



February 2008

## President's Column

### *A Word from the Heart*

Those of you that had an opportunity to come to January's luncheon where provided a taste of our 2008 Field Trip. I would like to thank the BEG and University of Texas for allowing Dr. Xavier Janson to present what we will get to see and experience in April. With the guidance of Dr. Charlie Kearns and the recent work by both Dr. Xavier Janson and Dr. Ted Playton we will get the latest insights of the strata-geometries and depositional models of this slope to basin transition. To make sure everyone that comes on the trip gets the best opportunity to have dialog with our leaders and other participants as well as the logistics of the area, we have had to limit the participant number to 35. The society would encourage you to get your reservations in early to guarantee your spot on this trip. A copy of the registration form is provided in this newsletter (p.5) and more information is on the website- [www.pbs-sepm.org](http://www.pbs-sepm.org).

I get more excited every day as this digital publication project looks to come to fruition. When the project got started last April I wondered if there would ever be light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel. There were a number of publications that had been out of print for many years and had to be found for scanning. There were a number of publications that we didn't even know we published that have resurfaced. We currently have 47 Guidebook/Publications, six Special Publications, and four Core Workshops. References are only valuable if used, and we have a tendency to use things that are simple and quick to use. This compilation of publications will have all the Table of Contents being searchable. One can use the search option to find formations, fields, wells, cores, authors or any other key word searches. Once you find all the possible articles, you

simply can go to the publication and research that article. Check out the example on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter or go to the pbs-sepm website.

This is your society and we are working for you—help us help you. Bring your ideas and energy to us; introduce a friend to the many benefits of being a PBS-SEPM member. See our website for upcoming activities.

*David J. Entzminger*

## Luncheon Schedule

**February 19:** “Major Projects and Prospects for the Jackson School of Geosciences” Including the Permian Regional Project, Status of the RCRL Program and Fracture Study Work.

*Eric J. Barron*

Dean, Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin

**Are you a PBS-SEPM member?** Applications on the website: [www.pbs-sepm.org](http://www.pbs-sepm.org)

**March 19:** Fractured Reservoir Characterization

*Dr. Jon Olson, AAPG Distinguished Lecture, Assoc. Professor, University of Texas at Austin*

**May 20:** Karsting or Hydrothermal-Dolomites: What is the Reservoir Development in the Ellenburger

*Dr. Robert (Bob) G. Loucks*

*Sr. Research Scientist, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin*

Updates can be found online at:  
[www.pbs-sepm.org](http://www.pbs-sepm.org)

**Please contact Paula with your reservation at (432)683-1573 or [wtgs@basinlink.com](mailto:wtgs@basinlink.com)**

## **BIO- Dr. Eric J. Barron**

Eric J. Barron, dean of the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, where he holds the Jackson Chair in Earth System Science, began a career in geology as an undergraduate at Florida State University. His interest in geology and oceanography resulted in a master's degree (1976) and a doctorate (1980) in oceanography from the University of Miami. His career turned to climate studies in 1976 with a Cray Supercomputing Fellowship from the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Barron then joined NCAR as a postdoctoral research fellow and later became a research scientist in the global climate modeling group. In 1985, he returned to the University of Miami as associate professor. Barron went to Pennsylvania State University in 1986 to direct the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences' newly formed Earth System Science Center (ESSC). In 1989, he was promoted to professor of geosciences. Under Barron's leadership, the growth of ESSC resulted in the establishment of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences' Environment Institute, which included ESSC and a group of other research centers. Barron became the director of this new Institute in 1998. He earned the title of distinguished professor in 1999. In 2002, he was named dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State.

In 2006, he joined The University of Texas at Austin as dean of the recently formed Jackson School of Geosciences. Barron's research interests are in the areas of climatology, numerical modeling, and Earth history. During his career, he has worked diligently to promote the intersection of the geological sciences with the atmospheric sciences and the field of earth system science. He served as chair of the Climate Research Committee of the National Research Council (NRC) from 1990 to 1996. In 1997, he was named co-chair of the Board on Atmospheric Sciences (BASC) of the NRC, and since 1999 he has chaired the BASC. Additional NRC panels on which Barron has served include the Committee on Global Change Research, the

Assessment of NASA Post-2000 Plans, Climate Change Science, the Human Dimensions of Global Change, the Panel on Grand Environmental Challenges, and the Committee on Tools for Tracking Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Releases in the Atmosphere: Implications for Homeland Security. In addition to serving on the National Research Council, Barron chaired the Science Executive Committee for NASA's Earth Observing System and NASA's Earth Science and Applications Advisory Committee (ESSAC). He has also served as chair of the USGCRP Forum on Climate Modeling, the Allocation Panel for the Interagency Climate Simulation Laboratory, the U.S. National Committee for PAGES and the NSF Earth System History Panel.

Barron is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2002, he was named a fellow of the National Institute for Environmental Science at Cambridge University. In 2003, he received the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal.

## **Tales from the Oil Patch**

By Don Posey

In a recent conversation with a couple of guys about exploration, a casual remark about the origins of Levelland NE field in Hockley County, Texas got me hooked into a project to recall the details as I knew them. So here goes.

As an exploration geologist in Shell Oil - I was prospecting in Cochran, Hockley and Lubbock counties. Since I spent two years working on the Strawn (Pennsylvanian) shelf limestones of the reefless area in northern Borden and southern Garza Counties, I was attracted to the eastern Hockley County Strawn, Canyon and Cisco shelf limestones north of the Ropes reef fields and around the Smyer Strawn and Canyon limestone fields.

So the wide open area west of the Smyer fields became the attraction. A problem was in the changing limestone facies in the Canyon and Cisco where widespread markers were rare while the upper Strawn was almost a continuous lime body. Ultimately most of my maps were isopachs from the Canyon and Cisco to the top of the Strawn. The structure maps to the north and east of Levelland were showing the shape of a gentle nose a couple of miles wide and about 5 miles long pointing to the ESE, having started a couple of miles north of town where there was no well control.

The interesting thing was - there were two wells, one on the north and one on the south of the nose. The south well is the Felmont, Phillips No. 1 on the east side of town. It was an Upper Strawn discovery. About 6.5 miles NE of the Felmont well is the Amerada, Benson No. 1 which had 60 feet of free oil and 2000 feet of salt water from a drillstem test of the upper Strawn lime. There were no wells between these two. So a game of guessing and searching began.

An older geologist and I went with a geophysicist to dig in the old seismic files. In an unmolested dusty file cabinet of leather folders was a map labeled "STRAWN". This map was based on old single-fold dynamite work - beautifully drafted and showing widely scattered "small-area" closures of one contour or occasionally two. There was one "closure" covering about 320 acres right on top of the "nose" and almost on the line between the two "oil shows".

Now a team of two went to work. Drafting created the finished illustrations. Then, with the local manager, and a lease purchase recommendation in hand we went to upper management. The Land Department tied up the available tracts between the two wells and the recommendation went to New York. The word came back - we would not drill it, but since Amerada and Pan Am had most of the leases on the closure, we would

make a deal to get the closure tested. The deal quickly went to James G. Anderson and Associates, an independent who was supported with acreage and money.

Drilling began on the Brown, Railsback No.1 and in early November, 1964 a drilling break occurred at the top of the Strawn limestone which was running a little bit high. The circulated samples revealed no show of oil to the gang of geologists that were on hand. (A mud logging unit was not used). So - a drillstem test, which was required, was run. The telephone report as the tool was opened was "a blow of gas was quickly observed -- probably salt water behind it -- we are going to eat". The next phone call was " we have oil to the surface".

Later that morning - in Midland - a herd of Production Department managers, engineers and geologists arrived to assume authority over the company interests. (Exploration Department people were not to be involved in wells or leases where oil or gas was established - unless invited).

*Thank you Don for a great piece of History.*

## **Let us tell your story of the *Permian Basin History***

We are featuring a new item in the newsletter which includes a story from our "well-seasoned" geoscientists. These may be their favorite plays, that once-in-a-lifetime project or well, or stories about their fellow workers (the pictures could be very interesting). If you would like to write a story or know of someone that would like to contribute, please contact David Entzminger, 686-6741

## **Core Workshop**

If you have a core or cores that you would like to present next spring, please contact Steve Trudeau, luncheon chairman (687-1777).

***“Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue than counts”—Winston Churchill***

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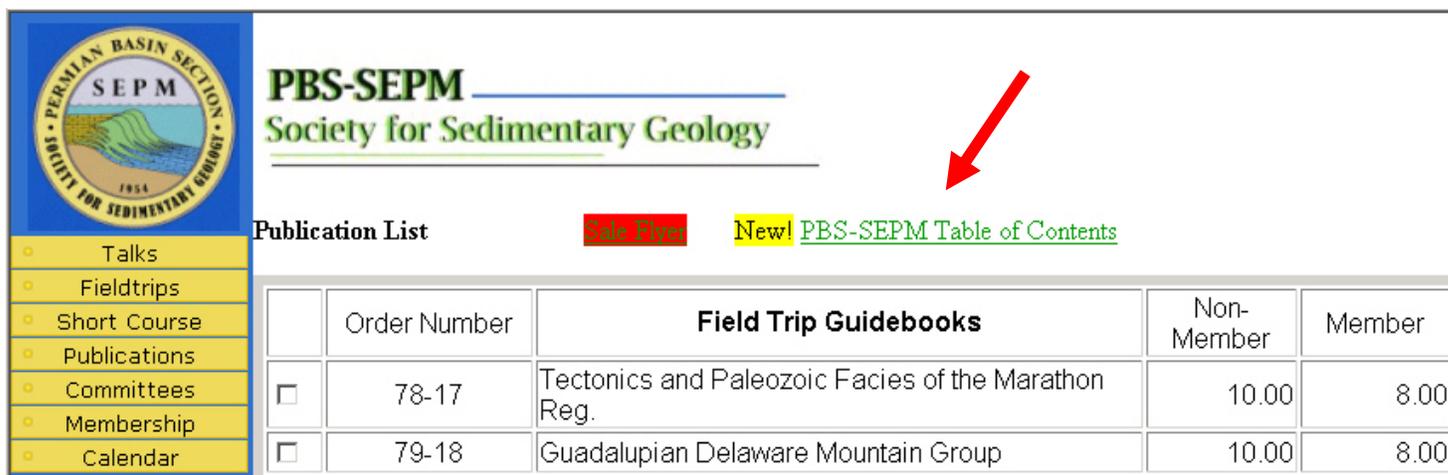
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# PBS-SEPM DIGITAL PUBLICATION PROJECT

Check this out-----[www.pbs-sepm.org/publications](http://www.pbs-sepm.org/publications). You can now go to the PBS-SEPM website and search all their publication's table of contents for topics, articles, authors. Just click on the PBS-SEPM Table of Contents- an Adobe PDF will be launched. One can use the Bookmarks on the left side or use the search function. Yes, you might find that little bit of information that will make your next exploration or development project a success. Limited time offer--- it will be part of the new digital publication package coming out in April.



The screenshot shows the PBS-SEPM website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items: Talks, Fieldtrips, Short Course, Publications, Committees, Membership, and Calendar. The main header includes the PBS-SEPM logo and the text 'PBS-SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology'. Below the header, there are links for 'Publication List', 'Sale Flyer', and 'New! PBS-SEPM Table of Contents'. A red arrow points to the 'PBS-SEPM Table of Contents' link. Below these links is a table of field trip guidebooks.

	Order Number	Field Trip Guidebooks	Non-Member	Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	78-17	Tectonics and Paleozoic Facies of the Marathon Reg.	10.00	8.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	79-18	Guadalupian Delaware Mountain Group	10.00	8.00

The compilation of all the Table of Contents is a quick reference to all of PBS-SEPM publications. Since this file has been OCR, one can use **word searches** to find a publication, article, subject or author. On the **Toolbar**, you will find a binocular “search”, click on it and you will get the search menu (Figure 1, p7). By simply typing in the information you would like to find, and clicking the **search key**, you will be shown to all the places that have that word or words (Figure 2, p7).

All publications have been **Bookmarked** and put into three categories: Publications, Special Publications or Core Workshops (Figure 3, p7). By simply clicking on any of these categories they will expand to the publication list. Simply “click” on the desired publication and you will be taken directly to that page. All publications have “Table of Contents” associated with them and by going to the next page(s), you will be able to view all the articles in that publication. You can also get to any of the “Table of Contents” from the bookmarks by expanding any of the individual publications and “clicking” on the Table of Contents below the publication of choice.

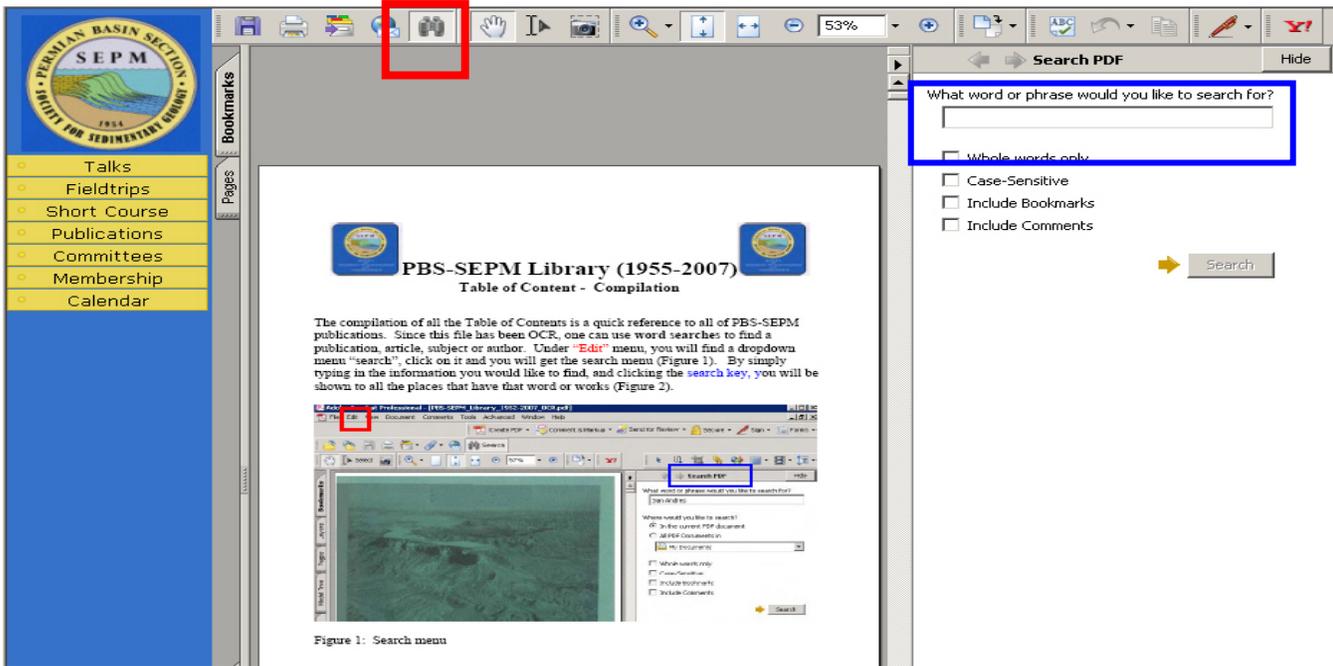


Figure 1: Search menu

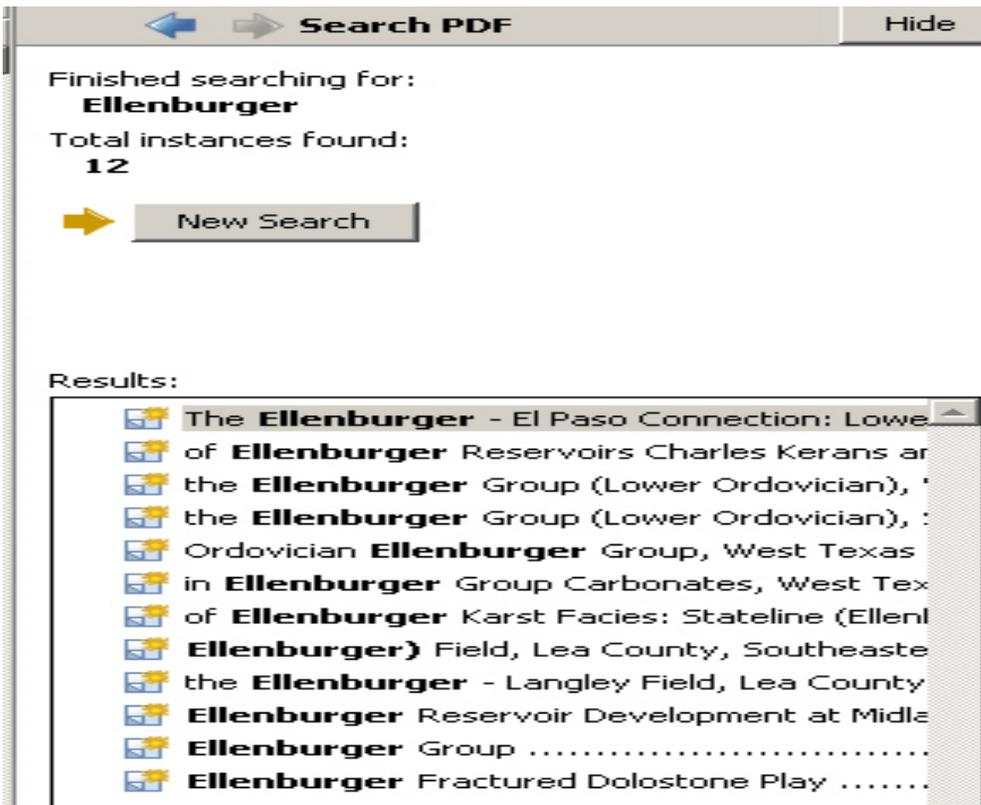


Figure 2: Search retrieval

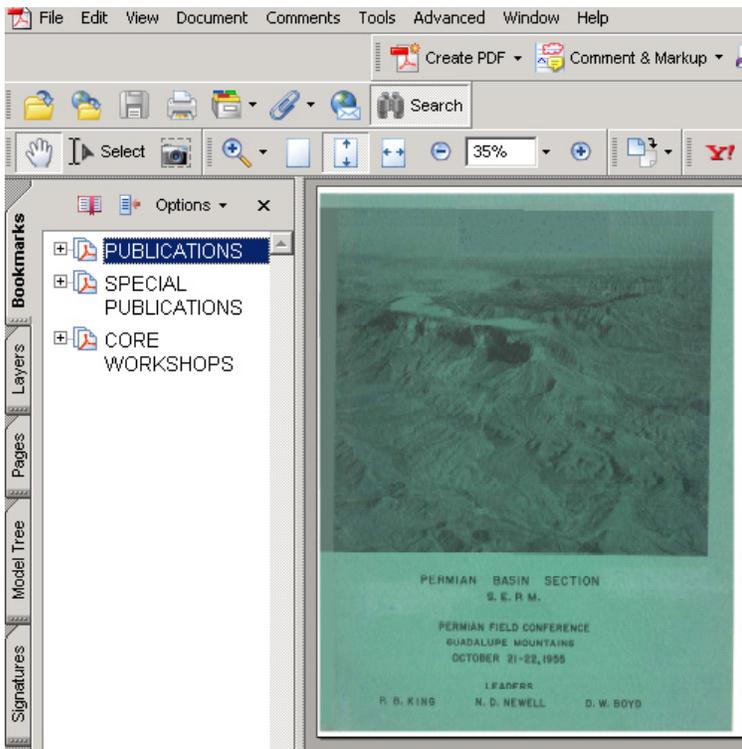


Figure 3: Bookmarks

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**PBS-SEPM is proud to present the production of its 1<sup>st</sup> annual calendar. This first year will be an 11x17 calendar which will include an assortment of photographs displaying fossils and minerals. Available for immediate pick up.**



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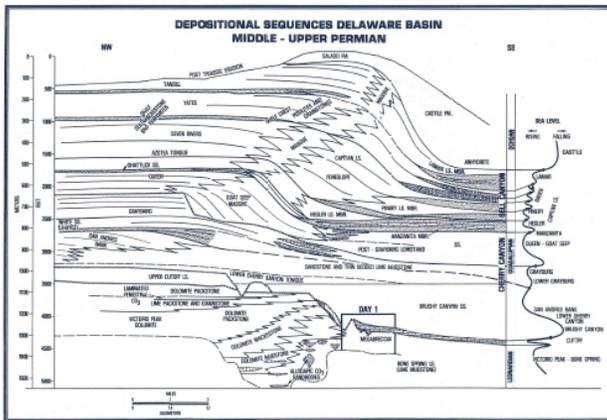
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# February

## *Special Featured Book - \$5*

### Geologic Guide to the Western Escarpment, Guadalupe Mountains, Texas

#### GEOLOGIC GUIDE TO THE WESTERN ESCARPMENT, GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS, TEXAS



J. F. Sarg, C. Rossen, P. J. Lehmann,  
and L. C. Pray, editors

Permian Basin Section, SEPM  
1988  
Publication 88-30

## *Publication 88-30*

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