

## EVENING MEETING—NOVEMBER 14, 1983

### JOHN J. AMORUSO—Biographical Sketch



John J. Amoruso received a BS Degree in Geology from Tufts College, Medford, Massachusetts in 1952. After graduation, he entered the U. S. Navy for three years before entering graduate school. He received a MS in Geology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1957.

He joined Pan American Petroleum Corporation (now Amoco Production Co.) in 1957, having worked for its predecessor, Stan-

lind, in Oklahoma during the summer of 1956. During the period 1957-1969 with Pan American Petroleum Corporation, he held widely varied petroleum exploration assignments in the Four Corners Area, Uinta Basin, West Texas and the East Texas-North Louisiana Area. In 1969, he opened offices in Houston as an Independent Petroleum Geologist and since that time has been actively engaged in petroleum exploration primarily in, but not restricted to, Texas, Louisiana and Southern Arkansas.

Mr. Amoruso is President of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for the 1983-84 term, following a year term as President-Elect. Previously he served as Secretary of AAPG during the 1977-79 term. Mr. Amoruso is Certified as a Petroleum Geologist by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and is Certified as a Professional Geologist by the American Institute of Professional Geologists. He is also a member of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, the Houston Geological Society, the East Texas Geological Society and the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists. He was President of the Houston Geological Society during the 1972-73 term, President of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists during the 1980-81 term, and President of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies during the 1981-82 term.

Mr. Amoruso completed a six-week tour as a Distinguished Lecturer for the 1973-74 Distinguished Lecture Series of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He is a two-time winner of the A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award given by the AAPG. His paper, "Possible Future Petroleum Provinces of the Gulf Coast-Jurassic", presented at the October 1970 Convention of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, won the Levorsen Award and First Place in the Best Paper Awards. His paper, "Smackover Stratigraphic Traps - New Production in 'Old' Areas", won the Levorsen Award at the 1973 Convention of the Southwest Section, AAPG.

### THE OUTLOOK FOR DOMESTIC PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

High demand and increased oil and gas prices gave rise to the recent peak period of petroleum exploration. Weakening of demand because of conservation, more efficient use of oil and gas, shifts to other fuel sources and lowered industrial use because of economic recession precipitated the abrupt decrease in the intensity of exploration activities. Exploration

cycles are not new, but the recent cycle has been particularly noticeable because of the sharpness of the rise to the peak followed by an equally sharp drop.

Prior to the latest exploration cycle, the reserves of both oil and gas were falling. With the increased exploration and attendant newly discovered reserves, this persistent decrease was arrested for a brief period, and there were indications that the reserves may even have increased slightly. To ascertain whether or not this increase could be maintained, it would have been necessary to continue high levels of exploration. The recent decrease in exploration activity however made it a certainty that the U. S. will not be able to maintain its present reserve position. A new period of increased, more effective exploration is necessary if this situation is to be corrected.

The discovery of high fields, similar to Prudhoe Bay in size, could dramatically change our reserve picture, but it seems unrealistic to believe that there are many of these great accumulations left around. Nevertheless, accumulations in the 100 million barrels of oil equivalent plus range, are in the realm of possibility, and could add significantly to our reserves if exploration is active and successful enough to find them. In addition, a vigorous search for oil and gas accumulations of smaller, but still profitable size could further bolster the reserve additions so that the production ratios of both oil and gas could be maintained at a stable level.