

examined and documented activities in the United States that related to development of similar resources, particularly development in California.

Americans invested financially in Canada when they took out leases along the Athabasca River, and some formed companies whose names reflect their American roots.

*If it weren't for its far northern location ... If it weren't for the supplies ... And if it weren't for the necessity of moving hundreds of thousands of tons of sand a day ... Canada's Athabasca mother lode would be the best and most reliable source of energy in the world. There is more recoverable oil locked in those sands than in all of the Middle East – some 300 billion barrels in a 30,000-square-mile area. Centennial Celebration, The Story of Sun Company*

**THE TRENTON GAS FIELD OF INDIANA; THE  
WORLD'S FIRST GIANT, FROM DISCOVERY TO  
ABANDONMENT (1886-1913).**

Chuck Knox  
*St Joe Valley Exploration LLC  
Knox Geological LLC  
6402 Old Trail Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46809  
knox@stjoevalley.com*

The Indiana gas field was home to many large gas wells, some with distinctive and colorful names such as *The Wainright Wonder* and *The Cyclone*. These wells garnered great attention worldwide, with many entrepreneurs catching the gas fever the rush to Indiana was on: *The gas fever of 1885-1886 spread over the Mississippi Valley as rapidly as the gold fever of 1849. (USGS 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report...)*. The large field was first discovered in 1886 and was mostly abandoned by 1913. The gas was produced exclusively from an uppermost section of the Trenton Formation and piped to many municipalities in and surrounding the field. Manufactures and Industry were attracted to the area with the promise of a *never ending supply of natural gas* - a statement falsely proclaimed by the areas community leaders and realtors. The field originally encompassed 5,000 square miles and with its great size was able to initially withstand the great waste and abuse inflicted upon it.

Initial flow rates of 3-5 million cubic feet of gas per well per day were common. Two of the hundreds of companies that utilized the gas are still in business today, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. (PPG) and the Ball Corp. The Indiana field boasted the nation's first interstate high pressure natural gas pipeline which ran from Kokomo, Indiana to Chicago, Illinois. The State's first plugging and anti-waste laws were enacted to protect the Trenton gas from improper well abandonment and

blatant waste during the early days of the field. The Trenton Gas Field of Indiana was used with great success to attract industry to the Upper Midwest which created jobs and opportunities for profit to those who came to Indiana. Cities such as Marion, Kokomo, Muncie and Anderson became great centers of manufacturing during the gas boom with many companies staying in their community after the gas field was abandoned.

**THIS OLD BOOK: PRESERVING OIL AND NATURAL  
GAS HISTORY THROUGH RE-PUBLICATION**

Melissa Mann  
*Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism  
217 Elm Street, Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 677-3152, Ext. 103  
mmann@oilregion.org*

Over the last decade, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (ORA) and its predecessor Oil Heritage Region, Inc. have worked diligently to preserve historic oil and natural gas assets located in the Oil Region National Heritage Area. Familiar preservation strategies have included nominations to the National Register, the collection and storage of oil and gas archival materials and artifacts, and the rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures. However, these two entities have also employed a unique and creative approach to historic preservation, the re-publication of out-of-print oil history books. This presentation will highlight the Reprinting Oil History Books Project, describing the project's implementation, measuring its success and benefits, and analyzing re-publication as a preservation technique.

**OIL CITY OIL EXCHANGE – SETTING THE PRICE  
OF CRUDE OIL**

Neil McElwee  
*Oil City, Pennsylvania  
neil\_mcelwee@yahoo.com*

The benchmark price of crude oil today is determined by the closing price of West Texas intermediate crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange or the price of North Sea Brent crude in London on the International Petroleum Exchange. The price on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the NY-MEX, and the International Petroleum Exchange, the IPE, are different. The effect is two sources of pricing for world crude oil are given every trading day. That was not always the case. In the nineteenth century from 1885 into the early 90's, the benchmark price of the world's crude oil was determined in New York on the Consolidated Stock and Petroleum Exchange. Prior to that, starting in 1874, the benchmark price of