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Maverick Misterios—Comanche Ranch Field Maverick County, Texas

The initial well in the Comanche Ranch field was drilled to a total depth of 6,730 ft on April 2002 and reached the basal Glen Rose of the Cretaceous. The prospect was originally intended to be a Glen Rose reef play based on 3-D seismic acquired in 2001.

Since the discovery oil well was so prolific, Saxet Petroleum Inc. has kept two rigs drilling continuously and has drilled over 10 successful wells.

The reservoir is not a reef but is composed of carbonate rocks deposited as a reworked foreereef facies. These rocks have undergone episodic tectonism including joint fracturing and thrusting, as well as alteration via hot hydrodynamic flow of deep-seated acidic fluids. These fluid incursions have metamorphosed localized areas, creating secondary porosity and permeability that now define the trapping mechanism. There is also evidence of secondary hydrocarbon migration.

Many of the initial wells have been conventionally cored and this information is still being analyzed.

This paper is a very preliminary report and a synthesis of Saxet Petroleum's activities to date. There remain many unanswered questions about Comanche Ranch Field. What are the defining reservoir parameters, the ultimate reserve potential, the proper well stimulation and completion procedures, the reservoir diagenetic history, the geologic history, and perhaps most importantly, what is the significance of the field to future exploration efforts in the region?

Biographical Sketch

BRIAN E. O'BRIEN is the co-founder and owner of Saxet Petroleum Inc. of Houston, Texas. He received a BS in geology

in 1957 and an MS in geology in 1963 from the University of Oklahoma. Mr. O'Brien began his career as a mudlogger, followed thereafter as a geologist and geophysicist with ARCO. In 1969, O'Brien was employed by Mesa Petroleum, Inc. and was responsible for Texas Gulf Coast and Offshore Louisiana, working out of Houston. During this time, Brian came up with a Wilcox (later to be named Lobo) play south of the city of Laredo. Mesa's management turned down this concept, and it was at that time he decided to pursue his ideas on his own. In 1972, O'Brien, in conjunction with A. R. Sanchez, Sr., John R. Blocker, A. R. Sanchez, Jr., and Joe Thomas, formed South Texas Exploration Company, which was the forerunner of Sanchez-O'Brien Oil and Gas Company ("SOBOG") with offices in Houston and Laredo.



Brian E. O'Brien

Brian E. O'Brien can boast of one of the best exploration track records in the oil and gas industry. As president and co-founder of SOBOG, from the time period beginning in 1974 and ending in 1997, SOBOG, operated and drilled 696 wells and completed 325 gas wells and 102 oil wells. This represents a success rate of 61%. The results of these efforts were the discovery of more than 1 TCF of gas and 17 MMB of oil. These reserves were almost entirely found in South Texas, which also happens to be Saxet's primary focus area.

Mr. O'Brien is an ardent supporter of the University of Oklahoma, having served on numerous advisory boards and committees. He is currently a member of the Alumni Advisory Board for the College of Geosciences and the University of Oklahoma Foundation, Executive Committee. ■