

THE ENERGY MINERALS GEOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Energy Minerals Division
of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists

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August, 1992

Greetings from West Virginia!

Message From the President

Let me begin my first newsletter commentary as your President with a note of my appreciation. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve you, EMD, and AAPG. Over the years, I have had a great deal of personal satisfaction working with the members of EMD. We have built a very credible presence on the section and national level, and we must continue.

As EMD moves toward the 21st Century, I ask you to help forge the future. We need to grow in membership, serve that membership in a credible and measurable way, and develop credible goals. I ask interested EMD members to send a note about their vision for our future to me at the West Virginia Geological Survey.

I have established an ad hoc EMD Honors and Awards Committee. Sam Friedman is Chair of that committee; four other past presidents are members. I want his committee to review nominees for the EMD Certificate-of-Merit and Distinguished Service Award. I also will ask the committee to determine those EMD members who should be "put-up" for AAPG national awards. Sam's committee can push such nominations forward. So, if you have some honors and awards concerns or nominations, touch base with Sam Friedman at the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

I also am looking for a student EMD member who may be willing to serve as an ad hoc, non-voting member of our EMD Council. I believe looking toward the future requires us to touch on the feelings and interests of students of the present. Call me if you have a nomination or volunteer for this post.

On a personal note, I want to thank Sandra Feldman for doing such a fine job for me, as the EMD Acting Vice-President, during my 13 months of U.S. Navy duty in the Persian Gulf. As I watched her efforts from Saudi Arabia, I was very proud to have such a fine stand-in. Thanks, Sandra, from a grateful sailor!

As I close my first comments to you, I ask for your involvement. It's our EMD! Let's move it forward, building on a great past: 1) each member, get a new member; 2) let's work to develop more section programs; 3) dial into the bulletin board; 4) Tell me what's on your mind; 5) let's make it exciting, professionally satisfying, and worth our time.

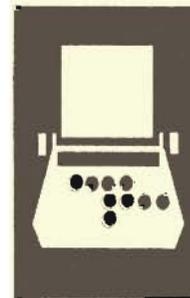
Best to you all from the hills!

—Carl Smith, *President*



EMD Convention Papers Increase by 14%

The number of 1991-92 EMD-organized convention papers with published abstracts for the national and sectional annual meetings increased 14% from 1990-91. As expected, the AAPG Annual Meeting in Calgary attracted the largest share, 48% of the total (56) papers. Fewer papers (48) were given in 1990-91, but the majority (53%) were presented at the Annual Meeting in Dallas.



Once again, coal and coalbed methane were the dominant topics, accounting for 66% of the papers at the national and sectional meetings in 1991-92.

In Calgary, of the 27 EMD papers, 11 were in the "Hydrocarbons from Coal"

oral session, nine in the "Remote Sensing" poster session, and seven in the "Oil Shale/Sandstones" poster session.

The Rocky Mountain Section convention in Billings led the six sections with 14 papers (25% of the EMD overall total of 56 in 1991-92). All 14 were on coalbed methane or coal.

The Eastern Section meeting was second with 12 papers on coal, coal mining, and coalbed methane (21% of the year's total). Meeting in Sacramento, the Pacific Section was third with three papers on geothermal energy (5% of the total).

No EMD topic papers were presented at the Southwest Section meeting once again. Although one or two EMD topic papers were presented at the Gulf Coast and Mid-Continent section meetings, no formal EMD programs were organized at either convention.

—Sam Friedman

EMD Planning Subcommittee for 1994 Annual Meeting

The following members have been appointed to serve as the EMD planning subcommittee of the 1994 AAPG Annual Meeting Planning Committee. If you have any suggestions for EMD programs and events, or more general suggestions, please contact one of them and make your voice heard!

EMD Vice-Chair.....	Douglas Peters, U.S. Bureau of Mines
EMD Technical Program Chair...	Peter McCabe, U.S. Geological Survey
EMD Short Courses.....	Gretchen Hoffman, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources
EMD Field Trips.....	Neil Fishman, U.S. Geological Survey
EMD Awards.....	Graham Curtis, Gold Cup Exploration

Spotlight On Members

As an EMD member, Victor E. Oppenheim, consulting geologist and engineer from Dallas, Texas, did pioneering work in determining coal resources in the field in a little-known, remote area in the Guajira Peninsula of Colombia, South America, in 1940-1941. This site was in addition to his work on geological mapping of the continent in general.

The site explored by Oppenheim, El Cerrejón (which means "little hill"), is the location and name of the largest coal mine in South America. El Cerrejón is a strip mine jointly owned by Carbocol, the Colombian government coal company, and Intercor, the Exxon Corp. affiliate.

Although most of El Cerrejón's 15 million metric tons (MT) (16.5 million short tons) of annual bituminous coal production is shipped to Europe, 1.7 MT (1.9 million tons) was shipped to the United States in 1991 and was valued at US\$40 per MT. The coal is used in metallurgical and steam-production markets.

On October 11, 1991, the Texas Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists presented Oppenheim with its "Outstanding Geologist Award", consisting of a plaque, which states "presented to Victor E. Oppenheim for his contributions of talent and skill during the early exploration of the South American Continent. He was the first geologist to individually map an entire continent."

—Sam Friedman

Coal Committee Notes And Information

We are considering joint EMD-AAPG production of a 35mm slide set depicting geologic features associated with coal bearing strata. Cleat, channels, clastic intrusions, burns, igneous dikes, and faults would be shown, along with concisely written discussions of pertinent topics impacting coal exploration, mining, and gas production. This would be a valuable tool for teachers and a useful reference guide to others in the oil, gas, and coal industries.

The EMD field trip on "Coal, Oil, and Gas Deposits of West Central Alberta," headed by Wolfgang Kalkreuth and William Langenberg, was a highlight of the AAPG Annual Meeting in Calgary. Aside from viewing lake Louise in Banff National Park and walking on a glacier, some spectacular structures were viewed in the Cardinal River and Coal Valley strip mines. Field trip leaders and mine site geologists are to be commended.

Professional registration for geologists in Wyoming has been initiated. The "grandfather" period expired June 30, 1992, but applications for Professional Geologist registration and Geologist-in-Training certification can be obtained from the Wyoming Board of Professional Geologists, Box 3008, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071, (307) 766-2490.

Geology in Coal Resource Utilization, the EMD book edited by Doug Peters, combines 37 papers in seven chapters to provide geologic information on most aspects of coal resources. The book covers Exploration and Reserve Definition, Reserve Estimation, Coalbed Methane, Under-ground Coal Gasification, Mining, Coal Quality Concerns, and Environmental Impacts.

It would be an excellent addition to an individual or company library. Order it from TechBooks at (703) 352-0001 (Fax (703) 352-8862) at US\$95.00 per copy (shipping and handling extra).

The *ASTM Manual on Drilling, Sampling and Analysis of Coal* has been completed (ASTM Manual Series; MNL 11, April, 1992). This manual was developed to set an ASTM standard practice for collection of coal core samples. It can be obtained from ASTM, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 299-5400. The cost is \$32.00 for members of ASTM and \$35.00 for others.

—Alex Papp

Update on Education Committee Planning

There will be two EMD-sponsored short courses at the 1993 Annual Meeting. Zeev Berger (Esso Resources Canada) has offered to teach a remote sensing short course, similar to the one he taught at the Calgary meeting (and which had a waiting list for those who didn't make it in under the attendance limit). The other short course will be in conjunction with a field trip by John Bryer (Texas Christian University) on "Lignite Sequence Stratigraphy".

The sequence stratigraphy short course proposed for the 1992 Rocky Mountain Section meeting in Casper, Wyoming will not be offered. Instead this short course probably will be offered at the 1993 Rocky Mountain Section meeting in Salt Lake City. Betty Wilson (Methane Resources) and Karen Porter (Montana Geological Survey) will present this course on "practical applications of sequence stratigraphy in basins of the Rocky Mountain region."

Several short courses that could be sponsored by EMD have been proposed for the 1994 AAPG Annual Meeting in Denver. Two of these ideas have been

presented to Steve Goolsby, the overall short course chairman for this meeting.

One possible short course would be on geomicrobial exploration methods for ore and petroleum exploration. This would be taught by Rusty Riese (ARCO), Collen Dunn (Geological Survey of Canada), Jerry Arp (consultant), and John Stednick (Colorado State University).

Another proposed topic for a short course is trace elements in coal and their environmental implications. I don't have presenters lined up for this short course, but will be contacting possible candidates.

At the Calgary meeting, Michael Hohn of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey indicated his interest in teaching a short course on geostatistics and its applications to coal resource evaluation.

Fred Henderson (The Geosat Committee, Inc.) also may be interested in presenting a short course on remote sensing.

Needless to say, this preliminary list will have to be shortened. If any EMD members have preferences as to what short courses are offered, I gladly invite your suggestions.

—Gretchen Hoffman

Here is Your EMD Council

This is a list of the members of the EMD Council, those who are responsible for running the Division and producing programs, documents, and events of use to the members. If you have comments, criticisms, or suggestions for EMD in general or specifically for a particular program area, please contact the appropriate or nearest member of the Council with your input. We definitely want all members to provide us with their thoughts on the Division! If you wish to help out on a particular committee or project, please contact the appropriate Councilor or Committee Chair.

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D. Keith Murray

EMD Election Results OK

The AAPG Executive Committee approved all EMD election results at its meeting prior to the AAPG Annual Meeting. The Bylaws changes discussed in the last newsletter took effect as of July 1, 1992.



Reminder on Accessing the EMD Computer Bulletin Board

Welcome to the EMD Connection. Hope you're ready to get started. To use the EMD Connection it will be necessary to have a computer with a modem and communications software. For IBM-PC compatibles we can help as we have two communications packages to distribute. Procomm is shareware that requires a small payment for continued use, and MS-Kermit is public-domain software. If you need help with software, please call me at (304) 594-2331.

Instructions for Accessing the EMD Connection

If you have the necessary hardware and software, to use the EMD connection you need to:

1) Set up your communications software for 300, 1200, or 2400 bps, no parity, 8 bits, and 1 stop bit. This often is abbreviated as 1200-N-8-1 or 2400-N-8-1 or some similar combination, depending on your communications software. The number of bps, sometimes referred to as "baud", automatically will be sensed by the BBS.

2) Dial (304) 594-3547. The BBS will answer and the modems will exchange some information in the form of tones. At this point, your modem will inform you that it has connected at the communication speed (bps or baud rate) that you set up.

3) Type a couple of carriage returns for the software to use to determine this speed on the other end. You then will receive a welcome message that will include a short message from the SYSOP.

4) Type **NEW** as instructed if you are a new user. (After an account is set up, type your user name and password.)

After you type **NEW**, the BBS will print several paragraphs to read and ask you a series of questions. At the end of this, you will receive an electronic mail message from the SYSOP that includes an "attached" file.

5) Read the message by typing **ERT** (this concatenated command stands for "E-mail Read To you"). This will display some header information and ask if you would like to read the message by typing **R**. Do this and read the message.

You then will be given the opportunity to download a file of user information named **NEWUSER.TXT**. Both the initial welcome message and **NEWUSER.TXT** will include information that we will keep up to date. We will make sure that **NEWUSER.TXT** also is available in a library file for experienced users.

Please fill out the registry of users as soon as possible. This is a public information listing that can be used to find out a little about other users on the BBS. Information in the registry can be updated by you at any time.

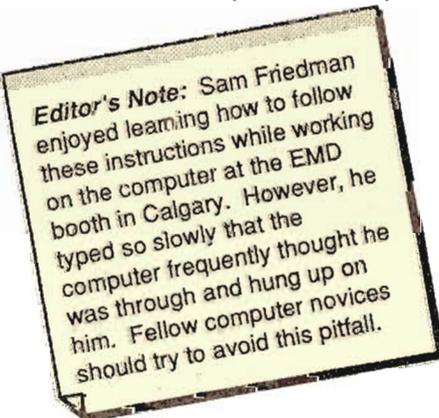
BBS Features

Besides the electronic mail and file libraries, we will be implementing the classified advertisements section in order to allow members seeking employment or consulting work to advertise. We will have the classified ads section set up so "non-live" users (ie: non-members of EMD) also can read them. Because of the way classified ads are displayed, we suggest that the topic on each classified ad be descriptive (ie: "RESUME" or "CONSULTANT"). The text of the classified ads are ASCII text files that can be up to 1,920 characters long.

The files system includes a listing of current EMD members in a comma-delimited format. This is located in the MBRS library. We have files with the text of the previous and present Energy Minerals Geologist issues in the MBRS library and am exploring how to best implement a calendar of upcoming events of interest to members.

Submissions to the RESUME and CONSULTANT listings must be in digital form, either by uploading the file to the BBS or by sending an IBM-format diskette to me at the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, P.O. Box 879, Morgantown, WV 26507-0879.

—Scott McColloch (a.k.a. SYSOP)



Comments on the 1993 Annual Meeting

By now you should have received the Call for Papers for the 1993 AAPG Convention in New Orleans. Please note the many varied topics, especially within EMD, for which we are seeking papers.

If you know of any exceptional new paper on any EMD topic, or if you have seen a great EMD poster, please let us know. This can be the best EMD meeting ever, but only with your help!

Encourage colleagues to submit abstracts, or send us advance copies so we can expect them in October. Is there someone we should call? And, there is plenty of room for posters! Why not join with friends for a poster symposium?

If you have suggestions, call me at (504) 593-7428; or contact EMD Technical Program Chair Dale Easley at (504) 286-6316; or Session Chair Brad Hansen at (504) 388-5420; or Poster Chair Mark Gallagher at (504) 595-1929.

—Mike Fein

Publications of Interest

1) **EMD Annual Developments Articles:** To replace the EMD commodity/technology articles which were in the former *AAPG Bulletin* annual issue on international developments, an agreement has been reached with the AAPG Editor to run such articles as part of the "Forum" section of the *Bulletin*. The first, on Nuclear Minerals, is in the August issue. Developments articles on Coal and Coalbed Methane are in preparation. Longer versions of the articles may appear in this newsletter from time to time, as did the nuclear minerals and coalbed methane articles in issues of **Volume 3**.

2) **The Gusher**, a bi-monthly geological and engineering newsletter for the oil and gas industry, is published by Jacques LeBlanc, Petroleum Geologist, 333 860 Midridge Dr. S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2X 1K1, Canada, (403) 256-1132. The only EMD-related material in the particular issue seen of the *Gusher* was one well-written article: "Coalbed Methane: The Potential in Alberta" by P.J. Proudlock, and reference to five others on coalbed methane, mostly in Alberta.

3) Smith, W.D., et al., 1991, "Composition and Depositional Environment of Major Eastern Canadian Oil Shales"; *International Journal of Coal Geology*, v. 19, p. 385-438.

Best Papers and Posters at the Calgary Meeting

The winners of the EMD Best Paper (for oral presentations) and Best Poster Awards and runners-up (the winners of the Certificate of Excellence in Presentation) have been determined (* = speaker/presenter):

Best Paper (from Session on "Hydrocarbons from Coal"):

D. Yee*, J.P. Seidle, and W.B. Hanson
"Gas Sorption on Coal"

Certificate of Excellence in Presentation (from Session on "Hydrocarbons from Coal"):

A.R. Scott* and W.A. Ambrose
"Thermal Maturity and Coalbed Methane Potential of the Greater Green River, Piceance, Powder River, and Raton Basins"

Best Poster (from Sessions on "Oil Shale/Sandstones" and "Remote Sensing in Basin Analysis"):

J.S. Dudley* and C.H. Moore
"Coupled Reaction Transport Modeling of Oil Sand Steam Stimulation"

Certificate of Excellence in Presentation (from Sessions on "Oil Shale/Sandstones" and "Remote Sensing in Basin Analysis"):

M.P. Segall*, J.K. Rafalska, and S.A. Kuehl
"Organic Matter Distribution in Fine Grained Deltaic Sediments: A Physical-Geochemical Investigation of Kerogen Microhabitat"

—Syed M. Hasan, *Calgary EMD Annual Meeting Awards Chair*

Report of the Southwest Section Councilor

I have the response from my postal reply card survey of the EMD Southwest Section membership.

I sent out a postal reply card to each of the 185 members—105 cards were returned, or 56.8%. I asked each member to state the field in which he/she worked (i.e., petroleum, energy minerals, remote sensing, or other).

Of the 105 replies, 85 (81%) work in petroleum exclusively, seven (6%) receive their income from energy minerals, two (2%) work exclusively in remote sensing, and 11 (10%) are situated in other fields (such as environmental, gold mining, retired, etc.).

·Tom Beard

Employment Opportunity

Dan Miller, the current Director of the Anaconda Geological Documents Collection (International Archive of Economic Geology), will be retiring on October 9, 1992.

No formal announcement of the position has been made yet, but you should not wait to see the formal announcement if you are interested in applying for the position.

The job involves interaction with members of the mining and minerals (hard and liquid) communities, both public and private, and management of the Anaconda Collection as well as numerous other collections related to natural resources which are part of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming.

The International Archive of Economic Geology has paying members from industry and government and, thereby, pays for its operating expenses. Duties of the Director include arranging acquisitions of collections to add to the Archive, maintenance of the Archive, fulfilling member and nonmember requests for information and copies of documents, and maintaining and developing paying memberships in the Archive.

If you would like to receive complete information on the position, please send an inquiry letter to Dr. Michael Devine, Director of the American Heritage Center, P.O. Box 3924, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071.

The EMD Council appreciates the efforts of Syed Hasan and his corps of volunteer judges who evaluated the speakers and poster presenters. These awards would not be possible without the direct involvement of such people in the operation of the annual meetings.

Note From the EMD Vice-chair for the Calgary Meeting

I received many congratulations for a fine EMD part at the 1992 Annual Meeting. I accepted all of these fine words, but I also told many people that I thanked several other people for much of the planning. These include the following:

Dr. Ashton Embry, *Technical Program Chairman*
Ms. Michelle Mayfield, and the AAPG Headquarters staff
Mr. John Hogg, *CSPG Field Trip Chairman*
Mr. Syed Hasan, *EMD Annual Meeting Awards Chairman*

There were many others who helped, but especially these people. It may be that I worked differently than I might have worked if there were more active EMD members in my area. Even though I believe that I had 38 members when I started as Canadian Councilor, and some 68 by the time of the annual meeting, these are spread across Canada and hardly warranted my trying to handle field trips and short courses on my own. Therefore, I quite readily accepted having them included under the CSPG planning.

The only problems that I had involved the field trips and, thanks to the wonderful work of John Hogg, these problems were corrected. He tells me that we may have a small profit on them, perhaps \$500-\$1,000.

·Ned Gilbert

Upcoming Meetings

1) **EOSAT** (Earth Observation Satellite Co.) will host a seminar on GIS and Remote Sensing in Natural Resource Management Applications from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 14, 1992, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, California.

In addition to the seminar and displays, EOSAT, ERDAS, ESRI, Intergraph, Pacific Meridian Resources, and Silicon Graphics will offer half-day workshops (with four others to be announced) on Tuesday, September 15.

Registration fee is \$35.00, which also covers exhibits, continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks. Hotel reservations at a special rate should be made with the hotel at (800) 325-3535.

Contact Teri Shank at (216) 642-1446 or Micki Barber at (818) 569-2388.

2) **October 21-23, 1992**—Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Annual Convention (AAPG Gulf Coast Section) in Jackson, Mississippi, in conjunction with SEPM. Contact AAPG Headquarters, at (918) 584-2555.

3) **November 4-6, 1992**—New Zealand Geothermal Workshop at the University of New Zealand, Auckland.

Contact the University at Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand, Fax 64-9-373-7419.

4) **Announcement and Call for Papers**—You are invited to contribute a paper for presentation at the 28th International Symposium on "Remote Sensing and Global Environmental Change: Tools for Sustainable Development," in Graz, Austria, April 4-8, 1993. Deadline for submittal of 200-500 word summaries is September 18, 1992.

The symposium will mix plenary, interactive, workshop, and roundtable discussion sessions designed to enlighten the novice as well as engage the expert.

Presentations on the following topics are solicited:

Data policy and sources; disaster monitoring and mitigation; early warning systems for food security; education and training; environmental degradation of air, land, and water; environmental measurement and monitoring systems; integration of remote sensing and GIS; international research programs and plans; land cover and land use change (especially forest and urban); mountain ecosystems, and social and natural science partnerships—successful interdisciplinary case studies.

Send summaries to ERIM/International Symposium, P.O. Box 134001, Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001, USA, Fax (313) 994-5123. Contact Nancy Wallman at that address or by phone at (313) 994-1200 ext. 3234.

How to Submit Material for the Newsletter

We encourage all readers of this newsletter, to submit short notices and articles (in suitable form) for publication.

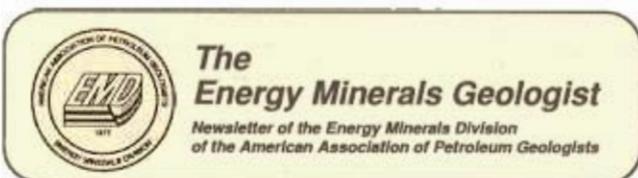
These may include commodity/industry news notes and press releases, product announcements in areas of EMD topics, book reviews, employment changes, geological software reviews, and any other items which would be of general interest to EMD members.

We prefer your work on IBM-compatible diskettes (which will be returned), but letters or legible faxes are okay.

Mailed and faxed material should be sent to Doug. Call Sam at (405) 325-3031 or Doug at (303) 236-0772 for more information on submitting material. General comments and suggestions may be addressed to us as well.

—Doug Peters

—Sam Friedman



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