Chairman’s Column

Last month we had 36 members and guests in attendance to hear an interesting and informative talk on 3D Seismic, by David Sturlese from Lafayette.

This month will be a “no speaker” meeting, devoted to the future of our chapter. By now everyone should have received a questionnaire regarding various aspects of the chapter’s operation.

As I write this column, the response has been fair (less than half returned). But, there is still a little time left for mail return, email, or to bring the form to the meeting. This will be an open meeting, for comments, suggestions, etc. I urge everyone to attend, the future of our chapter may hinge on your participation, thoughts and suggestions.

On a different note, our chapter has made a donation of $2,000 to the UNO Foundation to help fund a course in “Petroleum Geology” at the fall semester. This effort is being spearheaded by Art Johnson and individual contributions are welcome.

Louis E. Lemarié

Planning the Future of Your New Orleans Chapter

Agenda may include

- Leadership
- Meetings
- Best Practices
- Communications
- National Convention 2014
- National Quarterly Article 2014
- Membership

Tuesday, April 16th

Andrea’s - Metairie

Registration & Networking - 11:30 AM
Planning Session - Noon
Reservations and guests:
Carol St. Germain - 504-267-3466
The mission of the Petroleum History Institute is to pursue the history, heritage and development of the modern oil industry from its 1859 inception in Oil Creek Valley, Pennsylvania, to its early roots in other regions in North America and the subsequent spread throughout the world to its current global status. The Petroleum History Institute is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, and all donations are thereby tax deductible.

To promote public awareness of the history and heritage of the international oil and gas industry through Oil-Industry History, the only journal devoted exclusively to this history, symposia of professional presentations, guided field trips through regions rich in oil history, and through a re-print series of out-of-print books that have played an important role in the development of the industry. Founded in 2000. Published annually, Oil-Industry History is the only professional, refereed journal devoted exclusively to promoting and disseminating information about the history of the oil and gas industry. The journal is part of the membership in the Petroleum History Institute and back issues are still available. Go online to www.petroleumhistory.org/journal.html to see each volume’s page for tables of contents and ordering opportunities.

For membership information:
Petroleum History Institute
P.O. Box 165
Oil City, PA 16301-0165

or
www.petroleumhistory.org

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### Oil-Industry History: A sampling of Volume 12, December 2011

- Ebenezer Baldwin Andrews (1821-1880) – Pioneer Oil Geologist, William R. Brice
- Oilfield Photographers – Three Who Captured North American Oil Booms: Frank Robbins, Frank Trost, And Jack Nolan, Jeff A. Spencer
- The First Reports Of Oil In Oklahoma: Raymond P. Sorenson
- Counting The Waste: The Lenzner Report On Construction Of The Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Ross Coen
- Petrolia, California's First Oil Field — A Century Of Disappointment, K. R. Aalto
- The Role Of Geological Survey Technology And Geological Models In The Geographic Dispersion Of Prospective Drilling Locations In Brazil, From 1922 To 2010, Felipe Accioly Vicira And Julia Draghi
- Scientific Maturation And Production Modernization; Notes On The Italian Oil Industry In The 19th Century, Francesco Gerali
- The Role Of Azerbaijan In The World's Oil Industry, Mir-Babayev Mir-Yusif
- The First Frackers – Shooting Oil Wells With Nitroglycerin Torpedoes, Paul Adomites
- The Oil City Oil Exchange, Setting The Price Of Crude, Neil McElwee
- Petroleum Pioneers Of Pittsburgh – The Origins Of Gulf Oil, Alfred N. Mann
- 150 Years Of Producing Oil – Mcclintock Well Number 1 (1861-2011), William R. Brice And Marilyn Black
Crime and vice were rampant in the boom towns, at times reaching a considerable threat to the well-being of a town and its citizenry. California in the 1849 gold rush had already shown the way, so it wasn’t with much surprise to the populace when ruffians and rowdies were seen elbowing their drunken way across the muddy streets of the eastern oil towns. Disreputable characters seemed to gravitate to the oilfields where drillers, rig hands, teamsters, promoters and investors had money in their pockets. Unguarded moments at the saloon or brothel were bound to happen and wallets were lifted. There were periods without law and this vacancy was filled by gangs led by toughs such as Stonehouse Jack (attempted to burn down Titusville) and Bully Tom Quirk (frequented Petroleum Centre). The prostitutes had their own code, and the more prosperous among them owned or ran brothels while the recent arrivals might have to start out in shacks no bigger than a crib. The oil region in the mid eighteen sixties and later saw many outrages caused by the criminal element, but there were also colorful events, entertainment (if you call it that) and bars galore all serving the same rotgut.

Many authors and historians of the early oil days devoted some of their pages to these wild times. They’re a part of history. The continued on page 4
bigger-than-life scenes perpetrated by these disreputable characters needed no embellishment. One of the best accounts of this era is in the book *The Golden Flood* written by Herbert Asbury in 1942. He aptly named that chapter “Sin Among the Derricks”. Asbury also wrote *Gangs of New York* of which a movie was made. For other sources of descriptions of the lawless days of early oil see the bibliography.

How and why did the oil region become a mecca for toughs and criminals? The oil region offered many attractions, excitement, and money. Discharged Civil War soldiers flocked to the oil belt and the boom towns. They swelled the population, and some of them joined the ranks of the gangs while a few preferred to enter the maelstrom on their own. The swill of several big eastern cities like Buffalo found the allure of the oil crowds and towns too tempting to resist. They migrated into the oil belt, but drilling for oil was the last thing on their minds.

For more fascinating articles by Samuel Pees check out the Petroleum History Institute webpage [www.petroleumhistory.org/OilHistory/pages/intro.html](http://www.petroleumhistory.org/OilHistory/pages/intro.html)
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2013 New Orleans Chapter Luncheon Meetings

January 15 - Jeff Nunn
February 19 - Carlo Christina
March 19 - tba
April 16 - tba
May 21 - evening dinner
June 17-20 - Santa Fe SIPES