

## INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS GROUP EVENING MEETING—MAY 15, 1985

### JAMES J. CURRY, JR.—Biographical Sketch



James J. Curry, Jr. is retired from Esso Inter-america, Inc. Jim received his B.S. in geology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1948. He began work in Quiriquire, Venezuela with the Creole Petroleum Corporation, a subsidiary of the then Standard Oil of New Jersey (Exxon) and spent four years in general subsurface work. In 1952, Jim was transferred to San Joaquin as district geologist. In 1954, he was

transferred to the Tia Juana District office in Maracaibo, Venezuela as head of the Reserves and Interpretation Group. Then in 1959, Jim returned to Quiriquire as Eastern Division geologist.

Late in 1959, Mr. Curry began work in North Africa in Benghazi, Libya for Esso Standard Libya as district geologist and in 1963, moved to Tripoli, Libya until 1969. In January of 1969 Jim went to Tehran, Iran on a loan assignment with the Oil Consortium (OSCO) as chief subsurface geologist. His stay abroad was interrupted in 1975, for 18 months in the U.S.A. at Exxon Production Research Company. The time was spent in training courses and projects in the seismic stratigraphy section. In mid 1976 Jim returned to Tripoli with Esso Standard Libya as chief operations geologist. Then in December of 1979 he was transferred to New York City with Esso Middle East where he was geological advisor for the Middle East and North Africa.

Jim Curry returned to South America in mid 1982 to work in Bogota Columbia with Intercol (Exxon and Colombian Government partnership) as manager of production geology. A year later he accepted early retirement and moved to Houston to be near family and overseas friends.

Mr. Curry is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME.

### HYDROCARBON OCCURRENCES IN THE SIRTE BASIN, LIBYA

Exploration has been active in the Sirte Basin, Libya and has resulted in discoveries that are estimated to total between  $3.6$  and  $4.8 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$  (23 and 30 billion barrels) of recoverable oil. Crustal extension started in the Cretaceous and continued through the Miocene, and has resulted in horsts and grabens as the primary structural form. Hydrocarbons have been trapped in structural highs, in stratigraphic wedgeouts against structural highs, and in carbonate buildups. Four major oil systems are identified by the age of the sealing rocks. These are top sealing systems of Late Cretaceous, Paleocene, Early Eocene and Early Oligocene age. The combined effect of abundant structural relief, and reservoir development under four major sealing systems, explains why the Sirte Basin is prolific.