

Mancos shale, Cedar Mountain and Morrison formations to a depth of approximately 1,000' with no show of hydrocarbons. Simon Bamberger, a partner in the well, went on to become the fourth governor of Utah. He was also the first democrat elected to the office and the first and, so far, only Jewish governor of the state.

Several sources state that the first commercial natural gas production in Utah was achieved in 1925 at Ashley Valley field in the Uinta Basin near Vernal. However, USGS geologist George Richardson (USGS Bulletin 260) documented the discovery of biogenic gas near Farmington Bay, about twelve miles north of Salt Lake City, in 1892. Approximately twenty wells were drilled in the area. During the winter of 1894-1895, a 6" pipeline was laid from the wells to Salt Lake City and natural gas was supplied to the city at about 7,000 Mcfg per month. This gas was presumably used for lighting, and it was surely a commercial venture.

Offshore drilling made an early appearance in Utah in 1896, the same year as drilling commenced from a pier in Summerland, near Ventura, California. The drilling of a well approximately one-quarter mile from shore in the Great Salt Lake at Rozel Point was detailed in USGS geologist James Boutwell's "Oil and Asphalt Prospects in Salt Lake Basin" which was included in 1904's USGS Bulletin 260. Boutwell examined heavy oil seeps from numerous islets near the lake-shore and described bubbles up to two inches in diameter and threads of oil six to eighteen inches long in the water. At the time of his visit, a break from his primary study of the mines of Park City, five shallow wells had been drilled at Rozel Point and produced about twenty barrels of oil. The "oil" from Rozel Point exhibited 5-9 API gravity and up to 15% sulfur. The original material was used for paving in Ogden.

In 1925, natural gas was discovered in the Frontier and Morrison sands at Ashley Valley field near Vernal. A ten-mile steel gas line was built northwest to Vernal and the gas was used for lighting until WWII, by which time the gas flow had diminished and the value of the salvaged pipeline for the war effort exceeded the gas transport value.

Despite the several hundred wells drilled in Utah searching for oil since the Bamberger-Millis #1 in 1891, the first commercial discovery of oil was in the deeper Weber sandstone in September 1948, at the same Ashley Valley field as had produced natural gas starting in 1925. Equity Oil Company's Ashley Valley #1 recorded an initial potential of 300 barrels of oil per day from the Weber sand at a depth of 4,136'-4,152'. After many attempts and several significant blowouts elsewhere in the state, Utah could now claim commercial oil production and the Uinta Basin was on its way to a prolific oil and gas future.

## **SINCLAIR'S CENTENNIAL: 100 YEARS IN OIL**

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This year, 2016, marks a century since Harry Sinclair founded the Sinclair Oil and Refining Company in New York City. Sinclair was ideally positioned to take advantage of the explosive growth in gasoline demand that accompanied the proliferation of the automobile. With photographs and film Clint Ensign, Senior Vice President of Sinclair, will discuss the major events and figures that shaped the company's 100-year history. The presentation will review the leadership of Harry Sinclair, the Teapot Dome controversy, the beginnings of the iconic "Dino" trademark, Sinclair's participation in three World Fairs, the acquisition of Sinclair by ARCO--and the subsequent divestiture of the company, and the direction of Sinclair under the ownership and leadership of Earl Holding.

## **SHELL OIL 1970'S "BRIGHT SPOT" PROSPECTS AND MID-1980'S DEEP WATER EXPLORATION**

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This talk will review Shell Oil Company exploration history in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Shelf and Deep Water using "Bright Spot" technology in the 1970's and 1980's. Most of the data has been published, but I will add color by discussing background information and including a few anecdotes.

The first significant application of "Bright Spot" technology by Shell was at the 1970 GOM lease sale when prospect economics was primarily based on "Bright Spot" areas, thicknesses and probability analysis. Geophysicists predicted the area and thickness of a gas sand and mapped other oil and gas pays on Eugene Island Block 331 (150 MMBOE), part of the 750 MMBOE Eugene Island Block 330 Field. During 1972, Shell predicted oil pays in the discovery of South Marsh Island 130 Field (300 MMBOE). Many other discoveries followed, especially Cognac (300 MMBOE) in 1000 feet water.

Lessons from Shell "Bright Spot" studies and successes/failures are:

- (a) Good ideas can come from operations people;