

ABSTRACTS – SHREVEPORT MEETING, MARCH 26-29, 2003 – Mary Barrett, Chairperson

iron could also serve. However, pine wood, being in plentiful supply, was preferred. The Densmore cars were gradually replaced by horizontal boiler-type iron tank cars beginning 1868-69. Some of the wooden tank cars lingered on into the early 1870's.

Oil-Industry History, v. 5, no. 1, 2004, p. 3-17.

THE MEXICAN GULF OIL COLLECTION AT CENTENARY COLLEGE

Katie Poole, Department of Geology and Geography, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA 71134, kpoole@centenary.edu

Published information on foreign oil and gas companies in Mexico typically focuses on the general geology of the country or political conditions building up to 1938. However, little is written about the living conditions, transportation, and equipment that were ever-present in the lives of the men sent to Mexico in search of oil.

The Mexican Gulf Oil Company Collection in the Centenary College Archives is composed of approximately 13 linear feet filled with maps and reports in both Spanish and English. The following selections will be on display:

- *Mexican Gulf Oil field men manual* - goes into great detail on how to survey an area in Mexico, what should be included in a report, and what style the report should be written. It also provides geologic age charts, information on the typical formations in Mexico, and a chart on map symbols.
- *The Campeche Hardwood Tract report* - provides a verbal picture of an unexploited Mexico.
- *The Hacienda Cocuite report* - interesting report on mud mounds. The author goes into great detail on both natural mud mounds and those made by the Indians. A sketch of different mounds is provided at the end of the report.
- *Hacienda Palo Blanco report* - discusses the difficulty of traveling over the Mexican roads in both fair and foul weather.
- *Gravity, lease, and contour maps.*
- *Correspondence* – postcards.
- *Pictures* - of men and equipment.

HISTORY OF THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Allan Pulsipher¹ and Harry Luton², ⁽¹⁾ Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, 225-578-4550; ⁽²⁾ Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70123

The Minerals Management Service is sponsoring a project involving faculty and students at Louisiana State University, the University of Arizona, the University of the Houston, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to study and document the evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry in Louisiana in an objective and comprehensive way. The goals of the investigators are to:

- Document the strategies and objectives of the companies or firms involved.
- Ascertain the cumulative effects of offshore development on the coastal landscape, and community and family relationships.
- Describe how technology and managerial innovations enabled development of reservoirs in deeper and deeper water depths.
- Study how the policies and regulations of the government agencies with responsibilities in state and the federal jurisdictions were developed.
- Explore how these aspects of the story were related and affected each other.

While the study uses a mix of methodologies, considerable effort will focus on the collection and analysis of oral histories and life stories. This reflects the study's goal of telling the story from the perspective of those who made the industry, who "lived it," and who now look back at the trials and accomplishments from a new century's circumstances and expectations. Collecting and archiving these stories is timely. Many of the industry's pioneers are elderly. Their knowledge and experience, sparsely represented in existing sources, should not go unrecorded. The presentation will describe the project and its origins in the MMS Environmental Studies Program.