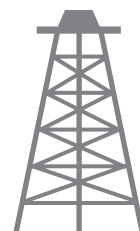




Pacific Petroleum Geology



NEWSLETTER

Pacific Section • American Association of Petroleum Geologists

May and June 2024

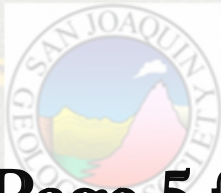
ANNOUNCEMENT!

from the Los Angeles Basin
Geological Society

The Pacific Section of the
AAPG's 100th year of activity is
upon us!

Save the Date:
Sept. 13-15, 2024

COAST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1948 75 2023

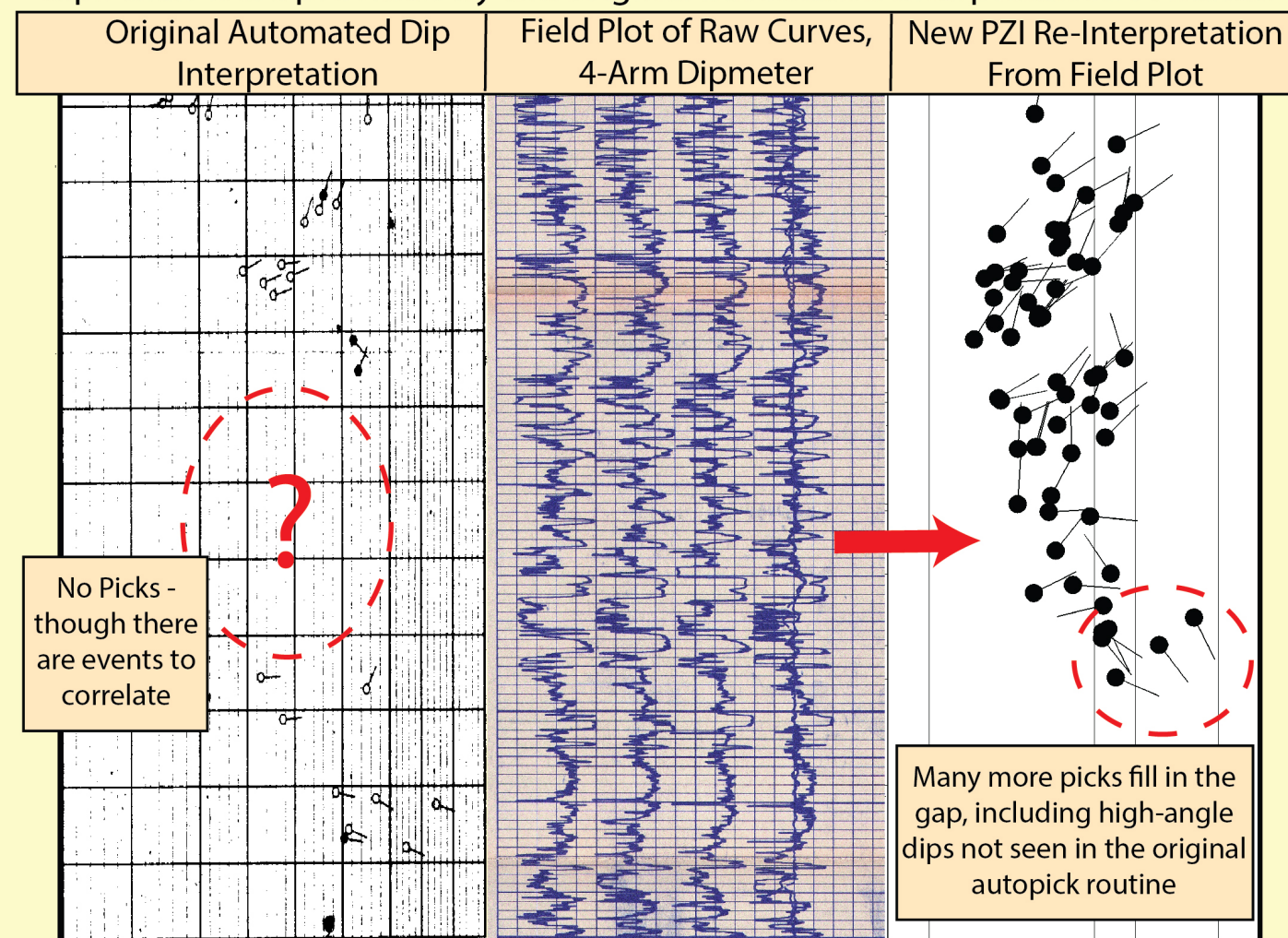


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Editor's Comments: This issue's historical article, written by Bill Rintoul, describes life on the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley in the early 20th Century. The article is from *1968 Guidebook, West Side Southern San Joaquin Valley*, published by the Pacific Sections AAPG, SEPM and SEG. Bill authored several books on California's oil history, and he also wrote the daily Oilfield News column for the Bakersfield *Californian*. He would report on new well locations, results of exploration wells, and upcoming professional meetings and lectures. It was always exciting seeing a well you proposed make his column. On the other hand, it wasn't exciting to see the abandonment of your well announce to the world in the paper!

Submit an Article to the Pacific Petroleum Newsletter!

- CONTACT THE EDITOR at editor@PSAAPG.org
- Images (graphics, photos, and scans) must be at least 300 dpi resolution. Text should be at least 600 dpi.
- Scanned photos, illustrations (line art) or logos should preferably be submitted as a .tif, .gif, or .bmp; .jpeg

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Dear fellow PS-AAPG members,

In this, my last letter as PS-AAPG President, I want to thank everyone who has helped this year to rebuild the Pacific Section. In addition to the executive members, I'd like to thank the following individuals:

- Cynthia Huggins for managing the scholarships program
- Dan Schwartz for representing the pacific section at the AAPG council
- John Williams for volunteering as awards chair and representing Coast Geological Society
- Monte Mabry for organizing the 2024 AGS Technical Conference and bringing engagement with Alaska back to PS-AAPG
- Paul Henshaw for representing Northern California Geological Society
- Ron Foster for representing San Joaquin Geological Society



We have a few events in the planning stage for the pacific section community with the first kicking off in Los Angeles to start the 100-year celebration of the section.

To remind everyone, the LA Basin is where the first Pacific Society of Petroleum Geologists meeting was held on September 26 and 27 in 1924. The society was adopted into AAPG as the Pacific Section in 1925. Dan Steward, Rick Behl and Karla Tucker are leading the charge, have found a venue, and are designing a field trip planned for the weekend of September 13-15. Be sure to mark your calendar. More information can be found within the newsletter and on the PS-AAPG webpage. This is exciting as we haven't had a PS-AAPG meeting in a while, last meeting was the Coast Geological Society's Monterey Formation Research Symposium in November 2022.

Also, I am currently in the early stages of planning a core workshop in Bakersfield. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact me at president@psaapg.org. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

We are still looking for more small events across the Pacific Section societies to support the 100-year celebration into 2025. Let the executive committee know if you have any ideas or would like to help plan something in your area.

As you may have seen, we are working to add more content to the newsletter. This includes content from our members. If you have an article, pictures, or you would like to be highlighted in the newly added "Conversation with a PS Geoscientist", please submit to editor@psaapg.org.

This year has gone by quickly and I think we made a lot of progress in rebuilding the section, but there is still more to do. I am looking forward to what Amy Spaziani brings as President and continuing to help as Past-President. Thank you to the committee members continuing into next year – Lisa Alpert, Simmie Chetal, Kenton Crabtree and Tony Reid. Lastly, a warm welcome to Dan Steward who will be joining the executive committee as President-elect.

Please have a wonderful summer!

Regards,
Kristy Whitaker




ANNOUNCEMENT!

from the Los Angeles Basin Geological Society



**The Pacific Section of the AAPG's
100th year of activity is upon us!**

**To commemorate this centennial, the
LABGS calls for presentations on:**

- **History of California petroleum geology, particularly in the LA Basin**
 - **Key advances in the in the history of exploration**
 - **Profiles of geologists whose contributions to California geology were extraordinary**
 - **Basin-scale geological-geophysical synthesis**
 - **Technical advances in petroleum geology from the Pacific Section**
- 

**Please submit potential talk titles to Dan Steward
(daniel@ironhorseenergy.com) and Rick Behl (richard.behl@csulb.edu)**

Save the Date: Sept. 13-15, 2024

Whittier College, Whittier, California
**Friday Ice Breaker, Saturday Presentations and Dinner,
Sunday Field Trip**

Registration is Open! Go to <https://cvent.me/gVZmrZ>





100-year Anniversary Logo Competition

Be part of the 100-year anniversary celebration by having some fun designing a logo for the event!

The competition is open to all PSAAPG members, family members, and students within the Pacific Section.

Winner will be chosen based on quality of logo, and incorporation of features such as diversity of Pacific Section and its affiliate societies, historical significance, and geologic elements relative to the Pacific Section region.

Submit logo designs and any questions to editor@gmail.com by July 1st, 2024. Please submit files as a .jpg, .tif, .ppt, .pdf, or .png file.

Winner will receive the option to attend a PSAAPG field trip for free or 3-year membership!

Reprinted from West Side Southern San Joaquin 1968 Guidebook,
Pacific Sections AAPG-SEG-SEPM

When the West Side Boomed

William Rintoul

One day about 60 years ago the city attorney of Bakersfield contemplated an oil lease he had bought for \$5, sadly noted the 1,000-foot dry hole that subsequently had been drilled nearby, and quietly sold out, considering himself lucky to get as much as he had paid for the ill-starred property.

It was not long afterward that a group of Los Angeles investors took a hopeful look at the same lease, decided it had possibilities, and incorporated themselves for the purpose of drilling a well under the name Lakeview Oil Co. Unfortunately, the well consumed time and money in greater amounts than anticipated, and the hard-pressed backers cast about for help.

Help was forthcoming in the form of a neighbor with production. Union Oil Co. of California wasn't necessarily sold on the Lakeview well; in fact, according to a later admission, the real lure was the land on which the well was being drilled: the company saw it as a dandy spot to build tanks for storage of oil to be shipped through a pipeline then under construction. But the Lakeview-Union agreement was a package deal: in return for the land, the right to build tanks, and a controlling interest in Lakeview Oil Co., Union took a commitment to continue drilling the Lakeview well – as crews could be diverted from other projects considered more pressing.

Drilling proceeded, and so did expenses, requiring an occasional assessment in the form of a dime-a-share dun of Lakeview stockholders. One stockholder named Maria Addis soon qualified for membership in the club begun by the city attorney of Bakersfield. Tiring of assessments, she sold her 200 shares at public auction to Clarence H. White for \$20. The sale was consummated on Nov. 12, 1909, some four months before the Lakeview gusher blew in as, in the words on the California Historical Landmark plaque that marks the site, "America's most spectacular gusher."

The column of dark brown oil that shot up from the Lakeview gusher on the morning of March 15, 1910, demolished the wooden derrick, sprayed the countryside for miles around, and encouraged the formation of 39 new oil companies in two weeks.

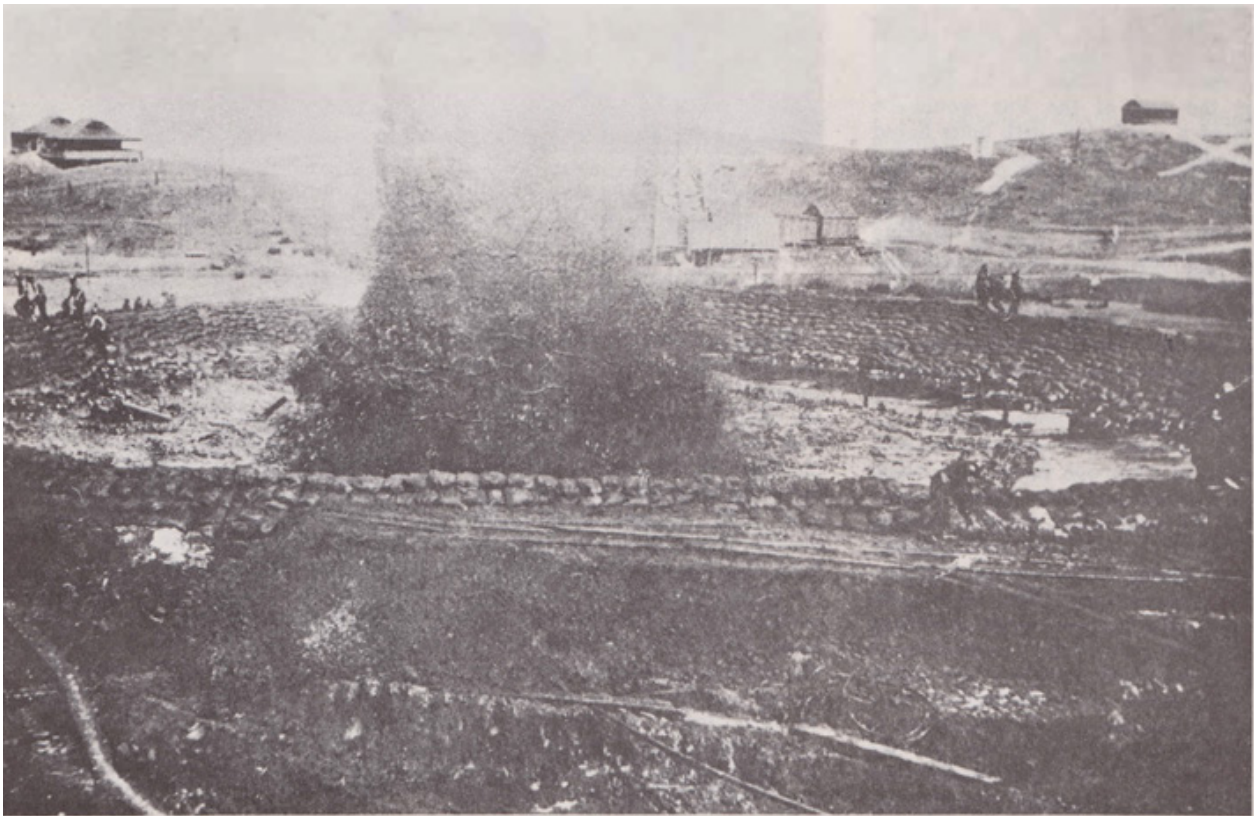
An army of upward to 400 men labored to contain the gusher's oil. In the ranks were newcomers hastily recruited from as far away as Suisun City, 300 miles to the north. For many, home in the oil fields was a bedroll thrown down on hard ground. More than one newcomer proved fair game for the practical jokes of old hands. A favorite trick was to conceal a rope under the newcomer's bedroll. At nightfall, the newcomer would be treated to much talk of rattlesnakes and their prevalence in the oil fields. Later, after the impressionable newcomer had settled uneasily into his bed roll, someone would grab the rope and yank, excitedly shouting "snake." The prank was guaranteed to empty a bedroll in a hurry.

Fondness for practical jokes among the Lakeview hands apparently was equaled if not surpassed by the men's desire to see that holidays were properly celebrated. Orval O. McReynolds, a consulting engineer who represented original backers of the Lakeview gusher, touched on such a celebration in a report he wrote to Messrs. Charles Off and R. D. Wade in Los Angeles on July 7, 1910, three days after the nation had noted its independence day. "Progress during the past week has been somewhat slow," McReynolds reported, "for the reason that the entire Maricopa field had been celebration mad. We are just beginning to settle down to work again after a week of debauch."

While the Lakeview gusher and its uncontrolled flow of an estimated nine million barrels of oil solved the problem of respectability for the Midway-Sunset field, there still remained a matter of status for the West Side's redoubtable Sunset Railroad, built jointly in 1902 by Southern Pacific Co. and Santa Fe Railway



Taft celebrated the Fourth of July, 1911, with a parade down Center Street.



Enveloped in oily spray, workmen at the Lakeview gusher were in constant danger.

Co. to connect the embryo oil fields with Bakersfield, some 45 miles away.

Though the Sunset's \$100,000 a month hauling business made it one of the most profitable branch lines in the United States, the line's image left much to be desired. Most West Siders knew the Sunset mainly for its lack of speed in carrying passengers to their destinations. One passenger had indignantly requested that the railroad either speed up the run or add sleeping cars and a diner. Another, a man on crutches, had enacted what must stand as the epitome of protest to passenger service on any rail line. Some 13 hours out of Bakersfield on what had been billed as a two-hour-and-ten-minute run, while the train was stopped on a siding near Buena Vista Lake, the angry passenger had climbed off and begun hobbling toward the tents and shacks of Taft on his crutches, leaving the train behind.

It was not long after the Lakeview gusher ceased to flow that the Sunset attained the status of every self-respecting western railroad. The train was robbed of a gold shipment.

It happened on Dec. 9, 1911. The first sign of trouble came when the afternoon train rolled to a stop in Taft. The agent approached the express car, rapped on the door, and received no answer. Alarmed, he forced his way inside to find the express messenger lying bound, gagged and unconscious beneath sacks of mail. An open strongbox told the story. A \$20,000 gold shipment to meet oil payrolls was gone.

It was the following morning before the messenger pulled himself together sufficiently to tell, from a hospital bed, a story of being accosted by two robbers, one of whom pistol-whipped him when he tried to pull the bell cord. Somebody recalled seeing two men riding exhausted horses into the hills near Glenville on the other side of the valley, and a posse rode off in pursuit, to no avail. The reason became clear several days later. Further questioning developed discrepancies in the messenger's story. The messenger confessed that he and his brother had stolen the gold and that he had bumped his head to make his story seem authentic. Authorities found the gold in a shallow hole

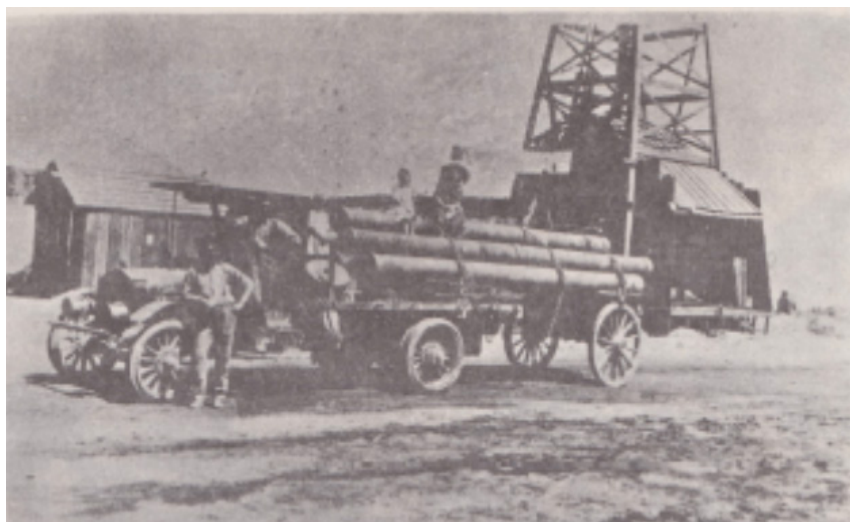
beside the tracks, and the train robbers were sent to an institution where, one wag predicted, the passage of time would seem as unhurried as a ride on the Sunset railroad.

If the Sunset achieved its standing at the hands of a dubious hold-up, the same could scarcely be said of the communities that grew to supply the oil fields.

There's a legend that says of western mining towns – and the West Side communities were based on mineral wealth no less certainly than the Whiskey Flats and Hangtowns of the Mother Lode – that drunkenness, shootouts and stern privation were the prevailing mode of life. Certainly such things as shootings for example, did occur – and still occur even in the best of towns – but whether they should be regarded as the whole story is debatable.

What of life in the West Side oil communities? For housewives, life was not without its conveniences. The women of tiny Reward, for example, cooked with natural gas a full five years before piped-in gas was available to their counterparts in proud Los Angeles. In the oil fields, gas served not only for cooking and house heating but also for such luxuries as gas lights and even for irons. It was the practice to connect the iron to the gas source with a flexible hose. The woman ironing could choose by regulating the flow of gas between a warm, medium or hot iron.

And when washday arrived, there was the blow-off box, an oil field laundromat. At each boiler house, a



Running casing was a family affair in the early days of the West Side oil fields.

pipeline led away to deadend at a reasonable distance from the boilers. Through the line, steam could be blown off when there was excess pressure – or clothes to be cleaned. At the end of the line would be found a sturdy box with holes bored through its sides and a lid that fastened tightly on top. Even the oiliest of oil-stained clothes, with perhaps an assist from pre-soaking in distillate, came away thoroughly cleansed after a lively session with steam in the blow-off box.

For men, life in the oil camps was not without its comforts. Notable was the way they handled hot weather at a bunkhouse on the C. J. Berry lease. The bunkhouse consisted of a wooden frame over which wire screen had been nailed; covering the latter was a layer of burlap. Topping the structure was a trough from which water dripped, dampening the burlap. The bunkhouse stood apart from other buildings to catch any and all breezes. It provided cool quarters in which night crews slept during summer days. The same arrangement on a more modest scale served for the coolers in which early residents of the West Side guarded their perishables before the installation of community ice-making machines.

While burgeoning communities of the West Side offered entertainment ranging from cultural offerings at the Blaisdell Opera House in Taft to near-championship boxing matches in Taft and McKittrick featuring such men as Jack Johnson, who later became world's heavyweight champion, and Sam Langford, the famous Boston Tar Baby, for many West Siders the center of social life remained the oil company lease. Highlights of lease life were the annual community

picnic in the spring and the gala Christmas party in the winter. In the absence of Christmas trees, or any other trees for that matter, men would trek into the Temblor Range, cut a tree – be it oak or scrub – that showed promise, and by judicious pruning shape it in traditional form. Once decorated, the tree served its purpose without complaint from any of the celebrants, least of all the children, who received gifts of candy, raisins and nuts.

If the bounty of nature furnished a reason for existence on the West Side, nature had more ways of evidencing itself than the gift of rich oil sands. On the wintery Monday morning of Jan. 17, 1916, a gale blew out of the southwest, buffeting the West Side for more than three hours. The gale began with a bang: wind blew the crown block from a derrick on the San Francisco & McKittrick lease, sending it smashing into a boiler, causing the boiler to explode. Ground, softened by rain, proved an unsteady base; in West Side fields more than 400 wooden derricks toppled. Fortunately, no one was killed, though one man fell from a derrick and broke his ankle, another working on a rig suffered a deep gash in his arm.

A motion picture crew from Los Angeles arrived the following day to film the devastation, taking pictures of collapsed tanks, unroofed houses and derricks in all stages of dilapidation. Loss was estimated at more than \$740,000. Teams were in more demand than trucks because they didn't bog down as easily in the morass. A call for rig builders went out, and men responded from as far away as Texas. More than 100 carloads of lumber were ordered at McKittrick the day following the windstorm. Perhaps the man who came through best was L. P. Guiberson, who less than two weeks earlier had taken out policies with the Heath Agency insuring ten of his derricks, seven of which were wrecked.

Ten days later the headlines in The Bakersfield Californian announced: "60-Mile Gale Sweeps Valley; Wires Out, Trees Down; West Side Isolated." Another gale had struck, taking with it many of the derricks that had survived the first blast. Damage on the West Side was set at over \$1 million. A lineman for San Joaquin Light & Power Co., while climbing a pole to attempt



Fire drill at Fellows, circa 1912.

to restore service, was hit by corrugated iron and suffered several broken ribs. Two salesmen from Oil Well Supply Co. were brought to a grinding halt on the highway when wind dropped dead wire on their car, neatly tangling them. A Fellows man suffered a broken leg while walking along the community's wooden sidewalk; the wind picked up the walk and flayed him.

What nature had been unable to accomplish, embattled men succeeded in doing: they shut down the West Side's wells. The shutdown came at midnight on Sept. 11, 1921, when upward to 8,000 San Joaquin Valley oil workers struck some 425 companies, affecting not only West Side fields but Kern River and Coalinga as well. In Kern County, the strike affected some 213,000 b/ d production, most of it on the West Side.

Six weeks earlier, operators had announced they would not renew an agreement with the International Association of Oil Fields, Gas Well and Refinery Workers when the agreement expired at the end of August. In addition, operators said, because of "decreased cost of living" they would slash wages \$1 a day.

The union, reluctantly accepting the wage cut, which for lower categories amounted to a 17 per cent slash, struck against further reductions, demanding that operators agree, with the federal government as a party to the agreement, to a memorandum of terms that for one year would preclude the possibility of additional wage cuts or other changes in working conditions. (Some union men feared a return to the 12-hour work day.)

Three days after the strike began, the first skirmish came at Pentland Junction near Maricopa. More than 2,000 strikers and sympathizers turned back a Southern Pacific special carrying men from San Francisco to the oil fields. The union called them strikebreakers; operators said they were guards. Sheriff



One that got away, circa 1911, prevented the Sunset Railroad's trains from traveling the last five miles of track for two months.

D. B. Newell promptly banned the sale of firearms and ammunition in Kern County.

The union, proclaiming it would maintain law and order, combed its ranks for ex-servicemen; organized them into patrols, identified by red, white and blue badges; and promptly expelled several IWW organizers. Operators hotly claimed the patrols were in fact pickets. At one point, the union let it be known it would tolerate no foolishness. A union spokesman said: "If any of the boys on strike secure a drink of liquor, the committee (Law and Order Committee) will find out where it was secured and the place will be raided by police operatives." Bootleggers took the hint and went on vacation.

Amid reports strikebreakers were being recruited in San Francisco and Los Angeles, oil operators met in secret session at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Out of the meeting came the Oil Producers Association of California. Stoutly rejecting any hint of government mediation, the Association rallied under the battle cry: "More business in government, less government in business."

In the weeks that followed, payments were started from the strike benefit fund: \$10 a week to single men, \$15 a week to married men. Businessmen of Taft subscribed \$4,000 to the fund. Merchants of Maricopa issued a statement supporting the strikers: "All the oil workers are after is a square deal for all." Strikers requested a government probe of the strike, declaring that operators were painting them "worse than Russian soviets." The number of deputies in the oil fields increased to 1,075, and strikers asked for troops, protesting many deputies were lease superintendents and foremen. Strikers paraded through the streets of Taft, 1,000 strong; a McKittrick oil worker hung himself. Friends said he was despondent over the course of the strike.

Operators, professing to see mediation as the opening wedge in government control, rejected overtures from the union for a "settlement without victory." They warned they would hold Kern County responsible for any violence or damage to their properties; filed more than 100 suits in Kern County Superior Court to force the eviction of strikers and their families from lease houses; and met in Los Angeles "to explore ways and means of resuming production."

In the long run, the strike hinged on one question: what would happen to a well that was shut in. The state mineralogist had warned from San Francisco that wells might suffer damage. As the strike progressed, some wells were quietly returned to production by non-strikers. It developed the wells had suffered no damage.

Early in November two months after it had begun, the strike ended. Against a background of complaints of wholesale firing of men who had struck, an attempt to burn bridges on Highway 119 linking the West Side oil fields with Bakersfield, and sporadic shooting, wells were returned to production. Before the month ended, normal production had been resumed.

Conflict of a different sort erupted some five years later when the West Side became the target for one of the most bizarre attacks in history.

On the dark night of Nov. 24, 1926, the advance column of an unlikely army moved out of the rain-soaked bed of Buena Vista Lake, aiming its assault at the West Side. The task force, composed of thousands of house mice, was the vanguard of an army that would number more than 30 million – larger than any force put together by men. The target as mice scurried from muddy burrows was the town of Taft, seven miles away, by then a community of 5,000 population. If anyone had suggested hardy citizens of Taft might soon tremble at the sight of mice, the person making the suggestion would have been greeted with derision. The reaction, predictably, when the first column of mice hit outlying oil camps between Taft and the lake bed was to regard the attack as an uproarious joke. It was rumored on Center Street, where oilworkers gathered in off-duty hours, that women were frantically making plans to start a stilt factory.

After mice invaded beds and nibbled the hair of horrified sleepers, chewed through the sides of wooden storehouses to get at food supplies, and crawled boldly into children's desks at Conley School, apprehensive Taftians cast worried glances at the rodents' staging area, wondering when the attack would cease. From the lake bed, where 11,000 acres of barley and milo maize furnished plentiful fodder, a harvester sent back word when he set his cutter low to harvest maize, he came upon mice so dense crowded that the blades "became choked with fur, flesh and blood to the resemblance of a sausage mill."

"Fabled Pied Piper Needed," a sub-headline announced over an article in Taft's Daily Midway Driller on Saturday, Dec. 4, 1926. Describing the influx of mice, the town newspaper reported "there is a considerable demand for mouse traps, cheese and pussy cats." Cats, it developed, were scarcely the scourge they were reputed to be. Once gorged, the felines showed little interest in rodents. One disgusted homeowner discovered 16 mice sleeping under two cats.

In the field, oil crews cut furrows extending four to five miles across the point of Buena Vista Hills. Whit Barber, Kern County's horticultural commissioner, led

led a platoon into the trenches to sow strychnined wheat. In a three-day period one trench alone – a circular furrow cut by a ditching machine around Midway Oil & Gas Co.'s pumping plant – accounted for more than 75,000 mice, among them, according to *The Bakersfield Californian*, "genuine rats wearing shaggy winter coats." It appeared as if the mice war were won. Weary men left trenches to spend Christmas at home.

Though defenders had won a battle, they had not yet won the war. Early in January, mice in even greater numbers aimed massive thrusts not only at Taft but also at Maricopa; at Elk Hills, its oil camps and the community of Tupman to the north; and at Paloma Ranch and the newly-seeded farm fields to the east. Bolstering the attackers were millions of meadow mice, a hardier specimen than house mice that had carried the attack before. Among the newcomers were numbers of exceptionally large individuals – a not uncommon situation after periods of inordinate increase.

Advancing to the southwest, mice killed a sheep and devoured the carcass in less than a day. A column slipped past poison-filled trenches to touch off an exodus of women from Ford City, an unincorporated community adjoining Taft. Another column captured the Petroleum Club golf course after token opposition from fleeing golfers. To the north, hordes swarmed over the Taft-Bakersfield Highway, where thousands were ground to death under car wheels, making the highway dangerously slippery.

It didn't calm those in the path of the squeaking mice when a University of California zoologist pointed out one pair of mice could in a year's time produce 16,146 mice, nor did it help when estimates placed size of the rodent army between 30 and 100 million mice, indicating attacking mice outnumbered residents of Taft by a conservative margin of at least 6,000 to 1.

While defenders feverishly cut new trenches, advice poured in from all quarters. The Army Chief of Chemical warfare suggested use of poison chlorine gas. An Orange County woman suggested vats filled with water and lye be placed in the path of the mice.

After mice had swum through, she said, they would lick their feet and die. A Rushville, Mo., man suggested establishment of a state colony of skunks. Skunks, he said, would soon clear out the mice – and the town, too, added a Taftian.

A federal poisoner from the Bureau of Biological Survey arrived on Jan. 22, 1927, to take command. His name was Piper – Stanley E. Piper – and he was a tall, serious man who took immediate offense at being hailed by newspapers as the Pied Piper. It was a joke he'd undoubtedly heard before for he had successfully turned back a smaller mice migration at Lovelock, Nevada, in 1907-1908. Piper set up a base camp on Pelican Island in the northern portion of the dry lake bed, outfitted the camp with living quarters and cookhouse, and recruited a force of 25 men – promptly dubbed the Mouse Marines – to carry the battle to the rodents' redoubt.

Nature, as if belatedly mindful of an obligation to preserve its balance, provided unexpected help. More than a thousand ring-billed gulls appeared, diving out of the sky to destroy mice. Straggling companies of short-eared owls flocked into the mice redoubt, making nights at the Pelican Island base melodious with their clear calls. Ravens and hawks joined the airborne attack. Other birds participated in lesser numbers, including great blue herons, road runners, white-rumped shrikes and at least two golden eagles.

Beset by man and birds, mice fell back to short blind excavations little resembling their normal systems of runways and tunnels. Advancing exterminators found evidence of cannibalism in the mice army. Epidemic disease, believed caused by bacillus of mouse septicemia, suddenly spread through rodent ranks. The great mice war ended in mid-February with losses calculated at more than 30 million mice.

Such was life on the West Side: a wild well hailed as America's most spectacular gusher and a train that seldom arrived on time, blowout boxes that cleansed clothes and gales that flattened derricks, a bitter strike and a determined assault by mice. All, and more, are early chapters in the saga of the West Side's prolific oil fields and the communities they spawned.

Interview with a Pacific Section Geoscientist: Dr. Lisa Alpert Interviewed by Amy L. Spaziani

Continuing with the “Interview with a Geologist” series, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Lisa Alpert this month. Lisa’s story is one of true determination, teamwork, and HARD work. Lisa is truly an inspiration in what it takes to make a dream happen: a successful career, family, volunteerism, and several accolades. If Lisa had a motto, I think she would take the ever-famous Nike slogan: Just Do It.

Lisa was born in New Jersey but moved to California when she was 7 years old. She grew up in the Los Angeles area and went to college for math. As it sometimes does, life hit her, and she ended up leaving college and working as a bookkeeper for several years to pay off some debt.

Eventually, an employer offered to pay for her school if she went back for accounting. Lisa despised the accounting classes but was required to take three classes outside of her major, one being geology. Even though it was a three-hour, Saturday morning class, Lisa was completely won over. She couldn’t believe that people got paid to do this! She quit her job 3 weeks later and changed her major at CSU, Los Angeles, to geology.

This was not the typical undergraduate program: while working hard to get her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Lisa also got married and started a family. In fact, while her advisor was signing her master’s thesis, Lisa went into labor with her second child. She delivered her thesis defense a few weeks after delivering a baby, bringing baby along to the defense to nurse when needed. So much respect to both Lisa for bringing her baby along and the faculty at CSU LA for supporting her to do so. She even mentioned stopping periodically to feed the baby!

During her master’s program, Lisa met a professor from the University of Southern California who invited her to get a doctorate with a paid assistantship. There were not a lot of jobs for geologists at the time, so Lisa contemplated this offer. She had a keen interest in petrology and structural geology and decided to work on igneous and metamorphic petrology in the Mediterranean, with Dr. John Platt at USC. Lisa recalls one particularly difficult field trip, in which she spent the entire day in the Orocopia Mountains and had to pump breastmilk for her baby on top of the Orocopia Schist. She decided travelling to the Mediterranean frequently wasn’t going to work for her family. Lisa quickly found another advisor and settled in to focus on geophysics with Dr. Thorsten Becker - numerical modeling of subduction zones and dynamics, and slab rheology.

Towards the end of her doctorate program, Lisa’s advisor connected her with someone in the structure group at Chevron in Houston, as they were looking for someone to do some assess the difference in heat flow between pure shear and simple shear rift mechanisms, using MatLab and GMT to model and tie to another intern’s work on subsidence. It was fun and challenging work and Chevron offered her a job in Houston. Lisa had another idea though. Her kids and family were in LA, and they wanted to stay there. Having benefited from



grandparents being able to help and take care of kids, she wanted to keep her family in LA and work 4 days a week in Houston. Chevron said no. It was not long, however, until she got a call from Chevron in Bakersfield. After visiting Kern River and many questions about what she would be working on, Lisa decided it wasn't a good fit.

While attending a CSU, Bakersfield Student Expo, Lisa met Dan Schwartz and Cynthia Huggins. They asked her to interview with Aera and she was hired to work in San Ardo and then the exploration group doing geophysics. Since then, she worked exploitation and South Belridge heavy oil. A few years ago, she began helping Cynthia with Aquifer Exemptions and learning about UIC regulations, beginning her journey into water. She worked other with water projects with Ken Knight, learning about monitoring wells, impoundments, and SB4. She earned her professional geologist certification, lead a team working on regulatory projects and is now the expert for water resources at Aera. For the past 13 years, Lisa has worked in Bakersfield during the week, commuting home to LA on the weekends, and supporting her husband while he went back to school to earn his bachelor's, master's and doctorate as well! Lisa also teaches petroleum geology at CSUB and remote geology courses at Chaffey College.

Many know Lisa for her tireless volunteerism. She became involved with the San Joaquin Geological Society (SJGS) and Pacific Section when she started working in Bakersfield in 2012, inspired by her friendship with the generous volunteerism of Cynthia and Dan, and has held a position with PSAAPG as treasurer or treasurer elect ever since. She's held positions of president and webmaster with Pacific Section for Society of Sedimentary Geology (PS-SEPM) and most recently the president of SJGS. Lisa has worked on several conventions, gets Pacific Section's taxes done, regularly attends Pacific Section Foundation meetings, and regularly works with CSUB on expos and most recently the Carbon Symposium (CERC). We can't thank her enough for all the work that she has done for Pacific Section.

I asked Lisa who influenced her career the most, and her answer was quick and decisive: her master's thesis advisor, Dr. Robert Stull (yes, the one who was signing her thesis when she went into labor!). When contemplating going for her doctorate, her advisor, Dr. Stull asked if she was concerned about academics. Yes, she was concerned it might be too difficult. Dr. Stull couldn't believe she would be concerned about that! He told her, yes, it would be challenging, but she absolutely could handle it. Almost 20 years later, Lisa still remembers his face when presented with a challenge. It is that unwavering support and belief in her abilities that pushes her forward today.

Lisa has a lot of great advice for new geologists and students that are takeaways from her incredible story. The first piece of advice is to enjoy your education. Get your degrees, and if you don't have a master's or a doctorate, go for it! There is so much opportunity to focus on research, your own education, and get out in the field, so take advantage of it! The second takeaway from Lisa's story is to make your own path. Lisa's roadmap may not be "traditional", but it is inspiring and incredibly successful. That didn't stop with her degrees, as Lisa continued to forge her own way through her professional degrees as well, ensuring that she found her roles engaging and challenging. Finally, my favorite quote from Lisa, "stop whining and just do it, just get it done!"

You can connect with Lisa on LinkedIn where she is quite active or meet up with her in person at SJGS meetings. If you have a suggestion for someone to interview, or would like to be interviewed, please reach out to me: amy.spaziani@gmail.com. I would love some suggestions!

2024 Scholarship Winners of the Affiliated Societies of the Pacific Section AAPG

Local geological societies awarded 21 scholarships this spring to undergraduate and graduate students attending universities in the Pacific Section. Scholarships are funded by the societies and the Pacific Section AAPG Foundation. Scholarships were presented at the societies' monthly meeting in April and May. Thank you to the local societies for coordinating this annual effort, and to Cynthia Huggins and Becca Schempp for organizing at the Section.

Alaska Geological Society

The AGS awarded one scholarship, to Robin Carbaugh, a Master's student at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Photo caption:
Robin Carbaugh and crossbedded Nanushuk Formation at Slope Mountain on the North Slope of Alaska. Photo credit goes to Pete Flaig with the Bureau of Economic Geology.



Title: Isotopic, geochemical and petrographic analysis of the Otuk Formation, Northern Alaska
Authors: Robin M. Carbaugh & thesis advisor Dr. Michael T. Whalen

The Triassic-Jurassic (T-J) boundary is associated with one of the big five mass extinction events and is characterized by global negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ excursions, indicating a major disruption in the carbon cycle. The Triassic extinction event was caused by Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (CAMP) volcanism, the cause of the breakup of Pangea. Abundant greenhouse gas emissions, including CO_2 and CH_4 , affected multiple environmental factors. Global warming, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, mass mortality, and lithological change are documented across the boundary. These environmental fluctuations are also observed due to human-induced global climate change, making understanding the end-Triassic extinction significant. Northern Alaska during the Late Triassic has evidence of being deposited in an upwelling zone, influencing redox conditions on the seafloor. I hypothesize that isotopic, geochemical and petrographic analyses into Northern Alaska's Late Triassic Otuk Formation will give a better understanding of the depositional environments in which it formed. Our research has documented the Triassic-Jurassic boundary using carbon and nitrogen isotopes in the rock record, where previously it was not well recorded in Alaska. Research into the Otuk Formation also identified the petroleum potential of these organic-rich rocks, finding high petroleum potential. Oxygenation fluctuations, influenced from upwelling and mass extinction, were identified through fossil identification, and pyrite framboid imagery. It was found that there was a lithological change from oxic bivalve-rich facies to dark, low-oxygen, organic-rich shales across the T-J boundary, indicating significant environmental change.

Coast Geological Society

The CGS awarded four scholarships:



UCSB - Ben Jantz
Undergraduate



UCSB - Claire Divola
Graduate student



CSUN - Gilbert Olivas
Undergraduate



CSUN - Sam Hart
Graduate student

Los Angeles Basin Geological Society

From the LABGS Newsletter: This year the Los Angeles Basin Geological Society, in partnership with the Pacific Section AAPG, gave \$500-\$1000 scholarships to eight CSU Long Beach undergraduate geology students. These scholarships will help to support them in their summer field classes. In their own words the recipients share their experiences.

Natalia Gutierrez

My favorite geology experience so far has been the alumni trip I attended, hosted by my school's geology department. We got to visit several locations around Morro Bay and I was able to enjoy and absorb the information that my professors and graduate students were presenting. My favorite part was learning more about the Franciscan assemblage and visiting Morro Rock. I enjoyed this trip because it was attended by former CSULB students and I was able to interact with a few of them and learn about the cool projects they worked on post-graduation and projects they have worked on at their jobs.

**Lena Wilson**

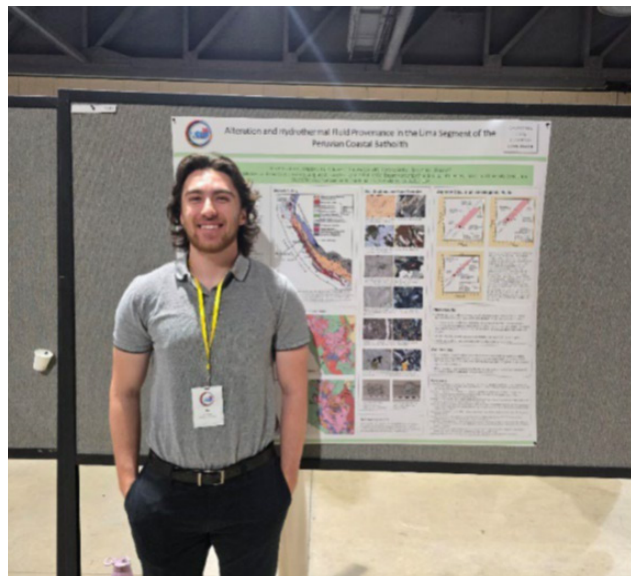
Learning about the various subjects within geology has been deeply rewarding, but the hands-on challenges of fieldwork take the spotlight. During my second week of spring field camp I experienced a significant boost in my self-confidence as a scientist. By the beginning of this trip, I had developed a deeper understanding of pertinent subjects such as structural geology and petrology. Additionally, my mapping and note-taking skills had significantly improved compared to my previous field experiences. Over five days, I transitioned from being unfamiliar with the area to confidently anticipating the locations of geological units and features. I was able to document them more efficiently and formulate plausible hypotheses with confidence. Nothing compares to the feeling of accomplishment after successfully completing fieldwork, where you truly feel you've achieved your goal.



I value the fact that this experience served not only as a geology lesson but also as an opportunity for self-discovery and self-improvement. It allowed me to better understand myself while honing important skills such as time management, organization, and preparation for multiple days without amenities.

Alex Scandore

My most memorable geology experience was a summer field course I took at Pasadena City College. My favorite moments of the trip were in Wyoming, where we collected green schist samples from a greenstone belt near South Pass City and visited the great unconformity in the Owl Creek Mountains. Geology gives me a real sense of time and completely changed my perspective of Earth. I love being able to hike anywhere or look at a roadcut and be able to interpret a story that occurred long ago. Every rock is a little puzzle piece of the Earth's history, just lying on the ground, ignored by the untrained eye.



Juan Gonzalez

My favorite geology experience is surveying deformed Quaternary terraces in the Rainbow Basin area of the Mojave Desert with Dr. Onderdonk. We spent a couple of days collecting detailed GPS data using a laser range-finder. I enjoyed being at one of my favorite places, finding and losing the contact of the Quaternary terraces, and even the couple of slips and falls throughout the trip. This experience allowed me to apply what I have learned at Cal State Long Beach and remind me why it is that I love geology.



Daniel Rice

My favorite geology experience so far would be the unexpected hiccups we encounter on our field trips. Whether it's unexpected snow hiking, scorching heat, dealing with car breakdowns, flat tires, or getting stuck in the sand, there's always something that goes wrong! Despite the mishaps, I wouldn't have it any other way. These hiccups make our trips memorable, and sharing these experiences with classmates creates lasting memories we will cherish for years to come.



Sabrina Ansari

My name is Sabrina Ansari, and I am so very thankful to be receiving this scholarship from the LABGS. I started my geology journey after taking a break from college and coming back with a passion for being outdoors and enjoying nature. I've always had a love for volcanoes and once we covered volcanoes in Physical Geology, I was hooked. I knew that I would need to pursue higher education, after the completion of my bachelor's degree. I am happy to say that I have been accepted to a master's program at Central Washington University to study volcanic geochemistry and eruption dynamics of Cascadian volcanoes!



My favorite field experience so far would be a trip I took to Owens Valley back in 2019. I was taking an independent study class at my community college and went to Owens Valley to collect volcanic rocks. I would then take those samples that I collected back to a lab and use an XRF machine to look at their chemical makeup and relate that to Bowen's Reaction Series. I had so much fun doing this, I was able to take my first deep dive into the chemistry of some volcanic rocks and it sparked a fire that has yet to be put out.

Candice De Anda

My favorite geology experience was getting to intern at the NASA Johnson Space Center in the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science department. I got the opportunity to work in a lab with sediment samples from a Mars analog environment, helping to expand our understanding of the mineralogy and surface processes of Mars. I also got to play with meteorites, talk to scientists who helped with the collection of samples from the moon and engage with other scientists and students who share a passion for planetary geology. It was amazing and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity.



Richard Altamirano

Over the years I've had the opportunity to see a multitude of geologic mysteries. One of my most memorable experiences was taking my first multi-day mapping field trip to Santa Cruz Island. I was nervous but I was filled with joy to be able to experience something new and adventurous. The geology was breathtaking, and much more complex than other locations that I had previously seen. This trip introduced me to the application of geologic tools such as a Brunton compass and a hand lens outside of a classroom setting. Utilization of these tools became so crucial to field work that they become an extension of myself. Looking back, it feels like an out of body experience to know how far I've come.

***San Joaquin Geological Society***

The SJGS awarded eight scholarships in 2024. Each student received \$1000, with the PSAAPG and SJGS each providing half the scholarship amount. Six of the winners are from CSU Bakersfield, and two are from Fresno State. The CSUB students received their awards at the monthly SJGS meeting at the American Legion Hall in Bakersfield on April 9, 2024.

Alissa Montejo

I'm a senior Geology student at CSUB and the Vice President of the Geology club. After graduation I will be attending Sacramento State field camp where I'll be exploring places like Bishop, Owens Valley and Sierra Nevada. My research and career interests are in energy, geophysics and geodynamics. I also plan on staying in Bakersfield to pursue a Masters in Geology at CSUB.



Leonardo Menchaca

My name is Leonardo Menchaca, a senior geology major graduating this spring semester from California State University Bakersfield. This summer, I will be fortunate enough to attend a field camp in Sacramento where I will be applying and expanding my knowledge of geologic fundamental principles. Last summer, I was given the opportunity to intern at SoCal Gas and was able to further my technical and analytic background within the energy industry. After graduation, I intend to pursue my Master of Science in Geophysics starting in the fall.

**Abdullah Masri**

“My name is Abdullah Masri and I will be graduating this semester with a major in geology from CSUB. I am excited about the opportunity to attend field camp in California this summer, where I will enhance my understanding of geology and gain valuable hands-on experience. While I’m open to various aspects of environmental geology, my particular interest lies in carbon dioxide mitigation and investigating the effects of human activity on the environment. My goals involve utilizing my knowledge and experience to make a positive impact on environmental sustainability.”

**Morgan Hicks**

I am a first-year graduate student pursuing a Master’s in Geology at Fresno State. My research interests include planetary geology, specifically exoplanets and polluted white dwarfs. I plan on becoming a planetary geologist and educator in the future.



Jean St. James

My name is Jean St. James. I am a Geology major and a junior-level student at Fresno State University. I will be graduating in the Spring of 2025. After graduation, I am interested in consulting work for a private company, or becoming a state employee as an engineering geologist. I also will be pursuing my PG upon graduation. Within the field of Geology, I am most interested in understanding and interpreting landforms while creating geologic maps and learning more about soil and rock characteristics to mitigate hazards within human infrastructure. I look forward to learning new skills during the summer field camp offered by Fresno State which will give me valuable skills to use in the industry.

**Samantha Taylor-Moore**

Hello, my name is Samantha Taylor-Moore, and I am a dedicated researcher with a keen focus on oil well log analysis and seismic monitorability. My research delves into innovative methods of analyzing well logs to extract valuable insights into reservoir characteristics, formation properties, and fluid behavior. Additionally, I am deeply invested in seismic monitorability, exploring techniques to enhance the detection and interpretation of seismic signals for improved reservoir monitoring and management. This research comes from my experience working at the Berkeley National Lab on an internship with CAL-EPIC and the Department of Energy. My interdisciplinary approach and commitment to advancing knowledge in these areas makes me a valuable contributor to petroleum engineering and geophysics.

**Jennifer Rubalcaba**

“Hello, my name is Jennifer Rubalcaba, and I am a senior geology major at CSUB graduating this semester. This summer I will be going to Scotland for field camp which is very exciting for me since it’s the birthplace for modern geology as a science! My interests lie in geologic carbon and hydrogen sequestration. I have been fascinated by this research since I participated in a summer internship opportunity at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and I will be continuing my research on this after I graduate by starting my master’s program this fall at CSUB.”



Ryan Tengelsen

Hi, my name is Ryan Tengelsen. I will be graduating from CSUB in Fall 2024 with a Bachelor in geology and minor in Biology. This summer I will be attending a field camp through a collaboration between CSUB and Sacramento State where we will be heading to Owens Valley, Bishop and Eastern Sierra Nevada's in Northern California. My research interests are studying ancient animals and environments that have existed in the past. What I plan to do after I obtain my bachelor's degree is obtain a master's and attain my dream job of becoming a paleontologist. Thank you SJGS/PSAAPG for providing me with this opportunity. Your support has significantly eased the challenges of my final semester at CSUB and has brought me closer to achieving my bachelor's degree.



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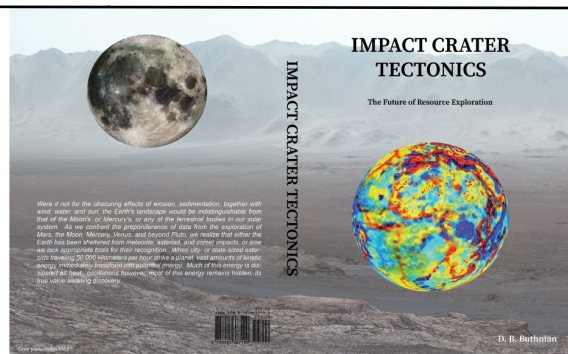
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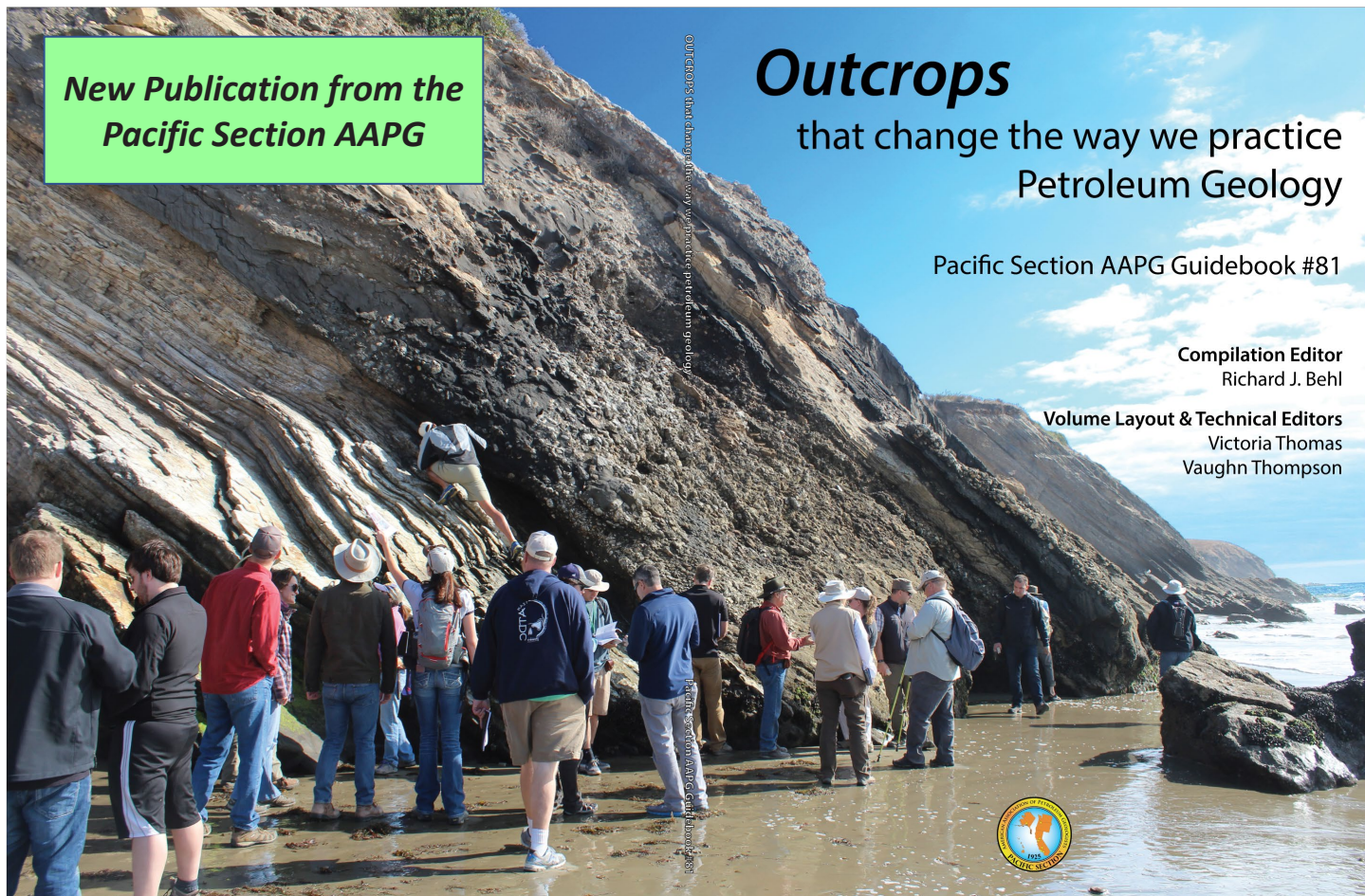
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Member Society News

Alaska Geological Society
www.alaskageology.org

P. O. Box 101288
Anchorage, AK 99510

Monthly meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of the month. Most meetings are hybrids, using Google Meet, and in person at the BP Energy Center. Doors open 11:00 am.

The next meeting will be held in September, 2024.

President:	Monte Mabry	mmabry@blm.gov
President-Elect:	Ken Helmold	helmold@alaskan.com
Vice-President:	Patrick Boyle	boyle.patrick.ryan@gmail.com
Secretary:	Chris Clinkscales	christopher.clinkscales@hilcorp.com
Treasurer:	Brad King	brad.d.king@conocophillips.com
Past-President:	Sarah Frey	sking11311@gmail.com

Coast Geological Society
<http://www.psaapg.info/cgs/index.html>

P. O. Box 3055
Ventura, CA 93006

In-person meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003

CGS meetings will resume in September, 2024.

President:	John Williams	CoastGeologicalPresident@gmail.com
Past-President:	Renee Richards	
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Membership chair:	Phil Kinney	CoastGeologicalMembership@gmail.com
Webmaster/Tech Support:	Eric Heaton	CoastGeologicalWebmaster@gmail.com

Los Angeles Basin Geological Society
www.labgs.org

Luncheon meetings have a new venue: Signal Hill Petroleum located at 2633 Cherry Ave, Signal Hill, CA (562-595-6440, Brady Barto, ext. 5233). Meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month, from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

To commemorate the founding of the PS AAPG 100 years ago, LABGS will host an event at Whitter College Sept 13-15, 2024. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

President:	Dan Steward	daniel@ironhorsenergy.com
Vice President & Programs	Rick Behl	richard.behl@csulb.edu
Treasurer:	Francine Cason	fcason5@gmail.com
Secretary:	Joseph Landeros	landerosjd@gmail.com
Scholarships:	Karla Tucker	ktkr2@aol.com

(Continued on next page)

Northern California Geological Society
www.ncgeolsoc.org

803 Orion #2
Hercules, CA 94547-1938

Meetings are at the Orinda Masonic Hall and online using Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Talks are 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm (social half-hour at 6:30 pm)

Next meeting: September 25, 2024

Speaker: John Karachewski

Topic: Icelandic Geoscapes

October 30, 2024

Speaker: TBD

Topic: Joint Meeting with Association of Engineering Geologists in Orinda.

President:	Jim O'Brient	j.obrient @ comcast.net
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San Joaquin Geological Society
www.sanjoaquingeologicalsociety.org

P. O. Box 1056
Bakersfield, CA 93302

DINNER MEETINGS:

SJGS meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at the American Legion Hall, 2020 H St Bakersfield, CA.

The annual Fall Fiesta will be in September. More information will be forthcoming.

President:	Lisa Alpert	LAAlpert@aeraenergy.com
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