



# The AAPG/EMD NEWSLETTER

January 1981

Vol. 3, No. 2

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## VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The past three years have been a time of organization, development, and growth for the newest division of the AAPG. We now know our purpose, we have by-laws and officer group, convention programs, an outlet for good papers in the AAPG BULLETIN, field seminars, and symposia on timely energy minerals topics. Also, we have a new logo, a regular Newsletter, and a reasonably solid financial position. Let us move forward! Let us build momentum that will attract additional members of the profession into our organization.

I have also listened to repeated talk of separatism, such as holding meetings and publishing separately from the AAPG. I personally oppose separatism, but certainly we are free to discuss it, as many hold other views. Our Division was first a Committee of AAPG and was originated, nurtured, supported and financed by the Association. I believe that to fulfill our purpose and goals and to best serve EMD membership efficiently we should remain within the AAPG and meet with that organization at its sectional and national conventions. Further, I feel that our normal publication channel should be through the AAPG BULLETIN. This geological journal has a greater distribution than any other. I am also in favor of reducing the present \$10 dues in order to attract more members. On the subject of membership, I am certain that this Division can double its membership during the next five years by energetic, positive, farsighted leadership, excellent convention programs, and publications that serve the profession. Yours for better, but not necessarily bigger, conventions

Samuel A. Friedman  
Vice President

## AUSSIE ENERGY BOOM

An energy boom is developing in the Land Down Under. Last year, coal surpassed wool as Australia's biggest export, and major new projects on the drawing boards promise to push the energy export totals higher still.

By the mid-1980's Australia is expected to move ahead of the U.S. as the world's leading coal exporter. Shipments could reach 215 million tons per year by the end of this century, a five-fold increase from last year.

On the Northwest Shelf, a \$5 billion investment in natural gas production facilities is in the final stages of negotiation with potential buyers.

Probably the largest project of all will be the development of the Rundle oil shale deposit in Eastern Queensland. Expenditures at Rundle could run to as much as \$12 billion, and there are other large oil shale deposits such as Condor waiting in the wings.

## GRANTS PUBLICATION IN PRESS

The New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources' Memoir #38 entitled, "The Geology and Technology of the Grants Uranium Region -- 1979," is now at the printers and should be available by mid-December. This publication will run over 1,000 pages, according to EMD Publications Councillor Frank Kottowski, and includes most of the papers which were given at the Grants Region Uranium Symposium, sponsored by EMD, and held in Albuquerque in May, 1978.

## FALL BUSINESS MEETING HELD IN EVANSVILLE

The EMD held its Fall Business Meeting on October 2, 1980, in conjunction with the Eastern Section Meeting in Evansville, Ind. Approximately 25 members and officers were present, including the Executive Committee, Councillors Berge and Gabelman, and AAPG staff personnel.

In opening remarks, Fred Dix pointed out that EMD is not growing at the same rate as the Association. He urged that the Division expand its programs and momentum in order to make people want to join. Don O'Nesky reported on the computer capabilities of the new IBM System 34, particularly in regard to handling membership matters. Headquarters is preparing a new membership brochure (discussed elsewhere in this issue).

On the subject of publications, it was asked if EMD could do an annual energy mineral developments paper similar to the oil and gas developments which comprise one issue of the BULLETIN. The matter was referred to Publications Councillor Kottlowski.

Field trips, symposia, and future meetings were discussed at length. Frank Kottlowski and Lee Woodward will co-chair the Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in Albuquerque, April 13-15, 1981. There will be sessions on coal, uranium, geothermal, mineral economics, the environment, and of course, oil and gas.

Don Schutz will be EMD Program Chairman for the Atlantic Margin Energy Conference of the Eastern Section, to be held in Atlantic City October 4-6, 1981. At least one half-day session on energy minerals topics is planned. The Calgary Annual Meeting in 1982 will feature tar sands. Howard Ritzma has been approached with the concept of presenting a Utah Tar Sands Symposium in the Fall of 1981. Sam Friedman is willing to work on an Oklahoma Coal Field Seminar in the late Spring of 1981. Keith Murray questioned whether there could be a need for an annual Rocky Mountain Coal Symposium, and should there be a geologically oriented (rather than process oriented) Oil Shale Symposium. Carroll Knutson will look into the latter.

In his Uranium Councillor's Report, John Gabelman described the formation of the Uranium Advisory Group and further progress on the volume entitled "Unconventional Uranium Deposits". Papers from the Symposium on Uranium in Volcanic Rocks will be published, and Publications Editor Ron Hart recommends that EMD invest in up to 25 percent of the cost of publishing this volume. As the uranium industry is now examining its present position and planning future programs, Gabelman feels that EMD should consider sponsoring a special industry-government-academia workshop.

Fred Scheerer reported on the Special Ways & Means Panel deliberations on restructuring EMD organization and by-laws, covered elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Geothermal Councillor Bill Berge, who is also President of the Geothermal Resources Council, described the recent upsurge in activity in his industry. The recent Annual Meeting of the GRC in Salt Lake City was very well attended and successful. Recent positive moves in the field include significant power production expansion in the Geysers area of northern California, as well as the start-up of pilot plants in the Imperial Valley. Phillips Petroleum and Utah Power & Light have announced development plans at Roosevelt Hot Springs in Utah. There are also increasing exploration efforts underway overseas. Berge also reported on his efforts to coordinate geothermal activities between EMD and the GRC. He is compiling names of people who could be members of both groups, if they are not so already.

Carroll F. Knutson reported on activities in oil shale since taking over as Councillor on July 1, 1980. Bill Overby, Jr., and Pete Dana will co-chair the Oil Shale Program at the 1981 San Francisco Meeting under the theme "Oil Shale World Wide." A geographically representative spread of oil shale papers is being actively solicited for this program.

In his Treasurer's Report Fuchs stated that EMD funds, as of October 1, totalled \$32,421. Total revenue during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1980 was \$35,042 and expenses were \$35,491, for a net operating loss of \$449. Of the revenue, 35 percent was from dues, with the balance from other sources such as field

trips, meetings, publications, and interest.

President Pederson thanked Jim Palmer of Woodward-Clyde Consultants for his efforts in planning and executing the EMD program at the Evansville meeting. The next business meeting will be held in San Francisco at the AAPG Annual Meeting, May 31-June 3, 1981. After the close of the Fall Business Meeting, the Executive Committee held a closed session to receive the report of the Nominating Committee presented by Fred Scheerer, Chairman.

## SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the EMD Executive Committee was held at the Arco offices in Denver in early September. Present were President Jack Pederson, Vice President Sam Friedman, Secretary-Treasurer R. L. Fuchs, and Past President Fred Scheerer.

Fuchs reported that the Division's funds totalled \$33,000, following a net gain from the Denver Meeting activities of some \$7,000.

The Committee discussed reimbursement for travel on official EMD business, and AAPG policies in this regard were reviewed. It was decided that out-of-pocket expenses for travel to Executive Committee Meetings could be reimbursed to the officer incurring that expense.

A permanent plaque for Distinguished Founders will be located in Headquarters, and will display the EMD's new logo in addition to Founders' names. In conjunction with this, the Committee authorized the engraving of a plate of the logo.

The winners of the Awards for Best Paper and the Best Poster were announced, with presentation to be made at the EMD luncheon on June 2, 1981, in San Francisco. Christine Turner-Peterson was a double winner, first for her poster display on Tabular Uranium Ore, and second as co-author of the paper on "The Sedimentology of the Westwater Canyon Member." Co-author of this paper was Linda Gundersen. There was a tie for best paper, the other being

a coal paper on "Cretaceous-Tertiary vs. Carboniferous Depositional Settings," by John C. Horne, J. K. Balsley, and R. A. Levey.

Other topics reviewed by the Executive Committee included symposia, seminars, and field trips. Sam Friedman reported on a number of contacts he has been making for new programs of this sort. Pederson introduced a letter from Geosat that raised the subject of cooperation of that group and EMD on remote sensing activities. Scheerer urged that the EMD take responsibility for originating and sponsoring more field seminars and symposia. The report from Program Councillor Don Towse is that a large committee has been assembled to work on the 1981 EMD Program in San Francisco. Possible candidates for the EMD Program Coordinator in Calgary in 1982 and Dallas in 1983 were discussed.

In view of the large number of programs now being sponsored by the Department of Energy in the synfuels area, the Executive Committee approved investigation by Pederson of possible DOE co-sponsor situations for various future meetings.

## RITZMA URGES TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT

Howard Ritzma, former EMD Tar Sands Councillor, has come out against government neglect of tar sands development while favoring other forms of synthetic fuels. Ritzma said that tar sands recovery consumes less energy than most other synfuels processes because the substance is already an oil. The name "tar sands" is actually a misnomer, and product can be obtained by treatment with hot water. He objected to the heavy focus on in situ processes. Many of Utah's tar sands deposits can be surface mined, and further work on this technology should produce much quicker results than oil shale and coal liquefaction research. With proper stimulus, production of oil from tar sands could be at the 20-25,000 barrel per day level in four to five years.

About 95 percent of the nation's estimated 36 billion barrels of oil in tar sands is located in Utah.

## EMD MEETING CALENDAR

Feb. 22-26, '81, American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers, Chicago. Contact: AIME Headquarters, 345 E. 47th St., New York, N.Y., 10017.

March 24-27, '81, The Cerro Prieto geothermal field of Baja California, Mexico, symposium in San Francisco, and field trip (March 27) to the Geysers geothermal field near Santa Rosa, Calif. Contact: Werner Schwartz, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Earth Sciences Division, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 87107.

April 12-15, '81, Rocky Mountain Sections, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Albuquerque. Contact: T. E. Kelly, Geohydrology Associates Inc., 3225 Candelaria Rd., N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87107.

## EMD AT ATLANTIC CITY

Don Schutz is Program Chairman for the EMD Session at the Atlantic Margin Energy Conference. This meeting is to be held at the Playboy Hotel in Atlantic City, October 4-6, 1981, and is sponsored by the Petroleum Exploration Society of New York and the AAPG Eastern Section. A call for EMD papers has been issued. Please contact Donald F. Schutz, Teledyne Isotopes, 50 Van Buren Avenue, Westwood, N.J., 07675.

## PROGRAM COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Division's involvement at the Denver convention was successful mainly because of the dedication and determination of many people. Space does not permit the lavish appreciation due, but individually and collectively, they are applauded.

As a reminder, those who presented papers at the Denver EMD technical sessions are encouraged to submit a manuscript to AAPG Headquarters for publication consideration in the AAPG BULLETIN. Members who are familiar with papers presented by non-members are encouraged to assist in such solicitation.

As a footnote, I have enjoyed serving both AAPG and EMD this past year and working with such a tremendous and creative group of people. I know that our division's technical programs will continue to expand in both quality and quantity under the leadership of Don Towse.

D. Keith Murray

## S.W.A.M.P. NEWS

At the June EMD Business Meeting in Denver, outgoing President, Fred Scheerer, proposed a blue-ribbon committee to review EMD organization and by-laws and make recommendations for changes that would fine tune the Division structure. This Special Ways & Means Panel (S.W.A.M.P.), met in Denver on September 4, and consisted of Fred Scheerer, Jack Pederson, Sam Friedman, R. L. Fuchs, Warren H. Westphal, Loyd Carlson, Ruffin Rackley, and John Haun.

The outgrowth of the work of this Committee is an amended set of EMD by-laws which were presented to the Division at the fall business meeting in Evansville. While a number of the changes are mere housekeeping items, several important revisions have been proposed. The EMD structure will go from one built around commodities to one based on geography, paralleling the AAPG organization. The purpose of this is to allow more efficient EMD functions at the sectional and local society level. This should result in better EMD participation in AAPG sectional meetings and achieve a better interface with Division members in any geographic area. Increased EMD membership should be just one dividend from this new structure.

Another major revision will be a procedure for direct election of officers by the entire Division membership.

The EMD Executive Committee will review the final changes at its December meeting. The revised by-laws are then expected to be considered by the AAPG Executive Committee in January, 1981. It is hoped that the proposed new version can be published in the EMD Newsletter (February edition) prior to final approval by the membership at the San Francisco Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 1981.