

SIPES celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Alma Plantation #1



Pictured left to right: Carlo Christina, geologist and program chairman, Kathy Beauford, guest, Gertie Marie Beauford, historian, Louis Lemaire, geologist and SIPES NOC chairman. Photo by Thomas Klekamp

By Gertie Marie Beauford

The Tuscaloosa Trend began officially 40 years ago on May 23, 1975 when the Chevron Oil Co., completed the Alma Plantation #1 well. It was the discovery well for the False River Field. This landmark event was recently celebrated at the annual dinner of the Society of Independent Petroleum Earth Scientists (SIPES) at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie, La. A film documentary entitled "False River Gold" from 1998 was presented. It was produced by Molly Benton and several L.S.U. students. The film featured Gertie Marie Beauford, historian, and others narrating the events over the years in the trend. Carlo Christina, active geologist on the "Cretaceous" find from the beginning, presented a slide show and narration on the trend which runs through Louisiana from Texas to Mississippi. It was noted that the trend in Louisiana is found down to 20,000 feet but one can drive through it on the highway in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where it appears



Pictured left to right: Carlo Christina, Gertie Marie Beauford, and Beverly Christina. Photo by Kathy Beauford

above the Earth's surface and from which it got its name.

Present at the dinner were SIPES officers Louis Lemaire, Roy Walther, Art Johnson, David Broadbridge, Carol St. Germain, Carlo Christina (and his wife Beverly) and Eric Broadbridge. Special guests were recognized: Robert Branson, Larry Ringham, and Anthony Lanson. Also present were Gertie Marie and Kathy Beauford, residents of Lakeland where the False River Field began.

A delicious dinner was prepared for the event by Chef Andrea. A birthday cake with candles was presented to the attendees and the candles were blown out by Gertie Marie Beauford who was honored with a lovely red rose and baby breath corsage. Gertie is now assisting Jeff Spencer, geologist, who is writing a book on the 40th anniversary of the trend. The final salute to the trend was noted in the program: "You ain't seen nothing til you've seen the Tuscaloosa."