

0830-0900: **OIL DORADO! THE LEGENDS AND LEGACY OF A KANSAS OIL BOOM**, Ardath L. Lawson

0900-0930: **THOMAS W. LEACH: THE FATHER OF NORTH DAKOTA'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**, Clarence Herz

0930-1000: **THE SCRAMBLE TO DRILL GRASS CREEK ANTICLINE**, James L. (Jim) Allen

1000-1015: Morning Break: "South of the Border Break Package"

1015-1045: **TEMPEST AT TEAPOT DOME, WYOMING: THE GREATEST POLITICAL SCANDAL IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN OIL INDUSTRY**, Matt Silverman

1045-1115: **THE WHITE POINT GASSERS, SAN PATRICIO COUNTY, TEXAS**, Jeff Spencer

1115-1145: **BOOMTOWN? RECONSIDERING THE BENEFICIARIES OF LOUISIANA'S OIL BOOM**, Henry Wiencek

1145-1315: Luncheon, "Art Deco Buffet Package"

Keynote Address: **THE SINGLE MOST DECISIVE EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA: THE GLENN POOL OIL FIELD**, Dr. Norman J. Hyne, Professor of Petroleum Geology, University of Tulsa

1315-1345: **CARBON BLACK**, Lawrence H. Skelton

1345-1415: **HISTORICAL SAMPLES FROM PENNSYLVANIA: GEOCHEMICAL CORRELATION**, Nicola Dahdah, Rasoul Sorkhabi (presenter) and James Collister

1415-1445: **P. C. BOYLE AND THE OIL ECHO**, William R. Brice

1445-1515: **SMELL THAT SWEET PERFUME: OIL PATCH SONGS ON RECORD**, Joe W. Specht

1515-1530: Afternoon Break

1530-1600: **SOLOMON'S TEMPLE MUJID-I-SULEIMAN & THE QUEST FOR OIL IN THE MIDEAST**, Sam L. Pfiester

1600-1630: **THE CONSTRUCTION OF A UNIQUE PIPELINE IN THE CAUCASUS**, Mir-Yusif Mir-Babayev and Bahram Atabeyli

1630-1700: **TOWARD A DATABASE ON THE HISTORY OF PETROLEUM**, Rasoul Sorkhabi (Presenter), Jeff A. Spencer, Raymond P. Sorenson, and William B. Brice

1700-1715: **FINAL REMARKS**

1830-2130: **AWARDS BANQUET**, at The Mayo Hotel; Museum Room – Second Floor Mezzanine

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

0800-1700: **FIELDTRIP**

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are arranged in alphabetical order according to first author's last name.

THE SCRAMBLE TO DRILL GRASS CREEK ANTICLINE

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This is the story of the dramatic discovery 100 years ago of a major oil field in northwestern Wyoming. In 1912, Enalpac Oil & Gas, a French company, had discovered large gas reserves in Oregon Basin based on the work of Thomas Harrison, former coal inspector for the General Land Office, but the gas was worthless due to the lack of a market. Harrison staked claims in Grass Creek and Little Buffalo Basin in 1913 and the following year made a deal with the Ohio Oil Company to drill some of his claims on both anticlines. In May, 1914, while Ohio was preparing to bring rigs into Grass Creek, a Californian named W. L. Valentine suddenly jumped Harrison's claims and began drilling on conflicting claims by men from the town of Worland. That same month, President Wilson withdrew all federal land in the Bighorn Basin from exploration, yet the drilling continued, hoping that in the end the courts would rule in favor of the drillers. Lawsuits were filed by the government and others. Early in the morning of June 15, oil was struck by Valentine. Harrison sold more claims to the Midwest Oil Company. At one point the Midwest drillers were prevented from entering their claims by an armed Worland crowd. Based on a judge's decision, Midwest and Valentine had a contest, with both companies' rigs set 20' apart, and spud the same day in a race. By the end of 1915, the Grass Creek anticline was split fairly equally among Valentine, Ohio, and Midwest, but by the end of 1917, Ohio controlled

most of the field. How Ohio gained the advantage was partly due to the First World War, the drive and vision of one man, and a nasty trick played by Mother Nature. The story includes a greedy landowner, a geologist losing his override, a man who claimed he owned it all, and a passionate businessman.

P. C. BOYLE AND *THE OIL ECHO*

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Patrick C. Boyle (1846-1920), oil scout, journalist, editor, and publisher, was a well-known figure in the oil regions of the eastern U. S. during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1882 he became the editor and publisher of a newspaper in Richburg, New York, *The Oil Echo*, devoted to oil industry news. Prior to coming to western New York State, Boyle had worked in the oil fields of western Pennsylvania where he was familiar with the business practices of *The Roberts Torpedo Company*, which produced the *torpedoes*, narrow cylinders filled with nitroglycerine, used to fracture the bearing rocks in oil wells; a practice called *shooting* the well. The idea was to fracture the reservoir rock to increase the permeability and increase the crude oil production. In 1866, Col. E. A. L. Roberts had patented the process of using an explosive with a fluid damping and thus he had a monopoly, which his Company, founded in 1865 with his brother Walter Roberts, used to full advantage.

Shortly after the first successful wells in the Richburg area, Boyle followed the boom and not long after his arrival in 1881, he became the editor and publisher of *The Oil Echo* which concentrated its content and advertising on news of the local and national oil industry. Exactly how he gained control is not clear, but on January 18, 1882, the first issue hit the streets. Like Boyle, the Roberts Company was attracted to the new oil boom area. Col. Roberts had died in 1881, but his brother, Walter, who had been a dentist and a podiatrist, carried on the family business, including filing many patent infringement lawsuits. And right from the very first issue, Boyle took aim at the Roberts monopoly. Not only did he write editorials, but he, also, filled the pages with his articles and comments, none of which were very complimentary. Even in between paragraphs Boyle would insert small statements, such as, *PAY NO TRIBUTE TO ROBERTS. BUY NONE OF HIS TORPEDOES, and SEE THE CORN DOCTOR'S BLUFF AND RAISE HIM OUT OF THE GAME* – all in capital letters and repeated many times on a single page. Boyle was one of the driving forces behind the creation of *The Producers' Association*, a local group of oil producers whose sole purpose was to break the Roberts'

monopoly. Eventually Walter Roberts had had enough and on March 4, 1882, he filed suit against Boyle for defamation, asking \$50,000 for damage to his reputation. Boyle's editorial answer was, *What we said against this man* [Walter Roberts] *was said for the public good, and we claim the right to examine the record of public menu and to defend the public against all impositions.* The final judgement is not known, but there is no record of Boyle paying any fine.

Forces beyond the control of either Boyle or Roberts eventually brought down *The Oil Echo* and with it Boyle's campaign against Roberts. A series of new wells came in, beginning in May 1882, in Warren County, Pennsylvania, which by August of 1882 collectively were producing about 40,000 barrels per day, and the oil boom moved on. On July 5, 1882, *The Oil Echo* published its last issue, but the ever-defiant Boyle said the paper was, *Not Dead, But Sleeping.* However the sleep was permanent. Boyle packed up and went back to Pennsylvania. Interestingly, the Roberts patent expired the following year, 1883. But for a brief moment, from January to July 1882, P. C. Boyle and *The Oil Echo* were a force to be heard in the oil fields of western New York State and Pennsylvania.

HISTORICAL OIL SAMPLES FROM PENNSYLVANIA: GEOCHEMICAL CORRELATION

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Eight crude oils produced from Devonian sand reservoirs in five historical wells in Pennsylvania (McClintock #1, Pithole, Kendall Well, and Crawford #3) were characterized using bulk methods as well as gas chromatographic analysis (GC-FID and GC-MS). The freshest sample (McClintock #1, Oil 150 sample) has an API gravity of 44.8 whereas lower values (down to 35.4) are consistent with volatile hydrocarbon loss in older samples (collected decades ago). The unaltered crudes contain predominantly saturated hydrocarbons in the gasoline range, making them excellent engine oil. The *low toxicity* of the oil samples also helped the *snake-oil medicine men* of the nineteenth century to peddle and promote the Pennsylvania oil as *medicinal oil*. All the oil samples display nearly identical