

## EVENING MEETING MARCH 8, 1976

### MAX G. PITCHER — Biographical Review



Dr. Pitcher was born and raised in Alberta, Canada. He attended Brigham Young University where he received Bachelors and Masters degrees in geology. After doing field geology in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia for Pan American and the Geological Survey of Canada, he attended Columbia University in New York and received a PhD degree in geology in 1963. Subsequent research concentrated

on Ordovician and Cretaceous reefs of Canada and the U.S. and recent analogues in Florida, the Bahamas and Mexico. He joined the research and development department of Continental Oil Company in Oklahoma as a research geologist in carbonate petrology and multivariate statistical analysis of geologic data.

In 1965, Dr. Pitcher became manager of geologic research for Continental and in 1968 came to Houston as assistant to the executive vice president of exploration and production. In 1969, he was transferred to Denver, Colorado as Rocky Mountain division geologist and in 1973 returned to Houston in his present position as Director of Geology for Conoco's Western Hemisphere petroleum operations.

#### THE TECHNOLOGICAL FOREFRONTS OF EXPLORATION (Abstract)

by: Max G. Pitcher

The number of new oil and gas fields found each year in the U.S. onshore lower 48 larger than 20 million barrels of oil and 100 billion cubic feet of gas remained relatively constant from 1960-1974. The number of wildcats required to find one of these significant fields decreased from 500 in 1961 to 300 in 1974. Since the number of significant fields remaining to be found is reduced each year, this achievement can only be due to improved technology.

Conceptual breakthroughs in the past 15 years helped sustain this record and will lead to new discoveries. Four significant conceptual developments are plate tectonics, organic geochemistry, environmental stratigraphy, and geoseismic modelling. Case histories will be shown of the utility of these concepts in worldwide basin evaluation and in exploring onshore and offshore provinces of the U.S. and South America.