

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WYOMING GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

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### **POSTER PRESENTATION**

The Wyoming Geological Association (WGA) was initiated on December 15, 1943 with a letter from C. J. Hares to twenty-four other geologists residing in the vicinity of Casper, Wyoming. This letter was an invitation to meet at Mr. Hares home for a luncheon and discussion of matters of geological significance.

These meetings advanced towards the serious dialogue of forming a local geological society. Arrangements were made to have regular Friday luncheons at the Townsend Hotel, with an average attendance of 24 geologists. This tradition of noon luncheon talks and meetings has continued since January 7th, 1944. The first chalk-talk, geoscience movie, and field conference were held that same year. From 1968-1988 the WGA also published a quarterly publication featuring additional scientific papers with over two-hundred total.

To say that the WGA was responsible for establishing a scientific base for the geology of Wyoming as well as the Rockies is an understatement.

These traditions set forth 73 years ago continue until today, being one of the only organizations to hold weekly meetings, maintaining an annual field conference, and continued geological publication. This translates to over 2,800 luncheon meetings and technical talks, over 80 WGA field conference guidebooks with scientific papers covering the rocky mountain region, road logs, and a current membership base of approximately 500 individuals residing internationally.

## **TEAPOT DOME – A PAINTING**

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### **POSTER PRESENTATION**

The painting (24 inches X 48 inches), by Mike Kapriva in 1981, compresses 50 miles of landscape, Casper Mountain in the background, 20 Mile Hill at Burke Ranch and the drill site for the discovery at Teapot Dome. Teapot Rock has been rotated East-West to tie the outcrop to the field's name. The Shannon Sandstone outcrops are compressed East-West to show the large surface anticline. Front center shows the delivery of freight from the Casper railhead. Four wagon 16 mule trains delivered casing and supplies. The steam powered drilling rig has a wood standard derrick.

## **IN PURSUIT OF PETROLEUM RICHES: LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S OIL RELATED SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

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Lamar University's Special Collections are a rich, and largely untapped resource for oil historians, especially for those researching the colorful past of Southeast Texas, a region whose way of life is closely intertwined with the oil industry. The university, located in Beaumont, Texas is a leisurely ten-minute drive from Spindletop, where in 1901 the famed Lucas Gusher erupted, which some scholars believe began the modern liquid petroleum age.

The collections at Lamar document that even though Beaumont unleashed the boom into utilizing petroleum, it was believed to have been quickly tapped out, and oil speculators quickly moved to other locales including Batson and Saratoga. The gritty reality of these oil boom towns is revealed in several of Lamar's collections. The Wanda Landrey collection has a wealth of oral histories which provide an intimate glimpse of life in the oil fields. One with particular charm and pathos was a 91 year old woman who recollected the dangers of life in Batson in 1904 including rowdy characters committing murders and oil wells that spewed dangerous fumes making people ill. Another interview in the Landrey collection is with a man who recollected the Rio Bravo Oil Strike which took place during World War I. Although the man interviewed