

The O.I.L. Fort Worth Letter

The quarterly newsletter of the

OIL INFORMATION LIBRARY OF FORT WORTH

Vol. 11.2

April-June 2010

(There is no Vol. 11.1 – Jan-Mar 2010. No time to write one.)

THANK you!

THIS EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE IS MORE THAN A LITTLE LATE, BUT-- David and I want to thank all of you who contributed so generously to our Christmas bonuses last December. They were most appreciated! And please know the money was put to good use. David married last May, so *any* income at *any* time these days is good for them. I felt free to use all of mine to buy additional shares of Kinder-Morgan Energy Partners LP stock. They're consistently paying better than 5%, and they appear sturdy enough to stick around a while. I *like* that combination!

THANK you! For making our day!

Library buys small scanner for scanning completion cards

IN LATE FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, the Library's Board of Directors voted to use some of the money we have left over from the proceeds from our *Capital Fund Drive* in 2008 to buy a little *Epson GT-S50 scanner*. Our intent was to begin—finally *BEGIN!*—the scanning of our very large collection of completion cards. We've begun in what we call our *Base Files*, those cards in that row of cabinets that face the microfiche logs section of the Library. The first county we did was actually a kind of test case: We did **Hamilton County** cards as an experiment to see how the machine would work. (Hamilton County doesn't have that many cards, and they've already been sorted by surveys.) Presently, we're using the "base key" of the Base Files—the *Survey* divisions—as our scan base. This way, the scanned files are organized like the hardcopy files, i.e., by District, then by County, then by Survey Name, then Operator Name, then Lease Name and Well Number, then Section and/or Abstract Number as needed. (This will simplify searches by members until we can devise a more sophisticated search method that will provide a richer data retrieval.) By working about half a day at this task, David is now into Callahan County, and expects to start Coleman County early next week (April 19-23 2010).

As suggested above, we're currently exploring for the best method to adapt our growing digital card library to a system that will allow user-friendly, multi-target searches. Once we find a

reliable method we like and the conversion of the present storage system to the new, more user-friendly system is complete, will we then make the digital card library available to our membership online? Maybe. We *hope* so! But there are numerous matters, some of them challenging, that must be decided and worked out before we can. One of the more challenging is the matter of digitizing a collection of largely copyrighted material and putting it online. If we can put the files online via a well-secured website so that *access to and distribution of* the digitally copied copyrighted material can be sharply and successfully controlled to a highly discreet user base—the membership—the answer may be “yes.”

(Since most of the cards we’re working with are copyrighted, we have to be careful about the use to which we put the scanned versions. Sending a few digital cards to an **OIL-FW member** shouldn’t be a problem, but sending a scanned version to a *non-member* could be judged having crossed the line between *permissible* and *copyright infringement* under the *denial of rightful compensation* concept in copyright law. There is also the problem of *unauthorized distribution of copies of copyrighted material for the purpose of income*—we will have to charge for the service. Does this mean copies sent to members will be free? Of course not. We have to recover costs. So we have to resolve a number of challenges before we can open the digital card files to our membership online.)

COPYRIGHT NOTICE:

Beginning **April 15, 2010**, all copyrighted data that are copied from our collections and sent to members will have a copyrighted-material cautionary statement enclosed. The statement reads:

NOTICE – This package may contain copies of copyrighted material. We can make one copy of a copyrighted document for your use as reference or for study, but you cannot legally then use it in any way that is for profit, nor can you make additional copies for some distribution of your own, whether it is for profit or not.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH THE USE TO WHICH YOU PUT THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

This new practice is seen as a form of “tamping down brush fires before they get out of hand.”

THE CALENDAR:

A P R I L 2 0 1 0

05 – Good Friday – Library will be OPEN regular hours.

04 – Easter Sunday

12 – (Monday) FWGS monthly luncheon-meeting – Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse, 11:30 AM

Speaker: Dr. John BREYER, Geology Dept., Texas Christian University

Topic: *Geology in a Technology Play – Barnett Shale, Ft. Worth Basin, Texas*

15 – Tax Day

15 – (Thursday) SIPES monthly meeting-luncheon

Speaker: Wayne HOSKINS

- Topic: Challenges of Urban Seismic
- 19 – (Monday) SPWLA monthly meeting-luncheon – 11:30 AM in the XTO-Simpson Bldg. 110 W. 7th St., Ft. Worth
Speaker: Allen GILCHRIST, Baker Hughes Technology Center, Houston
Topic: Compensated Neutron – Obstacles to Understanding and Interpreting Neutron Logs
- 22 – (Thursday) SPE monthly luncheon-meeting – 11:30 AM, Petroleum Club, 39th Floor Carter-Burgess Plaza
Speaker: Jay PORTWOOD, Eclipse IOR Services, Keller TX
Topic: Polymers: Water Shutoff in the Barnett and Waterflood Conformance

M A Y 2 0 1 0

- 09 – (Sunday) *Mothers Day*
- 10 – (Monday) FWGS Annual Members & Spouses Lunch –
Details not available at press time.
- 12 – (Wednesday) OIL-FW Board of Directors *Bi-monthly* meeting – In the Library, 12:00 Noon - *D A T E T E N T A T I V E* - Please expect formal announcement in May.
- 19 – (Wednesday) SPWLA luncheon-meeting – *No info at press time.*
- 20 – (Thursday) SPE luncheon-meeting – *No info at press time.*
- 20 – (Thursday) SIPES monthly luncheon-meeting – 11:30 AM in the Norris Conference Center, 304 Houston St., Fort Worth
Speaker: Teresa MOSS, Oscar Monnig Meteorite Gallery
Topic: Topic not available at press time, but SUBJECT will be “meteors”
- 24 – (Sunday) Texon Oil Co. #1 University “Santa Rita” – blew in this date in 1923—also a Sunday. A Grayburg producer, it was first well to begin paying into the *University Permanent Fund*, the now multi-billion-dollar endowment fund that partially supports the University of Texas and Texas A & M University Systems.
- 31 – (Monday) *Memorial Day* – Library will be C L O S E D

J U N E 2 0 1 0

- 14 – (Monday) *Flag Day*
- 14 – (Monday) FWGS - *Summer Recess*
- 20 – (Sunday) *Fathers Day*
- 23 – (Wednesday) SPWLA – *Summer Recess*
- 24 – (Thursday) SPE – *Summer Recess*

THANKS BE TO OUR DONORS ---

Last fall we were surprised by the offer of a large collection of mostly microfilm and microfiche data from Mr. Cary M. Maguire of Dallas. (His company is **Maguire Oil Co.** Mr. Maguire is the son of old-time semi-legendary Texas oilman, J. Russell Maguire, who drilled hundreds of wells in North Texas and elsewhere during his career from the 1910s to his death in the 1960s.)

Negotiations for accepting the donation, which regrettably is far larger than we have space for in

our present library, began in November of last year and continued sporadically into the early spring of this year. The big hangup for us was where to store so much “stuff” so that we could gradually “digest” it and incorporate it into the Library. Then in February, Mr. Maguire offered to pay rent for up to one year on a storage unit big enough to contain the donation so as to give us time to go through it and determine what we want to keep and what we don’t. At that point, things finally began moving forward again. We rented a storage compartment in the **Tindall Record Storage** facility on the far east side of Downtown between E. 4th and 5th Streets, but facing onto Pecan St. We took delivery of the bulk of the donation on March 30, 2010. We leased a compartment containing 131 sq. ft. of floor space and the place is stuffed *full* of ... *Stuff!*

There are six six-drawer steel file cabinets with five fiche trays per shelf. Each one of those trays contains an estimated 2300 microfiche cards with logs on them. That’s 69,000 microfiche cards per cabinet, or roughly 400,000 cards in the six cabinets.

There are two similar cabinets with six drawers each full of logs on micro-*film*. There are about 30 16mm reels of film per drawer, giving an estimated 360 reels containing an unknown number of logs.

There are four “banker’s carrier” boxes stuffed with various unknown paper files.

And finally there is one four-drawer standard file cabinet that contains either something or nothing. (I’m not sure which because I didn’t take time to check each drawer when I was last in the place.)

Then on April 5th, we accepted delivery of another seventeen banker’s carriers of what were said to contain completion cards on microfiche; they had been found after Maguire began moving his offices to another location. Those had to come here to the Library because there was no more room in the Tindall storage unit.

True, we got an inventory of sorts for both the first delivery and the second, but it’s just gross counts. It tells us very little about the *details* of the donation. We can’t work at Tindall on weekends. (Oh, we can, but it’ll cost us **\$50 per hour**. And please do not scoff at this price. I am *not* kidding! This price is quoted in our lease agreement for the space.) This means whatever work I or somebody else does at Tindall will have to be done M-F between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

The only way we can accommodate the contents of those seventeen boxes of microfiche cards in the Library is to get rid of something else. We are currently casting eyes on about 50-60 boxes of hardcopy Oklahoma completion cards (they’re part of our large **UPRC-Champlin Collection**) that we’ve decided we can live without. We’d prefer to scan them first, but that takes a long time, so we just don’t know right now what we’re going to do about this situation.

As for what areas the Maguire data cover, at this point all I can tell you is that it’s scattered everywhere the former Southern Gas Co. worked. (Mr. Maguire bought the collection in the 1980s while Southern was dissolving.) This means coverage is scattered from the SE Gulf states through Texas, Oklahoma and possibly New Mexico, northward through the Mid-Continent into Canada, and into the U.S. Mountain West and California.

Tell you the truth, *I did not WANT this stuff!* I have no place to put most of it in the Library. I’ve called around to our “recip” libraries and none of them want any part of it because none of

them has equipment any longer for viewing the film or fiche. So if we dispose of any of this stuff, it's going to have to be into a dumpster. *That* pains me! But necessity sometimes overrules preferences. This may well be one of those times.

TO MEASURE A MYSTERY

During the week of April 12-16, 2010, I created a completion card on a “*Golden Oldie*” well out in the X-Ray Field area of northwest **Erath County** by using old scout tickets and a Drillers Log provided by the **Oil Information Library of Wichita Falls**. Both versions of the scout ticket showed a cryptic statement that read, “**RP 1250.**” I had no idea what “RP” stood for, so I consulted with the members of our Board. One of the members, Keith **Vickers** (Xplore Oil & Gas LLC) suggested it might mean “reservoir pressure.” That interpretation made sense to me—it felt right—so I decided to go with it, and that is what went onto that completion card. In the meantime, I forwarded his reply to the other members of the Board.

Shortly I got a reply from Dennis **Browning** (EXPRO Engineering/Panther City Expl.), who sent along a history of the “downhole pressure gauge” that had been invented in the mid-1920s for measuring the vital pressures and temperatures in the bottom of wellbores. Along with it was a weblink.¹ The history that link led to, led ultimately to this article.

That *Golden Oldie* well in Erath County is the #2 **John E. Smith** (no API available), located 660' FSL 7050' FEL of the Thomas **Stubblefield** Sur, A-684, approximately 1.5 miles N of the Liberty community and about 15 miles NNW of **Stephenville**, the Erath County seat. It's GIS readings are Lat27: 32.4423765, Long27: -983087775.; Lat83: 32.4425099, Long83: -98.3091017. (The well has long been plugged out, but plugging date is unknown at this time.)

The well was spudded with a cable tool rig in mid-December, 1928 and was completed in April of the following year to a TD of 3369' in the Marble Falls. The crew then put—*very carefully*—100 quarts of **nitroglycerin (nitro)** into the hole to the specified depth and set it off, blowing the beejeepers out of the rock in their selected frac zone, 3260-3300.' They then cleared the resulting rubble from the hole, plugged back to 3310' from 3369' and began producing the well, most likely into a gathering line belonging to **Lone Star Gas Co.**³, which by then had a transmission line into the X-Ray Field area. Initial production of the well was estimated at 1592 MCFGPD, which today probably would be considered the well's AOF.

Somewhere in this time frame, they took a reading on their bottomhole pressure, back then called the *reservoir* pressure. That reading was recorded by the man who wrote the scout tickets and noted “RP 1250.”

Before the late 1920s, determining this pressure was largely guess work because there were no reliable methods for getting it otherwise. But a new invention, developed under the auspices of **Amerada Petroleum Corp.**, changed all that.

In 1925 **Amerada**, already one of the oil industry's leading independent players, even though it had been formed only six years before, decided to set up an R&D subsidiary called **Geophysical Research Corporation (GRC)** to “...investigate the possibility of applying geophysical methods to oil exploration,” to quote from GRC's website.¹ That facility, headed by an engineer named Charles Milliken, was founded in Tulsa OK. More than eighty years later, it is still there, though

today it's located in a cluster of modern buildings sited on a tract of land adjoining Tulsa International Airport. It also is no longer owned by its parent company. It became an independent company in 1971 when it was purchased by a group of Tulsa businessmen. Ownership changed again in May 2005 when a new ownership group acquired the company. Meanwhile, its parent company, **Amerada Petroleum Corp.**, always a subsidiary of the Hess Corporation, was merged into Hess in 1968. The resulting company took the name **Amerada Hess Corp.**²

One of GRC's first breakthrough devices was a mechanical tool to measure downhole pressure and temperature. It was the brainchild of Mr. Milliken and his team of engineers and technicians. That tool, known as the *Amerada*® *Gauge*, enabled reservoir engineers and geophysicists to determine wellbore and reservoir capacity and performance. It was granted a patent in 1929. (The device was initially intended for Amerada's use, but when word got out about its great success at doing what it was invented to do, other companies began clamoring for access to the tool.¹ GRC went public with its Amerada® gauge in 1927 while the device was still in "patent-pending" status. [*These details are anecdotal—"unsubstantiated."*])

The *reservoir pressure* reading taken that spring day in 1929 out at **Hickory Oil & Gas Co.'s**⁴ **#2 John E. Smith** wellsite in the X-Ray Field in northwestern Erath County Texas was very most likely measured with one of those new-fangled *Amerada*® *Gauges*. If so, unknowingly it became a part of history because the use made of it that day may well have been, if not *the* first, then surely *among* the first applications of the gauge in Texas. The Amerada® gauge was to revolutionize the process of obtaining bottomhole pressures and temperatures in oil and gas wells. So vital to the industry did the gauge become, that the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC put the original field-ready model on display. (Curiously, the display identifies the device as the *Amerada bomb*.¹) With only slight modifications that have been made over the decades since its release, the gauge is still in use today—all over the world

That—is a really good run!

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REFERENCES CITED IN ARTICLE:

1 – GRC history –

<http://www.grcamerada.com/History.asp>

2 – Amerada history –

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hess_Corporation

(Please note that there is an underbar between "Hess" and "Corporation." It's obscured by the underline beneath the address.)

3 – Lone Star Gas Co. history

<http://www.scripophily.net/lostgascode.html>

REFERNCES NOT CITED IN ARTICLE:

<http://www.grcamerada.com/CompanyOverview.asp>

<http://www.grcamerada.com/AboutGRCGauges.asp>

4 – Hickory Oil & Gas Co. –

This company evidently disappeared fairly early, possibly by the 1930s. It is not listed in the excellent reference source for oil company name changes, *Directory of Oil Company Name Changes*, published by the Houston Geological Society. *The Texas Almanac*, likewise, has no record of it.

Fort Worth TX
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HEALTH, PEACE AND PROSPERITY, and we'll see you next time!

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