

Events such as the suicide of Jess Smith, housemate and associate of Attorney General Harry Daugherty, and the mysterious Hollywood Hills murder-suicide involving Edward Doheny, Jr., the oil baron's son, lent mystery and threat.

Procedurally, the Senate committee investigations of President Harding's cabinet stand as a landmark in the use of congressional powers. More importantly, President Coolidge's appointment of special prosecutors was simultaneously both a political masterstroke and a legal precedent. As both, it still stands as a guidepost when there are allegations of corruption.

Very definite conclusions about the use of oil and other mineral resources emerged which continue to inform national policy. But questions remain: Was Albert Fall's position on the use of the oil in the Teapot Dome and Elk Hills fields wrong? Was he guilty of accepting bribes? What was the real role of the oil powers? How does this affair reflect on today's debates, like that over Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge oilfield development?

#### **STEPCHILD: THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY IN APPALACHIA**

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Natural gas is the energy industry's stepchild, historically overshadowed by its sister energy oil. Natural gas is now a prevalent part of American markets and is filling the critical void left by a lack of new coal, oil, and nuclear power facilities. This vital American enterprise began in the Appalachian states as an accidental and underestimated byproduct of the oil rush of 1859. This oral presentation is a visual companion of the upcoming book, *The Natural Gas Industry in Appalachia*, to be published by McFarland Publishers in April 2005. The PowerPoint presentation (containing more than 100 photographs) traces the first discoveries of gas—often accidental—centered in the Appalachian region. Also discussed is the manufactured gas industry, which natural gas competed against, partnered with, and eventually displaced. Although used sporadically for lighting, cooking, and heating, the initial use of gas was introduced on a wide scale by innovators Joseph Pew and George Westinghouse for the steel and glass industries in Pittsburgh—known as the “Smoky City” due to its high consumption of coal. Local gas companies evolved from individual wells to an interstate supply network acquired by Rockefeller's Standard Oil interests. This presentation also traces the development of the natural gas drilling industry, the first wooden and metal gas pipelines, the creation of compressor engines, the pioneering of storage fields, and the genesis of gas marketing for lighting, heating, cooking, and

industrial uses. Also discussed are gas shortages, the introduction of Southwest gas through interstate pipelines, and the effects of government regulation. For more information on the upcoming publication, click on:

<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?isbn=0-7864-2077-4>.

#### **PROMOTING COMMUNITY OIL AND GAS MUSEUMS**

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This PowerPoint presentation will describe the creation, mission and public education activities of the American Oil & Gas Historical Society (AOGHS), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit national organization established in June 2003.

AOGHS activities are dedicated to public education of the history of U.S. oil and natural gas exploration and production -- by providing advocacy and service for organizations that work to preserve that history through exhibition, educational programming, and material preservation. To raise public awareness, AOGHS maintains a network of community oil and gas museums, historical societies and other organizations -- including state and national associations, and individuals committed to oil and gas history preservation. Through its website and publications, AOGHS promotes the efforts more than 70 regional, state, and county museums – and documents outstanding, community-based museum programs, exhibits and *oilfield history days*. AOGHS members, museum directors and volunteers contribute to the society's quarterly newsletter, *The Petroleum Age*.

The presentation will describe how the society accomplishes its public education mission by providing advocacy for community museums. In addition to its newsletter, the AOGHS publishes a regional historical series, the *American Oil & Gas Families*, combining modern interviews and photographs with historic research and early oilfield images. AOGHS also maintains a website, [www.aoghs.org](http://www.aoghs.org), allowing a common contact through which museums, historical associations, corporations, and individuals can acquire exhibit and event information. This unique organization believes that community oilfield histories offer a public education vehicle for promoting the dramatic heritage of the nation's almost 150-year history of exploration and production.