EVENING MEETING MAY 9, 1977

MARTIN M. SHEETS—Biographical Sketch

Martin M. Sheets was born in Utah; he grew up and was educated in Oregon. He holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Oregon. During his professional career, he has been associated with major oil companies and an independent oil operator. Since 1970, he has been a consulting geologist with offices in Houston. Mr. Sheets has authored papers on the geology of Oregon, Wyoming, and the Gulf Coast. Included in his list of papers are five on Gulf Coast environmental geology. Mr. Sheets is a member of many professional organizations including AAPG, APGS, and SIPES. He has long been an active worker in the Houston Geological Society and he has served the society as treasurer, executive committeeman, and chairman of the environmental committee. As a mark of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow geologists, Mr. Sheets was elected to Honorary Life Membership in the Houston Geological Society in 1971.

SUBSIDENCE AND ACTIVE SURFACE FAULTING IN THE HOUSTON VICINITY (Abstract)

by: Martin M. Sheets

The Houston area is one of very active tectonics as demonstrated by surface uplift, subsidence, and active surface faulting. These tectonics involve man-made structures with values in the billions of dollars and damage that runs into the millions. Tectonic movements in this vicinity have been going on continuously throughout geologic time and no doubt will continue. They can be influenced by the activities of man.

Subsidence is most noticeable near the bay areas where subdivisions have been flooded and once dry land is now under water, and where remedial and protective measures are continually required. Active surface faults have damaged streets, water mains, airport runways, industrial and commercial establishments, many homes, and other structures of all kinds including churches. There are over 150 active surface faults in Houston. One of these can be followed for 9 miles. By proper investigation and planning, resulting damage can be minimized. It is important that all geological scientists be informed and that other groups such as engineers, architects, realtors, and developers be alerted to the importance of the problems.