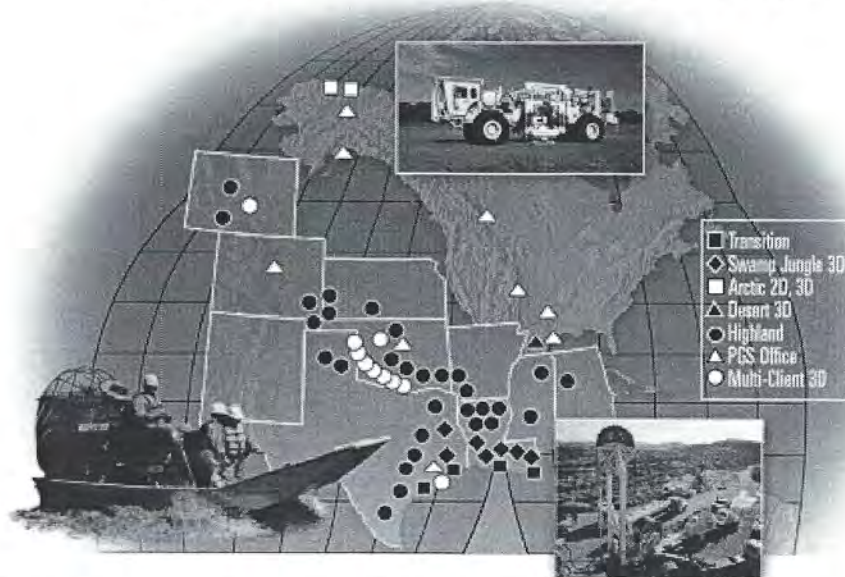
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Hole Drilled at Millsaps College by the Mississippi Office of Geology For Installation of Down-hole Seismic Teaching Station

James E. Starnes, MOG

During the second week of March a 400-foot hole was drilled and casing installed, using the Mississippi Office of Geology's Failing 1500, operated by the Office's talented drill crew. The hole will serve as a permanent teaching station, paid for by the Millsaps College Geology Department. The teaching station was constructed on campus next to the historic observatory, adjacent to North West Street.

The difficult operation was skillfully engineered by the MOG's Trey Magee, Archie McKenzie, and Joey Savorgnan, under the direction of Geologist John Marble in conjunction with Millsaps College Geology Chair, Dr. Jamie Harris. The drill hole penetrated an interesting range of Eocene lithologies representing a number of depositional environments. Core samples of the dense, calcareous clays of lower Yazoo Formation transitioning into the sandy, fossiliferous, upper sand of the Moody's Branch Formation were taken for analysis by the college department. The cores represented the first 83 feet of the drill hole. Cutting samples of the remaining Moody's Branch section, the deltaic clays and fine sands of the Cockfield Fm., and the clayey Cook Mountain Fm. were also taken. An electric log, performed by Geologist Mark Teague of MOG's Environmental Division, rendered log curves of the hole's natural gamma, spontaneous potential, and resistivity measurements.

The hole's primary function will be to serve as a teaching field station for use of a down-hole seismic tool by the College's geophysics classes. The core, drill cuttings, electric log, and other information gathered during the drilling operation can be used by other disciplines within the College's geology department.



SOUTHEASTERN SECTION GSA FIELD TRIP 3

David T. Dockery III

Southeastern Section GSA Field Trip 3 entitled, "Eocene-Oligocene marine units of Mississippi's Gulf Coastal Plain," departed via a 4x4 pickup truck and two vans, the vans driven by geology students from The University of Southern Mississippi, from the Bayview Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi, a little after 7:00 a.m. on Saturday March 19, 2005. While field trips should be anticipated as a wonderful time in the field, March weather in Mississippi is a scary subject for any field trip leader. Fortunately, the fear of rain, hail, and tornados was replaced by a beautiful day that came in gaps between severe weather fronts. The other problem was getting there, as there was not straight road north out of Biloxi. Roger Portell of the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida rode shotgun in the truck to assist me with navigation, as I had made only one dry run of the trip to write the road log (with the help of Ken Davis).

We drove 134 miles before crossing the Miocene barrens (no fossils) to arrive at Stop 1, where fossiliferous marls of the Late Oligocene Chickasawhay Limestone were exposed in the bed of Taylor Creek at the Highway 145 bridge in northern Waynesboro. As unspectacular as this outcrop was, everyone had a great time digging through the clayey marl and even finding some interesting things. Stop 2 was an outcrop of the Bucatunna-Chickasawhay contact on Highway 45. Stop 3 was the Marianna-Glendon section at the Wayne County Lime Plant pit. There we encountered some drizzle, but not enough to stop the fossil collecting. We also had lunch (bag lunches were provided) and then drove by the lime plant and operator's house (which are next to each other) to see their fossil collection. Unfortunately, the operator had a habit of giving fossils away, so we saw only his most recent finds.



Stop 2. The Bucatunna Clay-Chickasawhay Limestone contact on Highway 84 north of Waynesboro.

Stop 4 was a walk through the woods to Red Bluff on the Chickasawhay River south of Shubuta. The exposure of the Eocene-Oligocene boundary here is at the contact of the Shubuta Clay Member of the Yazoo Formation and the Red Bluff Formation and occurs in the foot wall of a large slump block high above the river. It can be, and was, a muddy experience. To add insult to injury, we could see foot prints where individuals, who will remain unnamed, beat us to the outcrop two days earlier to collect the Lower Oligocene fossils of the Red Bluff Formation. This didn't bother Gail Russell's star paleontology student, who went barefoot through the muck collecting selenite crystals. Still, it was a good time, minus a couple of shoes lost in the deep mud.

The last and most difficult stop was Stop 5 at Dobys Bluff on the Chickasawhay River south of Quitman. Quitman pharmacist and lease owner of the property, Al Vowell, met us at the gate in his 4x4 Ford pickup truck. We drove the vans as far as they would go and then loaded everyone into the beds of the pickup trucks. Al had reported the road to Dobys Bluff to be in good condition, but, while it drizzled on us at Waynesboro, it had rained at Quitman. I followed Al in the State GMC pickup on a mud ride over a dirt trail through the woods, all the way straddling ruts and hoping for hard bottoms in the many water holes. We then came to a point where the trucks could go no further, and we had to walk.

I took group pictures at the top of the bluff and then announced it was time for the death march. This march was a walk down a narrow vegetated spine and was even scarier than I had remembered. A slip and fall to the left would send you over a 60-foot-high vertical cliff and onto rocks below. A slip to the right will send you down a steep slope, but one that was probably survivable. Then we come to the steel ladder, where, one at a time, we climbed down the spine, not to the base of the bluff, but to a 60 degree slope, where we had to find our footing before sliding into the swollen river. This passage left a few people behind. The outcrop at Dobys Bluff is a rare exposure of a sixty-foot section of the Cook Mountain Limestone, which is present in the subsurface over much of southern Mississippi. Here it rests on marine shales of the Dobys Bluff Tongue of the Kosciusko (Sparta) Formation.



Stop 3. The Marianna Limestone at the Wayne County Lime Plant pit.

When finished at Dobys Bluff, we had to climb up the ladder with our rocks and fossils (mostly the large saddle-shape oyster *Cubitostrea sellaeformis*), walk up the slippery spine to the top of the bluff, and hike out to the trucks. Then there was the mud ride out, which was just as difficult as the ride in to the bluff. As the field trip leader, I think everyone got their money's worth. Gail Russell, who handled most of the details of the field trip, reported that one of her students said that the GSA meeting and field trip were the best four days of her life. I told that to my wife who responded "Poor girl!" But as field trip leader, I take that to mean it was a great day and a wonderful experience. Some of my fondest memories are the field trips of my college days.



Stop 5. The Cook Mountain Limestone at Dobys Bluff on the Chickasawhay River.



Stop 4. The Shubuta-Red Bluff contact at Red Bluff on the Chickasawhay River.

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 11 rigs at 1,331 for the week of March 25, 2005 and is 15.7 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 2 at 178. The number of rigs targeting oil is 13 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 13.4 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 13 at 1,152. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 170 greater than last year's level of 9982.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is higher by 7.9 percent. Gas exploration is up 17.3 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 46.1 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 33.6 percent.

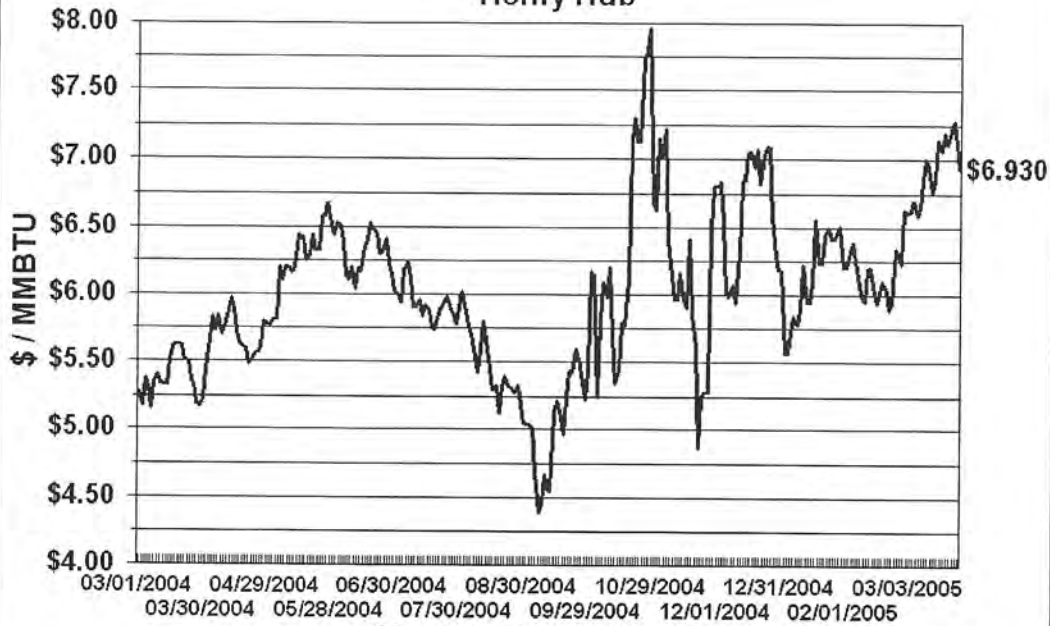
Canadian rig activity* was down 13 at 316 for the week of March 25 and is 4 rigs lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*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	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
	03/25/05	03/18/05	03/26/04				
Total U.S.	1331	1320	1150	11	181	0.8%	15.7%
Offshore	95	98	90	-3	5	-3.1%	5.6%
Land	1236	1222	1060	14	176	1.1%	16.6%
Inland Waters	28	26	14	2	14	7.7%	100.0%
Oil	178	180	165	-2	13	-1.1%	7.9%
Percent	13.4%	13.6%	14.3%	-0.3%	-1.0%		
Gas	1152	1139	982	13	170	1.1%	17.3%
Percent	86.6%	86.3%	85.4%	0.3%	1.2%		
Directional	342	347	289	-5	53	-1.4%	18.3%
Horizontal	161	158	103	3	58	1.9%	56.3%
Gulf of Mexico	91	93	88	-2	3	-2.2%	3.4%
Gulf Oil	6	4	4	2	2	50.0%	50.0%
Percent	6.6%	4.3%	4.5%	2.3%	2.0%		
Gulf Gas	85	89	84	-4	1	-4.5%	1.2%
Percent	93.4%	95.7%	95.5%	-2.3%	-2.0%		
Canada	316	329	320	-13	-4	-4.0%	-1.3%
North America	1647	1649	1470	-2	177	-0.1%	12.0%

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



Mar 1, 2004 - Mar 28, 2005

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Crude Oil Spot WTI Cushing



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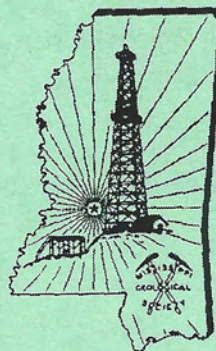
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May 2005

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

James Starnes

Dear Fellow Geologists:

I would like to welcome everyone to our final event of the season. Our annual Spring Fling is scheduled for the 19th of May. Join us!

I wanted to remind everyone that we have a highly anticipated, post-season educational seminar scheduled at Eagle Ridge for June 7th and 8th on the Petra software. For more details on this course, please contact Bob Schneeflock at (601) 853-0701.

Also, please bring your friends and family to check out "Sue" at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (see article in this issue).

I hope everyone has a productive, safe, and happy summer.

Sincerely,
James E. Starnes, Geologist

PS: Anyone interested in serving as an officer on next year's MGS board can contact me or Todd Hines.

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Spring Fling Announcement

"A *T. rex* Named SUE"

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

Don't Forget —

Spring Fling

Thursday
May 19th

4:00 PM

MS Ag Museum

Quotes From Albert Einstein:

"If I had only known, I would have been a locksmith."

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not one bit simpler."

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE		
When	What	Where
September 23rd, 2004	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 12th, 2004	Speaker: Bob Schneeflock — “No Paper”	Capitol Club
November 9th, 2004	Speaker: Richard Green — “Predicting Future Product Prices”	Capitol Club
December 10th, 2004	Christmas Party	Old Capitol Inn
January 11th, 2005	Jack Pashin, 2004-05 Dist. Lecturer	Capitol Club
February 8th, 2005	Dr. Ezat Heydari— “Dolomitization of Smackover Fm.”	Capitol Club
March 8th, 2005	Alan Cockrell—“Drilling Ahead”	Capitol Club
April 12th, 2005	“Factors Controlling Oil Production from Within the Washita Fredricks- berg & Paluxy Formations”	Capitol Club
May 19th, 2005	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

REAL ANSWERS FROM EARTH SCIENCE EXAMS

(From ahajokes.com)

Wegener found matching bedbugs on opposite sides of the Atlantic.

The terrestrial planets are much larger than the gas giants.

The main problem associated with limestone aquifers is Lyme disease.

We don't have rock salt on Guam because that forms from evaporation of oceans, and we don't have oceans on Guam.

Erie, Pennsylvania has no volcanoes because it's too cold there.

We know that the sun is much farther away from us than the moon is, because we can see stars between us and the sun, but not between us and the moon.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 7, 2004

October 5, 2004

November 2, 2004

December 7, 2004

January 4, 2005

February 1, 2005

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005



SPRING FLING !!!

THURSDAY, May 19th

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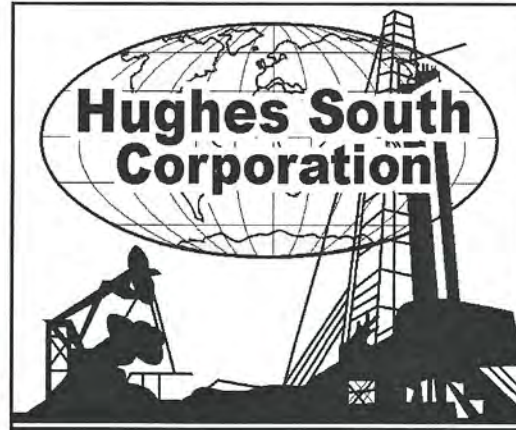
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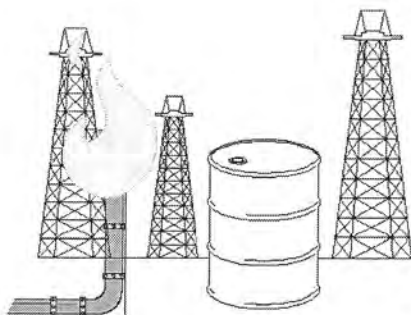
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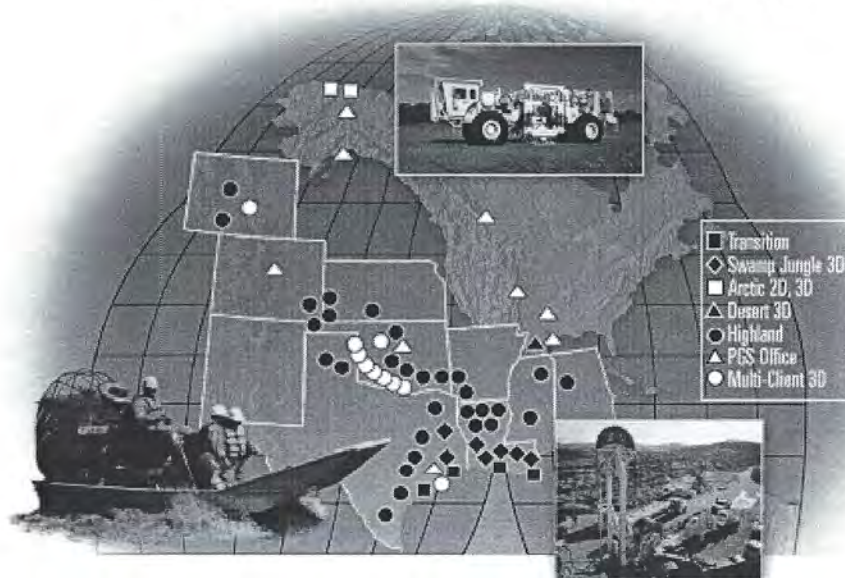
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UP THE LULU!

(From Pandora's Bauxite - Selections from The Geologic Column, 1966-1985, by R. L. Bates)

Over the years I've had occasion to mention many a Lulu—that three-word expression in which the first word is an adjective and the other two are nouns. Since there is no hyphen, it's impossible to tell which noun the adjective goes with. We've had an unexploded bomb expert, a virgin land developer, a buried pipeline designer, a vibrating equipment manager, a dishonored check collector, and a comic strip artist—not to mention an air-breathing propulsion engineer and a non-living resource specialist. When one sees the expression "edible oil refinery", it seems as though luluization has gone about as far as it can go.

It hasn't, though. A story in the *Ottawa Citizen*, sent in by Louis Moyd, described a swampy site where archeologists were doing some excavation. It said personnel from the national museum visited the site with "about 50 waterlogged wood experts", who were attending a "waterlogged wood conference" in Ottawa. This is luluization at its very finest.

A *T. rex* Named SUE

Opens at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
June 18 through September 11, 2005



The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is pleased to announce the June 18, 2005 opening of **A *T. rex* Named SUE**, a nationally acclaimed interactive exhibit featuring a life-sized replica of the most widely recognized dinosaur in the world. The 3500 sq. ft. *Tyrannosaurus rex* exhibition is from The Field Museum of Chicago.

SUE is remarkable because of her size, completeness, and quality of preservation. The exhibit uses those qualities to show us how *T. rex* was monstrous yet mortal. We aim to connect with visitors of all ages and abilities. Through interactive techniques, the exhibit provides a visceral experience by using a combination of visual, tactile, audible and aromatic activities accompanied by written explanations.

Exhibit elements:

1) Skull Visitors will see a shadow of SUE's skull moving across a scrim. On the other side is a life-sized cast SUE's skull; lighting embedded in the base of this element creates the dramatic illusion.

Upon entering the exhibit, the visitor can get an eye-to-eye look at this skull. Rail-mounted elements surrounding the skull include:

- touchable models of SUE's teeth;
- an interactive activity that lets visitors diagnose a pathology in SUE's jawbone;
- graphics and text that describe the story of SUE's skull from discovery to display;
- the legal dispute and how it led to SUE's purchase by The Field Museum at auction;
- the process of making the casts from the fossilized bones

2) SUE's Skeleton A fully articulated cast of SUE is mounted on the base that includes a roll-up backdrop, lighting, and a reading rail. The rail includes:

- touchable cast of SUE's arm bone, tail bone, and rib; interactive activities that let visitors interpret surface features and anomalies of SUE's bones;
- interpretive graphics and text which relate the stories of SUE's history, from discovery to display. Actual headlines, news articles, and behind-the-scenes photos taken at The Field Museum.

3) Interactive Kinetic Models Several visitor-controlled mechanical models demonstrate the functional anatomy of *T. rex* by showing how:

- its s-shaped neck and strong, stiff tail kept *T. rex* in balance;
- its jaw muscles were made for slamming shut; those tiny forelimbs could and couldn't move;
- SUE was discovered;
- Sue's completeness is so important.

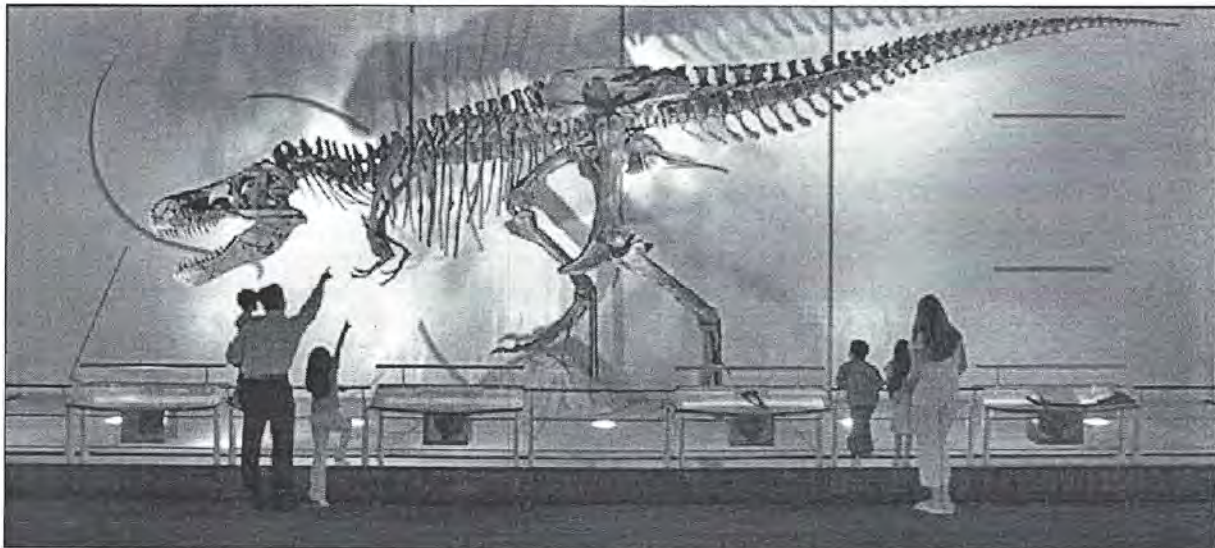
4) Free-standing Interactives Four stand-alone elements encourage visitors to explore in-depth topics related to SUE, *T. rex*, and dinosaur science:

- A large-format 3D puzzle of SUE's skeleton gives visitors spare parts from a "bone bank" to demonstrate SUE's completeness.
- Viewing devices give visitors a peek into the Cretaceous world through the eyes of a *T. rex* and a Triceratops while demonstrating important differences in their visual abilities.
- A *T. rex* smell interactive lets visitors follow their noses to find food, water, and shelter.
- Dino-science and dino-speculation help visitors sort out the difference between fact and fiction by acting as scientists in examining clues about dinosaurs. Is

Two Videos (encased in free-standing pods with graphics)

The first video incorporates popular images and a short animated video to show how our image of *T. rex* has changed over the past century. The second video shows how scientists at The Field Museum obtained CT images of SUE's skull and describes how this amazing high-tech tool is once again changing how we look at *T. rex*.

The exhibit was created by the Field Museum, Chicago and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation. Major local sponsors are the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foun-



dition, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation, Merrill Lynch, Nissan North America, Inc. and Dudley J. Hughes.

A *T. rex* Named **SUE** is only at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS from June 18 through September 11, 2005. Call the Museum at (601)354-7303 for dates and times of special events that support the exhibit.



BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG

A T. REX NAMED
SUE

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A life-size replica of Sue, the largest, most complete *T. rex* ever discovered, is coming to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in June 2005.

Corporate sponsorship packages are available in \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$20,000 increments.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MUSEUM DIRECTOR LIBBY HARTFIELD • 601.354.7303 • libby.hartfield@mms.state.ms.us

This exhibit was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's Corporation, the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, and sponsors like you.

Sue's Vital Statistics

Scientific name: *Tyrannosaurus rex* (From the Greek and Latin for "tyrant lizard king")

Age: Late Cretaceous Period — 67 million years

Range: Western North America

Discovered: August 12, 1990, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation near Faith, South Dakota, by fossil hunter Sue Hendrickson

Length: 42 feet (12.8 meters)

Height at hips: 13 feet (4.0 meters)

Estimated live weight: 7 tons (6.4 metric tons)

Weight of skull: 600 pounds (272 kg)

Length of skull: 5 feet (1.5 meters)

Size of brain cavity: Just big enough to hold a quart of milk

Number of teeth: 58

Length of teeth: 7 1/2 to 12 inches (19.05 to 30.5 centimeters)

Diet: Meat

Sex: Unknown

The first *T. rex* specimen was found in 1900. Since then, only seven skeletons that are more than half complete have been discovered. Of these, Sue is the largest, most complete, and best preserved *T. rex* ever found.

Most of Sue's bones are in excellent condition and have a high degree of surface detail. Sixty-seven million years after her death, it is still possible to see fine details showing where muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues rested against or attached to the bone.

Sue's completeness, combined with the exquisite preservation of the bones, makes her an invaluable scientific resource, permitting highly detailed study of *T. rex* anatomy.

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 5 rigs at 1,343 for the week of April 22, 2005 and is 17.2 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was unchanged at 173. The number of rigs targeting oil is 24 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling currently for oil represent 12.9 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 5 at 1,170. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 174 greater than last year's level of 996.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is higher by 16.1 percent. Gas exploration is up 17.5 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 38.9 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 25.7 percent.

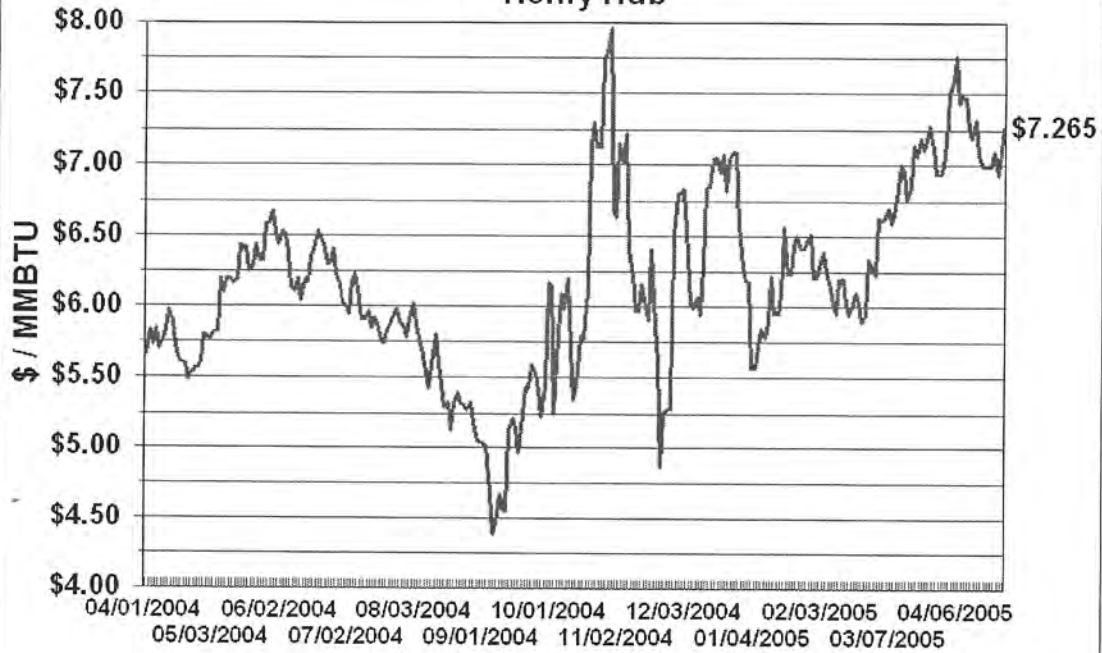
Canadian rig activity* was down 1 at 159 for the week of April 22 and is 29 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

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

North American Rig Count

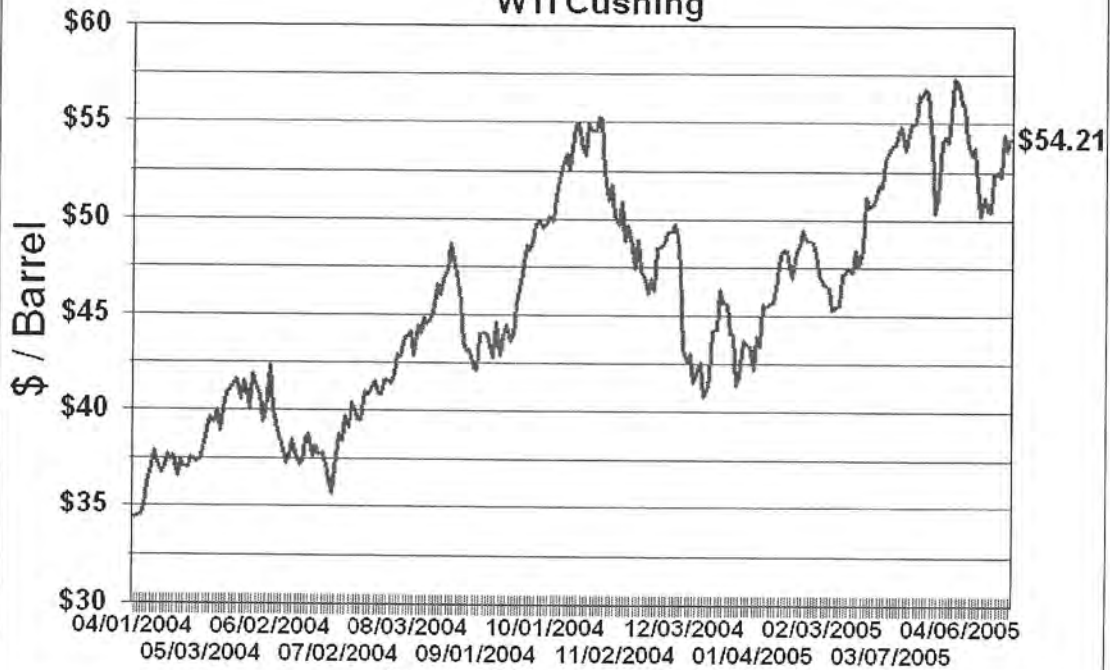
	04/22/05	04/15/05	04/23/04	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1343	1348	1146	-5	197	-0.4%	17.2%
Offshore	88	96	95	-8	-7	-8.3%	-7.4%
Land	1255	1252	1051	3	204	0.2%	19.4%
Inland Waters	26	28	23	-2	3	-7.1%	13.0%
Oil	173	173	149	0	24	0.0%	16.1%
Percent	12.9%	12.8%	13.0%	0.0%	-0.1%		
Gas	1170	1175	996	-5	174	-0.4%	17.5%
Percent	87.1%	87.2%	86.9%	-0.0%	0.2%		
Directional	321	334	283	-13	38	-3.9%	13.4%
Horizontal	165	164	108	1	57	0.6%	52.8%
Gulf of Mexico	84	92	93	-8	-9	-8.7%	-9.7%
Gulf Oil	5	5	3	0	2	0.0%	66.7%
Percent	6.0%	5.4%	3.2%	0.5%	2.7%		
Gulf Gas	79	87	90	-8	-11	-9.2%	-12.2%
Percent	94.0%	94.6%	96.8%	-0.5%	-2.7%		
Canada	159	160	130	-1	29	-0.6%	22.3%
North America	1502	1508	1276	-6	226	-0.4%	17.7%

Natural Gas Spot Henry Hub



WTRG Economics ©2005

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3,000' - 10,000'

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Call Stephen Guido or Fax Drilling Proposal: 601-446-9907

Email: shamrockdrilling@bellsouth.net

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* Will consider Working Interest Participation

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