

mer field school of forestry and geology at Alvon, the young college students and the oldsters, too, had the down-to-earth satisfaction of standing under the rock roof of a picture-book anticline, a sharp fold in the Williamsport (Silurian) sandstone. This is the Beaver Lick Mountain-Brown's Mountain anticline.

The last field stop of this scenic excursion—at Hawks Nest State Park—afforded a panorama of the horseshoe gorge of the New River from a look-out ledge of upper Nuttall sandstone (Pottsville series of the Pennsylvanian), 600 feet above the stream. As the party returned to Charleston, near the end of the 400-mile excursion, the group in each bus voiced by intercom radio to chairman Maxwell in bus No. 1, and his praiseworthy committees, unanimous gratitude for a thoroughly pleasant experience.

The field trip permitted surface examination of most of the producing zones of the Appalachian area: Big Lime, Injun, Weir, Berea, Shale, Oriskany, Clinton, and others; also many interesting features of the Pennsylvanian, Mississippian, Devonian, Silurian, Ordovician, and Cambrian.

Following are the officers of the Appalachian Geological Society at the time of the meeting: president, W. B. MAXWELL, chief geologist, United Fuel Gas Company; vice-president, JOHN GALPIN, of V. C. Smith Management; associate vice-president, H. P. McJUNKIN, McJunkin Supply Company; secretary-treasurer, W. T. ZIEBOLD, Spartan Gas Company; editor, F. SIEGEL WORKMAN, JR., Acme Engineering Services.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

General.—Society officers

Registration.—F. S. Workman, Jr., W. T. Ziebold, C. G. Krebs, J. H. Kime, R. N. Thomas, H. J. Wagner

Technical Program.—H. J. Simmons, Jr., R. D. Rogers, Jr., Paul H. Price, Frank Fisher, F. H. Finn, E. B. Curry, Cramon Stanton

Exhibits and Meeting Room Arrangements.—G. H. Hall, R. T. Wolfe, Jr., R. L. Bird, Jr., D. W. Mar-den, R. C. Lafferty, J. A. Crumley, A. H. McClain

Entertainment.—J. G. Vandergrift, G. L. Ballentine, C. E. Stout, Mike Henderson, S. A. Hawkins, Jr., H. C. Mefford, Jr., R. H. Adkins, P. C. Craig

Field Trip.—R. H. Wilpolt, Paul H. Price, J. L. Hutchinson, J. C. Ludlum, C. E. Hare, H. P. Woodward

ABSTRACTS

1. "The Origin of Red Beds," by PAUL D. KRYNINE, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania.

Introduction.—Red-colored sediments have always attracted the attention of geologists. A venerable opinion of long standing connects red beds with aridity, thus investing them with an important paleoclimatic significance. Red beds are rather extensive, forming, for instance, close to 15 per cent of the Paleozoic section in the Appalachian region. The red-bed problem has been extremely controversial, with marked differences of opinion, possibly due to the fact that the term "red bed" is a catch-all for many sedimentary types produced under different conditions, the only common feature of them being the red color.

Conclusions.—Most detrital red beds are formed under warm and moist climatic conditions, possibly in tropical savanna-type climates. There is no connection between red color and aridity, the contrary being true. Tectonically red beds are connected mostly with positive movements and frequently are related to strong orogenesis and subsequent peneplanation.

2. "Oil Prospects of Australia," by FRANK REEVES, Oil and Gas Division, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Australia does not have a single commercial oil field. Four or five thousand barrels have been produced from shallow wells in the Gippsland basin on the south coast since 1924 and about 30,000 gallons of gasoline were obtained from a gas well at Roma, Queensland, in the late twenties.

The reason why Australia has no commercial oil field and is likely never to be an important oil-producing country may be attributed to the fact that it is a very old continent and most of its surface is occupied by ancient rocks which nowhere yield oil. There are several sedimentary basins but with one or two exceptions they contain only a few thousand feet of strata and in most instances half of these are nonmarine in origin. Marine Tertiary formations which yield the greater percentage of the world's oil are limited to narrow belts on the south and southwest coasts.

The only basin with a fair thickness of marine strata is the Northwest basin north of Perth. It is