TECHNICAL PROGRAM SUMMARY

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A. L. PORTER, Oil and gas conservation in New Mexico
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PATRICK J. F. GRATTON AND WILLIAM J. LEMAY, Ground rules for San Andres exploration

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

(In order of presentation)

1. MICHEL T. HALBOUTY, President, The American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Houston, Tex.

ECONOMICS—THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT IN EXPLORATION

The still-current problems of expensive exploration, increased imports, over-capacity in production and refining, and the continued loss of risk capital have not provided a proper return on domestic petroleum exploration investment and effort.

The meaning of economics can not be overemphasized in the every-day professional activities of the geologist. No exploration recommendation should be approved by the creative geologist without his first being fully aware of the relationship of risk to investment, thence to potential profit.

Every geologist must be thoroughly knowledgeable in the application of economics—the most essential requirement for successful exploration and profit.

2. MRS. MELBA W. MURRAY, Esso Production Research Co., Houston, Tex.

SOME INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IDEAS, DOLLARS, AND GOOD DIALOGUE

Why not deliberately structure reports that perform a useful function as half a human dialogue? Perhaps such a fresh approach to writing could shorten the distance between ideas and dollars. The path between an idea and a dollar must coincide with some line of communication; how else could the idea be transformed from thought into action into profit? In conversation the line of communication is quite direct. Here we are prompted by questions and guided by visible and audible human responses. But written communications lack human contact and, as a result, are often misdirected. The lines are long, crooked, and ill-defined. En route along such lines, ideas become distorted, diffused, weak, perhaps entirely lost. Then why not apply to written communication the same approach that makes us forceful and dynamic—and clear and influential—in conversation? How to organize such a report is the subject of this paper. Examples demonstrate the role of reports patterned after "good dialogue" in shortening, straightening, and strengthening the ideas-to-dollars route.

3. BERNOLD M. HANSON, Hanson Exploration Co., Midland, Tex.

BAR-MAR FIELD, THE TRICKY DEVONIAN

What originated as the Fusselman play in southern Crane County developed into a 4-million-barrel oil field in the Devonian, an 8-billion-cubic-foot Clear Fork gas field, a 1-million-barrel Tubb field, and two Fusselman dry holes. The areal extent of this field has not been developed and is not fully known because of the large amount of acreage held by production and controlled by the major oil companies.

The original geological interpretation suggested possible oil production in the Fusselman updip from a dry hole that recovered 25 barrels of sulfur water per hour on a drill-stem test. The porosity and permeability indicated from this drill-stem test suggested a fairly sizable reservoir at a relatively shallow depth of 5,400 feet. This information, in conjunction with sufficient dry-hole money and a fairly sizable acreage position for Crane County, encouraged the writer and his partner to drill the prospect.

It took 1 month to sell the deal and 13 investors before sufficient funds were available to spud the well.

The Devonian tripolitic chert contains one of the highest recoverable oil reserves in the Permian basin. This chalky reservoir is difficult to explore and develop. The number of dry holes are many, but the recoverable oil justifies the risk involved.

The apparent trend in this wedge-edge, scarp, or "tight rope" can be noted along northern Crockett, southern Crane, and northern Pecos Counties. These fields which are productive from the Devonian appear to be related directly to the "Fort Stockton High." The numerous adjustment or radial faults that are present along the flanks of this major structural feature are believed to be the cause of this oil accumulation.

The many fields along this trend exhibit different modes of hydrocarbon accumulation. These fields in Devonian strata produce in re-entrants, grabens, and wedge-edges of tripolitic chert. The Bar-Mar field appears to be productive in a graben.

While developing this field, several additional oil and gas pays were discovered; however, the major part of the Devonian production eluded the discoverer

Although it is always the dream of the independent