

that differed in many ways from American practices. The American geological community had heated debates regarding structural versus stratigraphic trapping in Paleozoic reservoirs, but never mentioned conditions at Baku, where the geological setting was quite different and the American models were not directly applicable.

WHY CARE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OIL AND GAS? A THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

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Despite a large number of works published on the history of petroleum, many aspects and many regions relevant to the history of petroleum still remain little researched. This problem is even more aggravated in the absence of well-funded academic research programs in this field. However, the significance of the history of petroleum science and technology stems from some fundamental necessities and characteristics that should not be neglected. The history helps us to preserve, celebrate, and learn from our “heritage” through: (1) “recording” the events, careers, developments and challenges in the field of petroleum exploration and production; (2) “recognizing” the major players in the progress of the field as a way to encourage the future generations; (3) “researching” the past to learn from its successes and failures in order to better plan for the future, and also to improve the historical record in the face of new evidence. To these, one more important factor should also be added because of the nature of petroleum: The history of petroleum is an “integrative” field on various levels: (1) It combines several key sciences including geology, chemistry and geophysics; (2) it depicts the vital pathways from academic disciplines to technology and vice versa; and (3) it is a narrative of both natural and human histories, showing interactions between earth resources and the economy and politics of social systems that have shaped history. Historical knowledge and investigations on the petroleum industry also have practical implications; they reveal (1) ignored exploration concepts, interpretations and practices; (2) forgotten field observations, seeps and records; (3) mechanisms and consequences of contracts, partnerships and business decisions; (4) abandoned wells and fields; (5) fixing environmental issues related to the oil industry. Outside the oil industry, the history of petroleum contributes to our understanding of (1) the growth of science and technology especially in the twentieth century; (2) geopolitical his-

tory of various regions around the world; (3) factors shaping modern economies; it also contributes to public education and policy debates. This paper highlights the multi-dimensional theoretical aspects and methodologies of research into the history of petroleum. It also calls for incorporation of courses on the history of petroleum in university education. Parts of this paper were first presented at the 2013 AAPG Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; here it is given as a full paper.

EARLY TEXAS OILFIELD PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Commercial photographers captured many great views of early Texas oil booms. Common scenes included oil gushers, oilfield fires, fields of wooden derricks, and boomtowns. These photographs were produced and sold, often as real photo postcards (RPPCs).

Two well-known Texas oilfield photographers, Port Arthur’s Frank Trost (1868-1944) and Odessa’s Jack Nolan (1889-1972), were discussed in a previous paper by this author. Five additional prolific Texas oilfield photographers were Benjamin Loden, Frank Schlueter, F.G. Allen, L.L. Allen, and Ralph Doubleday.

Benjamin Harrison Loden (1871?-1926) was the founder and owner of Loden’s Studio in the North Texas town of Electra. His work appears to be generally limited to scenes from the town and the Electra oil field (discovered in 1911). One photograph of his from the nearby Burkburnett oilfield has been located. His postcards include oilfield fires, derricks, gushers, and a missionary group ready to venture into the oilfield.

Frank J. Schlueter (1874-1972) and his wife, Lois, opened a photography studio in Houston in 1907 or 1908. Schlueter captured scenes in many Texas Gulf Coast oil fields, including Goose Creek, Humble, Orange, Sugarland, Pierce Junction, Hull, West Columbia, Damon Mound, Barbers Hill, Markham, Thompson, Rabb’s Ridge, Manvel, Blue Ridge, South Houston, and Vinton (Louisiana). Though perhaps best-known for his oilfield photography, Schlueter also documented the growth of Houston and the surrounding area’s industries and agriculture until his retirement in 1964 at the age of 90. Schlueter’s work includes some excellent panoramic photographs. Much of Schlueter’s work is preserved