

GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

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425 Schatzel St.
Corpus Christi, Texas
November 18, 1953

Dr. H. B. Stenzel
Bureau of Economic Geology
Box B, University Station
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

Just wondering if you happen to be one of those Gulf Coast geologists with a soft spot in his heart for Wilcox geology. Personally, I am not too well acquainted with the many facets of Wilcox problems as they affect oil finding considerations. I am aware that the Wilcox Trend has been the object of intensive scrutiny since just before World War II and that considerable post-war activity has resulted in substantial production from the Wilcox. Also, that a year or two ago the so-called down-dip Wilcox came in for a boom in leasing all the way from La Salle County in Texas to beyond the Mississippi River. I do know that a map of the Gulf Coastal Plain of Texas and Louisiana would be heavily speckled with dots which represent existing Wilcox producing areas.

Is the Wilcox a subject of the past? Or, on the other hand, are there untapped areas potentially productive from the Wilcox? Perhaps in Mississippi? Alabama? How about our own Webb and Zapata Counties of R.R. Commission District 4? Have we said everything that is to be said? What of our electrical logging techniques -- or our well completion practices -- in this particular section? You can multiply this list of problems many-fold.

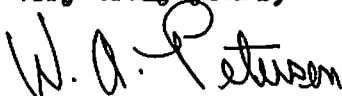
Perhaps I'm not alone in my ignorance of what must assuredly be an important part of the Gulf Coast story. Wouldn't it be an important contribution to the permanent record if all material relevant to Wilcox geology were assembled under one cover? I think it would, but am anxious to hear your ideas. Here on the Coast we now have an ideal medium for disseminating just such information. Your Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies is a going concern, and as you know is organized to publish an annual bulletin which is aimed at readership from Tallahassee to Laredo. With the highly successful 1953 Shreveport meeting behind us, we are looking ahead to the 1954 meeting in Houston. Now is the time to start thinking about the publication, for if it is to be successful we need concerted action by the large body of membership in an early drive for good papers. I don't think we can sit back and wait for volunteer papers to "fall" on our desks--we've got to do some constructive thinking, to rout out the potential authorship, to help in any way the man who is "just before" going to write his ideas. This sort of thing obviously works to mutual advantage: the author and his company attain recognition for their contribution; we all stand to benefit by the information, for who can deny the possibility that an idea generated over in Louisiana (or Alabama, or Mississippi) won't provide the key to the same problem in Texas?

Inasmuch as they are so closely related to the mutual problems of the Wilcox I am taking the liberty of addressing this appeal to not only members of the Corpus Christi Geological Society whom I represent, but also to the South Texas Geological Society in San Antonio. I envision that if no other member society in the G.C.A.G.S. were to provide a paper this year that between our two societies alone we could still make up a substantial part of the Houston program and the 1954 Bulletin with a collection of Wilcox papers. Actually, we can most certainly expect other contributions which can but add up to the biggest and best issue yet. I don't mean to shut the door to geological papers on any other subject by any means. Just had the idea that perhaps by setting at least one objective we could expect papers which might not otherwise be written. I would appreciate your reaction to the idea, and would welcome suggestions from you.

I address the appeal first to you District and Division Geologists. After all, without your encouragement the younger men in your office would hardly be expected to put forth the extra effort. I know, too, that many of you either have or will have to assemble for company meetings material which with but little finishing would be excellent for publication. Has your company been represented lately on a geological program or in publication? Have you checked recently with your management as to their current policy toward publication of material from company files? More and more they are coming around to a liberalization of this policy in the interests of the profession and the oil industry. You up there with Continental Oil, how about a field paper on one of the shallow updip Wilcox fields -- or on the fault-line trend of such fields? Atlantic, how about Hagist Ranch Field? Standard of Texas, you are making the play, too; how about some regional subsurface? Sun Oil, Magnolia, Humble, Texas Company -- you all have taken the lead in leasing and drilling the Wilcox; got any ideas? We know that the University of Texas has accepted the leadership in the Wilcox outcrop; there must be a key paper in that.

You can be of very great assistance to me if you will drop me a note in the near future and register your support. If you know that a Wilcox paper is an impossibility but have another which will be ready by mid year 1954, please so indicate. Let me hear what tentative titles for papers you anticipate having. If you feel certain that no papers of any kind can be expected this coming year from your organization it will help to know that -- but I hope this particular reaction will be a rare one. I believe that the competition will be rugged enough that we will have to carry over a backlog of papers for the 1955 Bulletin, so get on the bandwagon early.

Very truly yours,



W. A. Petersen, Representative
Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies
Corpus Christi Geological Society