

THE GOLDEN LANE *Faja de Oro*

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The Golden Lane is a novel based on original research at the DeGolyer Collection (Southern Methodist University) and at the William F. Buckley Collection (University of Texas). It is a true story. All of the characters were real people. Most of the events actually happened. Included in the text are actual and unedited geologic reports, letters, poems, cablegrams, and reports to Congress.

The story follows the early career of Everette DeGolyer, who in 1909 at age twenty-three was hired by El Aguila, a company owned by Sir Weetman S. Pearson, Lord Cowdray, to explore for oil in the Tampico area of Mexico. Using only a Brunton compass, a plane table and alidade, and his own deductive reasoning -- DeGolyer was one of the first to apply the scientific method to exploring for oil. His work was instrumental in discovering the mid-Cretaceous rudistid reef trend known today as The Golden Lane, which has produced more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil. One of El Aguila's wells, the Potrero del Llano No. 4, blew out at rates in excess of 100,000 bopd and within ten years produced more than 130 million barrels of oil from less than 2000'. Because of El Aguila's and a competitor's production, by 1912 Mexico was propelled into the third largest oil-producing nation at a time when the world's industry and navies converted from coal to fuel oil. At the same time, the Mexican Revolution swept the country into a decade-long era of violence. The book portrays the unfolding development of petroleum geology against a backdrop of revolution, foreign intrigue, and geopolitics.