

BULLETIN



HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Houston, Texas

Volume 9, No. 4

December, 1966

Houston Geological Society

1966-1967

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MEETING NOTICE

FOURTH MEETING - DECEMBER 12, 1966

This meeting will be held on the 10th Floor of the Houston Club Building, Monday evening, December 12, 1966. The social period starts at 5:15 P.M., dinner at 6:00 P.M. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Ed L. Dillon, is a member of the AAPG Distinguished Lecture Tour Team now speaking before the various Geological Societies. He was born in Muncie, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Illinois with a Master of Science Degree in Geology in 1919. Presently Mr. Dillon is Coordinator for Computer Application for Shell here in Houston. He is a member of AAPG, API, American Society for Oceanography and Association for Computing Engineers. The title of his lecture will be "Modern Geology Requires Modern Technology" and some of the important points he will discuss are the effect computers are having in the field of oil and gas exploration, management reports, the assimilation of vast quantities of scout data, programming techniques for analyzing these geological data and how certain technology may lead directly to finding more oil and gas prospects.

Please make your reservations early and remember that you can call Cardinal Printing & Letter Service as late as December 12th to add your reservation or cancel, if necessary. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

* * * * *

— *Items From The
Editor's Desk*

Last month the Bulletin carried a notice of Group Insurance available to HGS members from Rathmell & Company. Unfortunately the item was given more space than would normally be done. It was not our intention to drum up competition for the AAPG Group Insurance program, but to advise our members, some of whom do not belong to AAPG, that such insurance is available to them on a Group basis.

... Fred M. Schall

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In May 1920, David White, Chief Geologist of USGS, predicted the production of petroleum in the United States would pass its peak within three to five years. Consistently since then responsible and competent people have said that all of the major reserves in the U.S. have been found -- and this has seriously handicapped the explorationist. I realize that natural petroleum reserves are finite and are not being replenished within historical time; however I am confident there are abundant deposits of hydrocarbons awaiting discovery in this country.

Thus, I was most pleased to read in a U.S. Department of Interior, September 21, 1966, release, "The Significance of Looking at the Earth from Space", an optimistic statement concerning our ability to find and develop minerals and fuels. I quote in part from this release:

"During the last 30 years, the United States alone used more minerals and fuels than did the entire world in all previous history, and we will double our present consumption of most minerals within 15-25 years. The supply problem is literally compounding with growth in population and rise in per capita consumption of raw materials and energy.

In spite of widely expressed fears that demand will shortly exceed potential supply for many resources, there is good reason to believe that the world's undeveloped resources are large enough to support a growing demand far into the future - provided, however, we aggressively and imaginatively press the search for knowledge of our resources and for ways to discover, extract, and use them more efficiently.

If we had to depend on known supplies, we could predict collapse of our industrial civilization in a couple of decades, and if we had to depend on supplies that could be found and developed, with present knowledge, disintegration would not be long postponed.

To match the acceleration in demand for resources, then, means must be found to accelerate acquisition of knowledge concerning them. -----"

The explorationist from time to time needs a careful examination of his "tools". Perhaps we have become "knowledge bound", depending on the same criteria today as yesterday. We need imaginative, creative thinking, not bound by outdated rules -- a professional competence that takes into account both the practical and theoretical aspects of oil and gas finding.

The GCAGS convention in Lafayette was most successful - over 2000 registrants (including wives) enjoyed a few days of learning and warm hospitality. The technical sessions were timely and well attended. Maybe Lafayette didn't have as many public accommodations as some wanted, but the friendly and "desire to please" attitude of everyone associated with the convention made it a real success.

Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!

... Jesse L. George, Jr.

JANUARY, 1967, MEETING

The speaker for our fifth meeting to be held January 9, 1967, will be Dr. Sigmund Hammer. Dr. Hammer's lecture is entitled "The Geological Interpretation of Gravity". Dr. Hammer is with Gulf Research and Development Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Last month we reported that Jack E. Cornelius resigned from Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation to join Southland Royalty Company in Fort Worth, Texas. However, due to some unforeseen circumstances, this did not materialize and Jack is still with Texas Eastern in Houston, Texas.

James G. (Jimmy) Dodd has moved his office from the Bank of the Southwest Bldg. to 10409 South Main Street, Houston, Texas. His new phone number is MO-8-9301.

Hugh L. Burchfiel, a former member of the Houston Geological Society and for many years a geologist for the Standard of California group and later Columbia Carbon Company, died in Dallas on November 2, 1966. Hugh had retired in 1965.

We just received word that another former HGS member, Mr. Charles Pirkey, was killed in an auto accident in or near Dallas, Texas. Charles was employed by Austral Oil Company before he moved to Dallas to join Scott G. Hammonds and was an independent consultant at the present.

We feel sure that there are many changes, transfers and promotions that failed to come to our attention. If you know of any please pass them along to Ed Heider, 906 Bank of the Southwest, so we can get them in the Bulletin.

Jack N. Darling, formerly a consulting geologist in Houston, announces that his collection of AAPG Volumes is available for purchase. He has bound volumes from 1942 through 1962 and in addition volumes for 1938, 1939 and 1941. The Volume for 1940 is missing. He has numerous other geological publications, some of which are out of print, that he might consider selling to a "Package" purchaser. He may be reached by telephone at JA 6-1375 (office) or MO 4-9783 (residence).

Richard C. Oburn, consulting geologists, 3051 S. Josephine St., Denver, Colorado wishes to sell his Texas Geological library at cost. He has: Texas Bureau of Economic Geology 62 Bulletins ranging back to year 1918, 31 Reports of Investigations, etc. \$150.85. Abilene, Corpus Christi, Houston, West Texas, and San Angelo Geological Society publications \$116.25.

Oburn will not sell piecemeal, but will sell each society separately. Detailed lists can be obtained from him.

WELCOME to the following New Members of the Houston Geological Society.

Harold F. Hendricksen
Robert Howe Mayse
Lewis Bryan Hutcheson
Wayne D. Dirks
David S. Sheridan
Theodore C. Bartling
Lyndell L. Tucker
Rolfe G. Wells
Ellis Parker Mosley
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Cities Service Oil Co.
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Tidewater Oil Company

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Linzee de'N Evans

Welex
Pan Geo Atlas Corporation

HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORY

The Houston Geological Society is preparing a new membership directory. Only those members who are paid up in their dues will be listed. The deadline for dues payments for the current year is early in December. So hurry up and get your dues in if you wish to be listed in the Directory.

DELTA SYMPOSIUM DEDICATION

The Houston Geological Society volume on "Deltas in Their Geologic Framework" has now been published. This study includes a collection of eleven papers on deltas occurring over the world and was prepared by a committee under the direction of Mrs. Martha Lou Shirley. The volume of extensive delta study is dedicated to the memory of DR. HAROLD N. FISK of Houston who was a member of the Houston Geological Society and one of the best known authorities on deltas in the world. A formal presentation will be made to Mrs. Fisk at the forthcoming meeting of the Society on December 12, 1966.

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

Houston Museum of Natural Sciences

One of the many features offered by the Houston Museum of Natural Science is the documentary films which are shown from time to time in the Auditorium of the Prudential Insurance Company on Holcombe Blvd.

The following is a list of those films scheduled for 1967:

THE NEW HOLLAND	by Harry R. Reed	Jan. 27, 1967
STONE AGE NEW GUINEA	by Lewis Catlow	Feb. 17, 1967
TIMELESS TURKEY	by Arthur Dewey	March 17, 1967
NORTH TO POLAR SEAS	by Arthur C. Twomey	April 21, 1967

Admission is free to Museum members. All others are asked to make a \$1.00 donation to the Museum. The program starts at 8:00 P.M.

Houston Public Library

The Technology Room has recently acquired a number of excellent books on Meteorology.

S E P M

Two Houston Geological Society members were elected officers of the Gulf Coast Section of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists at the annual meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana, October 26-28, 1966.

Dr. Richard Zingula, Humble Oil and Refining Company, was named Vice-President, and Gene Ross (Mrs. John S.) Kellough, University of Houston, is the new Secretary. Other officers are: Dr. Hubert Skinner, Tulane University, President, and G. B. Martin, Gulf Oil Corp., New Orleans, Treasurer.

Inauguration of Grover Murray as President of Texas Tech

Formal ceremonies in connection with the inauguration of Dr. Grover E. Murray as President of Texas Technological College were held on October 30, 31 and November 1, in Lubbock, Texas. Under Dr. Murray's leadership, which began only a few months ago, Texas Tech has already embarked on a bold new research program concerning arid and semi-arid lands. The formal ceremonies on October 31st, consisted of a symposium "Arid and Semi-arid Lands, a Preview". In addition to welcoming addresses by W. D. Rogers, the Mayor of Lubbock, and John Ben Shepperd, the President of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, the morning session consisted of speeches by Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, Sr. Emilio Portes Gil, former President of Mexico, and Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, head of the Smithsonian Institute. John Connally, Governor of Texas, was a luncheon speaker. In the afternoon session Dr. John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Dr. Wm. T. Pecora, Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, and Dr. Luna B. Leopold, Senior Research Hydrologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, were speakers.

On Tuesday, November 1st, the formal inauguration was preceded by an academic procession of several hundred representatives of various universities, scientific associations, research institutes, etc., in cap and gown. The principle address at this session was by Dr. Carey Croneis, Chancellor of Rice University. Dr. Croneis was introduced by Dr. Earl Rudder, President of A&M University. After Dr. Murray was inaugurated, honorary degrees were conferred on Stewart L. Udall, Sr. Emilio Portes Gil, Dr. John W. Gardner, and Laurance S. Rockefeller. A number of other distinguished persons including Dr. Phillip G. Hoffman, President of the University of Houston, Dr. Harry H. Ransom, Chancellor of the University of Texas, Dr. William Teller, the noted physicist, and M. T. Halbouty, President of AAPG participated in the program.

Texas Technological College is in fine hands and is very fortunate to have someone of Grover Murray's background and leadership ability to guide it. The program on arid and semi-arid lands on which he is embarking should prove to be of great benefit to all arid countries, especially West Texas. It will also materially enhance the standing of Texas Tech as an educational and research center and will at the same time enhance the image of geologists.

The ceremonies were well attended, but Mike Halbouty, Carey Cronies and I were possibly the only geologists there from Houston.

... J. Ben Carsey

Evening Courses at University of Houston

Three graduate courses in geology are scheduled for evenings during the Spring Semester. Dr. Nicholas M. Short will teach Clay Mineralogy, Dr. Harvey Blatt Advanced Sedimentation, and Dr. Walter Sadlick Biostratigraphy. The Clay Mineralogy class will meet 7-9 p.m. Friday, and 9-12 Saturday; Advanced Sedimentation on Monday and Wednesday 7-9:30 p.m.; and Biostratigraphy on Tuesday and Thursday 6-8:30 p.m.

Those who desire graduate credit must have applied for admission to the Graduate School before December 15. Further details may be obtained by calling the Graduate School or the Department of Geology, at CA 5-4451.

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CA 7-4138

Special Notice

The Houston Geological Society has experienced the effects of the rising cost of meeting and eating. As a result of higher food and labor costs incurred since the last price adjustment in 1962, the Houston Club has increased the price of dinner fifty cents and the bar service fifteen cents per person at our evening meetings. This has resulted in a dinner cost of \$4.68, inclusive of tax and gratuity, to HGS members.

In discussing the high cost of dinner meetings with other societies, it was found to be a common problem and a joint investigation into possible alternate meeting places was initiated. Inquiries were made of all downtown restaurants, hotels and clubs which were considered to possess the facilities to accommodate the AIME, API, HLA and HGS. Potential meeting spots in the south, southwest and others on the fringe area of the downtown section were also contacted. Replies were received from all fourteen and most were anxious to serve as hosts while others declined due to inadequate facilities.

This investigation indicated that only twenty five cents could be saved by moving to another downtown location, whereas a maximum of fifty cents could be saved by moving away from the downtown area. Even savings of these amounts could not be assured due to the varied methods of handling and charging for the social hour.

The competitive price of the Houston Club incorporated with its central location and fine facilities dictated that the evening meetings be continued at this location. It is understood that this, too, was the decision of the other participating societies - the AIME, API and HLA. It is regrettable that dinner meetings have become so expensive. In all sincerity, however, we cannot question the fact that the Houston Club has been faced with rising costs and it is felt that the recent increase must be accepted as further evidence of our inflationary trend. The present price schedule of \$4.10 for dinner and \$1.00 for cocktails has resulted in a near break even situation for the Society during the past two meetings. The deficit incurred by the dinner is supplemented from the profit of the social hour and it is felt that the present price schedule should be continued.

Mississippi Geological Economic and Topographical Survey

The Mississippi Geological Survey has released Bulletin 106, "Sediments and Microfauna Off the Coast of Mississippi and Adjacent States," by Charles F. Upshaw, Wilgus B. Creath and Frank L. Brooks. This Bulletin is the work of members of the Research Department of Pan American Petroleum Corporation and also presents results of a study of the same area made as partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master of Science Degree at Mississippi State University.

This Bulletin contains much data that may be of interest to academic geologists and also should be of value in the search for oil and gas. The Bulletin is 127 pages in length and contains over 100 figures, plates and graphs.

Bulletin 106 may be obtained at \$2.00 per copy, postpaid, from the Mississippi Geological Survey, P. O. Box 4915, Jackson, Mississippi 39216.

IN MEMORIAM

L. R. "Van" Van Burgh
(1894 - 1966)

L. R. Van Burgh passed away in M. D. Anderson Hospital October 7 after he suffered a heart attack. Van had recently undergone surgery. He is survived by his wife Marcella Van Burgh, and his daughter, Pat Allison, Philadelphia; and one brother Dana, Casper, Wyoming. His only son "Spike" was lost in the South Pacific during World War II.

Van was graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1917 and later received his law degree from Los Angeles College of Law where he specialized in taxation.

After World War I Van struck out on his own in the wilds of Montana. In 1922 he went to Washington with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. He left the Bureau for ten years to practice law but returned to the Internal Revenue and stayed until he retired a few years ago.

Van's interest in the oil patch never lessened and he maintained his membership in the Houston Geological Society, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the American Institute of Mechanical and Mining Engineers. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the California Bar Association.

Van's greatest loves aside from his family were golf and his roses. He has been a member of Golfcrest Country Club since 1939 and has been President of the country club and a member of the Board. He was currently a Director of the Texas Golf Association and prior to his surgery attended their meeting in San Antonio. His illness forced him to miss the Seniors' Tournament in Beaumont and his absence was felt by his many friends.

Van was a member of the Houston Rose Society and had been President of this organization. His great love for roses is quite noticeable at his home as he maintained approximately 200 rose bushes in his yard.

He was a member of the Episcopal faith and a long time friend of many of the Episcopal clergy. His devotion to his church and his faith in God gave him extraordinary strength the last few weeks.

Van will be missed by the many persons fortunate enough to have known him.

As most of you are undoubtedly aware, the A. A. P. G., through its District Representatives, is making a concerted drive for new members. In our discussions with prospective new members, a frequently asked question is "Why should I join --- What is the A. A. P. G. doing for me?"

The second paragraph of the Association Constitution clearly sets out the objects of the Association. What the Association is doing is not so clearly stated, so I thought I might enumerate just some ways the Association is helping you - the geologist.

Some of the more obvious things the A. A. P. G. is doing for you need be only mentioned. Such things as the:

- Monthly Bulletin
- Group Insurance Program
- Special Publications
- Distinguished Lecture Series
- Continuing Education Program
- Publication of the Membership Roster
- Committee for Statistics on Drilling
- Providing aid in sponsoring conventions, both national and regional
- Certification as a petroleum geologist

Some other, though less well known, items should be mentioned in more detail.

The first of eleven Geological Highway Maps was released in the spring of 1966. Eventually the entire United States will be covered by these geological maps which also include a mileage chart, geological cross sections, columnar sections, tectonic and physiographic maps and the geological history of the area. These maps are valuable not only for the trained geologist but for the layman as well. The first map released covers the Mid-Continent region and to help promote its sale, a thirty-minute educational T.V. film was made for distribution throughout the Oklahoma-Kansas-Arkansas-Missouri region. The film will be shown on the educational T.V. network as a means of encouraging young people to become interested in geology and to publicize the A. A. P. G. as well.

The A. A. P. G. Committee on Stratigraphic Correlation is currently making an index covering local geological society publications. Not only will the indexing of this relatively unexposed portion of the literature by author, title and subject content help the individual reader but the availability of these publications will receive worldwide notice and increase the sales potential for the sponsoring societies. The Association also publishes the Comprehensive Index of A. A. P. G. Bulletins every ten years.

With the organization of four new Advisory Committees this year, potentially one of the most significant aids to the petroleum geologist probably came into being. The committees are: (1) Executive Advisory Committee; (2) Industrial Advisory Committee; (3) Academic Advisory Committee; and (4) Federal, State and Local Agencies Advisory Committee. To quote A. A. P. G. President Michel T. Halbouty, "It is believed that these four committees will afford an opportunity for A. A. P. G. to be more useful to its members and to the organizations, industries, universities and agencies which they serve. It is also hoped that each can improve the image of the petroleum geologist in the eyes of the leaders of our industry and science and reinstate a stable and unshaken confidence in our profession." These committees, particularly the first two, should help tremendously to increase the effectiveness and stature of the petroleum geologist.

So you see, the A. A. P. G. is doing many things for many geologists, both as individuals and as a profession. Perhaps, it may be in order for us to contemplate a bit and say to ourselves, "What can I do for the A. A. P. G.?"

* * * * *

The A. A. P. G. Speakers Bureau has filled three speaking engagements recently. MR. ROBERT DOLLISON (Pan Am) spoke before the Downtown Kiwanis on October 5th, MR. ARTHUR RANDALL (Sunray) talked to the Bellaire Business and Professional Women's Club on November 8th, and MR. BEN SIMMONS talked to the Southwest Kiwanis on November 14th. This activity is part of the A. A. P. G. Semi-Centennial Celebration, and arrangements for speakers to present talks to civic organizations and clubs can be made by calling Mr. Edd Turner, at CA-8-9361.

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HOUSTON, Tex. -- Thirty-four prominent governmental officials have accepted appointment to the Federal, State and Local Agencies Advisory Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, according to Michel T. Halbouty, AAPG President.

The high echelon-advisory committee has already begun its efforts on behalf of the 15,000-member AAPG.

"The major purpose of this important committee," said Mr. Halbouty, "is to promote better understanding between AAPG and the various governmental agencies which so profoundly influence the future of the petroleum industry in the United States."

The Federal, State and Local Agencies Advisory Committee is led by Chairman William T. Pecora, Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. and Vice Chairman Peter T. Flawn, Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology, Austin, Texas. This group will serve as liaison between the AAPG and the federal, state and local agencies which exert influence on the oil industry and, in particular, mineral resources and their disposition. Such liaison will include a flow of information between the agencies and the AAPG for the guidance of both. The Committee's members will also keep AAPG advised of current trends within the governmental agencies as they pertain to areas of Association interest.

On The Distaff Side

All were saddened and grieved to hear of the passing of Izora Wade on November 21, 1966.

Faye and Ray Lewis are enjoying rural living after moving permanently to Schulumberg, but came into town for the recent S. E. G. convention. Also seen at the convention were former Houstonians George and Virginia Hardin.

Theresa and Gene Van Dyke have been up Denver and Aspen way on business and checking their apartment to make ready for the winter season.

Marion and Orville Lundstrom have just returned from St. Paul, Minnesota where they visited relatives and did a bit of hunting.

Elma and Hillard Carey have taken an apartment in the Diltson House on Westheimer for the winter months, altho they will be going back to their hill country place off and on.

Speaking of hill country, Alene and Jack Williams spent two weeks play-cationing on Granite Shoals Lake.

The Al Tolberts and the Curtis Franks have returned from a trip to Laredo, Mexico.

Thanksgiving will find Nelda and James Sims heading up Lubbock way.

Suzanne and Bill Nowotny will be going to New Braunfels for Thanksgiving. Suzanne has won honors with her "sausage pie" recipe, and it will be featured in the Wurst Festival Cook Book.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

... Virginia Edgecomb

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