The cost of exploratory drilling is usually higher than development drilling because of more unknown factors, such as depth of objectives and incomplete knowledge of structural and stratigraphic conditions. Services are often requested by the geologist that may not evaluate potentially productive zones but aid in the geological interpretation. The cost is charged to the well, nevertheless. In order to drill exploratory holes in the most economical manner the fullest use must be made of those information gathering techniques which obtain information as the drilling progresses, that cause neither slowdown nor shutdown of drilling operations. This information must be closely watched and diligently recorded by the geologist in order to minimize the use of more expensive and more time-consuming information tools. The practice of exploring in long rat-hole intervals, in particular, appears in analysis to be extremely costly and time-consuming, and recent improvements in formation-testing equipment render it impractical. All operations which increase drilling time and the number of round trips increase drilling hazards as well as direct costs.

J. E. KILKENNY AND M. DE LAVEAGA, Union Oil Company of California
ROBERT SUMPF, Consultant, Los Angeles
Recent Developments in Guijarral Hills Field

The Guijarral Hills field is one of several large stratigraphic oil fields on the prolific Coalinga anticline. Within and adjacent to the field five new pools have been discovered in the past 2 years, all of them stratigraphic in nature. The two most important of these new pools are the North Leda and the Bourdieu.

The North Leda pool embraces 600 acres with 37 wells currently producing 6,800 barrels per day. The producing zone is in the Leda sand of lower Miocene age at an average depth of 8,750 feet. Only the westerly updip pinchout line in the gas-cap area remains undefined.

The Bourdieu pool is in the Polvadero area southeast of the main Guijarral Hills pool. Production is from the Gatchell sand of middle Eocene age at depths ranging from 10,550 feet to 10,965 feet. To date, eight wells have been completed on a 20-acre spacing pattern, proving about 200 acres. Current production averages about 500 barrels per day per well under restriction. Field limits have been established only in a westerly direction although a recent test well 1¼ miles north of the present limits was a failure. Neither bottom water nor edge water has been encountered to date.

These two new-pool discoveries have added a substantial reserve to the Guijarral Hills field.

ROBERT C. ERICKSON, Standard Oil Company of California, Oxnard
Oxnard Oil Field

The Oxnard oil field is a minor southern Ventura Basin field situated on the west flank of the southwesterly plunging Semi-Las Posas trend. The field consists of two pools, a shallow tar zone discovered in 1936 and the deeper Sespe pool discovered in 1952. Production from the tar zone is from truncated, fractured, Miocene shale and onlapping Pliocene sands. Sespe production is from three zones, each exhibiting short oil columns and rather narrow bands. Sespe accumulation is associated with a buried, faulted, half dome. There are also various stratigraphic modifications.

YOUR RESEARCH FUND[1]

G. M. KNEBEL[2]
New York, N. Y.

The Research Fund of our Association has now been properly established and a request has been made to the United States Internal Revenue Service for a ruling that this fund now qualifies for scientific research and that contributions to it are tax deductible. A favorable ruling is expected in the near future. In the meantime, upon the advice of counsel, contributions and bequests to the Research Fund can be deducted in computing income and estate taxes.

Even though the Research Committee has been in existence since 1923 and contributions have been received at infrequent intervals since 1924, the Research Fund has never been legally established until this time.

[1] Manuscript received, January 6, 1955.

[2] President of the Association.