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GEOLOGIST

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Dear Henryk:

Thank you for your interesting letter, and congratulations on dedication of the 1967 G.C.A.G.S. "Transactions" to me. This dedication proved somewhat embarrassing because I was editor of the book. My associates tried to slip it in without my knowledge, but the printer inadvertently allowed me to see the proof. The G.C.A.G.S. official could see no cause for concern and insisted on dedicating the publication to the Editor!

I am delighted that your work on the Oysters for the "Treatise" is so near completion. Illustrations it seems usually are a problem, but I trust yours will not retard publication seriously.

The report on your health is distressing. I hope your recovery is progressing more rapidly by now. We owe a lot to antibiotics. My own health has been good until last year when gout and arthritis began to cause some discomfort. New wonder drugs are controlling it very satisfactorily at present.

I have reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 for San Antonio College, so after eight years on June 1 my services will be terminated. This is two years short of qualification for teacher's retirement! Had our friend Nancy Hurd, of the San Antonio Express, not made the mistake of revealing my age publicly I believe the school administration would have overlooked it and let me serve the extra two years. A zerox copy of her squib is enclosed.

Let's hope for a personal visit one of these days before too long.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,


John R. Sandidge,

Geologists To Have Fine Program Here

San Antonio petroleum geologists end a year of hard work with the reward of a fine program and a big attendance as they play host to the 17th annual convention of the Gulf Coast Association of Petroleum Geologists on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The reservation list last week topped 1,000 and at least 600 of these geologists, who live from Brownsville to Miami, will be bringing their wives to the combination meeting of the geologists and the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists.

About 40 papers will be presented during the technical sessions at Villita Assembly Hall and Bolivar Hall, but there will also be plenty of frolic, including the traditional San Antonio fiesta party. For the hardy, there will be two field trips after the convention ends, an overnight trek to Laredo, and a four-day jet trip to Mexico City. For the women, there'll be a marienda, a fashion luncheon, and trips to Witte Museum, the Governor's Palace and the King William area.

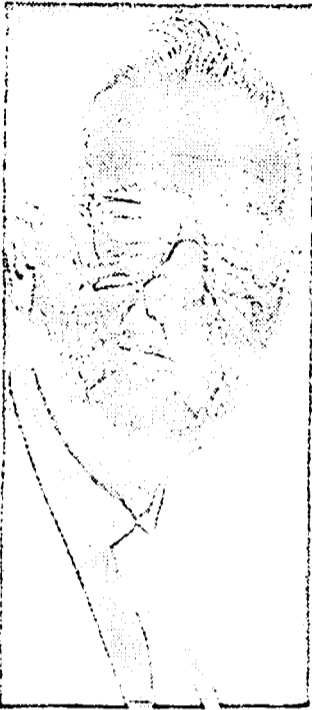
Lawrence J. O'Connor, former Texan now a member of the Federal Power Commission, and Dean A. McGee, president of Kerr-McGee Corp., Oklahoma City, will be among the non-technical speakers at the opening meeting.

Wilford Stapp who is president of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, and M.O. Turner, who is general chairman, believe that although the convention hasn't even started its already achieved a remarkable preparation performance record. In contrast to preparation for many similar events, there have been no chiefs, just workers, and in spite of 22 committees working not a "no" has been registered to any request, these men said.

"We can't cite by name everyone who has worked for the list would be too long. We can say that everyone who was asked came through and that includes some hard work by our wives," Stapp and Turner said.

Douglas Weatherston, a senior geologist who lived in Mexico many years, will be leader of the Mexico City field trip, for which both he and the men of Petroleos Mexicanos have gone all out. Les Eubanks will be leader of the South Texas field trip. Wayne Wood ramrodded the program. Last spring, Bob Begeman was asked to draw a couple of sketches to brighten some early mail announcements of the convention and from this grew the decorative theme, featuring Mission San Jose.

While there have been no prima donnas in the preparation for the coming convention, local geologists admit to certain star performers, with special recognition of Dr. John R Sandidge, affectionately held scholar to



DR. JOHN SANDIDGE
... not surprised

whom this year's GCAGS "Transactions" is dedicated.

Dr. Sandidge edited the 532-page current "Transactions" which is the weightiest — both ways — in the history of the association. Local geologists attempted to surprise him with a dedicatory page in his own book, but they'd barely gotten the Sandidge dope to the printer before it was discovered by the careful editor, who after recovering from being startled by the stray material was pleased.

Sandidge, who will be 70 in a couple of months, is best known to the local public as head of

the geology department at San Antonio College. He maintains consulting offices downtown and in his profession is nationally known for his knowledge of geology, paleontology, stratigraphy and for his efforts in research, writing and teaching.

A native of Fort Worth, Sandidge returned to Texas Christian University after serving as a sergeant in World War I and got his bachelor's degree in chemistry and geology there in 1920. He holds a Ph.D from Johns Hopkins University and was assistant professor of geology at Princeton University from 1928 to 1933.

Doc Sandidge's second job was in the family store at Caddo, and his first, during his high school years, was working as a driving instructor in Wichita Falls for people who wanted to buy the daring Dodge automobiles of 1915-16. One of his first professional jobs was studying lignite deposits in Bastrop County in 1923. Six years later he was doing stratigraphic study in the Oldenburg Free State of North Germany. Since then, he's worked for Sinclair Exploration Co., completed several dozen scientific papers, and found time for such non-scholarly jobs as president of the San Antonio Petroleum Club. He wound up 27 years with Magnolia-Mobil in 1960 (as supervisor of exploration geology) and immediately went to SAC where his geology department's growth has been comparable to the rapidly expanding SAC enrollment.

Mrs. Sandidge, the former Ida Thompson, was periodical librarian at Princeton until their marriage in 1929. (Hopkins)