
NORTH AMERICAN EXPLORATIONISTS

**HGS NORTH AMERICAN
EXPLORATIONISTS GROUP DINNER
MEETING—APRIL 20, 1993**
Social Period, 5:30 p.m.,
Dinner and Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Post Oak Doubletree Inn

TOR H. NILSEN—Biographical Sketch



Tor H. Nilsen earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1967 and is presently an independent consultant. Previous experience includes research geologist, Shell Development Co.; Research Geologist, U.S. Army Map Service; Research Geologist, USGS Menlo Park; President of RPI Pacific, Inc. and president of Applied Earth Technology, Redwood City, CA.

His principal research interests have been comparative studies of modern and ancient submarine and alluvial fan systems; the sedimentology and tectonic framework of ancient turbidite systems in the Pacific Rim and Mediterranean Sea areas. He has applied stratigraphic, sedimentologic, and structural analyses to hydrocarbon exploration and development in nonmarine and marine depositional systems in various types of basins. He has been a visiting professor at the Universities of California (Berkeley), Torino, Florence, Bologna and California State Universities at San Francisco, San Jose and San Diego, and has taught for many companies in different parts of the world. He has authored many books and publications on deep-marine depositional systems.

STRATIGRAPHIC, TECTONIC, AND DEPOSITIONAL HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA

The geologic history of California is extraordinarily complex. Numerous and varied sedimentary basins have developed within divergent, convergent, and transform tectonic settings that have generally succeeded one another through time and space. However, many basins have evolved under the simultaneous influence of contrasting tectonic styles. As a result, polycyclic, polyhistoric, and polygenetic basins are common. Because these basins are locally extremely rich in hydrocarbons, an understanding of their stratigraphic, tectonic, and depositional histories is critical to the development of suitable exploration and development strategies. Geometrically complex reservoirs are the norm, and multiple cycles of deposition and

tectonism have yielded many problems in (1) understanding subsurface structural and stratigraphic relationships, (2) predicting the presence of suitable reservoirs, sources, seals, and traps, and (3) developing models that can be used for more than one formation in a small part of one basin. However, the remarkably prolific production from many basins and reservoirs continues to inspire the search for future reserves.
