

## State and Local

# A&M geophysicists join team studying oil, rocks

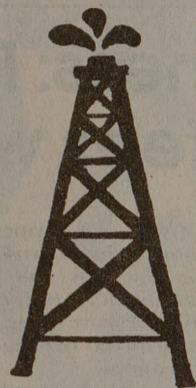
By RaeAnn Warmann  
Reporter

Something besides the cool rings that feed the Guadalupe river is flowing deep below the sedimentary basin beneath the San Marcos.

It's oil, and Texas A&M geophysicists, along with others, will try to get more detailed picture of it by participating in an Austin-based program in which geologists will penetrate rock near San Marcos and sample the fluids found within the

First proposed by the Bureau of Economic Geology, the Gulf University Investigations and Deep Exploration project — GUIDE — will look seismic records to determine differences between continental crust and oceanic crust, Dr. Earl Hoskins, head of the A&M geophysics department, says.

"In between, we've got this mess," Hoskins says, "and we don't know what's there, really, but San Marcos would be a good spot to find that out. What it will do is tell us a lot about the origin of oil, because we'll drill through sediments that the oil is already been formed in and migrated away from. We'll be able to sample it and will learn a lot just about fluid behavior at great depth." Scientists already know that fluids are circulating through the rocks at that depth, but still aren't sure about composition and temperature of the fluids, what they carry or how



they affect the formation and transportation of oil, he says.

Any breakthroughs resulting from GUIDE, however, will be scientific, not economic.

"Most of the time in the oil industry, of course, when they drill a hole, they're most interested in getting down there and testing for fluids or testing for hydrocarbons, and getting out of the hole if there's nothing there," Hoskins says. "In this case, this hole is really being drilled for science, not for any other reason."

The Gulf Coast is one of the biggest sources of hydrocarbons in the United States, he says. It still is active in producing fluids and generating hydrocarbons.

But when drilled below 10,000 feet, Hoskins says, this active crust becomes overpressured.

"Overpressured in the oil industry means you're risking blowouts, which you don't like," he says.

To drill into lower parts of the earth and through overpressured zones, a 35,000- to 40,000-foot hole is necessary. The hole will go into areas where both organic and inorganic metals are being deposited and where fluids are circulating.

"Eventually, the hole will be drilled into this transitional crust, whatever's below the basement," he says.

Hoskins says it will be another two years before actual drilling starts, as the project is still in the planning stages. The exact drilling time will depend on funding from the National Science Foundation.

But when the project is ready, a relatively shallow hole will be drilled first — about 15,000 feet — to pin down any problems.

"Then, when that hole is done, about 1992 or 1993, we'll be prepared to start a big hole and go for 40,000 feet," Hoskins says.

The 30,000- to 40,000-feet of core that will be retrieved from the hole will be put in a permanent repository for scientists.

"When it's all done and all the shouting is over and somebody sits down and totals up the expenses, it's probably going to come to \$200 million, and it's probably going to take 10 years to complete the whole project," he says.

# High court kills Houston law against 'interrupting' police

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, in a First Amendment ruling Monday that cities may not make it a crime for bystanders to interrupt police officers at work.

By a vote of 8-1, the justices struck down a 1956 Houston ordinance that makes it a misdemeanor to interrupt police during their work.

Five justices joined in saying that no municipal law that prohibits interrupting police officers is unconstitutional because it may be used to legitimate free speech protected by the First Amendment.

Three others in the majority voted to strike down the Houston law on narrower grounds.

Justice William J. Brennan, in his opinion for the court, said, "We are mindful that the preservation of liberty depends in part upon the maintenance of social order. But the First Amendment recognizes — wisely, we think — that a certain amount of expressive disorder not only is inevitable in a society committed to individual freedom, but must itself be protected if that freedom would survive."

Today's decision reflects the constitutional requirement that, in the face of verbal challenges to police action, officers and municipalities must respond with restraint.

Joining Brennan's opinion were Justices Thurgood Marshall, Byron R. White, Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens.

Three other justices said the Houston law could be redrawn to meet constitutional requirements while still safeguarding the ability of police to do their jobs.

"The ordinance could make clear that it applies to speech only if the

*"The freedom of individuals verbally to oppose or challenge police action without thereby risking arrest is one of the principal characteristics by which we distinguish a free nation from a police state."*

— William J. Brennan, Supreme Court Justice

purpose of the speech were to interfere with the performance by a police officer of his lawful duties," Justice Lewis F. Powell said.

Justices Antonin Scalia and Sandra Day O'Connor said they

agreed with Powell. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist voted to uphold the Houston ordinance.

The city law was challenged by Raymond Wayne Hill, who had served time in prison for burglary and returned to Houston in 1975.

Hill was arrested on Feb. 4, 1982 on a Houston street corner by police making another arrest for a traffic violation.

A crowd gathered as Charles Hill, who is unrelated to Raymond Hill, began directing traffic and the officers moved to stop him.

According to court records, Raymond Hill told the police they should "pick on somebody your own size" and leave Charles Hill alone.

The police then arrested Raymond Hill and he was charged with a misdemeanor for interrupting police during their work.

Hill was found not guilty. He then filed a federal civil rights suit challenging the ordinance.

Brennan said, "The freedom of individuals verbally to oppose or challenge police action without thereby risking arrest is one of the principal characteristics by which we distinguish a free nation from a police state."

# Hobby: Fiscal crisis should not be solved by cutting education

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, saying the state's fiscal crisis has grown more urgent during nearly a year of inaction, said Monday the problem should not be solved by further cutting human services or education spending.

"We cannot afford to balance our budget at the expense of human services and higher education," Hobby said in remarks prepared for a private briefing for about 50 business leaders.

"Recent budget cuts have damaged our colleges and universities. So far, it is not irreparable, but another round of reductions might be," Hobby said.

Hobby said some business leaders discussed the possibility of a state income tax during the hour-long meeting, but he said he doubted an income tax would be enacted.

The lieutenant governor said he expected the Legislature's answer this summer would be a temporary tax surcharge — on the sales tax and other levies — to get the state through the 1988-89 budget period.

"I doubt that there's going to be any major revision of the tax structure this summer. I think what we'll see is probably . . . a surtax on the sales tax and all other taxes to get us by a difficult period," Hobby said.

"Surtaxes are kind of the traditional way of avoiding thinking

through a problem," he said.

Hobby said he would propose a "starting point" for budget negotiations in the special session beginning June 22 that would require a \$6.7 billion tax increase for 1988-89.

"That is an enormous amount of money to raise," Hobby said. "Therefore, reductions most likely will be made in this starting point budget in the next few weeks."

But, during a news conference afterward, Hobby declined to say where cuts might come. He said he considered the proposal totaling about \$39.3 billion too low.

State Treasurer Ann Richards said another temporary solution might be a bad signal to the nation's financial experts.

"The people on Wall Street are very wise to smoke-and-mirror games," she said. "They are watching Texas very much, as they have watched other states and the city of New York, as to how well we are able to solve our problems in a serious way rather than in some temporary, flim-flam way."

Richards also said that between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion in state notes need to be sold soon to provide a shot of cash when the new fiscal year begins Sept. 1, and to sell those notes lawmakers must enact a budget by Aug. 1.

# 3 walk away from separate plane crashes

AUSTIN (AP) — Three people escaped serious injury in separate plane crashes in the Austin area, authorities say.

Two people, identified by Travis County sheriff's deputies as Louis Burrett, 30, and Anne Roseborough, 27, escaped with minor injuries when a power line caught the left wheel of their biplane Sunday and pulled it to the ground near Lago Vista on Lake Travis.

Witnesses said the biplane, piloted by Burrett, was flying in low circles over Lake Travis before crashing into the heavily wooded shoreline and fell partly into the water.

In the second accident, also Sunday, the pilot of a single-engine plane escaped uninjured after the craft clipped some trees, became entangled in power lines and crashed in a heavily wooded area in a Williamson County subdivision.

Ernest Harrington Martin apparently had just taken off about 5 p.m. Sunday after stopping at a private landing strip to ask directions to another airfield in the area, Dale Boyer, chief of the Cedar Park Volunteer Fire Department, said.

Martin was alone at the time of the crash, he said.

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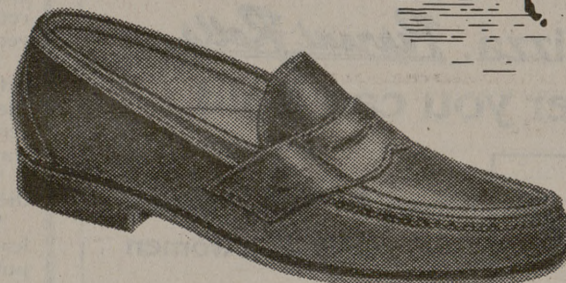
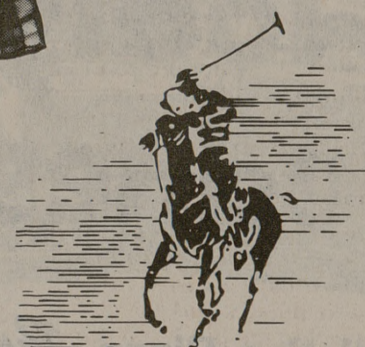
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