

HISTORIES OF MEMBER SOCIETIES OF THE GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES AND THE GULF COAST SECTION OF SEPM

David E. Pope

GCAGS Historian, Louisiana Geological Survey,
P.O. Box G, University Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70893

INTRODUCTION

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was founded May 15, 1951 (Pope, 1991). The first annual meeting was held in New Orleans, November 15-17, 1951, with seven member societies participating: Corpus Christi, East Texas, Houston, Mississippi, New Orleans, Shreveport, and South Louisiana. In 1952, the original Baton Rouge society was added; in 1953, Lafayette joined; in 1954, the Southeastern and South Texas societies were added; in 1956, Beaumont joined; Baton Rouge folded in 1958; South Louisiana expired in 1962; in 1967, Alabama joined; Beaumont folded in 1971; in 1974, Austin was added; and in 1980, the present Baton Rouge society joined. Association membership has since been stable at the twelve societies of today. The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM was founded in 1953, and has participated in all annual meetings since 1954.

The demise of the original Baton Rouge society, as well as that of South Louisiana (Lake Charles), and Beaumont, was the direct result of oil companies moving out of those cities. The Southeastern society was badly hurt in the mid-fifties when companies moved out of Tallahassee or deeply cut their forces. In more recent years, most of the heavily oil-dependent cities have had their geological societies severely damaged by the massive exodus to Houston, which despite the many waves of layoffs throughout industry, has probably gained geologists.

Since neither the South Louisiana nor the Beaumont society is extant today, and records of them are very sketchy, only a capsule history of each is offered below.

The South Louisiana Geological Society was founded in Lake Charles late in 1934. At that time, Lake Charles was South Louisiana's leader in the industry. The South Louisiana society had several oil companies and service companies from which to draw its membership. This situation began to change about 1940, as Lafayette's industry expanded largely at the expense of Lake Charles. By 1952, Lafayette had outgrown Lake Charles, but SLGS still had a membership of roughly 100. In 1962 SLGS, one of the seven original GCAGS members in 1951, decided to fold. From about 1940 until the founding of the Lafayette society in 1952, monthly meetings and the domicile of the (annually elected) SLGS presidents usually alternated between the two cities. Three of the seven (1951) Founding Fathers of GCAGS were from the South Louisiana society: Philip R. Allin, the late W. B. Neill, and the late F. B. Stein. Also, William F. Farley of Lake Charles was a member of the original steering committee that adopted the resolutions on May 15, 1951 that gave birth

to the GCAGS.

The Beaumont Geological Society was largely dependent on oil companies, especially a large Sun Oil division office, and Lamar University. From the time that the society was founded in the early 1950's until its demise in 1971, the professors at Lamar were very active in BGS. Also, their students usually constituted a sizeable portion of the approximate 100 members. When the society joined GCAGS in 1956, officers listed in the *Transactions* of that year were President Bryan D. Beck, Jr.; Vice President (Professor) William H. Matthews III; Secretary W. T. Storie; and Treasurer Fred. H. Christian, Jr. Professors H. E. Eveland, Saul Aronow, and others were also very active in the society. By 1970, Sun and most of the other companies had moved out, and the society ceased to exist in 1971.

Today, the environmentally related segments of industry are helping to fill the voids left by the downsizing and shifting of the oil industry.

ALABAMA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Alabama Geological Society was founded in April 1963 at Tuscaloosa. The 33 charter members were drawn from the Alabama Geological Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey, members of the geology faculties at the University of Alabama, Birmingham-Southern and Montevallo colleges, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alabama Power Company, and raw material industries in the state. The first president of the society was Douglas E. Jones, Chairman of the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Alabama. The other officers were Vice President John S. Winefordner and Secretary-Treasurer Jack E. Morris.

The object of AGS as stated in the Constitution, adopted in 1963, is "to promote geology as a profession and as a science; to encourage friendship and cooperation among all members and branches of the profession; to foster high standards of education and ethics among membership of the Society; to accumulate and make available geologic knowledge; and to encourage public appreciation of the utility and application of geological science."

AGS was incorporated November 1, 1964, became an affiliated society of AAPG in 1966 at the annual meeting in St. Louis, and became affiliated with GCAGS in time to be included in the 1967 issue of the *Transactions* (volume 17). The society membership has grown from the initial 33 to the present 130, including 112 professional members, 9 junior members, 5 associate members, 1 affiliate member, and 3 student members. Total membership numbers remain fairly constant; however, within the past four years, junior membership has

declined from 35 to 9.

The society conducts an annual field conference with guidebook (most are out of print) and related research papers. The 30th annual field trip is scheduled for November 12 and 13, 1993 in the Decatur area. During the year, luncheon or dinner meetings are held monthly, and an informal spring slide show featuring travels of the members is very popular. A newsletter had been published intermittently since the society was founded.

Special projects through the years have been mainly concerned with education. In 1969, in cooperation with the Geological Society of America, the Alabama society helped to establish the highway cut through Red Mountain in Birmingham as a National Geologic Monument. AGS has established a Student Research Expense Fund to help defray student research expenses at the institutions in Alabama granting degrees in geology. In 1989, the society instituted a program to present awards to the best Junior and Senior High School Earth Science projects at the State Engineering and Science Fair. Beginning this year, the society will grant two scholarships to students from the Alabama institutions granting degrees in geology. The scholarship awards are being presented in memory of two charter members: John G. Newton and John S. Winefordner.

AUSTIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1951, a group of geologists met to form the first definitely known Austin society. No records of this group could be located; they disbanded in 1953. According to Sam Ellison, a second Austin society may have formed and disappeared during another short period, before formal documentation began in 1965. There is also very sketchy evidence of an Austin society from about 1919 to 1924 (see Shreveport Geological Society).

On April 12, 1965, nine geologists met to discuss the need for a geological society in the Austin area. At that meeting, Stephen E. Clabaugh, John W. Dietrich, Robert K. Fahnestock, Peter T. Flawn, Harold D. Holloway, Leslie G. McMillion, James W. Sansom, Jr., Alan J. Scott, and Allen G. Winslow outlined objectives for the society and proposed a constitution and by-laws. These people represented The University of Texas Department of Geology, The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, the Texas Water Commission, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The present AGS was officially founded on April 22, 1965 in the Geology Building of the University of Texas at Austin, and had a membership of 33 in its first year. The first officers were President P. T. Flawn, Vice President H. D. Holloway, Secretary J. W. Sansom, Jr., and Treasurer Ernest T. Baker, Jr. Three years later, membership had grown to 109. At that time the society met twice monthly, once at noon and once in the evening.

Membership reached a high of approximately 300 members in the mid-1980's and is currently about 260. Publication of the newsletter began in 1965, but was sporadic until 1968 when it became a regular monthly

issue. At about that time, the meeting frequency also was changed to once a month. Current membership continues to reflect a wide range of geoscientists, including environmental, mineral industry, and petroleum consultants, as well as federal, state, and university geologists and hydrologists.

Members who have received outstanding honors are: vice president of AAPG in 1972, Samuel P. Ellison, Jr.; president of AAPG in 1985, William L. Fisher; president of SEPM in 1979, Earle F. McBride; SEPM Twenhofel Medal in 1979, Robert L. Folk; Texas Academy of Science Distinguished Texas Scientist in 1988, Virgil E. Barnes; AAPG Distinguished Service Award in 1977, Samuel P. Ellison, Jr., and in 1982, William L. Fisher; Wallace E. Pratt Memorial Award in 1984, William E. Galloway; J. C. Cam Sproule Memorial Award in 1983, Marc B. Edwards, and in 1985, Martin P. A. Jackson and Steven J. Seni; George C. Matson Award in 1964, William R. Muehlberger, and in 1990, Martin P. A. Jackson; and the A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award in 1982, Thomas E. Ewing and S. Christopher Caran, in 1977 and 1985, William E. Galloway, in 1986, Shirley P. Dutton, and in 1987, Shirley P. Dutton, Robert J. Finley, and Karen L. Herrington.

AGS hosted the GCAGS/GCS-SEPM annual convention in 1977 and in 1985, and will again do so in 1994. The society joined GCAGS in 1974 and has been sending delegates to AAPG at least since 1966 when the AAPG *Bulletin* began listing delegate's names in the December issue.

In 1985, the constitution was changed to add the office of president-elect, to those of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, and the number of candidates considered for election to these offices each May was changed from one to two.

AGS has 14 publications, all of which are field trip guidebooks. The topics of these field trips range from the architecture and history of downtown Austin to Paleozoic carbonates and Precambrian rocks of the Llano Uplift. Titles include "Urban flooding and slope stability in Austin, Texas," "Cretaceous volcanism in the Austin Area," "Austin Chalk in its type area," "Hydrogeology of the Edwards Aquifer," and "Faults and fractures in the Balcones Fault Zone, Austin Region, Central Texas."

This history was written with the gracious assistance of Sam Ellison, Earle McBride, Mary McBride, David Johns, and Roselle Girard.

BATON ROUGE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The original Baton Rouge Geological Society was founded in 1952 and expired in 1958. During those six years, membership varied from a high of 75 (1953) to 35 in 1957. There was a large Shell Oil division office, several smaller oil company offices, and a few service company representatives present during that time. Three of the four society officers, including the president, are listed in the 1957 *Transactions* as "Vacated by Transfer," as Shell and most of the others had moved out; the society folded in 1958. Monthly meetings had been held, usually with a speaker, at a popular restau-

rant, Bob and Jake's. The last official act of the original society was to liquidate the treasury with a prodigious farewell party at the restaurant. Those who held office or served as representatives were H. V. Andersen, Mike S. Cannon, G. O. Coignet, John Huner, Jr., J. B. Kennedy, J. K. Larsen, Percy Lyons, John E. McDougall, W. W. Ogden, C. B. Pennington, Jr., William A. Romans, Walter Rose, A. R. Stern, William M. Tonkin, and Felix Webster. The first representatives to GCAGS in 1952 were Rose and Larsen. The original society included the State Geologist, Leo W. Hough, and a former State Geologist, John Huner. It also included two future AAPG honorary members and Powers medalists, Henry V. Howe and Grover E. Murray. Howe founded the precursor of the present Louisiana State University Department of Geology and Geophysics (1922), and the modern Louisiana Geological Survey (1934); in the mid-to-late twenties, he rode the train weekly to Shreveport to teach geology at Centenary College for the local industry members there. Murray is the only person to serve as president of both the AAPG and the national SEPM. He also served successively as vice president of LSU, and president of Texas Tech and Texas Tech Medical School.

The present BRGS was founded in 1979 at the suggestion of Harry L. Roland, Jr. and David E. Pope. It was incorporated that year and became affiliated with both AAPG and GCAGS in 1980. Roland began our newsletter in 1979 and Pope has continued it from 1980 to the present. Frequency has varied from quarterly to semiannually. We do send out a monthly notice of luncheon meetings, held September through May each season, giving an abstract and abbreviated speaker's biography. Other brief notes may be included in the flyer.

The society has run several field trips, averaging about one every two years. Some of the most popular ones have been to Avery Island salt dome, near New Iberia, and to the rugged Tunica Hills north of Baton Rouge where water falls are found.

BRGS co-sponsored, with Louisiana State University, a student chapter of AAPG in 1980. Professor Ray E. Ferrell, Jr. was the faculty representative and David Pope was the society liaison. The chapter once had membership of 50 to 60, but is now down to about 15. In several of the recent years it had the highest membership in the U.S. at 35. The society assists the students in offering low membership dues for BRGS and half-price admission at our monthly luncheons.

We assisted in the formation of the BRGS Auxiliary in 1982. Maxine (Mrs. Bobby L.) Jones and Ouida (Mrs. David D.) Tettleton were the prime movers in its founding. Membership has varied from 35 to 25 and is now at the lower end. The auxiliary holds several functions each year and invites spouses to two of them. The ladies were very helpful when Baton Rouge hosted the 1986 GCAGS/GCS-SEPM convention, and they are now mounting a membership drive so that they can better assist us with the 1995 convention to be held in Baton Rouge.

The society received many favorable comments on the conduct of the 1986 convention, despite the low attendance (1325) and the fact that expenses exceeded

income by about \$11,000. We did turn over a sizeable inventory of publications for future sales. We are looking forward to hosting the 1995 convention and hope that we will not have another oil price "bust" — as occurred in 1986 — and can break-even financially.

BRGS began in 1979 with about 50 members; we now have nearly 200. That figure was approached in the mid-1980's, then declined to about 170. It is now on the rise, and we expect this to continue modestly. We are growing slowly, with the environmental segment of the industry here. Other members are drawn from consultants, state and federal agencies, LSU, and the oil and gas industry.

The first officers (1979-80) of the present society were President Harry Roland, VP/President-Elect David Pope, Secretary Lewis G. Nichols, Treasurer Michael W. Killeen, and Directors Charles G. Groat and Lloyd T. Leake. We now have six honorary members: H. V. Andersen, George T. Cardwell, William G. Håag, Donald H. Kupfer, Joseph D. Martinez, and D. E. Pope. Three Louisiana State University professors have been named Outstanding Educators by GCAGS: James M. Coleman, Arnold H. Bouma, and Clyde H. Moore. Coleman has received the SEPM Shepard Award, was named (the first) executive vice-chancellor of LSU in 1989, and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 1990. Bouma is editor-in-chief of the international journal, *Geo-Marine Letters*, has received the Shepard Award, and has published more papers in the *Transactions* than any other author. C. G. "Chip" Groat has served as State Geologist, Executive Director of the American Geological Institute, and is now Executive Director of the LSU Center for Coastal Energy and Environmental Resources, a group of 12 research institutes. William E. Marsalis, current president of BRGS, is State Geologist and Chief Geologist of the State Mineral Board. Andersen, Coleman, Howe, and Pope are honorary members of GCS-SEPM, Andersen is a past president, and Pope has also served as president of that organization as well as GCAGS. Several BRGS members have received outstanding paper awards: Charles R. Kolb and Jack R. Van Lopik have placed first in the GCAGS papers; Donald H. Kupfer has placed first and received the Levorsen Award; Coleman has also won the Levorsen Award; Shea Penland, John Suter, Harry Roberts, and Elizabeth Kosters have placed first in various GCS-SEPM competition; John Suter has won the AAPG Jules Braunstein Memorial Poster Award; and several others have also won awards.

CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Corpus Christi Geological Society was formed in 1942 by a group of local geologists that had been meeting with the South Texas Geological Society for several years. Our numbers had grown to the point that a separation from the South Texas society was practical. The difficulty of getting enough fuel during these World War II days of gasoline rationing to travel to the San Antonio meetings provided further impetus for the formation of a local society. Most of the 48 charter mem-

bers of the CCGS had been members of the South Texas Geological Society and many kept dual membership even after they formed their own society in Corpus Christi. CCGS officers that first year included W. Armstrong Price as president, L. B. Herring as vice president, and C. I. Jennings as secretary-treasurer. The next year (1943) the society under President Frith Owens was recognized as an affiliated society by the AAPG.

In early 1951, W. H. Wallace Jr. of the CCGS was a member of the steering committee which acted to form the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies. The CCGS was one of the seven participating societies at the first GCAGS meeting in New Orleans in November of 1951. The following year, with Wallace as society president, Corpus Christi hosted the second GCAGS annual meeting and has done so five times since, in 1958, 1964, 1972, 1981, and 1989.

By 1967, the year the GCAGS became an official section of the AAPG, the membership of the Corpus Christi society had grown from the original 48 to over 450. At that time, most of the major oil companies, as well as many independents, had offices in Corpus Christi. At the height of the "oil boom" in 1981, membership peaked at nearly 600. During the late eighties, many of the majors consolidated in Houston or Dallas, and transferred their offices out of Corpus Christi. Many of the geologists involved, however, have been able to acquire new jobs with local independent operators and have returned here, a tribute to the high quality of life we enjoy in the "Coastal Bend." Current membership is over 500 and holding steady.

CCGS has been and continues to be an active, dynamic society. For instance, we have published several extremely useful reference books, including *Typical Oil & Gas Fields of South Texas Vol. I* (1967) and *Vol. II* (1988), *Type Logs of South Texas Fields Vol. I* (Frio) and *Vol. II* (Wilcox, Eocene), and numerous field trip guides and directories. The *Catalog of South Texas Formation Water Resistivities (Rw)*, published in 1986, is a very handy tool for geologists and log analysts. All of these CCGS publications are available through Earth Enterprises in Austin, Texas. Also, our members have contributed to a growing library of type logs available from Nixon Blueprint Company in Corpus Christi.

The society has been blessed throughout its 50-year history with capable, willing members that have contributed to our success. Nine of our members have been made honorary members of the CCGS because of their outstanding service to this organization and contributions to the science of geology. These include Dale L. Benson, Don R. Boyd, Cleo E. Buck, Owen R. Hopkins, O. G. McClain, Carroll C. Miller, Frith C. Owens, Dr. W. Armstrong Price, and Paul M. Strunk.

In addition to our own membership, we have enjoyed the support of the Corpus Christi Geological Society Auxiliary which was formed in 1953.

In 1992, two new standing committees were created to help our members and community. The Environmental Committee was established to include the growing number of geoscientists working in the environmental field. David Harvey of the Texas Water Commission was the first chairman of this committee

and has done a good job of organizing meetings for its members and contributing to the CCGS *Bulletin*. The other new group is the Academic Liaison Committee. The two co-chairmen of this committee, Owen Hopkins and Frank Cornish, have closely cooperated with local petroleum colleges and schools. The most ambitious part of this effort is the Junior Rockhound program under which we hope to make a one hour presentation on the science of geology to every fourth grader in the city. Those children interested enough to become further involved can become certified Junior Rockhounds by making a collection of rocks and/or minerals that meets teacher approval guidelines. Feedback from this program from teachers and students has been overwhelmingly positive. Hopefully, we can thus open the minds of these youngsters to science in general and geology in particular.

In conclusion, the Corpus Christi Geological Society is very proud of its 50-year history and looks forward to a bright future.

EAST TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The East Texas Geological Society was organized in September 1931 and was accepted as an AAPG affiliate in 1932. Prior to that date, informal meetings of geologists were held in Tyler and other nearby cities on an irregular basis for the purpose of trading information and scouting the local petroleum activity. Although important fields such as Corsicana and Van were already producing, the discovery of the giant East Texas Woodbine field in 1930 by C.M. (Dad) Joiner caused many companies and individuals to move into the area. Tyler, being centrally located in the basin, became the operating headquarters for more and more companies. The influx of geologists allowed the early leaders to form a more-structured geological society. Officers for the society at the time of organization were President E. A. Wendlandt, Vice President Wallace C. Thompson, Secretary/Treasurer Elmer R. Rice, and Executive Committeemen H. Smith Clark and A. Clem Wright. Membership then was about 65; it had grown to as many as 350 in the early 1980's, and presently is approximately 300 members. The ETGS was a charter member of GCAGS in 1951, and was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1964.

ETGS has sponsored four publications on the geology in East Texas, mainly of studies on the occurrence of oil and gas in the area. Three of these publications are still for sale: *Occurrence of Oil and Gas in Northeast Texas* (1989), *The Jurassic of East Texas* (1984), and *The Occurrence of Oil and Gas in Northeast Texas* (1964). In addition, ETGS publishes a monthly newsletter announcing scheduled meetings, seminars, and field trips and provides technical articles of interest to its members.

In order to offer continuing educational facilities to serve its members, ETGS has developed an affiliation with the Department of Geology at Stephen F. Austin State University which is located in Nacogdoches, Texas. Every semester, SFASU offers graduate-level geology courses locally at the University of Texas at Tyler. Courses offered range from petroleum explo-

ration to environmental geology. This ongoing program continues to attract 25 to 30 geologists every semester for the purpose of attaining advanced degrees, career changes, or just to expand their horizons. This semester, courses to be offered are Basin Analysis and Geochemistry.

Our society donates \$600 per year, or \$100 to each of Tyler's six middle schools' earth science programs. Over 3,345 students have benefitted from this program over the last three years. This money is used by teachers for the purpose of purchasing earth science equipment and supplies. It is our objective to stimulate the minds of our 8th grade youth by providing them with sorely needed earth science materials, and to show our support for science teachers by providing this otherwise unavailable equipment to help educate our youth on the oil and gas industry. It should be noted that the Tyler middle schools currently allocate only about \$.50 per student per year to buy science equipment. Before our grant program started, one of the schools had only pictures of quartz, limestone, etc. to serve as their rock and mineral collection. The goal of the society is to increase the grant program to \$1,800 per year, and eventually include the entire middle school program in earth science education.

ETGS also sponsors many social activities, such as an annual golf tournament, ski trips, fishing tournaments, canoe trips, barbecues, and our annual Pioneer Award Banquet honoring a geologist who we feel exemplifies the true wildcatting spirit of East Texas.

HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Houston's geologists have seen the petroleum industry's progress almost from its infancy and have contributed in a large way to that progress. The first commercial geologic department in the United States devoted to the winning of oil from the earth was founded in Houston in 1897 for the Southern Pacific by the great pioneer geologist Dr. Edwin T. Dumble. With the discovery of Spindletop near Beaumont on January 10, 1901, the Texas oil boom started in earnest and the stage was set for the geologists of Houston.

The early geologists met in January 1920 and organized into a special group. This organization was short lived and, in the summer of 1923, at the invitation of Donald C. Barton of the Rycade Oil Corporation, Houston geologists began meeting for lunch on the first Friday of each month. Alexander Deussen and Wallace E. Pratt, each a past president of the AAPG, suggested that Houston host the ninth annual meeting of AAPG in 1924. At the August 1923 monthly meeting, a unanimous decision was made to extend the invitation. A viable professional organization was necessary to prepare for this meeting and as a result, the Houston Geological Society was formally chartered on August 8, 1923, with John R. Suman as president and David Donoghue as secretary-treasurer. At that time, there were 74 geologists in and near Houston, and all were elected charter members of the society. On April 15, 1975 the society was incorporated with 2,217 active and honorary members. Membership today is near 5,100 members, making HGS the largest local geological soci-

ety in the world. The official insignia of the society was adopted in 1949. At Phil Martyn's insistence, an emblem contest was initiated and won by Walter J. Osterhoudt now a consultant in Durango, Colorado.

The objectives of HGS are 1) to stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for the Houston area, 2) to disseminate and facilitate discussion of geological information, 3) to enhance professional inter-relationships among geologists in the area, and 4) to aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology. The society strives to achieve these goals through regularly scheduled technical meetings, publication of a monthly *Bulletin*, a continuing education program, field trips, the publication of timely books, and two student scholarship funds.

Through its publication efforts, the society has rendered a service to its members, the geological profession, and occasionally to the entire community with books of general interest. The publication, *Houston Area Environmental Geology: Surface Faulting, Ground Subsidence, Hazard Liability*, is a significant contribution to both the geological and lay communities. Four important volumes on the geology of deltas that favored habitat for petroleum accumulation have been published. Two of these, *Deltas—Models for Exploration, and Deltas in Their Geologic Framework* have been reprinted due to continuing demand. The third edition of *Directory of Oil Company Name Changes* was printed in 1989. The latest publication, *Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Texas—Volume II*, came out in 1987. Two additional publications, *Building Stones of Houston* and a revision of the surface fault map of Harris County are planned for release in the near future.

The society encourages and aids students through the Memorial Scholarship Fund for graduate students, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Fund for undergraduates. The society also gives outstanding geology Student Awards to Stephen F. Austin University, Lamar University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, Rice University, and the University of Houston, and promotes participation in the Houston Engineering and Science Fair.

HGS has been affiliated with the AAPG since 1932. Several Houston geologists helped organize AAPG and many members have served as officers, have held important committee assignments, and have been honored with significant awards. Of the 73 past presidents of AAPG, 22 have been members of HGS. The national AAPG convention has been held in Houston eight times, the last being in 1988.

HGS has been actively involved in the GCAGS since its inception in 1951. Houston has hosted six annual GCAGS/GCS-SEPM conventions, including the 1991 meeting.

Houston geologists have held important roles in the development of the Offshore Technology Conference since its first meeting in 1969. HGS generally helps AAPG, one of the sponsoring societies of OTC, with its committee responsibilities.

Some interesting and significant events in HGS history are: 1937, Wallace E. Pratt awarded first Honorary Life Membership; 1940, Student Award Plan adopted with the first awards going to two Texas A&M stu-

dents; 1947, published *Rockhounds of Houston*, an informal history of HGS by Alva C. Ellisor; 1948, first membership directory published; 1950, HGS Auxiliary formed with Mrs. John D. Marr as the first president; 1954, Student Loan Program for worthy graduate students initiated, membership passed the 1,000 mark; 1955, first photo directory published; 1956, a finance committee was formed with James A. Wheeler as chairman; 1957, established a business office with Cardinal Printing and Letter Service, Inc. at 234 Esperson Building until June 1980, membership reached 1,500; 1958, the Newsletter was expanded into the monthly *Bulletin* under Editor Shirley L. Mason; 1965, HGS donated 500,000 driller's logs to the Houston Public Library; 1971, Best Paper Award started with Dr. Stewart Chuber the first winner; 1974, Warren L. Calvert donated \$8,000 in long-term bonds to be held in trust by HGS as part of a special economic geology scholarship fund; 1975, the society incorporated under the laws of Texas, *Bulletin* went to an 8-1/2 x 11" format; 1977, HGS contributed \$3,000 to the AAPG Foundation for the new Lewis G. Weeks Energy Resources Tower; 1978, membership roll computerized and first free membership directory published, Distinguished Service Award established with James O. Lewis the first recipient, first scholarship awarded; 1979, membership reached 3,500; 1983, membership reached 4,600; 1984, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee formed, \$2,500 donated to the Houston Public Library to purchase filing equipment for atlases and maps, the sale of HGS publications turned over to Earth Enterprises, Inc.; 1985, computerization of society's business office, first Houston GeoTech annual meeting, established 25 year Silver Service Certificates, membership reached 5,000; 1986, presented seminar "What to Do When The Bottom Falls Out," established 50 year Gold Service Certificates; 1987, President's Award established, rapid growth of Environmental Committee functions, Memorial Scholarship fund was able to award five scholarships for the first time; 1988, business office moved from Four Star Printing to a new home at 7171 Harwin, donated \$5500 to the International Geologic Congress, a substantial increase in new member applications from non-petroleum geologists, the Environmental Committee started having its own technical meetings, several programs were presented which were designed to help unemployed geologists; 1989, donated \$10,000 to the Undergraduate Scholarship Foundation, added poster sessions to several evening meetings, computerized the resumes in the Personnel Placement Committee files; 1990, membership reached a record high of 5300, published first joint HGS-GSH Directory, began monthly meeting of the Permian Basin-MidContinent explorationists; 1991, hosted three regional meetings, formulated a Long Range Advisory Committee, membership reached a new record level of 5400; 1992-93, expansion of Permian Basin Mid-Continent Explorationists Group to include all North American Explorationists, continued growth of International Explorationists Group, formation of the Registration Committee to manage logistics of meetings and other society functions, formation of ad hoc Government Affairs Committee to present a

unified message during the election year, presentation of the society's first employment opportunities seminar, maintained a stable membership and financial base in spite of continued oil-related adversities, annual budget for the society was \$425,000, membership level of 5024.

The Houston Geological Society holds regular dinner meetings the second Monday of each month, September through June, generally at the Post Oak Doubletree Hotel. Luncheon meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month, September through May, generally at the Houston Club, downtown (811 Rusk, Houston, Texas). Information regarding reservations are available from the Houston Geological Society office, 7171 Harwin, Suite 314, Houston, Texas, 77036. Tel.: (713) 785-6402.

LAFAYETTE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Lafayette Geological Society indirectly traces its history back to the founding of the South Louisiana Geological Society in Lake Charles, late in 1934.

By 1940, geologists had increased in the Lafayette area and the South Louisiana Geological Society's meetings were alternated between Lafayette and Lake Charles, with an occasional meeting in Baton Rouge. The building of the large Oil Center complex in Lafayette encouraged the shift away from Lake Charles.

On December 1, 1952, 23 Lafayette geologists met to organize the Lafayette Geological Society. Jesse L. George, Jr. was temporary chairman and Gene Whipp was acting secretary. On December 17, 1952, a second meeting was held at which time the constitution and by-laws were approved. Society membership was then at 110.

In May 1953, LGS became affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologist. Jay Wharton became the first AAPG Representative. In September of 1953, the society became a member of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.

The Lafayette Geological Society was incorporated in 1965 and hosted its first GCAGS/GCS-SEPM convention in 1966. Allen M. Borland was president and Robert Copeland was general chairman. The society, with membership over 500, hosted its second GCAGS convention in 1974 with Scott J. Lysinger serving as GCAGS president and Frank W. Harrison, Jr. as general chairman. In 1980, the society hosted its third annual GCAGS convention in Lafayette. Frank W. Harrison, Jr. served as president and Marvin A. Munchrath as general chairman. Harrison was subsequently elected as the 1981-82 president of AAPG. The society hosted the 1990 GCAGS convention with Peter G. Gray serving as president and Dr. Brian E. Lock as general chairman. Dr. Lock was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award in 1991.

The Lafayette Geological Society is most proud of its geological publications and its assistance to the students and faculty of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The society established a scholarship fund in 1985 honoring the late USL Geology Professor William R. Paine.

The Lafayette Geological Society Auxiliary was founded in 1951 by Lorelei (Mrs. B. H.) Dehart. The current membership is 90, and the President is David (Mrs. Sam) Bennett.

LGS has numerous publications, but the *Typical Oil and Gas Field of Southwestern Louisiana* is the most popular. Vol. I was published in 1964, Vol. II in 1970, and Vol. III in 1989. The latter remains the largest seller.

The membership over the last several years has diminished and is currently at 650, dropping from its all time high of 802 members in 1980.

The society has published a monthly *Bulletin* since the early 1970's. Monthly meetings are held at the Petroleum Club of Lafayette every third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., August through May.

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded on November 28, 1939, the Mississippi Geological Society was begun for the purposes of the stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences..., the encouragement of scientific research among members..., and the discussion and dissemination of geological information..." by 38 of the 57 geologists then in the oil business in Jackson, Mississippi. From its inception, the society has remained steadfast in its goals and purposes through the sponsorship of field trips, technical presentations, seminars, publications, and involvement in community affairs.

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

One of the first committees formed in the new society was the Field Trip Committee. Beginning in December 1939, this committee completed four field trips by the end of 1940. Through the years, the society has sponsored some nineteen field trips, each with a guidebook. Recent field trips have been undertaken in conjunction with a seminar covering the subject of the trip.

In April 1941, the society became affiliated with AAPG. In March 1951, the society joined the GCAGS. In October 1946, MGS hosted its first AAPG sectional convention of the Gulf Coast in Biloxi, with attendance of 587. Again in Biloxi in 1949, MGS co-hosted the mid-year AAPG sectional meeting. Biloxi was also the site in 1955 and 1960 as MGS hosted those GCAGS/GCS-SEPM conventions. In 1968, MGS again hosted the GCAGS convention, this time in Jackson, and there again in 1975, 1983, and most recently in 1992.

Involvement in research and technical projects has always been a hallmark of MGS. In 1945, the MGS oversaw the assembly of data for and the completion of

a new and revised geological map of the state. In order to assist geologists in their pursuits, the MGS Library was established in 1945. In 1947, the society instituted the Student Award Program for outstanding papers on geology from geology majors at the state's universities. In 1954, MGS established the Student Loan Program to assist geology majors at colleges and universities. In 1955, the society began awarding scholarships to senior high school winners in the science fair sponsored by the Mississippi Academy of Science. The Lawrence Boland Memorial Scholarship fund, begun in 1980, continues to award scholarships annually to one student from each of the four colleges and universities in the state with a significant geology curriculum.

From the early days of the society to the present, publications have played a major role in attaining the purposes of the society as set forth in its constitution. From the first field trip in 1939 to the latest in 1993, 19 guidebooks have been published, along with various composite and type logs, correlation sections, and stratigraphic and structural cross-sections. Additionally, the society published a compendium of Wilcox fields in 1952, beginning a continuing progression of publications of field maps, reservoir, and production data. Volumes of the "Redbook" and its supplemental updates were published in 1957, 1963, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1987, and 1992. Since 1982, publications sales have been handled by Earth Enterprises, Inc. The society publishes publication of the monthly news *Bulletin*, which was begun in 1953.

Technical programs and seminars have been presented by the society since its inception and remain an integral part of its functions. Recent seminars have focused on the Cambro-Ordovician Knox play in northern Mississippi, salt tectonics, and sequence stratigraphy and its evidences in the outcrop.

From the original 38, membership grew to 108 within four months. From the late 1940's through the late 1950's, membership averaged 160 to 175. In 1962, however, it increased to 410, then leveled off until the late 1970's and early 1980's when it was consistently at about 500. Since the mid-1980's and the early 1990's, membership has stayed near the 300 mark. Attempts to encourage membership and participation by non-petroleum geologists is now emphasized by the society.

In August 1989, MGS sponsored, with other petroleum-related organizations in the area, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the society and of the discovery of Mississippi's first oil field, Tinsley Field.

The Mississippi Geological Society continues to look to the future by careful planning and sponsorship of worthwhile projects. One such was the 1992 sponsorship of the publication of *Oil in the Deep South (Part I)* by Dudley Hughes. The sponsorship served a two-fold purpose: to preserve part of the petroleum industry heritage in a written form, and to provide funds from the book sales to establish additional scholarship funds under the auspices of the society.

Today, the same concepts stated in the opening paragraph continue to motivate and propel the society into the future.

NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The New Orleans Geological Society was founded on October 6, 1941—the same year that The Texas Co. (Texaco), Humble (Exxon), and The California Company (Chevron) opened offices in the city, to join 11 independents already present. Founders included George W. Schneider (Texas Co.), J. W. Hoover (California Co.), H. C. "Pete" Peterson (Freeport Sulphur), D. Desmond Utterback (Freeport Sulphur), R. A. Steinmayer (Tulane University), W. J. Gillingham, and others. The society grew out of informal luncheon meetings held at the St. Charles Hotel in downtown New Orleans during the mid- to late-1930's. The first formal NOGS meeting was held November 3, 1941, and first-year membership was 55.

Other important events are: 1941, NOGS affiliates with AAPG; 1947, opens its membership to non-geological segments of the oil and gas industry, membership and meeting attendances more than triple, social events such as the Spring Party and Christmas Dance are begun; 1950, the society's seal, letterhead, monthly newsletter, and directory initiated; 1951, hosts First Annual Meeting of the newly organized GCAGS, first honorary life memberships are given, membership is now 223; 1954, issues first publication: four strike sections of the Frio, and Lower, Middle, and Upper Miocene trends, the Boy Scout Merit Badge Committee (later the Scouting Committee) is established, NOGS Auxiliary (NOGA) formed October 13, charter members number 100; 1956, publishes four dip sections to complement earlier strike sections; 1957, monthly meetings are moved to the Roosevelt Hotel, membership totals 510; 1959, first group insurance for NOGS members was organized, later taken over by AAPG, the Public Relations Committee is organized to present the science of geology to area high schools; 1960, the society began publication of the NOGS Log which superseded the previous one-page mimeographed newsletter, *Salt Domes of Southeast Louisiana* is published, is a ten-year project on 60 south Louisiana domes; 1961, first field trip to the Jefferson Island salt mine and an aerial field trip over the Mississippi Delta, NOGA membership is 307; 1962, first Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico field trip, *Salt Domes of Southeast Louisiana, Volume II*; 1963, incorporated as a non-profit organization, Graduate Program Committee supports initiation of an evening graduate program at Tulane University; 1964, publishes *Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana*, a companion volume to one published by the Lafayette Geological Society, assists Louisiana Geological Survey with data for Louisiana geologic map; 1965, NOGS membership tops 800 and NOGA numbers 282; 1967, *Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana, Volume II* published; 1969, the monthly meetings moved to the Sheraton Charles Hotel; 1972, monthly meetings moved to the Saxony Restaurant on Canal Street, hosts the International Symposium of Underground Waste Management and Artificial Recharge, membership tops 1000; 1974, publishes *Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields*; 1976, a grant program is established for one \$750 scholarship for an undergraduate student at any of the three local universities: LSU, Tulane, and University of

New Orleans; 1978, the Memorial Scholarship Fund is established with an initial grant of \$2000 from the society, each year four \$500 scholarships will be given to undergraduates at the four area universities: Nichols State, LSU, Tulane, and UNO, membership reaches 1400; 1981, publishes *Tuscaloosa Trend of South Louisiana*; 1983, publishes *Salt Domes of Southeast Louisiana, Volume III*; 1984, monthly meetings moved to the Hyatt Hotel; 1986, monthly meetings moved to the new Petroleum Club at the Energy Centre, opens an office, donated by Charles Corona, with a secretary and telephone, one \$2000 graduate scholarship is added to the Memorial Scholarship Fund program; 1987, office moved to the Amoco building, space is donated by Amoco, publishes *Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana, Volume II*, assists in setting up a Petroleum Apprentice Program at UNO; 1988, publishes *Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields, Volume II*, membership peaks at 1640; 1989, Memorial Scholarship Fund program now up to \$6000 annually with one J. A. Gilreath Memorial \$2000 graduate and four \$1000 undergraduate scholarships; 1990, office moved to the Mobil building into space donated by Mobil, another \$2000 annual graduate scholarship is added to the Memorial Scholarship Fund program, membership decreases to about 1400; 1991, office moved to 234 Loyola Building, the six surviving and still active charter members of NOGS honored at a monthly meeting, the Memorial Scholarship Fund receives \$240,010 from the Olga Braunstein succession and a \$10,000 matching grant from GCAGS, undergraduate scholarships are named in honor of Jules and Olga Braunstein and a graduate scholarship in honor of Lee Meltzer, publishes *An Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology*; 1992, Memorial Scholarship Fund is changed to the Memorial Foundation and now supports 15 scholarships (3 graduate and 12 undergraduate) with a total value of \$26,000 annually, the School Information Committee constructs 50 rock and mineral identification kits for area schools through specimen and cash donations by NOGS members, membership decreases to 1172, NOGA membership is 125.

NOGS has hosted six AAPG conventions in 1930, 1938, 1965, 1976, 1985, and 1993; six GCAGS annual meetings in 1951, 1957, 1962, 1971, 1978, and 1988; and two GSA national meetings in 1967 and 1982.

A number of members have served as major officers of other prominent societies and boards including Gordon Atwater, AAPG vice president, AGI president; Leslie Bowling, Chairman of 1st GCAGS Steering Committee; Frank Crawford, AAPG vice president, James Hartman AAPG secretary; Lee Meltzer DPA of AAPG, president; Thomas Philpott, AAPG vice president; and James Spillers, Chief Geologist, State Mineral Board.

The following members have received outstanding awards: Emmet Adams, GCS-SEPM Honorary Membership; Gordon Atwater, AAPG Sidney Powers Memorial Medal; Leslie Bowling, AAPG Distinguished Service Award and AAPG Honorary Membership; Jules Braunstein, AAPG Honorary Membership; Grady Collier, GCAGS Distinguished Service Award; Charles Corona, GCAGS Distinguished Service Award; John Dunlap Jr., GCS-SEPM Honorary Membership; James

Gilreath, GCAGS posthumous Honorary Membership; James Hartman, GCAGS and AAPG Honorary Memberships; Gay Larre', AAPG Distinguished Service Award; Thomas Philpott, GCAGS and AAPG Honorary Membership; Robert Sabate', GCAGS Distinguished Service Award; George Severson, AAPG Distinguished Service Award; and Rudolph Siegert, GCAGS Distinguished Service Award. National convention and journal papers by NOGS members have also been recognized. These include C. C. Humphris and H. O. Woodbury et al., both AAPG Matson Awards for Best Paper.

NOGS currently has over 26 committees functioning. Traditional social activities include a September officers' installation party, a Christmas dance, a spring crawfish boil, a golf/tennis tournament, and two or three informal barbecues or beer busts. The society sponsors at least one, usually more, geological field trip and continuing education seminar annually. NOGS currently has about 16 publications in print, many mentioned above. The society also supports the Greater New Orleans Science Fair, in part, by offering its members as judges.

SHREVEPORT GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The first formal association of Shreveport geologists was organized on December 5, 1919 as the Shreveport Section of the Southwestern Geological Society (not to be confused with the Southwestern Association of Petroleum Geologists, which became the AAPG). Chester A. Hammill was the main proponent of the organizational effort, supported by John R. Roberts, Julius Segall, S. S. Raymond, and J. W. Bostick. The 21 founding members attending that meeting elected Mr. J. Y. Snyder as Chairman. Snyder was not recorded as being in attendance, confirming the inadvisability of missing Society meetings! Hamill was elected Secretary.

In 1923, Shreveport hosted the AAPG Annual Convention and conducted its first field trip. Forty-two geologists, including Sidney Powers from Houston, inspected Upper Cretaceous outcrops and the Murfreesboro diamond mine in southwest Arkansas. The field trip was quite an event, and the newspapers of the time were fascinated with these men who drove all over the countryside knocking on rocks. Nineteen annual field trips were conducted without interruption from 1923 through 1941. In 1951, Walter H. Spears of Shreveport served as general chairman for the AAPG Convention in St. Louis.

On October 3, 1924, the Shreveport Section withdrew from the Southwestern Geological Society (which also included the Austin and Dallas sections), and reorganized as the Shreveport Geological Society. Twenty-five members were present at the first official meeting of the society on October 17, 1924. The first officers were W. E. Hopper, president; W. C. Spooner, vice president; and H. G. Schneider, secretary-treasurer. The society became affiliated with the AAPG eight years later in 1932.

During the 1930's and 40's, the major oil companies were formed and, by the late 40's and early 50's, 30 firms had offices in Shreveport, including several cor-

porate headquarters. Membership increased steadily from 25 in 1924 to 104 in 1940 and reached approximately 500 by 1958. Great strides were made in understanding the geology of the Ark-La-Tex area during this period, thanks to the work of numerous nationally known geologists located in Shreveport. These included Roy T. Hazzard, B. W. Blanpied, Thomas H. Philpott, W. C. Spooner, Jules Braunstein, Warren B. Weeks, and Clarence L. Moody. These men made the early stratigraphic designations and correlations which are, for the most part, still used today.

The society recognized early in its history the benefit of sharing geologic information through publications. Beginning with the 1939 publication of the *14th Annual Fieldtrip Guidebook*, "Upper and Lower Cretaceous of Southwest Arkansas", the society has emphasized this aspect of its endeavors. In 1946, SGS published the first two volumes of *Reference Reports on Certain Oil and Gas Fields in North Louisiana, South Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama*. They were unprecedented at the time and became examples for other geological societies to follow in the future. Volumes III through VII have continued to provide new information for geologists interested in the Ark-La-Tex area.

In June 1950, Thomas H. Philpott represented the SGS in meetings with the New Orleans Geological Society and the South Louisiana Geological Society which led to the formation of the GCAGS in 1951, with Shreveport as a charter member. The society hosted the GCAGS annual convention for the first time in October 1953, and thereafter in 1963, 1976, 1984, and 1993.

By the time Shreveport hosted the convention in 1963, the exodus of major companies from Shreveport had begun. The resulting decline in membership continued into the early 1970's when fewer than 300 members remained. This was a difficult period for SGS as it was necessary to continuously replace officers and committee members due to transfers. Although other GCAGS societies suffered and one disbanded, the independents and consultants who remained in Shreveport were determined to survive. This commitment was demonstrated in January 1967 when the SGS was one of the local geological societies to host the first AAPG-sponsored Continuing Education course. Dr. Lloyd C. Pray lectured on "Concepts on Carbonates for Petroleum Geologists."

In the mid-1970's and early 1980's, the society had cause for optimism. Natural gas was in short supply and oil prices increased steadily as a result of OPEC policies. Geologists were in demand and membership in SGS rose to over 700 in 1983-84. Amid the exuberance and optimism of the period, only a few began to notice the storm clouds on the horizon.

The changes in federal tax laws, an oversupply of natural gas, and ultimately, the crash of oil prices in 1986 had a dramatic effect on the society. As companies went out of business or downsized in response to changing economics, SGS members faced dwindling employment opportunities. Many members were forced to seek employment outside the oil and gas industry resulting in a sharp decline in membership. At the close of 1992, society membership stood at 331.

Despite the loss of members SGS has remained res-

olute in its commitment to the objectives under which it was founded in 1924, " ... the increase of knowledge, especially of Louisiana, Southern Arkansas and East Texas, and the promotion of fellowship among geologists in this area." The monthly meeting has continued to be the major focus of society activity, providing an opportunity for both education and fellowship. Normally scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday, September through May, excluding October, the meetings have been held at the Petroleum Club of Shreveport since 1975. Continuing education courses are also sponsored on a regular basis.

The society has also demonstrated its concern for our community and the science of geology beyond the limits of the oil and gas industry. Over the years, many geology students have received society scholarships at area colleges and universities. In 1986, through the efforts of Lane Sartor, the W. & Tweatie Scarborough Baird Scholarship Trust was established. This perpetual trust, in the amount of \$100,000, will continue to provide funds for worthy geology majors indefinitely. Besides scholarships, SGS promotes the study of geology through active involvement at the elementary, middle school, and high school level. Each year numerous members volunteer their services as in-class resources and science fair judges, giving students the opportunity to meet and interact with geologists first hand. The society also began supporting the Louisiana Region I Science and Engineering Fair through various age level and category awards in 1987. For the younger set, the society sponsors a mock geological "dig" each year in conjunction with the community-sponsored Red River Revel. Nothing captures a child's imagination like dirt and the allure of hidden "treasure!"

Last but not least, SGS members have always shared good times of fun and fellowship. The annual golf tournament dates back to the 1950's and continues to be a popular event. The social calendar has been expanded to include fishing and tennis tournaments. Since 1990, the annual Spring Fling, including the infamous "Wildcatters Game," has brought the year to a rousing close as would-be oil barons buy leases and drill wells in search of oil—and door prizes!

Through the years, society members have given unselfishly of their time and talents to work on society and civic projects. Some have gained national prominence for their contributions to geology and their leadership in the oil and gas industry. All have benefitted from the opportunity for service, continuing education, and friendship which the society provides.

SOUTHEASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Southeastern Geological Society was founded during the first half of 1944. At that time the SEGS was truly the southeastern society since its membership extended to cover Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. However, in the late 1960's to early 1970's, the SEGS's membership came mainly from Florida. In 1993, less than five percent of its members reside outside Florida.

During 1944, two field trips were run. The first trip, which visited southwestern Alabama, occurred on June

21-23, 1944. The second trip, held November 15-16, 1944, visited southwestern Georgia. The founders and first year officers included President Herman Gunter, the State Geologist of Florida; Vice President Robert Campbell, a Consulting Geologist; and Secretary E. W. Scott, a geologist with Union Oil of California.

SEGS became affiliated with AAPG in 1944. The GCAGS accepted the SEGS as a member in 1954. Although there is only limited historical data on the SEGS and its activities, a nearly complete listing of the officers from 1944 to 1993 has been compiled. Reading through this listing reveals the names of many of the widely recognized geologists. During the first 20 years of the SEGS, this list includes Herman Gunter, Paul Applin, Eleanor Caldwell, Robert Vernon, Milton Hruby, Louise Jordan, James Calver, Nevin Hoy, B. F. Buie, Harbans Puri, Don Gorsline, William Revees, H. Grant Goodell, H. K. Brooks, Joseph Banks, E. C. Pirkle, Howard Cramer, and Steve Windham. The list of officers from 1964 to 1993 includes many geologists still very active in the geologic profession in the southeastern United States. Although the number of original SEGS members is unknown, the membership reached a maximum of nearly 300 in the mid- to late-70's. Current membership is more than 200 including student associates from the state's universities.

Through its 46-year history, the SEGS has organized and conducted numerous field trips. Many of the field trips had published guide books while others simply had handouts. SEGS maintains its own publication series of field trip guide books. To date, there have been 32 guidebooks published and many of these are available through the SEGS at P.O. Box 1634, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

SEGS hosted the national 1964 meeting of the Geological Society of America at Miami Beach and the 1969 GCAGS/GCS-SEPM convention also at that location. It also organized and hosted the 1980 symposium on "The Miocene of the Southeastern United States." SEGS assisted with the hosting of the 1983 and the 1993 Southeastern Section meetings of the GSA in Tallahassee, and the 1985 national GSA meeting in Orlando.

SEGS continues its tradition of providing Florida's geological community with a place to meet other geologists, discuss projects and research, listen to technical papers, and enjoy geological excursions. Meetings are held quarterly at various locations in Florida and a yearly field trip is held in the fall.

SOUTH TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The South Texas Geological Society had its beginning on March 4, 1929 when, responding to Ray F. "Schoolie" Schoolfield's invitation to the members of AAPG in South Texas, 35 geologists came to lunch and founded the San Antonio Geological Society. The group included 23 company men, eleven independents, and even a geophysicist, Dabney Petty. Two were from Beeville, Irving K. "Ike" Howeth and Fred Shayes; another two came from Laredo, Milo Orr and Olin G. Bell, and Frank "Getz" Getzendaner, from Uvalde. These men joined 30 San Antonians to become our

charter members.

The first officers included President Charles W. Row, (a founder of AAPG in 1917), Vice President Ray Schoolfield, Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth O. Owen, and Executive Committeemen, Herschel H. Cooper and E. L. Porch. The old San Antonio Petroleum Club, then in the Milam Building, was the meeting place for the evening dinner meetings on the first Monday of the month. An informal lunch was held on the other Mondays.

The oil production found in Bexar County in the years before World War I was followed in the next decade by the discoveries of the giant Edwards Lime fields of the Fault Trend, Salt Flat, Luling, Darst Creek, then the serpentine fields of Bastrop County. The Miranda trend, the stretch of shallow oil fields from Zapata and Laredo through Duval County, was an arena for the independent more than the company-dominated earlier plays. These active trends helped to build the membership to about 95 by February of 1930. More recently, we have witnessed a boom due to the development of Frio sands in the long stretch of fields along the coastal plain, as well as the horizontal and high-pressure, deep-sand plays.

The South Texas Geological Society name was adopted in 1939 to reflect the regional spread of the members in our society, then at 257, including 134 in San Antonio, 59 in Corpus, Christi, 45 in other parts of South Texas, and 19 from other places. W. A. "Arch" Maley (with Humble) was elected president in 1938, having opened one of the first oil company offices in Corpus Christi in 1929, and Fred Shayes of Union Producing Company in Beeville presided in 1940. There were Monday luncheons in Corpus Christi and San Antonio with the monthly technical meeting alternating between the two cities. This close relation continued until World War II gasoline rationing forced the establishment of the Corpus Christi Geological Society in 1943.

STGS became affiliated with AAPG in 1949. When the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was formed in 1951 with the leadership of other Societies, particularly New Orleans, our Society went through a foot-dragging period, but finally we joined the GCAGS in 1954, and hosted the annual meetings on five occasions. The GCAGS meetings called into action the auxiliary which was founded in 1956. The ladies have made a large contribution to the success of the regional meetings and society affairs.

The *Bulletin* of STGS, started in 1960 with Wilford Stapp as first editor, gave birth to publication of *Contributions to the Geology of South Texas* in 1962, 1967, and 1986. Each of these hard-back books of over 300 pages contain definitive papers and have been applauded throughout the profession.

A scholarship fund, organized by George His, has provided expenses for geological field trips since 1976. With securities of over \$75,000 it has helped 20 students improve their geological talents.

The society has had over 500 members since the early 1980's. The annual springtime-fest, the Seguin picnic was a tradition for some 50 years, then revived in 1983 and continued several years again. An awardee of hon-

orary membership is elected from time to time with some 20 geologists earning this recognition in the 64 year history of the organization.

The STGS has hosted five GCAGS/GCS-SEPM conventions, in 1956, 1961, 1967, 1979, and 1987. The society has also hosted a Gulf Coast regional meeting of AAPG in 1947, and four national conventions, in 1931, 1974, 1984, and 1989. We have also participated in two conferences in Mexico: in Monterrey in 1932, and in Mexico City in 1935.

Several members have brought outstanding honors to the society. Here are a few of them: The late Edgar W. Owen is a past president of AAPG, an honorary member, and a Powers medalist; L. F. McCollum was a long-time president of Continental Oil Company; Edward C. Roy and M. O. Turner have received numerous honors from both AAPG and GCAGS, and from other sources; and Don F. Tobin is the current president of AAPG.

The South Texas Geological Society has seen many accomplished and distinguished leaders pass through its ranks, and we know that we have a future which will be fulfilling to the geologists, good for the country, and rich in experience for the society.

GULF COAST SECTION OF SEPM

The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1993. It was established for the purpose of "promoting the science of stratigraphy in the Gulf Coast states through research in paleontology and sedimentary petrology, especially as it relates to petroleum geology." The first president of the section was Stuart A. Levinson, with his executive council of Vice President Grover E. Murray, Secretary William H. Akers, Treasurer Frank V. Stevenson, and Claude M. Quigley as editor, then an elective post. GCS-SEPM has fostered the science of stratigraphy through sponsorship of field trips, annual professional meetings in cooperation with the GCAGS, publication of field guides, special research reports, and scientific publications associated with the Annual GCS-SEPM Research Conferences. The section has met annually with the GCAGS since 1954, holding separate concurrent technical sessions since 1956.

The two most significant events in the history of the section occurred in 1980-81 with the initiation of the Annual Research Conferences, and the establishments of the GCS-SEPM Foundation. The idea for GCS-SEPM sponsored annual research conferences was conceived by Gene Martin, then president of the section. Under his leadership, the First Annual Research Conference was held in Houston in December 1980, entitled "Geology of the Woodbine and Tuscaloosa Formations." This first effort was fully subscribed with over 300 registrants. Since then, 12 additional conferences have unfolded, building on this initial success and carrying on the tradition of excellence. From these conferences come some of the section's best publications, including extended abstracts and proceedings volumes on: *The Jurassic of the Gulf Rim, Habitat of Oil and Gas in the Gulf Coast, Timing of Siliciclastic Diagenesis, Innovative Biostratigraphic Applications to*

Sequence Analysis, Shelf Sedimentation, Shelf Sequences and Related Hydrocarbon Accumulation, Gulf of Mexico Salt Tectonics, Gulf Coast Oils and Gases, Sequence Stratigraphy as an Exploration Tool: Concepts and Practices in the Gulf Coast, and others. The most popular conference to date was "Sequence Stratigraphy as an Exploration Tool." The initial presentation of this conference in December of 1990 was so popular that it was offered a second time in June of 1991 to accommodate all of those wishing to participate. The total registration for the two was 973! The 1993 GCS-SEPM Foundation Research Conference on "Rates of Geologic Processes" is already well into the planning stage, as is the 1994 conference on "Turbidite Fan Systems."

The GCS-SEPM Foundation was established in 1981 as a trust fund for the sponsorship of research and research-related activities, including research grants, seminars, conferences, symposia, publications, and programs of continuing education in stratigraphy and the related sciences of paleontology and sedimentary petrology. The foundation supports these activities through tax-exempt donations from individuals and corporations, as well as through conference registration fees, on a scale that would not be possible for the section. Due largely to the efforts of Bob Perkins, the foundation Executive Director since its beginning, the foundation and its research conferences continue to fulfill our promise of "excellence in education and research." Three Foundation Trustees, in conjunction with the Executive Director, set the direction for future activities. The first three trustees were Doris M. Curtis, John B. Dunlap, and Claude M. Quigley.

The section has awarded honorary memberships to 34 distinguished geoscientists since the award was initiated in 1964. The first honored were Ester Applin, Alva C. Ellisor, Marcus A. Hanna, Henry V. Howe, Hedwig Knicker, Winnie McGlamery, and John R. Sandridge. Our most recent awardee was James M. Coleman in 1992.

On our 40th anniversary, membership stands at more than 400, and has been relatively stable for several years, despite the downturn in the petroleum industry. At its peak in the early eighties, the section had over 600 members, as compared with its approximate 150 charter members in 1953. Though primarily drawing from the Gulf Coast region, the section also has members from many other parts of the United States, and this year we have 13 foreign members as well. This wide geographic distribution of the membership illustrates the fine reputation that the section has gained over the years for scientific excellence and service to the geologic community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following have contributed the histories that appear above:

- Alabama — Charles W. Copeland, Alabama Geological Survey, P. O. Box 6184, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486
- Austin — Missy Jackson, Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas, P. O. Box X, University Station, Austin, Texas 78713
- Baton Rouge — David E. Pope, Louisiana Geological

- Survey, P. O. Box G, University Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893
- Corpus Cristi — Wayne S. Croft, Royal Oil and Gas, 807 North CCNB Building, Corpus Cristi, Texas 78471
- East Texas — Charles P. Doubek, Barrow-Shaver Resources Company, 712 First City Place, Tyler, Texas 75702
- Houston — Dean Grafton, Retired (OXY, USA, Inc.), P. O. Box 820123, Houston, Texas 77282
- Lafayette — Ellis R. Guilbeau, Independent Petroleum Geologist, P. O. Box 52092, Lafayette, Louisiana 70505
- Mississippi — Stanley King, Consultant, 416 East Amite Street, Suite 103, Jackson, Mississippi 39201
- New Orleans — Chris S. Lerch, Shell Offshore, Inc., P. O. Box 61933, New Orleans, Louisiana 70161
- Shreveport — William R. Meany, Anderson Oil and Gas, Inc., 333 Texas Street, Suite 2121, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
- Southeastern — Thomas M. Scott, Florida Geological Survey, 903 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304
- South Texas — Wilford L. Stapp, Consulting Geologist, 115 East Travis Street, Suite 1701, San Antonio, Texas 78205
- Gulf Coast Section of SEPM — Shelia C. Barnette, BP Exploration, Inc., P. O. Box 4587, Houston, Texas 77210

Additional information was given on the original Baton Rouge society by Leo W. Hough, on the Beaumont society by Saul Aronow, and on the Southeastern society by Charles W. Hendry, Jr., William Tanner, and Steve R. Windham. History of the New Orleans society is based on NOGS files and earlier histories by D. D. Utterback, L. H. Meltzer and R. W. Sabate'.

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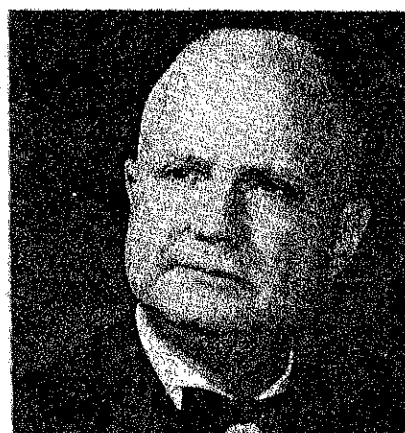
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R. W. EATON
East Texas Geological Society



L. BOWLING
Chairman
New Orleans Geological Society
Shreveport Geological Society



T. H. PHILPOTT
Shreveport Geological Society



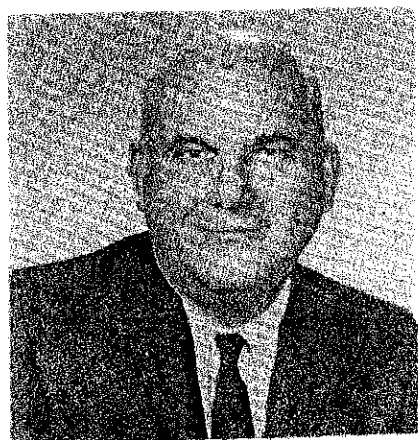
E. L. EARL
Houston Geological Society

Dedication

The 1968 TRANSACTIONS is humbly dedicated to the members of the Steering Committee who, in 1949 - 1950, fostered the initial development of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies. It is fortunate that these individuals were both farsighted enough to realize the need for a regional unification of geological societies, and resolved enough to pursue their vision to reality. The Association is indebted to these men for their unrelenting efforts in successfully laying the foundation of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.



R. D. SPRAGUE
Mississippi Geological Society



W. R. FARLEY
South Louisiana Geological Society

Reproduced from the 1968 *Transactions*, v.18, p. XIII.

For photographs of the seven GCAGS Founding Fathers (Philip R. Allin, Leslie Bowling, A. P. Chaudet, W. B. Neill, T. H. Philpott, F. B. Stein, and D. D. Utterback), see the 1991 *Transactions*, v.41, p. 516.



W. H. WALLACE
Corpus Christi Geological Society