

SPECIAL NOON MEETING

MINERAL EXPLORATION IN SPAIN

by A. H. Wadsworth, Jr.



It has been said that the entire geology of western Europe has been compressed into the Iberian Peninsula. Compressed is the proper word because few areas on earth have undergone more intense and protracted periods of folding and thrusting.

Major regional deformations occurred in Hercynian (Carboniferous) and Alpine (Tertiary) time. During those phases, there were successive periods of movement where earlier folds and thrust plates were buckled and re faulted. The result is an extremely complex structural pattern that makes the geologist's job difficult but rewarding. Mineralization of the base metals as well as minor metals has occurred in wide areas.

Research Minerals Exploration Co. is exploring for copper, lead and zinc in southern Spain in the famous Huelva copper belt. The company is also developing a rich newly discovered deposit of mercury in the Cordillera Cantabrica near Oviedo in northern Spain. Production is expected to begin in late summer 1973.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Born in Bay City, Texas. Graduated from the University of Texas with Masters in Geology in 1941. Worked for Seaboard Oil Co. in Corpus Christi and Texaco in Midland before joining the US Geological Survey. Assigned to mine examinations in all western states until 1947. Then became Southwest US exploration geologist for Asarco in Silver City, New Mexico. Returned to Bay City and entered the oil business in 1950 as an independent geologist. In 1956 moved to Houston and has been actively engaged in oil and mining exploration.

In 1971 organized Research Minerals Exploration Company to explore for minerals in foreign countries.