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New Observations on the Wilcox Group.

For reasons of regional relationships, the base of the Wilcox group is best placed at the base of the Seguin formation as redefined by Beckman and Turner, 1943. This formation is a transgressive shallow-marine sequence of glauconitic sands topped by the Caldwell Knob oyster bed. The latter is a biostrome, 0-23 feet thick. The Seguin formation is 92 feet thick in central Texas. The Seguin formation is overlain by the Hooper formation (newly proposed), about 325 feet thick in central Texas. The Hooper is a regressive partly marine, partly non-marine sequence of glauconitic sands and lignitic clays. An erosional disconformity separates the Hooper from the overlying Simsboro sand, a non-marine kaolinitic very coarse sand, about 75 feet thick in central Texas. The Simsboro sand is succeeded by a great mass of non-marine sediment composed of shales, clays, silts, sands, old soils, lignites, channel sandstones, and clay-ironstone lenses. The Butler clay, previously regarded as occupying the stratigraphic position of the Hooper, rests on the Simsboro sand at the Butler clay type locality. Hence the Butler clay is merely the basal part of the Calvert Bluff formation from which it can not be separated on lithologic grounds.

The top of the Wilcox group is placed at the base of the Carrizo sand, a fluvatile sand, which rests with a regional erosional disconformity on the Wilcox. A hilly buried topography exists at this break and is recognizable in the Tyler basin, central Texas, and possibly other marginal updip areas.

The data presented are the work of Ralph Giannone, William W. Sharp, Jr., and H. B. Stenzel.

O. S. HERVEY, Houston Oil Company of Texas, Houston, Texas.
East Village Mills Field, Hardin County, Texas.

This field was discovered in June, 1949, with the completion of the Houston Oil Company-American Republics Corporation's Nona Fletcher Mineral Company No. 1 through perforations from 7,058 to 7,066 feet in the lower Yegua. It is located on a relatively low-relief anticlinal fold on the downthrown side of a down-to-the-south regional fault, which has 100-200 feet of throw. As of October 1, 1951, two years and four months after the discovery well, there are 141 wells producing from eight reservoirs in the middle and lower Yegua sands. Total production has been 4,568,905 barrels of oil, 3,731,711 MCF of casinghead gas, 131,850 barrels of condensate, and 3,063,909 MCF of non-associated gas.

WALLACE E. PRATT, Frijole, Texas.
A Philosophy of Oil-Finding.

The fundamentals of oil-finding include factors other than the commonly recognized essentials of the art of prospecting, such as efficient organization, informed scientific acumen, careful engineering, and skilled techniques. In the most effective search for oil there is an element which, however intangible it may be, involves homely and solid virtues. Faith, the venture spirit, persistence and something very like humility in the attitude of the prospector toward the unknown—the unexplored or incompletely explored area—are of the essence of the art. The unknown is our true frontier. Despite nearly 100 years of study, our actual knowledge of the occurrence of oil in the earth's crust is still woefully inadequate. As a guide to our active exploration, it serves us admirably. But experience has repeatedly proved, to refrain from venturing because of what we flatter ourselves we know, is often a tragic mistake.

In foreign countries a number of factors combine to retard the search for oil, but in our own country dogma with relation to the occurrence of oil is the most formidable obstacle in the way of the discovery of new oil fields.

ROBERT H. APPELBAUM, Shell Oil Company, Corpus Christi, Texas.
Preliminary Report on the Helen Gohlke Field, Dewitt and Victoria Counties, Texas.

Gas and gas-condensate were discovered in the Helen Gohlke field area in February, 1950. In October and in the following January, oil was discovered at widely separated locations on the northwest and northeast flanks of the structure. Accumulation is controlled by a large anticlinal uplift, crossed by northeast-striking, gulfward-dipping faults. Combined structural and fault closure amounts to 200 feet. Primary production is from the first well developed Carrizo sand at approximately 8,100 feet. Sand thickness is 58 feet in the discovery well, but averages 45 feet for the field. Secondary production is from a 10-foot sand encountered 15 feet below the main producing sand and from a Yegua sand at 5,350 feet. On August 1, 1951, a total of 27 wells had been completed with a cumulative production of more than 300,000 barrels. With a currently estimated ultimate recovery of 30,000,000-50,000,000 barrels, the Gohlke field appears to be one of the best Carrizo-Wilcox oil-field discoveries in southwest Texas to date.

PAUL WEAVER, Gulf Oil Corporation, Houston, Texas.
Is There a Pre-Cretaceous San Marcos Arch?

Gravity and magnetic regional data are presented followed by discussion of subsurface thicknesses of Cretaceous and Tertiary in the postulated trend from San Marcos toward the coast.