THE OCCURRENCE OF OIL AND GAS IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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Introduction

Area and Location

Figure 1 is an outline map of a portion of the State of Texas showing the subject area, Southeast Texas, which is composed of Texas Railroad Commission District III. This report is designed to tie into the Bureau of Economic Geology Publication 5116 by Herald, 1951, on the Occurrence of Gas and Oil in Northeast Texas.

Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to place a collection of brief statistical data on a representative group of Southeast Texas fields in a volume, reproduced in such form that it can be revised and brought up to date from time to time and used as a ready research reference. The purpose of this introductory article is to establish a general geologic background for the detailed field reports which follow, and discuss regional factors not covered in the field reports. As in the case of field reports, an effort will be made to keep it as brief as possible. Wherever feasible, data have been combined into tables and charts. As is true with any general statement, there will be many specific exceptions. In many cases, use was made of work by Houston Geological Society study groups and other authors. For a complete yearly tabulation of statistics on all the fields in this area, please refer to Oil Scout Year Books. The field papers which follow deal primarily with subsurface formations far removed from outcrops and having little relation to surface geology. This paper, therefore, deals primarily with the subsurface regional geology with reference to the surface geology, where it is now known to be directly related.

Stratigraphy

General Statement

The search for oil and gas in most of the Southeast Texas District is involved largely with the great thickness of Cenozoic clastic section (50,000 ft.+). In the two tiers of counties along the updip margin of the area, deeper tests penetrate part of the Cretaceous, but it is doubtful if any test to date has encountered the Jurassic and no bedded salt has been reported.

In this upper tier area; Cretaceous production has become more important in recent years with Woodbine production in counties from Brazos on the...