

ships with the geology of the area. It was in his 1861 paper that he noted the relationship between the quantity and quality of oil seeps and the underlying structure, an idea that was later developed into the anticlinal theory of oil exploration. As with many of his age, his career was interrupted by the Civil War, but after serving with distinction, he resumed his duties at Marietta College. In 1869 he resigned to join J. S. Newberry's Ohio Geological Survey. At one point he and Newberry were involved in quite a controversy concerning the new state geologic map. In his later career he did little with oil exploration and devoted his time to the search for coal, but his pioneering work with petroleum helped create the new science of petroleum geology. His final years were spent in Lancaster, Ohio, where he died August 14, 1880, at the age of 59.

OCOTILLO WELLS: CALIFORNIA OIL HISTORY ENCAPSULATED

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There are many places in California where oil has *written the story*, but nowhere is the gamut of the Golden State's history of petroleum exploration more physically accessible, and still in its original rugged frontier condition, than at Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area. While the 70 year long search for *black gold* here was a failure, the nine drilling attempts at Ocotillo Wells had unintended and far-reaching consequences. This paper explores these consequences and shows just how Ocotillo Wells represents the petroleum history of this state, and the United States as a whole.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is an 80,000 acre off-road driving park with such place names as Oil Well Wash, Wolfe Well Road, and Texaco Trail. Unfortunately, the stories of these places, from the original mule-powered outfit in 1919, to the consultations of professional geologists who first photographed this area during the Great Depression, to the frantic drilling for war-time oil and the stream-lined operations of the monolithic Texaco in the 1950s, have been all but lost to the passing of years. Fortunately, this history has been recovered with the written and photographic records I have unearthed from forgotten collections in the Imperial County Historical Society, the bureaucratic paperwork of the state's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, the faded typewritten reports of state park rangers, and the keepsakes of local residents.

Together, the existing landscape and emerging historical record of Ocotillo Wells exhibit the evolution of American petroleum from the backyard affairs of oil pioneers to the arrival of efficient and well-financed *Big Oil*. Indeed, Ocotillo Wells as a state park exists largely because oil industry access roads opened up this inhospitable corner of the desert to 4-wheel

driving, and helped create California's off-road vehicle culture. Through the microcosm of Ocotillo Wells we can even glimpse a California after oil. The troublesome hot water aquifer that bedeviled the attempts of oilmen to coax petroleum out of the ground has itself become an unintentional *liquid gold*. Plans to drill and develop these geothermal waters for an energy-starved state are making Ocotillo Wells a center for subterranean energy exploration once more. Past, present, and future, Ocotillo Wells encapsulates the untold story of oil in California.

HAVE WE AN OIL BELT? – LOS ANGELES BEFORE AND AFTER DOHENY'S DISCOVERY

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Accepted But Not Presented: Sitting above one of the world's greatest supplies of oil, Los Angeles represents a most unique urban phenomenon, as no other major metropolis has the underground resource so close at hand. Thanks to its fault-ridden geology, more than sixty oil fields are spread throughout the region and sit below 30 percent of its total land area - from downtown to Long Beach, from El Segundo to Yorba Linda. Oil has been continuously extracted from below Los Angeles since its discovery there in the 1890s, with the region supplying almost a quarter of the nation's oil in the 1920s and that same percentage of California's needs today.

Most accounts of Los Angeles history mention the discovery of oil in the Los Angeles City field by Edward Doheny and Charles Canfield, yet few give much context to the discovery that signifies its importance to the city or how it was understood at the time. Through an examination of contemporary accounts in the city, this paper explores the situation immediately before and after the discovery in 1892.

Before oil was found, Los Angeles faced a dire and expensive fuel situation given the city's location hundreds of miles from any then-known coal source - a situation it was desperate to overcome any way it could. After the discovery, an intense public debate on drilling within the city limits sprung up as neighborhood after neighborhood felt the impacts of oil drilling, including lowered property values, noise and water pollution.

How the City navigated this debate - attempting to balance City fuel needs with neighborhood desires for a clean and quiet community - would set the stage for its future growth and future dealings with its numerous oil fields. This undertold