

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists Distinguished Lecture Tour

PETROLEUM POTENTIAL OF THE UNITED STATES

by

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ABSTRACT

Important oil and gas fields continue to be found in unusual and surprising geological environments. Each discovery improves the petroleum geologist's understanding of the habitat of oil, and sharpens his oil finding ability. An adequate supply of domestic petroleum in the future depends upon such unique discoveries to a greater extent than in the past.

The existence of many more such accumulations and others at customary or greater depths in both the less explored and more thoroughly explored areas is not doubted by the authors of the Association's Memoir 15 "Future Petroleum Provinces of the United States." They have approached the problems of the country's petroleum potential positively, not negatively, and have expressed their opinions qualitatively and usually quantitatively. An enormous amount of old and new geological and other exploratory data has been assembled which should provoke alternate opinions leading to additional discoveries.

The extent to which the vast petroleum resources are reduced to possession depends on the impact of ever-changing economic and political events upon the rising tide of technological competence and knowledge. The role of the petroleum geologist as earth scientist, explorer, and salesman is destined to grow in importance, particularly on shore in the conterminous United States where a significant percentage of the visualized undiscovered crude oil and natural gas is in stratigraphic traps, combination stratigraphic and structural traps, reefs, and complex structural situations.

Clearly a great deal more exploratory drilling is needed, not only to explore such traps, but to provide much needed geological and production data in the large undrilled areas. To the extent industry and governmental policies militate against expanded exploration, particularly drilling, a large part of the petroleum resources will rest uselessly in the ground.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Born:

March 10, 1901, St. Paul Minnesota.

Academic Background:

1923-B.A. University of Minnesota.

1924-M.A. University of Minnesota.

Experience:

1924-1948 Pure Oil Company; Geologist and Manager of Exploration.

1949-1966 Continental Oil Company; Vice-President and Manager of Exploration; Senior Vice-President; Vice-President; Director; Chairman of the Executive Committee.

1950-1966 Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Director; Chairman

of Board of Directors.

1953-1964 National Bank of Commerce, Houston, Texas; Advisory Committee of Board of Directors; Directors.

Honors:

1922 Phi Beta Kappa

1924 Sigma Xi

1957 Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota

1964 Honorary Member of the AAPG

1969 AAPG Sidney Powers Memorial Medalist

Memberships:

AAPG, GSA, SEPM, Paleontological Society of America, AIME, SEM, Tulsa Geological Society, HGS, AGU, SEG, AIPG, API.

Publications:

Twenty-eight major publications on petroleum fields, petroleum-industry problems, and the philosophy of petroleum exploration.

Twenty-two major, and numerous shorter, addresses to national audiences on petroleum exploration and exploration philosophy.