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AAPG Research

THE function of the Research Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, as defined in the by-laws, is "the advancement of research, particularly within the field of Petroleum Geology." Thus the committee does not do research but encourages it by various means.

Encouragement may take the form of grants-in-aid to research workers who are engaged on projects in sedimentation, structural geology, historical geology, or any of the other branches of the science that may have a bearing on the origin, migration, or accumulation of oil and gas. In addition, the committee attempts to guide research workers, to prevent overlapping in research, and to coordinate the activities of separate workers. It is always eager to learn of projects that are under way or planned. Lack of funds prevents the committee from making substantial grants to any one research program, but many such projects have been supported, and persons seeking financial aid should present a thorough outline of their program to the committee.

Several important publications of the association are outgrowths of symposia held at annual meetings of the group. These symposia have proved most popular with the membership. Although the assembly of data on particular problems such as stratigraphic-type oil fields or the time of accumulation of oil and gas may not be considered to be research by some, a great amount of after-office-hours labor has gone into these symposia. Ideas have been uncovered and developed that would otherwise lie buried in files.

"Production of Oil and Gas from Fractured Reservoirs" will be the theme of the symposium to be held at Los Angeles during the annual meeting of the Association in March 1952. This subject is certain to attract considerable interest and to promote much speculation because of the great interest at the pres-

ent time in Sprayberry zone production in many fields of West Texas. Geologists in that area believe that much, if not all, the oil and gas found in that zone are in fractured beds. These fields occupy an area estimated to measure 80 by 20 miles, in which 200 wells are now drilling. The Gilbertown field in Alabama and some Mississippian "chat" fields in Kansas are believed to produce from fractured reservoirs. One of the oldest oil fields in the world—Florence, Colorado—produces from fractured shales. Fractured limestone has been a source of much production in Venezuela, Canada, and the Middle East. An attempt will be made to include a discussion of each of these types of accumulation at the Los Angeles meeting.

This year members of the committee will be thinking in terms of commercial oil production from continental deposits. This was the second choice of the membership as a theme for the annual meeting, so it is planned that preliminary steps be taken toward the preparation of a symposium on this subject. This may be the theme of the research meeting for 1953, or it may occupy the position of a second symposium at Los Angeles. Proved examples of commercial oil or gas production from continental deposits are relatively scarce, but a growing realization of their possibilities has created an interest in this subject at a time when any type or amount of oil accumulation is of increasing value. A restudy of thirty-year-old oilfields has been considered as a third field of investigation for the committee this year.

The last business meeting of the association authorized the acceptance of gifts to build up the research fund of the organization. It is hoped that this fund can be increased to such an amount that a consistent policy of financial support for worthy research projects can be followed.

EDWARD A. KOESTER

*Research Committee
American Association of Petroleum Geologists*

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