

NOON MEETING JAN. 26, 1977

SANKEY L. BLANTON, JR. -Biographical Sketch



Dr. Sankey L. Blanton, Jr. was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. He holds a Certificate of Engineering from the University of Heidelberg and a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of North Carolina. Before starting his career in the oil industry, he taught at the Missouri School of Mines and Southern Methodist University. Since 1952, he has been with Sun Oil Com-

pany in various exploration assignments. For several years he has been involved in Alaskan exploration projects and he is currently concerned with Sun's offshore effort in Alaska. Dr. Blanton is a member of AAPG and for 1976-77, he is an AAPG Distinguished Lecturer.

GEOLOGY OF BERING SHELF (Abstract)

by: Dr. Sankey L. Blanton, Jr.

The present Bering Shelf is the largest untested, contiguous marine area in the free world that is drillable with today's technology. The present Bering Tertiary basins have an optimum potential for sizable accumulations of hydrocarbons.

The present shelf edge approximates the position of the Cretaceous shelf edge. The tectonic evolution of the shelf has made correlation of the geologic history of the Mesozoic onshore with the offshore impossible. The formation of large shelf edge tensional basins (Navarin and St. George), immediately after plate neutralization, suggests that common solutions of pull-aparts and/or arc related basins are inadequate to explain the geologic setting. Apparently, the Kula plate interface vacillated between subduction and transform phenomena during the Mesozoic. Neutralization occurred in early Tertiary time when the Aleutian Arc was interposed between the tip of the Kula plate and its spreading center (bulk of the plate).

The best geologic analogs to the Navarin and St. George basins are the Gulf Coast Interior Salt Basins.