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BOEM 2022-077

History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era

Volume 4: A Guide to the Interviews

US Department of the Interior
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Volume 4: A Guide to the Interviews

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COVER IMAGE

This early twentieth-century black and white photograph from the Harry Walker archives depicts a group of men wearing work clothes and hard hats at an oil well in the Gulf Coast county of Brazoria, Texas. One man is opening a bag and pouring its contents down a large cone. Another is smoking a pipe. Source: Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries, Harry Walker Photographs, ID 2002-005, Box 14, Folder 33. c.1940.

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List of Authors

Volume	Authors and affiliation	Volume title
Volume 1	Joel Hewett The University of Houston	History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era: Volume 1: The Shape of These Monsters: from Fixed to Floating Offshore Oil and Gas Production, 1976–2006
Volume 2	Tyler Priest The University of Houston	History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era: Volume 2: Shell Oil's Deepwater Mission to Mars
Volume 3	Joel Hewett The University of Houston	History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era: Volume 3: The Secret of the Sea: Offshore Oil and Gas Revenue Collection, Valuation, and Royalty Relief, 1973–2010
Volume 4	Morgan Lundy, University of Arizona Diane E. Austin, University of Arizona Editors	History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era: Volume 4: A Guide to the Interviews

Overview of This Four-Volume Study

Offshore oil is one of the most important energy stories of the last 75 years, and the move into deepwater (usually defined as 1,300 feet or 400 meters) is its crowning achievement. From negligible production after the Second World War, offshore oil has grown to account for 30 percent of total global conventional oil production. Deepwater makes up only seven percent of the total, but this percentage is growing (US Energy Information Administration, 2016). By 2006, the industry had discovered 60 billion barrels of oil in deepwater, production from which is still coming online (Williams, 2006). During 2007–2012, 50 percent of the 170 billion barrels of global conventional oil (and natural gas equivalent) discovered by the industry was in deepwater. Many of those discoveries are yet to be developed (Nelson et al., 2013). From 6 million barrels of oil per day (b/d) in 2017, oil analysts project deepwater output to grow as high as 14 million b/d by 2030 (Seeking Alpha, 2017). The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that nearly half of the 2.7 trillion barrels of remaining recoverable reserves are offshore, 25 percent of which—or 340 billion barrels—will be found in deepwater (IEA, 2013). Rather than merely stemming production declines, deepwater oil has provided a substantial addition to global supply, an increase that few other sources in recent years have matched (Miller, 2014).

At current (April 2017) oil prices ($50/barrel), the present value of deepwater oil discovered in 2007–2012 is worth more than $4 trillion. Despite the sobering upfront costs of projects extending into 10,000 feet of water, the prolific per-well flow rates of 10,000–20,000 barrels/day (compared to 1,000–2,000 barrels/day for wells onshore or on the continental shelf) in many reservoirs often make them the most profitable investments for a large oil company. Royal Dutch Shell's Mars field, one of the largest in the Gulf of Mexico, started producing in 1996 and will earn an estimated average annual net cash flow (gross revenues minus costs, royalties, and taxes) of $1.5 billion each year until 2027.

Such economic value was by no means assured when companies began exploring in unprecedented water depths. Why did they do so? Journalists and scholars often explain the deepwater push as a response to one or more of the following: "peak oil" supply constraints, the locking up of all the "easy" oil overseas by National Oil Companies, the Deep Water Royalty Relief Act signed by President Bill Clinton in 1995, rising oil prices in the 2000s, or the reckless charge of BP into unprecedented water depths beginning in the late 1990s (Bower 2009: 18-22; Jacobsen 2011: 38-40; Klare 2012: 44-49; Lustgarten 2012: 168-172).

These interpretations all miss the mark. Deepwater oil is the result of a longer process of historical development, going back at least to the early 1970s, when leading offshore companies began to peer beyond the edge of the continental shelf in search of new reserves. The industry's move off the shelf in the Gulf emerged from an even longer history of offshore oil exploration and development in that region that had its start in the 1930s. Although technological change and innovation in the offshore industry often took great leaps forward, it usually proceeded gradually. Each new phase built on the previous phase. In a constant search for new reserves to replace declining onshore production, explorationists and engineers adapted prevailing concepts and techniques to new demands and made incremental improvements that nudged offshore operations into deeper waters. Making sense of deepwater requires an understanding of the historical evolution of the industry.

Still, the "deepwater era" (1974–present) is different in several ways from what we might call the "formative era" (1938–1973) of the offshore sector. Leasing policies and exploration strategies evolved to meet new geologic, economic, and technological challenges. Fabrication and installation practices had to be modified to address new water depths, metocean conditions, and the increasing scale of deepwater projects. Over time, more of the infrastructure installed in the Gulf was built overseas, marking the internationalization of the Gulf offshore business. The nature of work changed with increasing automation on both platforms and drilling rigs, and with the geographic dispersal of workers. Finally, the oil price collapse of the mid-1980s forced the radical restructuring of the offshore business and uniquely affected communities all along the Gulf Coast and every in aspect of the industry. New deepwater discoveries beginning in the mid-1990s revived the business and set off a new rush for leasing and development, but in a way that differed markedly from earlier periods of expansion.

The Gulf remains the primary laboratory for offshore technological innovation and regulatory practices worldwide. As offshore oil assumes a high profile in national development strategies around the globe, any effort to analyze the political, social, and economic aspects of offshore exploration and development must recognize and use the Gulf as a historical precedent or basis of comparison. This study of the history of the deepwater era in the Gulf both builds on histories of the earlier period, and provides the first in-depth historical investigation of important new trends over the last thirty years. It will be valuable to those who are responsible for planning and managing the development of offshore oil and gas reserves and for more broadly understanding the impacts of such development on the Gulf Coast region.

Background

The cooperative agreement for this study was awarded on June 1, 2008. Researchers from the University of Houston C.T. Bauer College of Business (UH) and the University of Arizona Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA) organized and carried out the study. Principal investigator, Dr. Tyler Priest, led the research and writing for the UH team. UH History Ph.D. Student, Jason Theriot (who earned his degree in 2011), assisted in managing the study, conducting oral histories, and drafting preliminary reports. Consultant Joel Hewett, who served with Dr. Priest as an analyst on the President's National Oil Spill Commission (2010–2011), contributed intensive research, edited oral histories and volumes, and authored two of the three final technical reports. Other UH History graduate students, Juan Galván Rodríguez and Natalie Schuster, assisted with research and oral history edits. John Holt and Pedro Paulo Gedda provided research and insights on the North Sea and Brazil, respectively, that helped place the deepwater Gulf of Mexico in global and comparative context. Anthropologists Dr. Diane E. Austin and Dr. Thomas McGuire led the BARA team in carrying out fieldwork and oral histories in Louisiana andMississippi.

The foundation for this research study was laid by the findings of two previous history studies funded by the Minerals Management Service (MMS), now the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). These were the "Assessment of Historical, Social, and Economic Impacts of OCS Development on Gulf Coast Communities" (MMS 2001-026, MMS 2001-027) (History I) and the "History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana" (MMS 2004-049) (History II). Although these studies produced substantial documents, they generated more data than could be analyzed in the study period. The second study, for example, produced audio recordings and transcripts of more than 450 oral history interviews by the time of its conclusion. In addition, although the first study looked across the Gulf with comparisons among east Texas, south Louisiana, and south Alabama, it provided only a general overview of historical patterns and periods. The second study provided a deeper look, and it was focused on southern Louisiana and the period from the 1930s through the 1960s; although a significant amount of data was also collected on later decades as well.

By mining the rich oral histories and documents collected in the previous study and judiciously expanding the oral history interviews into Mississippi and to cover recent decades, this four-volume study (History III) broadens the inquiry both spatially and temporally. It rounds out and deepens research on the 1970s–1990s, when exploration and development of oil and gas continually moved into deeper waters (now routinely exploring in 10,000 feet and producing in 5,000 feet) and into new offshore environments (from the Gulf and the North Sea to Brazil, West Africa, and elsewhere). In 1974 in the Gulf, oil companies acquired the first leases in 1,000 feet of water, extending from the upper continental slope to the abyssal plain. Reaching the symbolic water depth of 1,000 feet marked the beginning of what we might call the "deepwater era." To operate in these depths and beyond, the industry had to develop fundamentally different development concepts and commercial strategies.

Several other MMS and BOEM studies also prepared the ground for History III. The 2002 study, "Effect of the Oil and Gas Industry on Commuting and Migration Patterns in Louisiana, 1960–1990" (MMS 2002-072) establishes some of the basic effects over time of the offshore petroleum industry on the communities and region within which it operates. The 2002 report, "Social and Economic Impacts of OCS Activities on Individuals and Families, Vol. I," highlights differences in offshore oil's effects on various Gulf of Mexico region subareas. The 2004 reports, "Labor Migration and the Deepwater Oil

Industry" (MMS 2004-057), "The Economic Impact in the US of Deepwater Projects: A Survey of Five Projects" (MMS 2004-041), and "Deepwater Gulf of Mexico 2004: America's Expanding Frontier" (MMS 2004-021) all provide essential data and preliminary historical analysis of the deepwater era, which is the focus of History III. A 2014 study, "Gulf Coast Communities and the Fabrication and Shipbuilding Industry: A Comparative Community Study" (BOEM 2014-609-612) offers important information on demographic and labor market shifts in recent years relating to two key onshore support sectors. Finally, in the aftermath of the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* blowout and oil spill, anthropologists from BARA conducted emergency fieldwork that resulted in the study, "Offshore Oil and Deepwater Horizon: Social Effects on Gulf Coast Communities, Vol. I: Methodology, Timeline, Context, and Communities" (BOEM 2014-617) and "Volume II: Key Economic Sectors, NGOs, and Ethnic Groups" (BOEM 2014-618). The findings from this study are an important adjunct to History III.

Objectives and Methods

This study was launched with objectives similar to those of previous history studies:

- to document the strategies and objectives of the companies involved
- to ascertain the cumulative effects of offshore development on the coastal landscape, and community and family relationships
- to describe how technology and managerial innovations enabled the development of reservoirs in deeper and deeper water depths
- to study how the policies and regulations of the government agencies with responsibilities in state and the federal jurisdictions were developed
- to explore how these aspects of the story were related and effected each other
- to make the data collected and the findings from the study widely available to the public and easily accessible to those who have worked in the industry and live in the region

History III had three primary tasks: 1) to further process and analyze research data collected in the Histories I and II projects; 2) conduct, transcribe, process, and archive targeted interviews on the deepwater era to fill historical gaps; and 3) extend historical analysis from the formative era. The emphasis in History II was on gathering and archiving the stories of the people, mostly from Louisiana during the formative era, who participated in the industry. History III continued gathering stories and information, but concentrated on people involved in the industry from outside Louisiana, and on key individuals who could speak about the deepwater era. Greater emphasis was placed on providing historical analysis of the research data collected in Histories I & II and in other MMS-funded studies and on providing historical interpretations of the deepwater era.

The research for this study was wide-ranging. As stated, it first involved processing and analyzing abundant materials collected in the Histories I and II projects and consulting other government studies and scholarship on the deepwater offshore oil industry. Researchers undertook a comparative review of historical literature on other regions of offshore development around the world, especially the North Sea, Gulf of Guinea, and offshore Brazil. New research was collected in government archives, trade journals, technical papers, newspapers, periodicals, and videos. The study participants engaged in extensive informal discussions and correspondence with industry veterans and experts. They also conducted 253 formal oral history interviews; 48 by the UH team and 205 by the University of Arizona BARA team. This brings the total number of transcribed oral histories collected in History II and History III to 739. All are coded, compiled in a database, and include biographical and/or ethnographic prefaces. The audio and transcripts will be provided to BOEM and archived at the University of Houston, with copies deposited with six other archives and universities in Louisiana (see list below).

As in History II, the UH team focused on the corporate and governmental side of the history, interviewing managers, entrepreneurs, engineers, scientists, and government officials. They targeted individuals involved in deepwater production (especially tension-leg platforms, floating platforms, and

subsea wellhead systems), along with government officials active during changes in the federal leasing and regulatory regime. The BARA team gathered community-focused oral histories, concentrating on those in Alabama, Mississippi, and Lafayette, Louisiana, which had not been the subject of previous studies. They interviewed local entrepreneurs, workers, family members, community leaders, and others who can share information about how this industry developed and evolved. Locating this history within the context of the specific social, political, economic, and environmental changes occurring during the era, the BARA team focused its analysis on changes in the offshore petroleum workforce, the impacts of the evolving industry on local landscapes, and community-level responses to the industry.

Technical Reports

This study produced four technical reports, each published in a separate volume.

Volume 1, "The Shape of These Monsters," traces how the semi-submersible platform design went from being the deepwater development concept of choice during the mid-1980s, to being a pariah among Gulf operators during the boom years of the 1990s. The November 1988 start-up of the world's first floating offshore oil and gas production platform in deepwater, Placid Oil's *Green Canyon 29* semi-submersible, seemed to herald a "new era" in petroleum development in the US Gulf of Mexico. Instead, the project folded in just 18 months and was decommissioned over 1990 at a huge loss. Thirteen years would pass before a successful semi-submersible production facility would return to the deepwater Gulf . By resurrecting the all-but-forgotten story of the Green Canyon 29 debacle, and by re-assessing the hopes expressed by many industry soothsayers during the 1980s that the semi-submersible production vessel was the technological marvel of the future, "The Shape of These Monsters" comments on the ways in which non-technical, un-economic factors—like the specter of failure—can haunt the minds of firms and managers enough to influence technological outcomes. Namely, the dominance across the 1990s of the tension-leg platform in deepwater is shown to be as much a consequence of the dramatic failure of Placid's Green Canyon 29 semi-submersible as the natural result of the tension-leg platform's ostensibly "superior" technology.

Volume 2, "Shell Oil's Deepwater Mission to Mars," is a case study of Shell Oil's greater Mars project in the 3,000-foot waters of the Mississippi Canyon. Mars was the second deepwater tension-leg platform (TLP) installed in the Gulf. The essay provides a detailed, step-by-step historical reconstruction of the greater Mars project, from the acquisition of the original leases in 1985 to the installation of the Mars B, or *Olympus*, TLP in 2014. The report draws on oral history interviews, technical papers, and Shell publications, both internal and external, to provide a unique perspective on the unprecedented challenges to managing a frontier project of this magnitude and duration. The purpose is to achieve an in-depth understanding of the interrelated investment, operational, and technical decision-making that went into the development of one of the largest and most valuable assets in the Gulf. A lifecycle narrative of a deepwater oil project like Mars demonstrates how a technically and commercially successful organization learns and innovates in one of the most challenging physical and commercial environments in the world. A close examination of such a project through time provides insight into the evolution of corporate exploration and production strategy and the development of technical competencies.

Volume 3, "The Secret of the Sea," lays out a comprehensive history of the federal offshore oil and gas program in the United States since the late 1960s. Focusing on the ways in which the desire to boost federal revenue receipts resulted in major policy changes as the industry moved into the deepwater Gulf, the essay details how disagreements over the seemingly mundane particulars of Outer Continental Shelf revenue policy served as a proxy for wider partisan wars over the wisdom of government administration of publicly-owned resources in the "fair" or open marketplace. The oil shocks of the 1970s, combined with the ever-improving ability of offshore firms to drill and produce petroleum deposits in water depths beyond 1,000 feet, only reaffirmed the program's importance to the country's security and well-being during the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations. However, the economic imperative to expand deepwater drilling soon collided with the desire of many coastal States in the 1980s to see their shores and coastal zones adequately protected from the threat of offshore oil spills and onshore industrial development alike. Part and parcel of achieving that aim was the demand from the

coastal states that they receive an ample cut from the sale of the nation's offshore resources—funds that would ultimately tally in the many hundreds of billions of dollars.

Volume 4, "Guide to the Interviews," provides summaries of oral histories conducted between 2007 and 2015 with men and women who lived and/or worked in southern Louisiana, Texas, or Mississippi in the decades that mark the deepwater era of the offshore petroleum industry in the Gulf(from the 1970s to the end of the 20th century). These summaries have been combined with those conducted in 2001–2006 for the History II study, "History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana" (MMS 2004-049). The summaries are arranged in alphabetical order by last name of the interviewee. Section 4.1 of Volume 4 lists the interviews conducted for History III, and section 4.5 lists the interviews conducted for both History II and History III.

Study Depositories

The materials produced from the History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era study are archived at the locations listed below. Each depository has the four volumes produced in the study, digital copies of all audio files and transcripts, and digital copies of all consent forms.

University of Houston
Houston History Archives Repository
Suite 261 - Special Collections Department
M.D. Anderson Library - 2000
Houston, TX 77204-2000
Phone: 713-743-9991
Website: http://archon.lib.uh.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=231

Nicholls State University
Allen J. Ellender Archives
Ellender Memorial Library
P.O. Box 2028
Thibodaux, LA 70310
Phone: 985-448-4620
Website: http://www.nicholls.edu/library

University of Louisiana Lafayette
Special Collections and Archives
Edith Garland Dupré Library
P.O. Box 40199
Lafayette, LA 70504
Phone: 337-482-5702
Website: http://library.louisiana.edu/collections

Louisiana State University
Center for Energy Studies
Energy, Coast and Environment Building
Nicholson Drive Extension
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
Phone: 225-578-4400
Website: http://www.enrg.lsu.edu/

Morgan City Archives

501 Federal Ave.
Morgan City, LA 70380
Phone: 985-380-4621

South Lafourche Library
16241 East Main St.
Cut Off, LA 70345
Phone: 985-632-7140
Website: www.lafourche.org

Terrebonne Parish Library
151 Library Drive
Houma, LA 70360
Phone: 985-876-5861
Email: deschete@state.lib.la.us

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Chapter 1. About the Interview Summaries

From 2001–2006 the US Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) sponsored a study, the "Offshore Oil and Gas History Project" (OOGHP), to examine the historical evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry and its effects on Louisiana's coastal culture, economy, landscape, and society. Researchers from universities in Arizona, Louisiana, and Texas traced the development from land and marsh to state waters and across the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). As one component of this project, university and community researchers gathered oral histories from workers, family members, community leaders, and others whose lives were shaped by the offshore oil and gas industry in southern Louisiana.

The OOGHP officially ended in 2006. However, researchers from the University of Arizona and University of Houston continued to work in the Gulf region on MMS-sponsored studies and, when possible, continued to gather oral histories of people there. In 2008, the MMS sponsored a second history study, the "History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era," to expand the oral history interviews into Mississippi and more areas of Texas and to bring the history into the deepwater era of the late 1990s. Local entrepreneurs, workers, family members, industry and community leaders talked about living and working in the region during the critical years from the 1970s through the end of the 20th century.

Whenever possible, the interviews were digitally recorded for archiving. All audio files were converted to a common format and stored on compact discs for uniformity and ease of storage. In most cases, a copy of the recorded interview was returned to the interviewee. Interviewees granted researchers written permission to place their interviews in the public domain. These materials are available for unrestricted for scholarly, educational, and public use. Persons using these materials should credit the interviewee and the History of the Deepwater Era study. For example, "Interview with John Rogers, History of the Deepwater Era, 2012."

This guide to the interviews was created to organize the interviews and provide users access to the vast quantities of information contained in them. Whenever possible, for each interviewee, the entry was created by the researcher who conducted the interview, so there is variation in the style of the interview summaries.

1.2. Organization of Materials

Interviews archived during the "History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era Project" were catalogued and organized in electronic databases. Each interview was given a unique number and a separate entry. Chapter 2 of this volume includes "ethnographic prefaces," which identify the interviewees (listed in alphabetical last-name order) and brief information about each interview; the interview number is also given. These "prefaces" were written by the interviewer at the time of the interview and generally state how the interviewee was identified by the project researchers and summarize what was discussed in the interview. Section 3 gives more detailed information about a selection of the interviews. Chapter 4 includes a pair of tables. The first table lists all people interviewed during the History of the Deepwater Era study. The second table is a composite list of all the people interviewed in these two studies. Each of the two tables lists the name of the interviewee, the interview date and location, the interviewer(s)'s nameand affiliation, and the interview number.

Chapter 2. Ethnographic Prefaces

Adriel Abshire

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
ML028

Ethnographic Preface

While attending a Desk and Derrick meeting with Lillian Espinoza-Gala, I met Adriel Abshire. Through talking to her, Lillian and I learned that she had worked for Schlumberger since 1967. Because Adriel had been involved with the industry for over 40 years, we thought it would be a good idea to interview her for the oral history project. At the end of the meeting, I asked Adriel for her contact information and asked if she would be interested in doing an interview. She agreed. I called her to schedule the interview. We conducted the interview at her house on July 20th.

Adriel Abshire has lived in the Lafayette since 1963. She started out with Drilling and Service, which was bought by Hycalog. The well logging part of Hycalog was bought by The Analyst, which was eventually bought by Schlumberger. Adriel stayed with Schlumberger from 1967 until her retirement in 1991. She worked on the administrative side of the industry. From 1967 up until present, Adriel has been a member of Desk and Derrick.

Anna Anderson

Bayou La Batre, AL
June 13, 2008
VP108

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Anna Anderson last summer at Steiner's Shipyard; she was very helpful getting me in to talk to people and giving me photocopies of articles on the shipyard and other information. Since getting back in the area this spring, I had been trying to interview her on her own. We had made an earlier appointment, but she was not feeling well that day so we rescheduled. We met in the lunch-conference room at the shipyard. She was already quite familiar with the project and agreed to do an oral history interview.

Although her family is originally from Bayou La Batre, Anna Anderson was born in Geverette, Louisiana. Her father was in the Navy and later worked as a barber. Her mother worked as a hairdresser. The family moved back to Bayou La Batre when Anna was a child. In the late 1960s Anna began her career at Steiner’s Shipyard. She worked there for 38 years before retiring in December of 2007. She started out working in the warehouse briefly before switching to working in personnel and insurance, and eventually becoming the manager of that domain. In her interview, Anna discusses, among other things, the work that she did, changes she saw in technology and the industry, and how the shipyard bounced back after Hurricane Katrina.

Edward J. “EJ” Anderson

Lafayette, LA
July 22, 2015
LL011

Ethnographic Preface

Edward J. Anderson found out about the oral history project on the KATC-3 news segment featuring Morgan Lundy and contacted the project researchers. I responded to Edward and set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. Edward was accompanied by a friend of his, Patrice, and she spoke briefly toward the middle of the interview, but then left to go to work.

Edward James Anderson was born in 1958 and is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana. Edward James (also known as "EJ") did not graduate from high school, and began working offshore September 1, 1976 for Teledyne Oil and Gas. He worked for 10 different companies throughout his career. When he sustained an injury on the job and had to have back surgery, he was unable to return to work and retired around 2000.

Steve Anderson

Lafayette, LA
November 10, 2010
LE412

Ethnographic Preface

I met Steve Anderson while mapping the Oil Center in Lafayette, Louisiana back in September with Lillian Miller. Mr. Anderson seemed interested and open to talking and I said we'd set something up when I returned the following November.

Mr. Anderson is originally from Michigan. He graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in geophysical engineering in 1975. He got a job right away, which he attributes to the major boom in oil prices happening at that time. He began working as a seismic interpreter for UNOCAL out of California. He left UNOCAL in 1981 "during the boom" and went to work for Adaexco, a company centered in the Oil Center. He worked for them one year before he was laid off in 1982 due to the company going bankrupt. He went back to UNOCAL in 1982, but they didn't hire him. This led him to Quintana, a company owned by a wealthy family in Houston. He worked for them for 9.5 years. In 1992 they closed the office and he was laid off. He began consulting work with Flores and Rucks. After four years, he left Flores and Rucks and began his own personal consulting business in 1996 in the Oil Center, and has been working for himself ever since.

Mr. Anderson discusses the changes he's seen over time in the technology of the industry. He says he benefited from this major technological change as he had an up and coming degree for the industry, and the nature of the industry itself (described as "cyclical"). He tried to stay in Colorado, he said, but he met a "local girl" from around here and liked the people, the weather, and the food too much to leave. He speaks extensively about company movement and consolidation, and what Lafayette looked like before, during, and after the bust and what he saw as key indications. He mentions the effects he's seen since the moratorium and *Deepwater Horizon* event. He talks about Lafayette and why he thinks it's a great place for raising a family, and where he hopes to spend the rest of his life.

Anonymous

Lafayette, LA
June 24, 2015
ML011

Ethnographic Preface

ML011 contacted Ken Stickney after Ken had written the story about the oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser* in Lafayette, Louisiana. ML011 was interested in participating, so Ken gave the research team his contact information. I called ML011 and we agreed to conduct the interview at his home in Lafayette on June 24, 2015. ML011 requested that we not use his name, but permitted us to record and archive the interview.

ML011 is from New York. He went to school at Texas A&M. He started in the industry working for Exxon. He moved to Lafayette through his work in oil and gas. He worked as a company man and rig supervisor. ML011 primarily worked in drilling. He has worked in the Gulf of Mexico and internationally. ML011 is currently retired.

Sam Arnold

Gulfport, MS
January 15, 2011
PP666

Ethnographic Preface

Clenistine Fortune and I had been speaking for a few weeks about conducting an oral history interview with a friend of hers who lived in the area. We finally arranged to meet with Mr. Arnold at his home in Gulfport, Mississippi. When we arrived at the house, Mr. Arnold was not present, and it turned out that he was over at his mother's house, located nearby. We met and spoke with Mr. Arnold in the living room of his mother's house.

Mr. Arnold was born in 1943 in Gulfport. He spoke at length about the African American community in the area when he was growing up. He described both the types of work that African Americans had commonly entered into in the past as well as the types of segregation that had existed along the coast. Mr. Arnold left the Gulf Coast in the early 1960s. After serving in the military during the Vietnam War, he attended college in California and subsequently worked as an accountant in California before moving back to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the 1980s. Since then, Mr. Arnold has been heavily involved in various forms of non-profit and community development work. He discussed how the area had changed over the years and what he believed it would take for this part of Mississippi to recover from Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf oil spill, and other events by which it had been impacted in recent years.

Emile J. "EJ" Aucoin

Houma, LA
July 17, 2009
JC319

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Aucoin was referred by Ronnie Rhodes, his coworker from Unocal. We met at his house south of Houma, Louisiana on Bayou DuLarge. Mr. Aucoin farms vegetables, and has an orange and peach orchard on his sizable property. He was very generous, offering me fish and food from his land to take with me. He spoke at length about the problem of insurance for landowners in south Louisiana; in the past 10 years his home has become increasingly difficult to insure. Mr. Aucoin offered insightful commentary on changes in labor regulations and relations in the oilfield through his careers.

Mr. Aucoin was born in Amelia, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana in 1935, on a houseboat. His daddy was a fisherman and trapper as well as a tugboat skipper. Mr. Aucoin helped his father on his boat, and built cypress boxes to ship catfish when he was younger. In 1953, he hired on as deck crew on a tender for Kerr-McGee. In 1956 he was drafted into the Army, and served for two years. After returning to south Louisiana, he started as roustabout for Unocal in 1959. He moved up the ranks, to operator then production foreman, mostly working on inland lake wells, both oil and gas. In 1967, he became offshore superintendent, based out of Unocal's Dulac, Louisiana office, in charge of production and transportation. He moved his family to live in Houma this same year. His last three years with Unocal were spent in industrial relations, working with personnel on insurance and benefits. He retired in 1992 and began farming.

William "Bill" Bacque

Lafayette, LA
February 28, 2011, July 22, 2015
LE460, ML032

Ethnographic Preface

In 2011, Laura was initially referred to Bill Bacque by Kim and William Goodell. The Goodells referred her to him as an authority on real estate in the Lafayette, Louisiana and surrounding parishes during the 1980s. Laura called him and explained the project and set up an interview at his office.

Bill Bacque is the CEO for Van Eaton & Romero real estate, a position he has held since 1987. He graduated from high school and went on to college in finance at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (University of Southwestern Louisiana, at the time). He graduated from USL in 1974, and a year before that in 1973 he married his high school sweetheart. He moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1973 (or 1974) and pursued a job in real estate, receiving his real estate license. In 1981, at the encouragement of family and friends in Lafayette, he moved back with his wife and their two sons. He got a job in real estate handling repossessed properties for the Veteran's Administration, where he worked in until 1987 when he became the CEO of his current company. Today, he gives lectures on real estate to groups in the region (e.g., the Kiwanis Club) and manages his company.

In Laura's interview, Mr. Bacque brought a presentation of prepared slides with graphs showing changes in real estate from 1981 to 2010. For a large portion of the interview, he describes each page of the presentation and what those numbers mean for Lafayette. He discusses changes in value for homes and their direct correlation to jobs in the area (including oil), the reason for spikes and crashes in real estate in the town, and who left and who stayed during the bust. During the last part of the interview, after the recorder was turned off, he goes on to discuss more on the culture of Lafayette and the nature of having the oil industry here.

In 2015, Sarah Schoeffler heard Morgan was looking for community leaders and people working in other industries to interview about the effects of the oil and gas industry on Lafayette. She recommended Morgan talk to Bill. Sarah gave his contact information to Lillian Espinoza-Gala who in turn shared it with Morgan. Morgan contacted him and set up an interview for July 22, 2015 at his office.

Morgan found out after she scheduled the interview that Laura had already interviewed him in 2011 but decided to interview him again to see if she could get any new information. During his interview, Bill went over real estate monthly reports for the last couple of years and provided a copy of the data. Morgan did not audio record the interview but provided a summary of his interview and presentation for the study.

Larry Baker, Jr.

Ingleside Point, TX
August 19, 2009
JT001

Ethnographic Preface

Larry Baker, Jr. followed his father into the offshore fabrication business at the Orange, Texas yard of the Levingston Shipbuilding Company, where Larry Baker Sr., had worked since 1948. Larry. started out in the 1960s as a pipefitter helper, rising quickly through the ranks. After spending several years in Singapore on assignment for Levingston, Larry returned stateside to find himself without a job. After a brief stint with Bethlehem Steel, Larry and his father founded Baker Marine in the mid-1970s, which grew during the remainder of the decade and into the 1980s to become an international leader in the fabrication of jack-up drilling rigs.

Frank Barker

Lafayette, LA
July 17, 2015
ML026

Ethnographic Preface

Frank contacted the team after he learned about the oil and gas oral history project in local the news. He was interested in being interviewed. Morgan followed up and Frank agreed to meet on July 17th at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Frank Barker is from Jennings, Louisiana. He got his degree in engineering and worked for General Electric and in chemical engineering. He moved to Lafayette and started working in the oilfield in 1977. Frank was in the industry for 27 years, primarily working for Chevron, specializing in gas turbines. Although he is from Jennings, he married a woman from Lafayette and lived there from 1983 through 1984. He continued living close to Lafayette after he moved out of town. Frank retired from Chevron in 2004.

James Barton, Jr.

Walnut Grove, MS
July 29, 2011
PP969

Ethnographic Preface

Several people around Walnut Grove, including Mr. Barton's sister, recommended that we try to speak with James Barton to get a better understanding of the earlier days of local African-American involvement in the offshore oil industry. I contacted Mr. Barton on my last full day around the Carthage, Mississippi area. He agreed to meet with Clenistine Fortune and me later on in the afternoon. We conducted the interview at Mr. Barton's house a few miles from the central part of Walnut Grove, Mississippi.

Mr. Barton was born in 1947 in Greenwood, Mississippi, but he and his family moved to Walnut Grove early in his life. His parents were both farmers, and Mr. Barton's father also worked as a carpenter. Mr. Barton worked as a welder for Taylor Machinery, a nearby business, before working offshore. He started

working offshore in 1975 and was one of the first black men in the area to work offshore. He described how he and other blacks in the area had been recruited by a local toolpusher after he had "run out" of whites and Native Americans. Mr. Barton discussed facing heavy discrimination when he first started working offshore and recounted efforts by white workers to "sabotage" the work that he and other blacks did. He believed that general industry conditions for blacks had eventually improved significantly but that there continued to be considerable differences among companies in terms of how they treated African-American workers. Mr. Barton recalled that times were hard for many people in the local area following the oil industry "bust" of the 1980s, but he also said that he was able to continue working offshore during this decade. He left the industry in 1991. Speaking generally about the relationship that offshore oil had with the surrounding area, he described the lack of major local industry and said that offshore oil work did a great deal to improve the living standard of local blacks and whites.

Johnny Fortune and Willie Barton

Walnut Grove, MS
July 29, 2011
PP926, PP927

Ethnographic Preface

Clenistine Fortune and I initially came upon Mr. Fortune's gas station by accident while first driving through Walnut Grove, Mississippi. The station was not open but we stopped to ask directions from a person in the lot. This man informed us that Mr. Fortune owned the property and might be present later on in the day. As we were driving past the station again, we stopped and found him there. We spoke a bit about his time offshore and he agreed to meet with me later on in the week for an oral history interview. Clenistine and I met with Mr. Fortune at the gas station a few days later. The station was still in the process of being remodeled into a coffee shop. Mr. Fortune said that he had another person in mind, Mr. Barton, who lived close by and who was another one of the first black men in the area to work offshore. Mr. Barton soon arrived and we spoke inside the main building.

Both Johnny Fortune and Willie Barton grew up around Walnut Grove. Their families sharecropped as well as worked on their own land. Mr. Fortune's father was involved in the pulpwood business and Mr. Barton's father worked as a carpenter. They both described the 1960s and early 1970s as times of little economic opportunity, particularly for blacks in the area. Mr. Barton in fact left the area for a few years in the late 1960s and early 1970s and went into the US Air Force. They mentioned that the first black men to work offshore had started out in the early 1970s. Mr. Fortune and Mr. Barton followed close on their heels in 1975. Both went to work for Floyd Drilling. They spoke about the considerable challenges that blacks in the industry faced in the 1970s and to which both men had been subjected. They concurred that blacks eventually gained a foothold in the offshore oil industry during the 1980s, although promotions still proved hard to come by. Mr. Barton quit working offshore in 1986, when the oil industry was at a low point and many people were being demoted or shifted to new positions. He has been self-employed since then. Mr. Fortune continued to work offshore until 2002 when he suffered an injury that eventually forced him to stop working. He was currently trying to get his coffee shop up and running.

Julia Battle

Lafayette, LA
March 3, 2011
LE464

Ethnographic Preface

Dennis Sullivan referred me to Julia Battle, who knows him through his children who she taught in elementary school in the 1990s. I called Julia, and we set up an interview at the local Barnes and Noble in Lafayette, Louisiana. When I met her she was finishing up some coffee with friends, and we found a relatively quiet place to sit down and talk.

Julia Battle was born in 1954 and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She graduated high school in 1971. She attended LSU as a student in education before switching her major to petroleum engineering. Her father was the head of the petroleum engineering department at LSU, and her older brother majored in petroleum engineering, as well. One of nine in her graduating class and the only woman, she completed her petroleum engineering degree in 1975. She got a job with Union Oil & Gas, initially working offshore and then coming onshore. She met her husband at Union (also an employee there) and they got married. She and her husband decided to open an independent consulting business in 1981 in Lafayette, right before the bust of the mid-1980s. They had a son, who she home schooled. A large part of his schooling came from learning about the family business. Her husband passed away in 2005. In 2006, Julia went back to school at ULL to pursue her Master's in geology, which she received in 2008. She got a job with Coastal Environments, Inc. doing geology work and monitoring the coastline since the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in April of 2010. She now lives on a ten-acre farm in Sunset, Louisiana (where they moved to in 2000), with several horses, dogs, and two donkeys.

The first female petroleum engineer hired by Union, Julia recounts her stories of life offshore, the differences between the offshore and office work environments, and the lawsuit the Petroleum Club in Lafayette faced and why she chose not to participate in it. She talks about the 1970s and 1980s in Lafayette, including who stayed in town, who left, what the business environment in the industry was like during these times, and educational courses and training provided by Union and other companies to advance their employees. She touches upon some of the ups and downs the industry has faced since, discusses her current work and why she would like to get back into the oil and gas industry, and her perspectives on the industry as a whole (including why she thinks it is a very misunderstood industry).

Benton Baugh

Houston, TX
September 22, 2012
TP002

Ethnographic Preface

Benton Baugh was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where he decided he wanted to be an engineer. After graduating from the University of Houston, Baugh nearly went to work for NASA in 1965, but the delays in acquiring a security clearance pushed him towards working for Camco and Cameron in the offshore petroleum industry. At Cameron, Baugh installed computer hardware on drilling rigs. After about five years, Baugh went to work for Vetco Offshore (AS Ventura Tool Company), and was the firm's third Houston employee hired. Nine years later, Baugh started his own consulting firm, Baugh Consulting Engineers, where he remained active at the time of the interview.

Don Begneaud

Lafayette, LA
November 8, 2010
LE410

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Mr. Don Begneaud by Aaron Broussard, one of Don's employees at Begneaud's Manufacturing. He is the founder and owner of Begneaud's, a local company that does high precision metal work repairs and artistic creations.

Don Begneaud was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. He graduated from a Catholic high school. In his sophomore year of high school, he began welding for ARC Welding Company. He currently lives in Vermillion Parish. Before beginning his company, he worked offshore as a welder for a company called Skids. His parents were adamant that he attend the university, so he went back to USL (ULL, now) as an industrial tech major. He did not complete his degree and left college to work for himself. Mr. Begneaud founded his company in 1978 and has continued successfully since then. He speaks about the new technologies he's brought in (mainly lasers) and how they've expanded the business. Mr. Begneaud also talks about his positive perspective on life; something he attributes to the way of life around here. He discusses his company and other companies, how they got through the bust, and what Lafayette looks like today. He also mentions the generation gap he sees today, how he is addressing it through the "TICE" high school program, his role in the Lafayette community as an employer, and through the outreach work he and his wife do.

Paul Begneaud, Becca Begneaud, and Stacey Scarce

Lafayette, LA
December 7, 2010
LE433a, LE433b, LE433c

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Becca Begneaud (LE433a) by Lillian Miller. Active in CODOFIL (Council for the Development of French in Louisiana) and in Lafayette and surrounding communities for a long time, she wanted to share her thoughts and opinions with me. I spoke with her over the phone, and we made plans to meet for lunch. I met with her and Paul Begneaud (LE433b), and from there we moved the formal interview to Mr. Begneaud's house, in Lafayette, Louisiana, where Stacey Scarce (LE433c), a friend of Becca's, joined us.

Paul Begneaud was born in 1923. He was born and raised in Scott, Louisiana and takes pride in his town. He graduated high school in 1938 or thereabouts. He lives in an apartment converted from an old bank in the small downtown of Scott. He moved from Scott to Michigan after a divorce, but moved back in 1970. He began a drapery store and owned a successful business in Scott until his recent retirement in 2006. He has several children. He talks about the job opportunities he gave to women in the area with his drapery business, his thoughts on the town of Scott and what differentiates it from Lafayette, and the economic downturn in the 1980s.

Becca Begneaud is from Scott, Louisiana. She has worked as a grocery clerk and at Hallmark. Today, she works as a healer doing energy work and promoting her messages of healing. She discusses the effect of the oil industry she has seen on the Cajun culture, and shares her views concerning this. She also discusses the economic history of the area, the LAGCOE show, the cultural history, and her role in the CODOFIL movement.

Stacey Scarce is originally from Lafayette. At 16 she began working for her dad's "hot shot" business driving trucks with supplies for the oilfield. She talks about what she experienced in this job, including long hours, sexual misconduct between workers, women and their roles in the industry, and how she coped with it all. She worked the hotshot job from 1979 to 1990 until age 27 and went back to school to

pursue a degree in behavioral science and education. She currently works at the Nature Conservancy in Lafayette.

Alvin “Al” Bellaire, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
June 22, 2015
ML008

Ethnographic Preface

Upon arriving in Lafayette, Louisiana, the research team was taken to a Desk and Derrick meeting by Lillian Espinoza-Gala. While there, we met a number of women who work in the administrative side of the oil and gas industry. We received contact information and shared ours with the some of the meeting attendees. After the meeting we received a call from a Desk and Derrick member, Kay Gotte. Kay wanted to schedule a time to interview her boss, Al Bellaire. Al is a vice president at Sierra-Hamilton. We agreed to meet at Al’s office to conduct an interview on June 22nd.

Al Bellaire is from Lafayette. He started his career in the oil and gas industry as a production foreman at Shell. After serving in the Vietnam War, Al continued working for Shell. For a time he worked as a mud engineer. He then came to Lafayette and started working in drilling. He and a few other men started a consulting business. That business was eventually sold and merged with other companies. Currently, Al is the vice president at Sierra-Hamilton.

Darren Benjamin

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
LL005

Ethnographic Preface

Darren Benjamin was referred to the oil history project by his brother. The team contacted Darren and agreed to have an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. At the end there may have been some miscommunication as he thought it might be an interview for a job opportunity. Despite the confusion, Darren provided insight to the catering side of the oil and gas industry.

Darren Benjamin is from Lafayette. He first began working offshore in May 2010 as a cook. He worked mainly in deepwater and had never experienced life offshore before that point. His brother, having been in the industry for 20 years, encouraged Darren to apply and go offshore. His first offshore job was working for Taylor’s International Catering Service.

George Benoit

Kingwood, TX
February 25, 2010
JT047

Ethnographic Preface

George Benoit hails from Lafayette, Louisiana, and signed up with Tennessee Gas Transmission Co. (Tenneco) in 1960. There, he assisted in surveying and clearing the right-of-way for the Muskrat line.

After being promoted to a corrosion technician at Tenneco in 1965, Benoit finished a degree at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. By 1972, Benoit was transferred to Houma, to work in Tenneco's engineering department. There, he helped to profile the subsea valves in the Gulf, working to eliminate protrusions that would snag the nets of the local shrimpers. From 1974 to 1981, Benoit worked as chief inspector for several of Tenneco's major pipeline systems in the Gulf. By the 1990s, Benoit worked as a superintendent in several districts for Tenneco. Benoit retired in 2008, after 43 years in the business.

David Berden

Meridian, MS
April 23, 2010
PP304

Ethnographic Preface

David Berden had contacted Preetam following the appearance of an article in the *Meridian Star* regarding the project. David and Preetam met a few days later for an interview at a local diner in Meridian, Mississippi.

David Berden had a somewhat unusual work history in that he had worked as a credit manager for nearly 13 years before working offshore as a sample catcher. He worked as a mud logger during the majority of his time offshore and was eventually laid off during the downturn of the late 1980s. Afterwards he went to work with an insurance company. When the oil industry picked up again, David was asked to come back and work offshore but refused to head. He enjoyed his time working offshore, especially the people that he met, but said that he was close to "burning out" at the time of the downturn and did not have the desire to work in the industry again. Nevertheless, he considered working offshore to have been a very valuable learning experience in multiple ways.

David Bergeron

Houma, LA
July 13, 2009
JC310

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Bergeron read the description of the study in the *Courier* article, and called to say that he wished to participate. We met at the main the Terrebonne Parish library for this interview. He regularly commutes to New Orleans for work every day, but had this Monday off so was able to speak with me. Mr. Bergeron has always maintained a separation between his work and family lives, travelling regularly and not sustaining many friendships from work. As a result, his social network is made up entirely of family, with almost no work ties. He is proud of his work, however, and his knowledge of the industry and articulation make this an informative interview.

David Bergeron was born in Houma, Louisiana in 1956, near Southdown Sugar Plantation where his father worked in the mill. He graduated from Terrebonne High in 1974 and started as a roughneck for Wheless Drilling Co., based in Shreveport, a job he attained with the help of his future father-in-law. He made driller after three years of work and toolpusher the following year. He enrolled in a seven-and-seven program in petroleum technology at Nicholls State, finishing in 1980; adding a petroleum safety degree in 1982. In 1980 he took a job with Placid Oil, entering a drilling foreman training program later that year. After becoming a drilling foreman the following year, he worked on rigs throughout the Gulf until the company went bankrupt in 1994. He took a job with Eagle Consulting, but did not like the hours and

began with Shell in 1996 as drilling supervisor, moving off rigs to the office, a position he currently holds.

John Blanchard

Lafayette, LA
December 7, 2010
LE428

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mr. John Blanchard at the Schoefflers' home for dinner one night on November 15, 2010. He is currently the president of ACP (Automated Control Power), LLC, servicing electric repairs for offshore rigs and vessels, a business he runs in Lafayette, Louisiana. Originally from Venice, Louisiana, Mr. Blanchard moved to Lafayette at the encouragement of his brother, who told him it was a good place to land a job in the oil industry. He got into the industry because that is where he wanted to go with his life. He graduated from high school in 1972, and graduated from technical college in 1977. Between those years, from 1973 to 1977, he was enlisted in the US Army. In the Army, he worked on information control systems and electrical controls.

In 1987 Mr. Blanchard took a job in California working in electrical offshore, solar energy, and other energy industry work when things in Lafayette took a downturn. In 1992, he moved his family back to Lafayette from California. He then took a job in Alaska, and from there worked in Venezuela for 10 years, and then Thailand before returning to Lafayette in 1996. He worked as a salesman for a few years, but when he realized he could do much better as a salesman for his own business, he teamed up with a partner and created AEI in 2001. He and his friend kept the business and it did well for two years, but he then decided he could do the work on his own. In 2003, he began ACP, a refurbishment electrical service for offshore vessels and rigs. He said he typically works on anything industrial and not necessarily just oil. This diversity in his business is something he is trying to expand, as he believes the economic climate surrounding the oil industry in Lafayette is unstable and he wants to have other options to fall back on. He works for shipyards such as Bollinger, Beacon Maritime, Atlantic Marine, and Gulf Island Fabrication.

In the interview, he discusses what got him started in the oil industry, the downturn of the 1980s in relation to shipyards and in general, shortages in the workforce and downturn of the 1980s, the role of Lafayette in relation to the oil industry, changes in technology he's seen within his field, and the recent economic effects he's felt since the *Deepwater Horizon* spill in the Gulf.

Melvin Blanchard

Houma, LA
July 3, 2009
JC303

Ethnographic Preface

Melvin Blanchard was first interviewed in 2001 for the History II study, as EB046. We met at his home on the north side of Houma, Louisiana; his wife sat in on the interview and made several comments. They were happy to receive a CD containing materials from the previous project. In 1986, Mr. Blanchard retired from Marathonand has chosen to distance himself from the oil industry, saying he cares not to follow very closely what happens offshore now. He is pleased that Houma has a diversified economy (health industry) and should be better prepared for swings in oil prices.

Melvin Blanchard was born in 1930, in Harvey, Louisiana. His family moved to Houma when he was one year old; his father and uncle purchased farmland in the area. Choosing the oil patch over farming, Melvin started as a roustabout in the Beaumont, Texas area, steadily advancing through his career to roughneck, driller, pusher, and finally drilling foreman in 1979, working mainly for Marathon on rigs between Cameron and Venice. He was let go by Marathon during the mid-80s downturn.

Robert "Donnie" Boles

Stonewall, MS
April 24, 2010
PP305

Ethnographic Preface

Robert Boles is a resident of Stonewall, Mississippi who contacted Preetam shortly after the *Meridian Star* featured an article about the study. Robert was born in Stonewall, about 15 miles south of Meridian. Stonewall and the nearby community of Enterprise had been historically highly dependent on the nearby denim plant for local employment. Robert worked in the denim plant himself before another local resident, already employed offshore, was able to get him a roustabout job in the mid 1970s. Robert continued to work offshore until 2008 when his health forced him to retire permanently. During the interview, he spoke a great deal about the considerable changes that he witnessed during his time working in the industry, especially the transformations in the work cultures of major oil companies during the 1980s and onwards.

Stephanie and Luis "Bubba" Bosarge

Bayou La Batre, AL
January 18, 2011
PP646a, PP646b

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mrs. Bosarge at a meeting of the South Bay Community Alliance, a non-profit based in Coden, Alabama, which formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. I told her about the project that I was working on in the area and that I was hoping to conduct some oral history interviews with local people who had some knowledge of and experience in the seafood industry. She told me that her family had been in the seafood business for many years and that she grew up working in their oyster plant, and that she might be willing to do an oral history interview.

I contacted Mrs. Bosarge when I arrived back in the area in January 2011. After speaking on the phone a few times, we agreed to meet at her home in Coden. Mrs. Bosarge's husband, Bubba, was also present when I arrived and also participated in the interview. Both were born and raised in the area around Bayou La Batre, Alabama in families with long histories in the local seafood industry. They spoke about the history of this industry in the area as well as its relationship with other industries, such as shipbuilding and fabrication, and the offshore oil industry. Both agreed that the 1970s represented one of the halcyon periods of the local seafood industry, and were uncertain whether such prosperity would ever return. They had operated their oyster shop until 2005, when Hurricane Katrina leveled both the shop and their home. Since then, Mrs. Bosarge became increasingly involved with non-profit activities in the area and Mr. Bosarge began working as a truck driver for one of the major seafood processors in town.

Michael “Mike” Boudreau

Lafayette, LA
July 16, 2015
LL007

Ethnographic Preface

Mike Boudreau heard about the oil history project through the news special on KATC-3 in Lafayette, Louisiana. He emailed Morgan and Laura, and scheduled an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

While working in the oil industry in the 1960s, Mike Boudreau’s father was transferred from Houston, Texas to Lafayette. Mike attended high school and college in Lafayette. He initially went to work for service companies in Lafayette. In 1978 he started working at Exxon, retiring in his 37th year in February of 2015. He worked 28 years offshore and eight years in Angola. Mike has been married to his Lafayette-native wife for 36 years.

Ivar Brandt

Houston, TX
September 22, 2012
TP004

Ethnographic Preface

Ivar Brandt was raised in the suburbs of Oslo, Norway, and after university was hired in 1974 by SINTEF, a large research and development organization. There, Brandt called upon knowledge gained in nearly two years spent in the Royal Norwegian Navy, working on naval architecture. At SINTEF, Brandt helped to develop and market several sophisticated software packages used by offshore oil and gas operators for large-scale data acquisition, management, and interpretation.

Don Briggs

Lafayette, LA
December 6, 2010
LE425

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Briggs was referred to us by Harold Schoeffler; a Lafayette, Louisiana native, president of the local Sierra Club chapter, and friend of Mr. Briggs. Mr. Briggs is currently the president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA). We met with Mr. Briggs at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

A native of Miami, Florida, Mr. Briggs moved to Lafayette to attend the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL), graduating in 1964. He stayed in the Lafayette region after he completed his degree. Throughout college he worked for Owen Drilling Exploration doing odd jobs. After graduation, he worked inventory for them. In 1968 he got a job salvaging and refurbishing equipment and selling it back to those in the industry. From that job in 1968, he built a conglomerate of companies, he then sold it to New Park Resources in 1979 or 1980. He became the president of New Park Resources, but in 1992 he became discouraged with the current political state surrounding the industry and left his company to form LOGA (Louisiana Oil and Gas Association) with 12 of his friends to address the issues surrounding the industry, environment, and governmental regulations in the state of Louisiana.

In the interview, Mr. Briggs discusses the economic downturn in the 1980s (both in relation to the experiences of those in Lafayette and surrounding communities), and how his business responded to those challenges. He talks about his involvement in enforcing environmental regulations (cleaning up wells, working with the DEQ, etc.), and his engagement in politics of the state including environmental lawsuits the industry has faced. He remarks on the environmental movement, and the history of oil and gas policy in the state. He goes on to explain the role Lafayette plays in the industry as the "hub in the oil and gas world," but mentions the transition to centralizing operations in Houston. He also discusses the overall climate of the industry in regards to Cajun culture, fishermen, what makes Lafayette unique, and other important people in the community of Lafayette, and the history of Lafayette (mainly in relation to the development of the Oil Center.)

Martial Broussard

Lafayette, LA
June 30, 2015
ML016

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala recommended that I interview her friend, Martial Broussard. I had met him previously at a gathering at Lillian's house, at which he had given me his contact information. A few weeks later I called him asking if he would like to do an interview. He agreed to participate. We conducted the interview at Lillian's house.

Mr. Broussard, a Lafayette, Louisiana native, started his career in the oil and gas industry during the 1980s with Teleco developing measurement while drilling (MWD) tools. He also worked doing directional drilling, as well as international consulting work. He worked for Schlumberger for a few years before retiring in 2006. In his interview, Martial discusses the different companies he has worked for, changes in technology, safety, and his work abroad.

Matthew Broussard

Ocean Springs, MS
February 17, 2011
PP670

Ethnographic Preface

I first ran into Mr. Broussard while I was making my rounds of the few shipyards in the area around Biloxi, Mississippi. On that occasion I introduced myself and the project that I was working on. We talked for a while about the history of the shipbuilding industry in the area and the relationship that this industry had had with various developments within the shrimping and fishing industry. I asked Mr. Broussard on this occasion if he might be willing to get together for an oral history interview at some point and he told me that I could find him most weekday mornings at a certain restaurant in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. I met him at this restaurant very early in the morning the following week.

Mr. Broussard was born in and spent the first few years of his life in Los Angeles before moving back with his father to Biloxi. He lived in Biloxi for the rest of his childhood and began working in the seafood industry at a very early age. Mr. Broussard began pipefitting in high school and went to work at Ingalls Shipyard in the 1970s when production at the yard was at its peak. Following his time in the shipyard, Mr. Broussard worked in the offshore oil industry for several years before returning to the shipbuilding

and fabrication industry. He travelled for several years, working at various shipyards along the East Coast, as well as other parts of the US. He returned to Biloxi in the late 1980s and lived in the area ever since. He began to do boat restoration and repair jobs soon after returning to the Gulf Coast and this was the line of work he was still engaged in at the time of the interview.

Wayne Broussard

Lafayette, LA
July 2, 2015
ML017

Ethnographic Preface

When I first arrived in Lafayette, Lillian Espinoza-Gala took Diane Austin and me to a Desk and Derrick meeting. The club tries to have a guest speaker at every meeting, and Wayne Broussard was the speaker for this meeting. He gave a presentation about safety and communication. At the time I did not know what Wayne's official position was, but some of the ladies recommended we interview him for the oral history project. I was going to email him after the Desk and Derrick meeting, but he emailed me first sharing a story about someone else. In my response, I asked if he would be willing to do an interview with me. He agreed. We arranged to conduct it at his office.

Before the interview, Wayne Broussard sent me some documents regarding the work he does. For the last 15 years, he has worked for Wood Group PSN as the training manager. His current work focuses on training offshore workers. He creates and gathers information, graphics, and animations about training and safety to share with anyone who wants to use it. In his previous work he was a troubleshooter for equipment on platforms. Wayne has also been the operations manager for a manufacturing facility. In his interview, Wayne discusses the importance of safety, changes in the workforce, and the impacts of downturns.

John Brown Jr.

Waynesboro, MS
January 7, 2011
PP664

Ethnographic Preface

I had conducted oral history interviews with Mr. Brown's father and brother-in-law earlier on in the week. I returned to the Economic Development Agency in Waynesboro, Mississippi to speak with his mother and to pick up a consent form from the earlier interviews. I told her that I was interested in carrying out more interviews during my time in the area and asked her to please let me know if she thought of anyone else in the local area who would might be willing to do an interview. She mentioned that her son also worked offshore and that he was in the area at the moment and might be up for speaking with me. She called him and Mr. Brown agreed to meet with me in the agency building.

Mr. Brown was born in Laurel, Mississippi but grew up in Waynesboro. Because his father worked in both the onshore and offshore oil industries, Mr. Brown got an early introduction to work in the oilfields, and recalled going out with his father to land rigs when he was a child. He described the timber and oil industries as the two major options for people in the local area when he was growing up. Mr. Brown started working offshore immediately after he got out of high school. After working offshore for a year, he started working onshore, but soon returned to working offshore. Mr. Brown also worked construction at different points in his career and expressed preferring this to offshore work, and said that he stuck with

the latter because it was better for his family. He also described what he saw as general changes in the attitudes of workers since he started working offshore, specifically with regards to moving between companies in search of better jobs. Mr. Brown said that though offshore jobs had been easy to come by when he started out, they became increasingly scarce in recent years and people hung on to what they had. He worked as a roughneck for the majority of his time in the oil industry and stated that he desired to remain in this position.

John Brown, Sr. and Chris Pitts

Waynesboro, MS
January 4, 2011
PP661

Ethnographic Preface

I had spoken with Mr. Brown's wife, who worked at the Economic Development Agency in Waynesboro, Mississippi when I was in the area during the summer of 2010. When I returned to the area, I stopped by the agency to see how things had been since I left. After we talked for a little while, Mrs. Brown mentioned that her husband and son-in-law both worked offshore and that she could call them and see if they might be willing to be interviewed. She contacted them, and both agreed to meet me at the agency office for an interview.

Mr. Brown was born in Wayne County, Mississippi in 1950. He recalled that when he was growing up in the area many people in and around Waynesboro worked on land rigs and that the decade of the 1950s was when the oil industry started to assume considerable local importance. He discussed the entrance of many local people into both the onshore and offshore oil industries was partially motivated by the lack of other work options in the region. Historically, work in the oil industry had been "the best job you could get." Mr. Brown began to work onshore in the 1960s after he served in the US Army, and switched to working offshore in the 1970s. He described the movement between the onshore and offshore oil industries as commonplace amongst people in the area during the 1970s. Following the downturn of the 1980s, Mr. Brown left the oil industry to run a parts shop in Wayne County. He went back to work offshore in 1990 and worked for several different companies before leaving the industry in 2009. Since then, Mr. Brown worked in construction.

Mr. Pitts joined Mr. Brown and I after we had already been talking for some time. He started working offshore in 1986, a period he called "the end of the old era" of offshore work. Mr. Pitts spoke about some of the changes that the industry experienced since he began working. Such changes included increasing numbers of people from the area going overseas to work, as well as increased automation, and the introduction of high technology in recent years. Mr. Pitts worked both onshore and offshore in the course of his career and currently worked as a directional driller, which meant that he could end up either offshore or onshore. He professed being happy with his current position and described directional drilling as where he wants to be.

Robert J. Brown

Houston, Texas
January 10, 2009
TP005

Ethnographic Preface

Robert J. Brown found his first job in the petroleum industry in 1950, working as the tail chainman on a Tennessee Gas pipeline survey crew. His tenure with Tenneco took him between sites in New England and Texas, and then on to the Muskrat Pipeline in the marshes of Louisiana. By 1969, Brown left to serve as chief engineer for the Collins Construction Company, and in that position he took on work as far afield as Venezuela and the Persian Gulf. Brown earned a master's degree in civil engineering at Stanford University in 1962 and seven years later he and two partners formed R.J. Brown and Associates. There, Brown oversaw work on designing and fabricating lay-barges; pipeline towing operations in the North Sea and elsewhere; and innovative work in the Canadian Arctic in the mid-1970s. As of the interview date, Brown's company, a subsidiary of Technip, was named R.J. Brown Deepwater.

Warren Brown

Lafayette, LA
December 1, 2010
LE423

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mr. Warren Brown while waiting for an interview with another small independent in the same building in the Oil Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. I told him about the project and he showed me some books on oil history and began telling his own story. I set up a time later that afternoon to come back and interview him.

Warren Brown, born in 1960, is from Lafayette. He describes himself as "third generation oil and gas." He works as an independent landman in the Oil Center, where he has worked since college for his father's oil business. In 1983 he graduated college. His father worked in the same office, and throughout the interview he mentions his father's contributions to the culture of the Oil Center, especially the Petroleum Club (a main hub of the Oil Center). Mr. Brown is part of the Beaver's Club and was in Boy Scouts of America. He discusses his views on the oil industry and its effect on the culture and economy of Lafayette and, to a greater extent, the world. He also describes his views on how people outside of the oil industry negatively (or naively) perceive the oil and gas business. He mentions the economic downturn in Lafayette, the resulting diversification in the town, a brief history of the Oil Center, and the trends of the industry over time.

Billy Ray Bundy

Houma, LA
July 2, 2009
JC302

Ethnographic Preface

Billy Ray was first interviewed in 2001 for the History II study, as AA011. We met at his home in Houma, Louisiana, into which he had recently moved from the much larger house he had built and lived in for 35 years; he and his wife needed fewer stairs. After a long career working in the oil industry, he dabbled with real estate briefly before retiring and traveling widely in his RV. He continues to meet with his friends from Otis and Halliburton over coffee several times a month.

Mr. Bundy was born March 28, 1930 in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. His father had transferred from east Texas as a driller for Texaco, moving the family in 1932 to Golden Meadow, and later to Houma in 1937.

Billy Ray struggled as a young Texan in the predominately French-speaking town of Golden Meadow, Louisiana; his family had to be careful "not to get run out" by the Cajuns. He started working for Halliburton in 1948, then roughnecked for Texaco for six years before settling into a service industry career, mainly with Otis Engineering.

Luther Burney

Lafayette, LA
November 11, 2010
LE417

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mr. Luther Burney on November 3, 2010 at First Baptist Church in Lafayette at the weekly church dinner. Lillian Miller referred me to Mr. Burney, saying he was a good person to talk to because of his knowledge of Lafayette history, especially around the 1970s and 1980s.

Luther Burney is originally from Monroe, Louisiana. He moved to Lafayette in April of 1967 for the first time, where he became the minister of music at the First Baptist Church in Lafayette. He attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and then went on to a seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, graduating in 1961. From 1963 to 1966 he was working on his master's at the seminary but was called to active duty for the Berlin Crisis. He would hitchhike back and forth so that he could still attend to his masters' work in Shreveport, Louisiana. Though officially retired as of 2005, he still acts as the assistant to the current pastor, Steve Horn. In the interview, he discusses Lafayette as a town, and what changes he has seen within his church congregation and the Lafayette community. To a lesser degree, he describes some of the ins and outs of his job, which included getting sponsorship from oil companies to put on some of the larger church productions. As a previous music minister, he contributed a unique perspective on the role of the church through the 1970s onwards.

Curtis Burton

Houston, TX
September 25, 2010
TP006

Ethnographic Preface

Curtis Burton grew up in both Mississippi and India, and graduated from the University of Texas in 1979 with a degree in engineering. Burton took on with Otis Engineering, and was able to work on the Argyll floating production system in the North Sea, the first of its kind. Next employed by Seaflo, Burton relocated to London to help establish its office there, and became involved in the Balmoral development in the North Sea, and tension-leg platform projects like Snorre. Burton later worked alongside Petrobras on electro-hydraulic control systems in the Campos Basin of Brazil. In the early 1990s, Burton became involved in contracting with Texaco and the nascent DeepStar group, helping to get the deepwater oil and gas industry on its feet in the Gulf.

Gary and Norma Sue Byrd

Pascagoula, MS
June 6, 2008
VP044, VP045

Ethnographic Preface

Gary and Norma Sue Byrd were recommended by longtime residents and local leaders because of their family ties to the shipbuilding and lumber industries. The interview took place in the Byrd's living room, around a trunk full of photos and other memorabilia. These served as prompts for various reflections throughout the short interview.

Mr. Byrd began his career in shipbuilding in 1955 at the age of 17 at Arnold V. Walker Shipyards in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The bulk of his employment was with Ingalls Shipbuilding (later Northrop Grumman). Mrs. Byrd's father was a longtime employee of Dantzler Boat and Barge and he traveled all over the world. They discuss his career, in which he started out as an operations manager and continued to receive pay as a consultant through his illness and until his death in 1976. They talk a little bit about the history of Dantzler and the owner's family's L. M. Dantzler Lumber Company. Mrs. Byrd's grandfather captained a boat that hauled lumber for the latter.

Walter Camos

Lafayette, LA
July 15, 2015
LL006

Ethnographic Preface

I knew Walter Camos through the Lafayette community and he expressed interest in the oil history project. We set up an interview at his office, where he is now a practicing licensed professional counselor.

Walter Camos is from Lafayette. He graduated from the University of Southwest Louisiana (now ULL) with a degree in petroleum engineering. He began working in high school for an oilfield service company in 1973. In 1985 he made a transition out of working in the oil industry to spend more time with family. He owned a general contracting company for several years. At one point, he decided to return to school and is now a licensed professional counselor in Lafayette. He has been married to his wife for 38 years, and they have two daughters.

Newsom Caraway

Rowlett, TX
June 25, 2009
JT048

Ethnographic Preface

Newsom Caraway was born in 1923 in Houston, Texas. Caraway completed a four-year engineering degree at Rice University and the University of Houston. In 1942, he volunteered for military service during the Second World War, and signed on with the US Navy. As a naval pilot, Caraway flew cargo missions across the Pacific theater while stationed out of Hawaii. In 1948, Caraway got "tangled up" with Tennessee Transmission Co. (Tenneco) and stayed there until his retirement in 1988. He started as an instrument man in Houston. Caraway's portfolio later grew to include management work for Tenneco, and ended up as the Chief Engineer of Tennessee Gas Operations.

Aubrey Carlos

Gray, LA

July 13, 2009
JC311

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Carlos was referred by Merl Talbot, who was his coworker at Halliburton. We met at his home in Gray, Louisiana, just north of Houma. His wife was present and made several comments. Mr. Carlos has battled cancer twice in the past 10 years, but his health has recently stabilized. He is a regular attendee at the Halliburton retiree breakfast, and recommended speaking with Herb Barret, who was interviewed in the History II study.

Mr. Carlos was born in 1941 in Houma. His father was a tugboat captain for Superior Oil for most of his career, and the majority of his family went into the oil industry. Mr. Carlos served in the US Air Force from 1960 to 1963. Upon returning to south Louisiana, he started working for Halliburton as a bulk cement truck driver. In 1971 he was promoted to cementer, which he did until 1978. From 1978 to 1998, he ran service tools in wells, he also ran well tests, and he worked in the office. He retired in 2000, having spent his last two years working in the office.

Sarah Cart

Iota, LA
August 18, 2015
LL019

Ethnographic Preface

Sarah Cart was referred to the research team by Phil "James" Lacasse, a neighbor and someone who had worked with Sarah. After rescheduling once, Sarah met with Laura Loewer at her house in Iota, Louisiana.

Sarah Cart is from Iota (west of Lafayette). She was born in 1958. Sarah graduated high school and began work in a sewing factory in Crowley, Louisiana, as a secretary. For two years after that, she went to work for a plant in Lake Charles called Hercules as an operator producing polymer plastics. In 1980 at the age of 21, Sarah was hired fulltime by Exxon (now ExxonMobil). Her career spanned 34 years, and she retired in November of 2014 as a board operator. During her career with Exxon, she worked exclusively offshore except for seven years working inland waters and seven months in the Exxon office putting together conferences on safety for the company.

John Carter

Houston, Texas
September 24, 2011
TP007

Ethnographic Preface

John Carter's father worked for a quarter of a century as a production manager for Burma Oil, and his son followed him into the oil business. Living in Glasgow, Scotland, Carter studied mechanical engineering and graduated in 1964, then promptly joined Shell. He soon went to work in the North Sea, and then served in various positions in the US, Asia, and beyond. He worked on the landmark Castellon floating production storage and offloading unit (FPSO) off of Spain, the first of its kind. After many more years of

FPSO-related work, Carter went into general gas management in the United Kingdon with Shell, and remained there until he retired.

Michael Castille

Lafayette, LA
July 22, 2015
ML031

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala's friend, Cherlyn Hebert, recommended I talk to her friend Michael Castille. Michael has been in the oil and gas industry in Lafayette since the 1980s. Interested in hearing his perspective, I got Michael's contact information from Cherlyn. I called Michael and we arranged to have the interview on July 22, 2015 at his home.

Michael Castille is from Lafayette and started in the oil and gas industry in 1980. He worked in the drilling side of the industry, specifically with MWD and LWD tools. He also helped develop field operation support center while working at Path Finder. Michael retired from Pathfinder, which was owned by Schlumberger in 2013. In his interview, Michael provides many insights, particularly on company mergers, the development of oilfield technology, and the impacts of the 1980s downturn.

Glenn G. Chance

Houston, TX
January 10, 2009
TP008

Ethnographic Preface

Glenn G. Chance was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1930, and enlisted in the US Marine Corps when he came of age during the Korean War. He returned in 1951 to work for the Lee C. Moore Corporation, manufacturing drilling tools. A few years later, Chance started his own firm, Chance Sales & Service. He was soon after hired by Drilco, and Chance relocated to Morgan City to oversee a manufacturing shop. In 1976 Chance started another firm, named Chance Collar Company. By the 1970s, multiple firms were licensing Chance's patented drilling innovations. He sold the company in 1982, luckily cashing out before the big slump in the business during the mid-1980s.

James Chapman

Strengthford, MS
January 5, 2011
PP663

Ethnographic Preface

I contacted Mr. Chapman after speaking with some of the staff members at the Waynesboro library about the project. They mentioned Mr. Chapman as someone who might be willing to be interviewed. When I spoke with Mr. Chapman on the phone he readily agreed to meet with me at his house in Strengthford, Mississippi, cautioning that it was out in the country and that I might have a difficult time finding it. It turned out that the house was in fact a good distance from Waynesboro and somewhat difficult to find.

Mr. Chapman was born in Louisiana. His father worked on land rigs while Mr. Chapman was growing up and his family moved frequently in response to his father's job, ending up in the area around Waynesboro, Mississippi when Mr. Chapman was in high school. Mr. Chapman expressed never having thought about the possibility of working in the oil industry when he was a kid. It was getting married and having a child that prompted him to ask his father to find him a job working offshore. He mentioned several times during the interview that there was very little else in the way of industry that someone who wanted to remain in the area could turn to for well paying work. Since beginning to work offshore, Mr. Chapman had not worked in any other field. Both of his brothers also spent considerable time working offshore. Mr. Chapman started out working as a roustabout in the late 1970s and described liking the work right away. He remained with the same company throughout his time in the industry. He rose to the position of OIM working in the Gulf before heading overseas to Qatar in the mid 2000s. He was forced to quit working offshore in the late 2000s because of health problems and expressed his desire to work in the industry again.

Leroy Charles

Houma, LA
July 30, 2009
JC329

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Charles was referred by EJ Aucoin, who was a coworker of his at Unocal. I had told Mr. Aucoin I was having trouble contacting African Americans who had worked in the oilfield during the project period, and he immediately recommended Mr. Charles, saying that he had a remarkable career with Unocal and would be very knowledgeable. Mr. Charles agreed to meet with me at his office south of Houma, Louisiana. He requested that the audio and transcript of his interview not be made public, though he was fine with the material being used in reports.

Mr. Charles was born in 1948 in Houma. His father was a laborer and construction worker. He noted that African Americans were not hired in the oilfield during his daddy's day. Mr. Charles was drafted into the US Army in 1969, and was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Germany. Upon his return in 1971, he started with Uncial as a roustabout, when Texaco did not offer him a job. He began working maintenance, then became a utility man after one year. In 1975 he made Operator 2. In 1982 he was promoted to Operator 1, in charge of Unocal's projects in the lakes of Terrebonne Parish. In 1991, he was promoted to special project foreman, supervising construction projects in the region. One year later Unocal reorganized and created a pool of foremen, sending Mr. Charles widely through the Gulf, doing construction inshore and offshore. In 2002 he went to well control school, and started working on drilling rigs, but this lasted only one year. From 2003 to 2005 he continued working construction, based out of his house. In 2005 Chevron bought Unocal and Mr. Charles retired. He worked as a consultant from 2005 to 2007, when he was hired by Chet Morrison's company, Rooster Petroleum, as a production foreman.

Depp Cheramie

Chauvin, LA
July 22, 2009
JT009

Ethnographic Preface

Depp Cheramie went to work for Texaco in his native Louisiana in 1971, when he was 19 years old. After a decade with the firm, Cheramie moved on to Shell Oil in 1982, working as a senior operator on an offshore platform located in Eugene Island. After focusing on training in electronics, Cheramie was tapped to work on the landmark Auger tension-leg platform (TLP) project in 1992. In 1999, he was transferred to work on Shell's Ursa TLP, sometimes known as "Auger's big sister." By 2005, Cheramie moved to work with Shell's gas pipeline business, and stayed with it after Enbridge acquired the group from Shell. There, his portfolio included overseeing the commissioning of the 120-mile offshore Nautilus pipeline.

Rob Christ

Robert, LA
August 21, 2008
JT010

Ethnographic Preface

Rob Christ attended Louisiana Tech University and emerged with dual degrees in aviation and accounting. After a stint as a CPA, Christ joined up with the work of his father, C.J. Christ, in the subsea diving and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) industry along the Gulf Coast. Hired by Oceaneering as an ROV technician, Rob Christ was also able to assist with his father's historical work in the Gulf, including the search for the sunken German submarine, *U-166*, lost in July 1942 in more than 5,000 feet of water. Upon leaving Oceaneering, Rob Christ founded his own company, Video Ray. After building Video Ray's annual revenues to about $6 million, Christ sold his interest in the firm and founded SeaTrepid, which focuses on small- and medium-sized tele-operated robotics and ROVs in subsea exploration and engineering. After the catastrophic hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, Christ's firm was flush with storm cleanup and scientific work.

Jill Chiasson-Jordan

Lafayette, LA
November 12, 2010
LE418

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Jill Chiasson-Jordan through Dennis Sullivan. Dennis and Jill used to work offshore together (Dennis was Jill's boss), and he thought Jill would be a good person for me to talk to regarding work offshore in the 1970s.

Jill Chiasson-Jordan graduated from high school in Lafayette in 1974. She was born and raised in Lafayette; her parents are both from Lafayette as well. She went to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (then University of Southern Louisiana) and received an associate's in secretarial sciences in 1976. She became a secretary, but wanting to make more money she began looking elsewhere for employment. This led her to find work offshore. In 1977, she was hired on as a mud logger by Amerada Hess Oil for two years. She then went on to work for Pennzoil as a roustabout in production the last year she worked offshore. She left work offshore in 1981 to get married to her husband who she met offshore. She said she began having children and starting a family (she has three sons). In the 1990s, her family moved to Cotton Valley, Louisiana for four years, and then moved back to Lafayette where they have been for the past nine years. Today she works as a secretary a few days a week at her Catholic church. She said one of the biggest benefits to working offshore is her understanding of her husband's work (he works for Hunt Oil), which she said helps their relationship. She talks about her work offshore between

1977 and 1980 for Amerada Hess Oil Company and Pennzoil doing mud logging work. She describes her reasons for going offshore, her experiences, and the reactions of her friends and family to her choice. She also discusses the moratorium and the effects she's seen, and the history of the community of Lafayette.

Duane Clanton

Buckatunna, MS
May 22, 2010, May 27, 2010
PP317

Ethnographic Preface

During the latter part of fieldwork, Preetam met with Bobby Jones, the director of the Wayne County Vo-tech Center. Bobby had spent some time working offshore and mentioned Duane Clanton as one of the others in the area with experience in the oil industry with whom Preetam should speak, although the majority of the time that Duane spent in the oilfield was onshore. Duane invited Preetam to meet with him at his house immediately outside of Buckatunna, a small community close to Waynesboro, Mississippi. The first meeting lasted only about an hour, as Duane had to help a family member with some work around the house. Preetam returned to Duane's home the following week and this second interview went on for a considerably longer period of time.

Duane was born and raised in Waynesboro, and his father worked in the oilfield. Although he spent very little time offshore, Duane shed light on some of the connections in the area between onshore and offshore work. He related how seismic work in the onshore fields had been a major source of work for locals in the 1960s, and often led to jobs actually working on onshore and offshore rigs. He remembered the movement of large numbers of local workers into offshore oil jobs as coming later on in the 1970s, when offshore work became considerably more attractive in terms of benefits and pay. Duane and his wife eventually moved to Shreveport, Louisiana in the 1970s, where Duane eventually went into business for himself building oilrigs. He and his partner managed to sell their business in time to avoid the impacts of the 1980s downturn and Duane remained in the industry until 1991. Since then he had made his money playing the stock market. He acknowledged that the oil industry had been good to him but also said that with all of the changes over the years, it was not work that he wanted to go back into.

C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier

Lafayette, LA
March 1, 2011
LE461

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Mr. Rusty Cloutier by Bill Bacque, with whom I had had an interview the day before. President of MidSouth Bank (a local bank in Lafayette), he thought he would have something more to say on the economic history of the town. I called Mr. Cloutier and he invited me to a presentation he was giving at the Petroleum Club. I attended the presentation and later that day we had an interview.

Rusty Cloutier was born and grew up in Morgan City, Louisiana. He graduated high school and attended and graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL). While in college (1966–1968) he worked for Gulf Oil as a dispatcher. He started MidSouth Bank in Lafayette with some friends in 1984

(officially opening in 1985) and became president, a position he still holds today. He recently wrote a book in May of 2009 titled “Big Bad Banks.”

In the interview, Mr. Cloutier discusses the economics of the 1970s and 1980s; the oil business and its relationship to the Lafayette community and in particular the hardships banks and their clientele faced in the 1980s downturn; and innovations and “Cajun ingenuity” to come out of Lafayette related to the industry. He shares his personal story of how he got into the banking business; how he got through the difficult times with a new bank in town; and the history of having a father who worked offshore for many years. He also shares his thoughts on the moratorium, the oil spill, and how he sees it affecting the Gulf Coast drilling industry.

Marshall Cloyd

Houston, TX
September 25, 2010
TP011

Ethnographic Preface

Marshall Cloyd studied engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas before finishing a master’s at Stanford University and Harvard Business School. In 1959, Cloyd began working in Mississippi for Brown & Root. Before long, he followed the firm into the early platform design efforts in Alaska’s Cook Inlet, engineering parts of the heavy drilling barges needed in the arctic environment. Cloyd later returned to the Gulf Coast working for offshore platforms before transferring to California to manage the Santa Barbara platforms. There, he and other groups within Brown & Root helped in the cleanup after the 1969 well blowout and oil spill at Santa Barbara, California. Cloyd later saw work in the North Sea as well. Cloyd purchased a small boat service company in the early 1980s, and, at the time of the interview, was still chairman.

Andre Comeaux

Lafayette, LA
July 31, 2015
ML042

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala put me in contact with Andre Comeaux in order to schedule an interview with him. Andre is the vice president of Region’s Insurance, but he has a background in drilling. Interested in hearing his story, I called Andre and scheduled an interview at his office for July 31, 2015.

Andre Comeaux is from Lafayette and went to school at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL), where he earned his degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for Amoco until the 1980s downturn. Andre started working in the insurance industry; part of his work includes insuring oilfield companies. At the time of the interview, Andre was running for a seat in the Louisiana state legislature.

Joel Conner

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009

JC315

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Conner was referred by Ronnie Rhodes; the two had worked on many service jobs together. Ronnie said that Joel would be a good engineer to talk to. We met at Starbuck's. There are two audio files for this interview because we moved out on the patio to escape the noise of the shop, and the second file begins outside. Joel continues to work for Baker Hughes, mostly in training, and has a large network of friends and colleagues in Houma through the oil industry. He was a willing participant in the project and provided valuable information.

Mr. Conner was born in 1946 in Abbeville, Louisiana. His father was a career military officer, and Joel served in the Vietnam War. He attended Texas A&M, and earned a degree in electrical engineering. In 1969 he took a job with Dresser Atlas, doing electrical measuring and petro-physics. In 1971 he moved to Lafayette as the offshore fields began to pick up. Baker Hughes bought out Dresser Atlas and he stayed on. In 1975, he attended a four-month school in Houston to learn new technologies for measuring fields and production. In 1977 he worked testing new instruments and reporting equipment. By the late 1980s and 1990s, Joel began working as a trainer for Baker Hughes all over the world. He was instrumental in building the company's employee development program, and making it an important priority. He designed the company's mentoring program in 2005.

Robert Corbin

Long Beach, MS
March 3, 2011
PP760

Ethnographic Preface

Mike Sanzin, a man I had interviewed in Gulfport, Mississippi, recommended that I try to get a hold of Mr. Corbin for an oral history interview. I called Mr. Corbin and we arranged to meet, but the interview had to be rescheduled. We eventually met at Mr. Corbin's house in Long Beach, Mississippi for the interview.

Mr. Corbin was born in 1938 in Steinhatchee, Florida. His father was a commercial fisherman and Mr. Corbin started fishing at an early age. He eventually came to work for a commercial fisherman in the Florida Keys who also sold dolphins. Mr. Corbin started to work training dolphins and did this for a number of years before beginning to work as a shrimper around Long Beach, Mississippi. The high price of fuel, combined with increasing numbers of imported shrimp forced Mr. Corbin to leave shrimping in the early 2000s and start working in the offshore oil industry as a crew boat captain. Mr. Corbin was forced to stop working in the industry recently due to health issues. He expressed his desire to go back out offshore but said that his health and age would make it difficult to do so.

Howard Cornay, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
June 23, 2015
ML009

Ethnographic Preface

Leslie Davis called the team after reading the article about the oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser*. She informed us that her father, Howard Cornay, Jr., used to be an insurance executive who worked with oil and gas companies. With Leslie's help, we scheduled an interview with her father at his house for June 23, 2015. Howard and his wife invited us to stay for lunch after the interview. Howard, Leslie, his son Steve, and his wife were all present at the interview. We also interviewed Steve after lunch.

Howard Cornay, Jr. and his family are from Lafayette. Howard's father worked in the oil and gas industry. Howard started his career installing natural gas appliances in people's homes. He then got into the insurance business with his brother; they created insurance packages for independent oilfield companies. Howard also helped start LAGCOE and was on the first board of directors. Howard retired at age 79.

Steve Cornay

Lafayette, LA
June 23, 2015
ML010

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Cornay is the son of Howard J. Cornay, Jr. Steve's sister, Leslie Davis, had seen an article about the oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser*. Leslie called the research team to set up an interview with her father, who had been an insurance executive working with the industry. When we arrived to interview Howard, Steve was there as well. We quickly realized that Steve would be perfect to interview about his own experiences in the industry. After we interviewed his father, we interviewed Steve, too.

Steve Comay received his degree in marketing from Southeastern Louisiana University, but worked in the oil and gas industry instead. Steve has been in the industry for over 30 years working primarily in production. He worked onshore for six years before going offshore in 1988.

Phyllis Cornell

Lafayette, LA
July 13, 2015
ML022

Ethnographic Preface

After I interviewed Bob Cornell, he emailed me suggesting that I interview his wife, Phyllis. She has traveled and lived around the world with Bob and their children. Bob thought it was important to get his wife's perspective of life in the oil and gas industry. I called Phyllis and arranged to do an interview with her at the Cornell home.

Phyllis and Bob Cornell currently live in Lafayette, Louisiana but they have lived all over the world due to Bob's job with Schlumberger. They lived in Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Texas, and New Mexico. Amongst other points of interest, Phyllis reflected on raising her children abroad, changes in the industry, and her role in the Schlumberger Spouses Association.

Robert Kirk “Bob” Cornell

Lafayette, LA
June 29, 2015
ML015

Ethnographic Preface

Bob Cornell emailed the research team stating he was interested in being a part of the project. After a few emails, we scheduled an interview for June 29, 2015 at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana. He thought his wife, Phyllis, would be home to sit in and add to the interview but she was at the store during our visit. After the interview he emailed the team and recommended we interview his wife too.

Bob Cornell was born and raised in Louisiana and is a third generation oilfield worker. After graduating from the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette (now ULL) in 1968 with a degree in geology, Bob worked as a geologist primarily for Schlumberger. He retired in 2009. He has lived and worked in many places domestically and internationally.

Carl Crawford

Gautier, MS
June 2, 2008, June 10, 2008
VP116

Ethnographic Preface

Carl Crawford was recommended to our study team by office personnel at Signal International. When contacted, he agreed to an interview and, later, a follow-up interview. Both interviews took place at the Shell Landing Country Club.

Mr. Crawford was born in 1943 in Greenville, Mississippi. He worked for several equipment companies, including Caterpillar, in Mississippi and Louisiana, before meeting J. L. Holloway, who shortly after helped form Ham Marine. From 1981 to 1998, he was vice-president of marketing for Ham Marine, which was later rechristened Friede Goldman International (and at the time of the interview was Signal International). He discusses the history and growth of the company, their first contracts with ODECO, the importance of their contracts with Noble Drilling in helping the company go public, and their failed attempt to get into new builds. Important in growing the business were establishing a stable labor force and gaining the trust of customers. However, in the company’s formative years, they benefited from the historical presence of Ingalls Shipyard and the availability of a skilled workforce that could be hired and laid off in accordance with industry cycles. He also mentions the difficulties in bidding for drilling rig jobs; supply issues related to planning; the current problems recruiting skilled workers and the recent moves to subcontracting more of their labor force; the changes in the involvement of clients in their work and the necessity that fabricators become more sophisticated; and the consolidation of the drilling industry. Mr. Crawford talks specifically about how Ham Marine and later Friede Goldman dealt with industry cycles. He stresses the “can-do” attitude and hard working nature of the people in the company, their teamwork, and the importance of the company’s specialization in drilling rigs. He also discusses in some depth his role as marketer for the company and the relationships he formed with their drilling contractor customers. He mentions that it was during a job with Shell Oil Company that their company decided to focus and improve on their safety and quality, and they adopted Shell’s system of morning safety meetings. Safety is important for both ensuring the welfare of workers and also in terms of

insurance rates. Many times rigs do not come in for upgrades or repairs unless they need them for specific jobs, and recently many have come in for upgrades so that they can work in deeper and deeper water.

Jim Bob Crawford

Lafayette, LA
July 27, 2015
LL014

Ethnographic Preface

Jim Bob Crawford contacted the research team through email after reading the July article in the *Daily Advertiser* about the oral history project. They scheduled an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

Originally from Ged just south of Vinton, Louisiana, Jim Bob Crawford came to Lafayette in 1962 with the oil industry. He has been in the oilfield since he was 17 years old; he worked his way up to vice president of NOWSCO Well Services. In 1976, he went to work for Air Products International as a general manager. In 1981 in Lafayette he opened Nitrogen Pumping and Coiled Tubing, LLC, and in 1993 started Crawford Technical Services, Inc. Jim is the current president-CEO of his company Crawford Technical Services, Inc. Jim holds 25 patents related to coil tubing and nitrogen services, and is the author of seven books. He has been on the board of many organizations including the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Expo (LAGCOE). He is a graduate of a military academy and went into the US Army during the Korean War in 1954.

James Crowell, III

Biloxi, MS
October 5, 2011
KM412

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. James Crowell, III was referred to us by our community partner. We first met him at an event held by a local community organization, at which he was honored for his commitment and contributions to the community. After following up with him, we arranged an appointment to meet at the Biloxi [Mississippi] NAACP branch office. After retiring from his civil service career at Keesler Air Force Base, Mr. Crowell was able to dedicate more of his time to the NAACP. He succeeded Dr. Gilbert Mason, Sr. as the President of the Biloxi NAACP branch. He is also the Treasurer of the NAACP State Conference and a member of the Board of Directors for the NAACP National Conference. He was responsible for coordinating emergency supply deliveries to Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. James Crowell, III was born in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi in 1950. Following his graduation from Mississippi Industrial College in 1971, he relocated to Biloxi for a job teaching electronics at Keesler Air Force Base. He was the first African American GS-13 ranked employee in the training group. He retired in May 2005 and went from part-time work at the NAACP to fulltime. Dr. Mason served as his mentor and selected Mr. Crowell for his replacement as President of the Biloxi NACCP branch. Since Hurricane Katrina, he has worked with the city and other local community organizations to develop plans for the rebuilding of Biloxi's communities and its economy.

Windell Curole

Galliano, LA

July 22, 2009
JT050

Ethnographic Preface

Windell Curole served as the General Manager of the South Lafourche [Louisiana] Levee District for over 30 years, overseeing hurricane and flood protection projects. Previously, Curole worked as the Assistant Director for the Lafourche Parish Emergency Preparedness. Curole's involvement in coastal activities has led him to serve on various committees and organizations including the Governor's Coastal Restoration and Conservation Advisory Commission (between 2002 and 2006) and on the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. He also served on the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Committee for over 13 years and was the CZM Administrator. Curole attended Nicholls State University, where he earned a degree in biology.

[note: preface adapted from Louisiana Public Square website,
http://www.lpb.org/index.php/publicsquare/lps_bio/curole_windell]

Lawrence "Buck" Curtis

Lake Conroe, TX
March 4, 2010
JT012

Ethnographic Preface

Lawrence B. "Buck" Curtis graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1949 and promptly went to work for Conoco in its Wyoming oilfields. Curtis soon led a burgeoning engineering group for the company in its New York City office, overseeing international efforts. In the Fateh area in Dubai, Curtis helped to pioneer the use of underwater oil storage domes in the 1960s. In 1972, Curtis was transferred to Houston, Texas, to head Conoco's Production Engineering Services (PES) group. Curtis, widely heralded as the "father" of the tension-leg platform, or TLP, recounts his efforts to pioneer the system at the North Sea Hutton field as well as at the Gulf's Jolliet development.

Tyrelle Daly

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
ML024

Ethnographic Preface

After KATC-3 news aired a story about the oral history project, the research team received many calls and emails from people wanting to be interviewed. One email came from Tyrelle Daly. She worked for ExxonMobil from 1978 until 2004. Interested in her story, the research team setup a time on July 14, 2015 to interview Tyrelle at the Petroleum Club.

Tyrelle Daly is from Glenmora, Louisiana but currently lives in Lafayette. From 1978 until 1999 Daly worked on offshore production platforms. She even worked offshore while pregnant with her son. From 1999 until her retirement in 2004 she worked onshore at a gas plant for ExxonMobil. As a woman working offshore, Daly faced challenges in the industry. Despite those challenges, she enjoyed her career with ExxonMobil and had notable achievements, including her job as a fire safety instructor.

Elmer “Bud” Danenberger, III

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP013

Ethnographic Preface

Elmer “Bud” Danenberger, III has a long and distinguished career as an offshore oil and gas expert in the US Department of the Interior (USDOI). Trained as an engineer at Pennsylvania State University, Danenberger took a job in 1971 with the now-defunct Conservation Division of the US Geological Service. Danenberger played a key role during a busy period in which the Outer Continental Shelf program was opening frontier areas for leasing for the first time. Work included writing new regulatory orders; reviewing exploration and production plans; and performing inspections. At the time of his retirement in January 2010, Danenberger was the chief of offshore regulatory programs for the USDOI Minerals Management Service. After the *Deepwater Horizon* incident in April 2010, Danenberger served as an expert and senior advisor to several of the resultant investigations into the oil spill, including the White House-chartered National Commission on the BP *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.

Louis Datel

Lafayette, LA
December 6, 2010
LE424

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Mr. Louis Datel by Dennis Sullivan. He counts him as one of the old timers in the service side of the oil and gas business, and had a successful company for many years providing drilling equipment. I met Mr. Datel, and he agreed to an interview at Lillian Miller’s home.

Louis Datel was born in 1934 and has lived in Lafayette since 1959. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1958 with a degree in petroleum engineering. He worked 10 years for two different companies. From 1960 to 1965 he worked for PGAC, which later became Atlas, then Eastman from roughly 1965 to 1970. He then went on to form his own tool company, supplying those in the oilfield with pipes of various thread sizes. He retired and currently works on his farm raising deer.

He discusses the generation gap he perceives, and shares his views on the history of the industry and what it looks like today. He also discusses the downturn of the 1980s, and the technological changes he’s seen over time that shaped his business, in particular measurement while drilling (MWD) and logging while drilling (LWD). He also talks about his personal life and his work offshore.

Aaron Matthew David

Lafayette, LA
July 9, 2015
ML019

Ethnographic Preface

Very soon after the KATC-3 news story aired on June 30, 2015, I received phone calls and emails from people wanting to participate in the oral history project. The first call was from Aaron Matthew David. He briefly told me about his experience in the oil and gas industry and voiced his excitement about our project. We agreed to meet at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) student union on July 9, 2015.

Aaron Matthew David was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and grew up in New Iberia. He was the first in his family to work offshore. Mr. David had started in the oil and gas industry in the late 1990s doing wireline work. He also worked in production and in instrumentation controls. After being laid off in 2010, he permanently left the oil and gas industry and started attending ULL. He is currently in school and majors in pre-law.

Ovide Davis

Pascagoula, MS
April 30, 2008, May 7, 2008
VP060

Ethnographic Preface

Ovide Davis and I met at a local coffee shop in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He showed me around town that day and we agreed to talk again. We called each other on the phone a few times, setting up the meeting. For the first interview, we met at the senior citizen's center on Delmas Avenue in Pascagoula. I was introduced to everyone there at the time, we chatted for a bit, then we moved to the conference room in a lawyer's office a couple of blocks away. He knows the lawyer and had made arrangements to use the room ahead of time. On the walk we chatted about the area and the weather, I told him a bit more about the project. For the second interview, we met at the senior citizens center, Mr. Davis arrived late and excited, having just found two tubs that contained some of his father’s photographs he had believed were lost in Hurricane Katrina. We discuss this at length and I make a number of calls to photographers and archivists to determine the best way to preserve them, before beginning the interview, much of which is organized around the photographs.

Mr. Davis is originally from Houma, Louisiana. After graduating from high school, he went to college for two years in the early 1950s. Because of financial constraints, he took a break from school and worked as a clerk radio operator for Texaco. He returned to college at Southwestern Louisiana Institute in Lafayette, which later was renamed the University of Southwestern Louisiana and later the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He majored in physics. After college, he served in the Army for two years. While in the military, he went to school for radio communications and transmitters, as well as radioactive technology. After his stint in the military, Mr. Davis married and began working for the Apollo Program for Boeing. After that job, Mr. Davis then began looking for work along the Gulf Coast and landed at Ingalls, working as metallurgist and nuclear power engineer. He stayed in that position for 10 years before moving to the advanced technology group. Before retiring, Mr. Davis served on the National Research Council.

Robert “Joe” Dempster

Pascagoula, MS
April 12, 2008
VP052

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Joe Dempster at a friend's Easter egg hunt a few weeks earlier and made the arrangements to do an interview for the shipbuilding study. When we met I reintroduced that study, answered some questions, and introduced the oral history study. He agreed to participate and we started the interview. The interview took place in a meeting room of the Pascagoula [Mississippi] Public Library.

Joe Dempster was born in Meridian, Mississippi in 1940. His father was a farmworker and his mother worked as a schoolteacher. When he was about two years old, Joe's father moved the family to Pascagoula so he could work at Ingalls Shipyard. After graduating high school in 1958, Joe went to the Mississippi State University. He graduated in 1962. Wanting to avoid the boom and bust cycles of shipbuilding, Joe went into the US Army for seven and a half years, before earning his MBA and PhD in education at Arizona State University. Throughout the interview, Joe discusses growing up in Pascagoula and the influence of shipbuilding on his life.

Ruby Lee Dickey

Biloxi, MS
October 18, 2011
KM429

Ethnographic Preface

I first learned about the Dickey family from KM406a, KM406b, and KM406c. I had met with Mrs. Ruby Dickey's daughter a couple days earlier and she facilitated setting up the meeting date and time with her mother. We met at her home. The house is situated so that the funeral parlor and chapel sit in the front of the house, which is closed off from the family living area. Her husband was the owner of Dickey Brothers Funeral Home. Mrs. Dickey worked as a cosmetologist for the funeral home but never really cared for it. Her primary occupation was mother of her four children. She also taught Sunday school at her church for 32 years.

Mrs. Dickey, daughter of a sharecropperm grew up in Heidelberg, Mississippi. She graduated from the 12th grade at Jasper County Training School. She is a member of Heroines of Jericho. Mrs. Dickey met her husband in Jackson, Mississippi while attending a Mason's meeting. She moved to Biloxi, Mississippi after her wedding in 1962. She recalls her husband's involvement in the wade-in protests at the beach during the Civil Rights Movement. She is a determined advocate of respect for self and respect for others.

Charles Dorman

Union, MS
April 29, 2010
PP306

Ethnographic Preface

Charles Dorman was another local man who contacted Preetam after reading the article in the Meridian Star concerning the project. It took a few days to find a time that would work for the interview, but Preetam finally met with Charles at his home in Enterprise, Mississippi.

Charles Dorman came from a family of electricians but chose to go offshore shortly after he graduated from high school in the area. He was somewhat unique in having decided to move to Louisiana when he began working offshore. He had spent a number of years in southern Louisiana and declared a love for

Cajun culture and food, and fondly remembered his time down there. He moved back to Mississippi in the 1990s and has lived in Union ever since. Charles began working offshore in the late 1970s, following his brother into the industry. Charles eventually left offshore work in the late 1980s because he wanted to focus more on his work as an electrician. He operated his own electrical business and also worked for a number of large electric companies. He moved back to the Union area in 1997, and eventually went back offshore in 2005. Having spent a considerable amount of time away from the industry, he was able to speak in some detail about the substantial changes in safety and overall work conditions between the industry of the 1970s and the current day.

Allen Douglas

Waynesboro, MS
January 28, 2011
PP676

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Bobby Jones, whom I had interviewed while conducting fieldwork during the summer of 2010, recommended several times that I try to speak with Allen Douglas. Mr. Jones said that Mr. Douglas was someone who not only had long experience working offshore but who had also been instrumental in facilitating the entrance of many younger people in the area into the offshore oil industry. I tried contacting Mr. Douglas when I was in the area in 2010 but was unable to get a hold of him. I tried calling him again in 2011 and this time we agreed to meet at his home in Waynesboro, Mississippi.

Mr. Douglas was born in 1958 in Buras, Louisiana, but his family soon moved back to the Waynesboro area. Mr. Douglas had family members who worked for the offshore oil industry when he was growing up, but he initially went to work logging. In 1980, he was prompted to find a job offshore out of a desire to provide increased stability for his family. Unlike the majority of others I had interviewed, Mr. Douglas started out his career working overseas in South America and said that several others in the area also got their start in the industry overseas. He worked in a number of overseas locations throughout the course of his career, including in waters off the coast of England and Canada. Though Mr. Douglas had gotten used to the offshore schedule fairly quickly, he discussed how working in the industry was sometimes difficult for his family. One issue that Mr. Douglas spoke about in some detail was the lack of training programs and other infrastructure associated with the offshore oil industry in central Mississippi, something that he saw as sometimes inhibiting the entrance of local people into the industry.

Dennis Duhart

Lafayette, LA
February 28, 2011
LE458

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Dennis Duhart by Dennis Sullivan, a fellow Halliburton employee. Mr. Sullivan said Mr. Duhart was one of the first African American men deployed offshore. I called Mr. Duhart, and we set up an interview at the apartment he stays at while working at Halliburton when he is away from his home and family in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dennis Duhart was born in 1949 and raised in south Texas. He graduated high school and went to college. In 1970, he dropped out of college with the intention of going back, married his wife, and was drafted . He worked for the military for two years in Thailand, finishing his service in 1972. In that year he began

his 39-year career with Baroid as a mud logger. He was offshore from 1976 to 1984. When things took a downturn in 1987, he began working a 14-and-7 schedule. Recently, his schedule has gone back to 14-and-7 for the first time since the 1987 downturn. In 1992, he was transferred to the Lafayette district. He stayed with Baroid through the time it was bought out by Dresser, and later Halliburton. He raised his family in Corpus Christi and, not wanting to move them, he has commuted between Lafayette and Corpus Christi on a 14-and-14 schedule for most of his life. He has three daughters and two sons.

Mr. Duhart talks about the downturn of the 1980s, and how it was felt offshore. He discusses his career (including his first day offshore) as a mud logger and how it has changed over time. He discusses why he chose his career with Baroid, and his perspectives on life he has gained from his work. He also discusses some of his strategies for working in an environment that had few African-American men employed (especially in his position) when he first began in the 1970s. He discusses education and training provided by the community, and changes in technologies, highlighting communications and logging while drilling (LWD).

Brett Dungan

Bayou La Batre, AL
May 29, 2008
VP080

Ethnographic Preface

I met Brett Dungan at a Working Waterfront Coalition meeting some months ago. I got in contact with his secretary and arranged an interview with him. I met with him at the Master Marine office on Shell Belt Road in Bayou La Batre, Alabama.

Brett Dungan began working for Master Marine, a shipbuilding company, in 1978 working in the stock room. He worked his way up and eventually became the president of the company. Before working at Master Marine, Mr. Dungan was a lay missionary for the Unificationist Church in Louisiana. The company was originally located in Louisiana, but relocated to Alabama at the time Mr. Dungan started working there. Throughout the interview he discusses the ins and outs of the shipbuilding industry.

L.J. “Joey” Durel, Jr

Lafayette, LA
July 29, 2015
ML039

Ethnographic Preface

To get a wider perspective of the oil and gas industry in Lafayette, the research team decided it was important to interview community leaders in addition to oilfield workers. The team reached out to several government officials, including Joey Durel, the Lafayette City Mayor and Parish President. We called his office and explained the oral history project to his secretary. She helped us schedule an interview with Mr. Durel for July 29, 2015 at his office.

Joey Durel is the current Lafayette City Mayor and Parish President. He is currently serving his third term. He was born and raised in Lafayette and has a background in business. As a government official and

businessman, Mr. Durel provides a different perspective of how the oil and gas industry has developed and impacted Lafayette.

Orvis “Bill” Ellzey

Houma, LA
July 9, 2009
JC309

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Ellzey was referred by Jerome Meringue during the History II study, but had never been contacted. He is a retired high school teacher, an amateur historian, and writes a column for the *Houma Courier*. Mr. Ellzey took great interest in this project, and has provided support by describing it in his column, inviting community members to participate. Subsequent columns have followed up on the project, providing updates and more detailed information to potential participants. He also directed me to relevant library resources, and provided me with a number of contacts. We met at the main Terrebonne [Louisiana] Parish Library for this interview.

Bill Ellzey was born in 1943, on a military base in Florida where his father was stationed. His family was from north Louisiana and returned there after the service. After dropping out of Louisiana State University, he moved to Houma in 1964 to work offshore, but Hurricane Hilda struck and shut down the oilfield. While waiting for operations to resume, he took a job as substitute teacher, and then began working as a reporter for the *Houma Courier* newspaper. After two years with the paper, he began teaching in the Houma school system, a job that lasted 20 years. Then he wrote news for a local radio station, and later conducted historical research for a local utility company. Now retired, he writes two columns each week on history related themes for the *Courier*.

Charles “Chuck” Enze

Dallas, TX
June 26, 2009
JT014

Ethnographic Preface

Charles “Chuck” Enze grew up in South Dakota, where he attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, graduating in 1975 as a civil engineer. Enze hired on with Shell Oil at the start of 1976, eager to work on offshore platform designs for the Gulf of Mexico. In 1977 he was tapped to assist the design and construction team for the Cognac deepwater platform. After stints with Shell in Houston; California; and on the North Slope of Alaska working on Shell’s offshore efforts in the Chukchi Sea, Enze returned to the Gulf as Shell ramped up its efforts in the nascent deepwater basin. From 1987 to 2006, Enze served in a number of capacities for Shell in deepwater, from overseeing the development of the Auger tension-leg platform from construction to its installation in the early 1990s, to overseeing the work of multiple Shell business groups from 2000 until his retirement six years later.

Louis “Lou” Eschete

Houma, LA

July 24, 2009
JC325

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Eschete was referred by Paul, a ranger I spoke with at the Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, west of Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Eschete has a farm near the Refuge, and volunteers there. Paul said that Lou was a Shell retiree who had worked overseas, and was very knowledgeable about the industry. Mr. Eschete was eager to participate, and invited me out to his farm for the interview, where he also showed me the grapes and oranges he was cultivating. I later returned for a photo interview, documenting his photographs from when he worked in Cameroon and Brazil.

Mr. Eschete was born in 1939, in Houma, on the Southdown Sugar Plantation, where his father was a foreman, as was his grandfather before him. Mr. Eschete went to LSU on a football scholarship, but left to study agriculture at McNeese College. In 1956, while in college, he started as roustabout for Jumbo Construction during the summers. After farming for several years, he took a job with Shell in 1965 for the better pay. He spent two years in the office, and then went into the field as a production foreman, mostly working in the East Bay area of the Louisiana coast. In the late 70s he began working on a Shell project in Cameroon, taking the job because he was "ready for a change." He also worked on a project near Salvador, Bahia, in Brazil, in 1982. He worked in Cameroon on and off until 1987, saying he was glad to be in Africa during the bust on the Gulf Coast. For the remainder of his career until he retired in 1996, he worked out of Morgan City, Louisiana. Mr. Eschete has been married and divorced three times, and spends his time since retirement working on his farm and restoring old sugar mill machinery.

James Fisher

Lauderdale, MS
April 22, 2010
PP302

Ethnographic Preface

Jim Fisher contacted Preetam after his father read the article about the study in the local *Meridian Star*. Preetam and Jim arranged to meet in Lauderdale, Mississippi, about 20 minutes away from Meridian. Preetam interviewed Jim at a local gas station-deli on Highway-45 in Lauderdale.

Jim Fisher was born and raised in Meridian. He spent 10 years on active duty in the US Air Force and also served in the National Guard Reserves. Before working offshore he held a local government job. Insufficient and irregular pay led him to look for work in the offshore industry. His search was facilitated by the fact that his wife had several family members who worked offshore. He started working offshore in 2001 and left the industry in 2004. He reported enjoying working offshore, in particular, the camaraderie that existed among offshore workers. Adjusting to offshore work schedules and other aspects of the industry was fairly easy for him, partly because of his time in the military. However, he repeatedly mentioned the importance of family support, particularly from spouses, if one had plans to stay in offshore work over the long term. Jim left offshore work in 2004 due to a combination of personal issues involving his family and a negative experience with the last offshore company he worked for. He went back to work for the state government, in addition to being in the National Guard Reserves and holding an additional third job. He said that he would love to go back to work offshore, but was prevented from doing so by an injury he had incurred since he last worked in the industry.

Mike Flechas

Pascagoula, MS
May 16, 2008, May 20, 2008
VP070

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mike Flechas while visiting one of his customer's boats on his dry-dock in Pascagoula, Mississippi. He came up to discuss when they planned to launch and we were introduced. His customer told him about the study, he seemed interested, and when he dropped by later in the afternoon to speak with the boat owner, he told me that I should drop by his office later and we could do an interview. We conducted the interview in his office at the shipyard. I introduced both studies; he wasn't sure about the oral history but agreed to participate in the shipbuilding study and to think about the other. We conducted the interview. Four days later I dropped of a CD of the interview for him and he agreed to a second interview with follow-up questions.

Mike Flechas is from Pascagoula, Mississippi and grew up in a shipbuilding family. He graduated from high school in 1955 and attended Tulane University in New Orleans, earning a degree in civil engineering. He served in the US Army for a few years and then got into the shipbuilding business. These days he only works in ship repairs. Mike discusses the changes in the industry over his career.

Tobe Fondren

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009
JC314

Ethnographic Preface

Mrs. Fondren contacted me after seeing the project description in the *Houma Courier*, saying that she wished to contribute to the study by sharing her story. We met at her house, where she served me pie and coffee. She continues to work as an accountant and maintains relationships with many people in town by doing their taxes, and through the church. Her husband, Jim, is a Texaco retiree, but they did not socialize with other Texaco families to a great extent, other than at the country club. She said that Houma was a good place to raise children, and she feels that people are generally nice.

Mrs. Fondren was born in 1929 in New York City. Her father died when she was five years old, and her mother supported their family by working in garment factories. She met her future husband in New York after he returned from World War II, the day of the Victory Parade; he was in the 101st Airborne. In 1946 they were married, and moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where Jim got a job with the Burris Corporation servicing business machines. The company moved them to Houma in 1951, and several years later he started working for Texaco. At first she struggled with being alone his seven days out, but got used to it. She was in charge of the family's finances, and filling the freezer with food. The year before Jim retired in 1981, she started an accounting firm and developed a large clientele for tax preparation; she continues to run her firm.

Liz and Reena Ford

Pascagoula, MS
June 18, 2008
Interviewer: Victoria Phaneuf
University of Arizona
VP040 and VP121

Ethnographic Preface

Michele Coats of the Jackson County Planning Department recommended that I talk to Liz Ford. She is a descendant of one of the early families in Pascagoula and a member of the Historical Society. We arranged to meet at her mother Reena Ford's house. We snacked on pizza and some wine while we talked.

Liz and Reena Ford discuss the changes of the shipbuilding industry in their town of Pascagoula. Reena's mother was from a family of seamen, and her father was from a family of lawyers. While she was growing up her father was a sea captain who worked with sailing vessels that transported mostly lumber to Havana, Cuba. Reena grew up near shipyards and harbors, so she was very knowledgeable about the changes within the industry over the years and the trade of goods with countries in South America. Other industries in the area were lumber, seafood, and a few factories. Both women told stories about residents of Pascagoula and their experiences in the Civil War and Spanish-American War. Reena discussed the boom of shipbuilding in the area during World War II, the role of women in the workforce during this time, and the influx of people from outside the area. During the Depression, smaller shipyards closed because there was less demand for shipbuilding with the decline of the lumber industry.

R.J. "Bronc" Foreman

Lafayette, LA
June 19, 2015
ML005

Ethnographic Preface

The general manager of the Petroleum Club, in Lafayette, Louisiana recommended that we interview Bronc Foreman. He called Mr. Foreman and set up the interview at the Petroleum Club on June 19, 2015.

Mr. Foreman is in his 90s and has decades of experience in the oil and gas industry. Before working in the oilfield, Mr. Foreman graduated from Lafayette High School, attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and then joined the US Air Force, working as a pilot during World War II. After the war, he began his oilfield career in the 1950s as a roustabout. Working his way up, Mr. Foreman came to own four land rigs that he contracted out to other companies. He sold his last rig sometime in 2013, marking his retirement from the industry. During his interview, Mr. Foreman discussed the introduction of the oil and gas industry in Lafayette and how it impacted the city. He also talked about his employees and the importance of courtesy in the industry.

Frank Frankhouser

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP015

Ethnographic Preface

Frank Frankhouser attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he earned a degree in civil engineering before serving as a company officer in the US Army in the Korean War. Come peacetime, Frankhouser signed on with the Dravo Corporation, doing heavy civil construction and engineering. When Dravo expanded into the offshore business in 1969, Frankhouser became the vice president and general manager of Dravo Ocean Structures, newly established in New Orleans. In 1972, he joined Brown & Root, and was soon sent to London, England to help manage the Forties development. Thereafter, Frankhouser managed the major Statfjord-B project. In 1989, Frankhouser returned to the US; he retired in 1992.

Wagner Freire

Houston, TX
September 22, 2012
TP016

Ethnographic Preface

Wagner Freire was born in raised in Brazil, where he completed five years of civil and nuclear engineering education in 1957. After graduation, Freire quickly joined up with Petrobras, the country's national oil company, progressing through a two-year course in the nascent field of petroleum geology. From that point, in 1960, Freire served in roles pertaining to both surface geology and seismic acquisition and mapping. In 1968, Freire was appointed chief geophysicist for Petrobras, where he pushed for the adoption of advanced seismic tools and data processing capacity. He oversaw the firm's first digital seismic survey, in the Espirito Santo Basin; he also managed the company's later concerted efforts in the Campos Basin.

Richard "Dick" Frisbie

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP017

Ethnographic Preface

Dick Frisbie was born in California but grew up in South Africa. He attended Virginia Tech, earning a degree in mechanical engineering before working for Pratt & Whitney for three years. After several years in the US Army, including time during the Vietnam War, Frisbee returned to the US. At Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Virginia, he earned a master's degree in physical oceanography. He hired on with a firm called Ocean Systems, based near Washington, DC, working as a diving systems engineer. There, Frisbie was involved in some of the very first industrial uses of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) for both general offshore and marine petroleum uses. Frisbie stayed with Ocean Systems as the firm became part of Oceaneering in 1984 after an acquisition; by then Frisbie had become general manager for ROVs. Frisbie continued to work for Oceaneering for decades, in a multitude of roles.

Otis Gates, Sr.

Pass Christian, MS

October 13, 2011
KM420

Ethnographic Preface

Preetam was referred to Mr. Otis Gates. We met at his home in Pass Christian, Mississippi. Mr. Otis Gates was born in LaGrange, Georgia. He entered the US Army in 1952 as a cook. The Army sent him to school for both his GED and LPN degrees. The US Army took him to several stations in the US, but also to Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. He was met his wife at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey only three months after entering the Army. Her family was from Pass Christian. His first trip to Pass Christian was in 1954 to meet his wife's family. Her father was a commercial fisherman. Mr. Gates acquired a love for the water and shrimping and, after his retirement from the Army in 1972, they settled their family in Pass Christian. Mr. Gates then worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital for 18 years, continuing his nursing career. Mr. Gates is a member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church and operates the Pass Christian community food pantry out of a space that the church donated over 20 years ago.

Richard Gazzier

Bayou la Batre, AL
June 18, 2008
VP104

Ethnographic Preface

I was given Mr. Gazzier's phone number the the previous day by an acquaintance. When I called, his daughter (also his secretary) said he had time to meet with me, so I should come over. About 10 minutes later we met in his office at his shipyard in Bayou la Batre, Alabama.

Mr. Gazzier was born in 1947; he built his first boat when he was 13. Both his father and grandfather were in the boat building business. He ran his own shrimp boat and opened a shipyard in the mid 1970s to build shrimp boats for himself and others. In about 1979, a seismograph company doing work in Mobile Bay approached Mr. Gazzier to repair their vessels. Several years later he designed and built new boats, which he leased to the company and significantly increased their production. Around the same time, he also took on projects for boats working overseas. Mr. Gazzier got out of the new boat building business in the late 1990s. The seismograph boats were last used in oilfield work in 2000. The boats are now used in coastal restoration projects. He discusses changes in seismograph work, particularly the internationalization. At the time of the interview, he was semi-retired, and his business was doing a variety of things, including operating a seafood processing plant, repair work, and coastal restoration.

Robert Gerard

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
ML027

Ethnographic Preface

After hearing about the oral history project in the news, Robert Gerard contacted the research team and shared that he would be interested in doing an interview. He also knew Steve Hebert, who had done an interview with us. Steve encouraged Robert to contact us. He agreed to meet for an interview at the

Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 20, 2015. He brought some pictures, company newsletters, and timesheets to share with the team.

Robert Gerard is from Scott, Louisiana and currently lives there. He worked as a gas compressor mechanic in the oil and gas industry from 1977 to 1986. He worked onshore and offshore. He left the industry in the mid-1980s because he was unhappy about the time he had to be away from his family. Since then he has worked primarily in the medical industry in refrigeration.

Ronnie "Ron" Gillock

Lafayette, LA
August 21, 2015
LL020

Ethnographic Preface

Having heard from many interviewees about LaFonda, a Tex-Mex restaurant that has been in Lafayette since 1957 and is famous for being a gathering place for people in the oil business, Laura Loewer stopped by there to find someone to speak with. Ronnie Gillock is the assistant manager and has worked at LaFonda since 1965. He was interested in an interview and shared a book written about the history of LaFonda. The interview was scheduled at the restaurant, and while it was partially recorded, the recorder died during the the interview. The restaurant was so loud and crowded that the recorded audio was barely audible, thus the interview is recorded from written notes. Throughout the interview, Ronnie greets the many people he knows that come into the restaurant.

Ronnie Gillock is originally from Indiana. He came to Lafayette in 1965 when his father, who was in the US Marine Corps, was transferred to Lafayette. His father needed a supplemental income, and when he went to work for LaFonda, his two sons (including Ronnie) were offered jobs as bus boys. Ronnie began as a bus boy at LaFonda in 1965. In 1966, he was drafted into the US Marine Corps, and served until 1972. He attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette) for a short time in pre-med, then nursing, but found he made so much money working at LaFonda, that he quit school and retuned to the restaurant business. He came back to LaFonda and worked as a waiter. He has served as the assistant manager since around 2000. He has a margarita at LaFonda named after him called the "Ronnie Rita."

John Glover

Cocodrie, LA
July 6, 2009
JC304

Ethnographic Preface

John Glover was referred by Gerald Atkins during the History II study but had never been contacted. We met at the Coco Marina in Cocodrie, Louisiana, which Mr. Glover owns and has built up since acquiring it in 1974. Though he always envisioned the Marina to be a sport and recreation facility, he needed oil industry money to finance the business. Therefore, he serviced industry boats through the 1970s and 1980s, only recently focusing on sport and commercial fishing. As a result of his business and a political career, Mr. Glover is knowledgeable about the oil industry's operations in south Louisiana since the 1970s.

Mr. Glover was born in New Orleans in 1943; his family moved to Houma when he was one year old. His father was a car salesman. Mr. Glover became a pharmacist and ran a drug store until 1974, when he bought the Coco Marina, which eventually became his fulltime enterprise. His marina had a crane and heliport, and he provided jack-up boats and other oil industry vessels with a variety of services. He was State Representative for Cocodrie from 1988 to 1992, and also served as Police Juror numerous times in Houma. Presently he is expanding his marina as a sport fishing business, bulkhead, and restaurant, while also selling real estate.

Dan Godfrey

Houston, TX
June 9, 2009
TPJT018

Ethnographic Preface

Dan Godfrey moved to New Orleans in 1968 after completing a master's degree in structural engineering at Washington State University. Godfrey soon signed on with Shell Oil. Some of his early engineering work focused on introducing saltwater disposal methods, newly required by federal environmental laws passed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Other stints included work from The Hague on North Sea platform installation, and in a Houston research center on methods for drilling in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea. At the sanction of the Cognac fixed-jacket production platform in the mid-1970s, Godfrey was called on to supervise its fabrication work. By the early 1980s, Godfrey had come to manage Shell's offshore engineering and construction group in Houston, Texas, after which he served as a production superintendent for multiple Gulf of Mexico block areas. Come 1987, he also worked briefly in Brazil as a Shell manager with multiple responsibilities. Godfrey returned stateside in 1990 to work on the deepwater Gulf of Mexico Mars project early on in its development, shepherding it through a changing economic climate and challenging technical issues.

Ruben Lee Golden

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009
JC316

Ethnographic Preface
Mr. Golden was referred by David "Smitty" Smith; Mr. Golden had been Smitty's boss at Bay Drilling for many years. Smitty spoke about Mr. Golden in reverent terms, noting that he was a tough boss, that he had invented the Kelly Spinner, an important tool, and that I would be lucky if he would talk to me. Mr. Golden agreed to meet with me at his home after some persistence on my part. He has had health problems and has rarely left his house in several years. Reticent at first, Mr. Golden opened up during this interview, sharing much from his fascinating life story, and commenting on the changes that took place in the oilfield through his career. He asked me to shut off the recorder at one point to make a comment; the second file finishes up the interview.

Mr. Golden was born in 1927, in Robeline, Louisiana. His father was a rambler, taking his family across the country as he gambled and worked odd oilfield jobs. Mr. Golden went into the US Navy after high

school, and was heading to Japan during World War II when the atomic bombs were dropped. Back in the US, he took a job in California with Butler Manufacturing, then worked as a roughneck for several companies back on the Gulf Coast. He said he never liked the marshy coast, but was driven to it by the "ghost of starvation," and stayed because the money was good. He began with Bay Drilling in 1957 as a driller, one of the company's first hires. In the late 1960s, he invented the Kelly Spinner, a tool to quicken pipe connections that is used all over the world today. Mr. Golden spent the rest of his career as a driller and drilling superintendent for Bay, bought by Texaco; he retired in 1989.

Kim and William "Bill" Goodell

Lafayette, LA
December 13, 2010
LE435

Ethnographic Preface

Referred to the Goodells by Gari Hernandez, I met with Kim and Bill at their home in Lafayette, Louisiana one evening for an interview with both of them. Both originally are from New Orleans; they chose to move to Lafayette in 1996 for Kim's job. They met each other working for Amoco Oil in New Orleans and got married. Kim is currently retired (since 2005) from her 23 year position in securing offshore drilling leases for deepwater contracts. Bill currently works in environmental law dealing strictly with cases involving the oil industry. In the fall semester of 2010 he taught a course at Tulane Law School on the BP oil spill of April 20, 2010 and the litigation surrounding the event.

Bill Goodell, a native of New Orleans, was born in 1952. He went to college in Mobile, Alabama to study English and graduated in 1973 or 1974. He worked odd jobs, and in 1977 went back to school to study law. He graduated in 1980. Bill began working for Amoco in 1981 until about 1986 or 1987. Amoco supported his second degree, so he attended Louisiana State University, studying environmental law. After leaving Amoco, he went to Tulane in New Orleans to pursue his master's in environmental law. He began practicing law by working for the attorney general's office in Baton Rouge on cases in conservation and representing landowners.

Kim Goodell graduated from the University of Southern Louisiana with a degree in business and a concentration in petroleum land management. She continued graduate studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. After graduation she moved back to New Orleans to work for Amoco in 1983. At Amoco she got her start with offshore leases, working with companies such as Exxon, Mobil, and Shell, among others. Around 1991 or 1992, Amoco consolidated with BP. She moved to Lafayette to work for a smaller independent company in 1996 (Flores and Rucks.)

Together Kim and Bill discuss their personal work histories, their reasons for moving to Lafayette, experiences in the oil industry, coastal erosion, the politics of the environmental movement, and how they manage two seemingly opposing careers. Bill talks about cases he has had over the years, and Kim describes the process of securing deepwater leases and how it changed, including the "excitement of prospects."

William Hagan

Lafayette, LA
February 25, 2011

LE455

Ethnographic Preface

I met Mr. William Hagan at a Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts SPWLA meeting at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. He approached me and gave me his card, and we set up an interview at his office at Stratagraph.

William Hagan was born in Lafayette and lived there until his family moved to Baton Rouge at age nine. He went to high school there and graduated in 1993. He moved to Shreveport for college and finished in 1998 with a B.A. in political science and a minor in business. He went to work in the field doing survey work in 1998 for Stratagraph, the mud logging company begun by his father in 1961, and continued through 2000. In 2000, he came into the office and worked as a dispatcher for mud loggers, operations assistant, and interviewer. He has been the vice president of business development since about 2002.

In the interview, Mr. Hagan discusses the history of the Stratagraph mud logging company, what got him to work in the business, growing up with a father that owned a company, and the nature of the work they do in mud logging He talks about the changes to communication in the business, which he sees as one of the most fundamental changes in the industry since he started. Mr. Hagan also discusses where Stratagraph gets their workforce and their involvement in education.

Frank Harrison

Lafayette, LA
December 1, 2010
LE422

Ethnographic Preface

Several previous interviewees referred to Frank Harrison as an important person to speak with about the history of Lafayette, Louisiana. I called Mr. Harrison and set up a meeting. We met at his office at Optimistic Oil in Lafayette.

Mr. Frank Harrison was born in 1926 in Michigan. He served in World War II; in 1950 Mr. Harrison moved to New Orleans. He then went to Baton Rouge to attend Louisiana State University where, in 1951, he began studying geology. His original intent was to study petroleum engineering, but the excitement of geology as a way to "use the imagination and be more liberal in thinking, and less worried about numbers" motivated the transition. At some point, he got his doctorate from The University of Southwestern Louisiana, now ULL. In 1956, and moved to Lafayette, a place he describes then as a "boom town for oil and gas" due to Maurice Heymann's foresight to create the Oil Center. He opened his own business. Mr. Harrison's company, Optimistic Oil, has been operating in southern Louisiana since 1960 or so. He retired officially in the mid to late 1990s, but at 84 is still running his business and employing about six to 10 people at any given time. In 1981, he became the president of the American Association of Geologists, traveling extensively around the world. He also served as president of United Way in 1983 and 1984, and is still active with them today. His son owns a drilling company, which began in New Orleans with Amoco in 1992. Since moving the company's business center to Houston, from which to base their offshore operation in the Gulf of Mexico, he has been successful.

Mr. Harrison discusses the company profiles in Lafayette and development of the Oil Center. He also touches on recent events and effects on the Lafayette and oil community since the moratorium in August, and the *Deepwater Horizon* rig explosion in April of 2010. He talks about the development of offshore

and deepwater drilling in the Lafayette, Morgan City, and Houma communities, from his perspective of the 1950s onwards. He sees Lafayette becoming more of a commercial center with less reliance on oil, but at the same time discusses why Lafayette is a key player in the industry in terms of workforce, education, and skill. He is an influential member in both the industry and the community of Lafayette, and describes his role in both communities over the years.

Robert "Bobby" Harrison

Collinsville, MS
April 20, 2010
PP301

Ethnographic Preface

Bobby Harrison was one of the offshore workers who responded to the article that Preetam placed in the *Meridian Star* on April 19, 2010. Bobby contacted Preetam the following day. He initially seemed uncertain about when a good time to get together for an interview might be, but called back in the evening and said that it would be fine for Preetam to come over to his place in Collinsville, Mississippi that night.

Bobby Harrison started working offshore in 1974 and stayed in the industry for seven years, leaving for good in 1981. He grew up around the Meridian, Mississippi area and worked for a bread company before getting a job offshore through someone that he knew in the area. He started out working as a roustabout and eventually worked as a crane operator. Bobby refrained from trying to advance into higher positions because of the additional responsibility they entailed. He eventually had to stop working offshore in 1981 because of a back injury. After spending a few years recovering from his injury, he went to work for a landscaping contractor. He did not return to the oilfield. When Preetam arrived, Bobby had a book and a framed assortment of photographs on the kitchen table; he leafed through the pages of the book throughout the interview, occasionally pointing out something that caught his eye.

Dolores Hawkins

Lafayette, LA
July 7, 2015
LL002

Ethnographic Preface

Morgan Lundy met Dolores Hawkins at a Desk and Derrick meeting. She was interested in an interview, and scheduled one at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Dolores Hawkins is from Ged, Louisiana. From an early age, she has lived in and around the oil and gas industry. Her husband worked doing seismic work in the industry. In 1981 he got a job with Philips Petroleum, which brought the couple and their family to Lafayette. Upon moving to Lafayette, Dolores also got a job with Philips Petroleum as a clerk. In 2000, Dolores retired from Philips as a senior administrative assistant. In her interview, she discusses the changing roles and opportunities for women in the industry. She also talks about the industry-related groups she was involved with, including the Jane Philips Society and Desk and Derrick.

Walter Heathcock, Sr.

Quitman, MS
May 5, 2010, January 8, 2011
PP308, PP667

Ethnographic Preface

Walter Heathcock, Sr. contacted Preetam after seeing, in the *Meridian Star*, the article about the project. They spoke for a short while on the phone about Walter's history in the offshore oil industry and subsequently arranged to meet at Walter's home in Quitman, Mississippi.

Walter Heathcock, Sr. was born and raised in the nearby town of Stonewall, Mississippi. He entered the oil industry in the late 1950s after spending some time in the US Air Force and working for his father who owned a well-known general store in the area. Walter started out working as a contract roustabout for California Oil Company, which later became Chevron Oil Company. He moved to Venice, Louisiana in 1959 and remained there until the 1980s. For much of his career he worked a five-on-five-off schedule on the supply side of the offshore industry, but also worked the more typical seven-on-seven-off schedule on the actual oil rigs. He left the industry in the early 1990s after sustaining a back injury. Throughout the interview, he emphasized the dramatic changes in safety, which had affected the industry since his early days working. He was very positive about his experiences working offshore and particularly thankful for the consistent income the industry provided. Walter moved back to the Clarke County, Mississippi in the mid-1980s and has lived in the area ever since then.

The January after Preetam and Walter's initial interview, Preetam contacted Walter again to see if he would speak with him about some of the events that had impacted the industry since the previous year, prominently the BP oil spill. He readily agreed to meet with Preetam at his home in Quitman, Mississippi. In his second interview, Walter shared his opinion that long-term damage to the seafood industry resulting from the spill would be minimal, and that fishermen and shrimpers had been treated very well by BP in the months after the spill.

Daniel "Dan" Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 8, 2015
ML018

Ethnographic Preface

After the news piece on KATC-3 about the oral history project, I received many calls and emails from people wanting to be interviewed. One of those calls came from a man named Dan Hebert. We scheduled the interview for 9:00 AM at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. He brought his laptop to show me pictures he had from over the years.

Dan Hebert is originally from Franklin, Louisiana. Following in the footsteps of his father and uncles, Dan had begun working in the oilfield at the age of 17. He started working as a roustabout and went on to work in a wide variety of areas including roughnecking, rig support, diving, and salvage work. He has moved all around southern Louisiana while working in the oil and gas industry. Dan recently moved to the Lafayette area. Among other topics, Dan discusses safety, changes in technology, and memorable projects he's worked on.

Edmond Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
ML030

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala recommended we interview Edmond Hebert. She had met him through the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Edmond was about to leave to Saudi Arabia for work, so I quickly contacted him and set up an interview before he left. We conducted the interview on July 21, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Edmond Hebert is from Carencro, Louisiana and has been in the industry since 1996. He started out in filtration and has worked in fluid engineering and fracking. Currently, Edmond works in completions. This year Edmond registered his own limited liability company and now works as a consultant. During his interview Edmond reflects on changes in the industry, working in deepwater, and the impact of technology in the oilfield.

Jocelyn Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 31, 2015
ML041

Ethnographic Preface

While I was working in Lafayette, Lillian Espinoza-Gala took me to two Desk and Derrick meetings as a way to meet people in the industry and find potential interviewees. At the second meeting I attended, Lillian and I sat at a table with women who used to work in administrative positions at different service companies. I got the contact information for two of the ladies to schedule interviews. One of those ladies was Jocelyn Hebert. I called Jocelyn to schedule an interview. We agreed to meet the Petroleum Club on July 31, 2015.

Jocelyn Hebert is from New Orleans where she was born in 1938. Her father worked in drilling for Humble Oil. Jocelyn remembers growing up in the oilfield environment. After moving to Lafayette with her family in 1974, Jocelyn began her oilfield career working for Global Marine Drilling in 1978. In the following year, she joined Desk and Derrick. In 2004 Jocelyn retired from Schlumberger. Although Jocelyn is retired, she is still an active member of the Desk and Derrick Club in Lafayette.

Steve Hebert

Lafayette, LA
June 25, 2015
ML014

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Hebert learned about the research project through the article in the *Daily Advertiser* on June 13, 2015. He called the team and they scheduled an interview to take place at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on June 25, 2015

In 1972, Steve Hebert began working in the oil industry for a navigation service company. In 1974 Steve started working for Tenneco in safety. During the 1989 Chevron-Tenneco company merger, Steve switched from working in safety to working in production. He stayed on with Chevron until 2007 when he retired. Steve lives in Scott, Louisiana with his wife of 39 years. In his interview, Steve discusses Tenneco's merger with Chevron, changes in the industry, and memorable events that happened throughout his career.

Claire Hernandez

Carencro, LA
November 7, 2010
LE409

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Claire Hernandez by her brother, Gari Hernandez. Claire worked offshore as a roustabout for Exxon for just over a year. I called her and we set up an interview at her home in Carencro, Louisiana. We sat in her living room and she pulled out a few photos and an article, which we scanned and added to our archives. She was looking forward to speaking with us since her brother, Gari, mentioned he had referred her. She lives on her family's property along with Gari, their mother, and another brother.

French and Cajun by descent, Claire Hernandez has resided in Carencro for most of her life except for a five-year period when she was in France. Claire graduated from college in 1964 and moved to California near San José, where she got married and had a child. She was part of an artist colony that practiced sustainable living. Claire was also very involved in the anti-war movement. She then moved with her daughter to Mexico for a year and lived in a "grass hut." She began working for Exxon as a roustabout in 1977 and quit in 1978. She was the first woman hired out of the Lafayette Exxon office to work offshore. She showed us a newspaper article that highlighted her work offshore. She also gave us a picture of the first rig she worked on offshore.

After she came back to Lafayette from France, Claire worked as a teacher for 30 years, and worked as an advocate for CODOFIL. She currently works at rehabilitation clinic for abusive spouses, counseling husbands and wives. Her work offshore, while only about a year and a half in time, made a lasting impression on her. She describes her experience and work offshore, and what ultimately led her to leave that work. Observing a lack of safety practices within in the industry, she saw an accident as inevitable if she continued working for Exxon.

Gari Hernandez

Carencro, LA
December 11, 2010
LE432

Ethnographic Preface

I met Gari Hernandez at a KRVS [Lafayette, Louisiana] local public radio fundraiser with Lillian one evening. After being introduced to and interviewing his sister, Claire Hernandez, Gari and I had an interview together at his home in Carencro just outside Lafayette, Louisiana.

Gari Hernandez was born February 12, 1951 in Lafayette. His family is from Carencro and he, his sister, brother, and mother still live on the land their family purchased back in 1848. He describes himself as French on one side and Spanish on the other. Mr. Hernandez is currently an artist and a carpenter, and cares for his elderly mother. His employment history is very diverse. He went to work for a pipe laying company, testing miles of pipelines. He then went to work for Tuboscope for four to five months testing for radioactive dust. Gari also worked for Kellog, Brown, & Root (now KBR) running anchors for seven months; for Water Marine assisting divers and checking gas lines; and as a welder for Gooseneck Trailers. In 1975, Gari worked on a crew boat; this was his last oilfield job. After leaving the University of Southern Louisiana in 1975, Gari worked as a printer for a reading research foundation. From there, he worked testing childhood learning and early development. From 1977 to 1978, Gari was part of the Acadian band Beau Soleil. In 1978, he moved to France where he met his wife and they had a daughter. He moved back to Carencro in 1983, but returned to France in 1987. Gari lived in France until about 2000.

Mr. Hernandez and his wife opened a French immersion school in the Lafayette area just before the oil and gas industry downturn. He describes the challenges they faced. He also discusses in depth the oil industry and its negative impacts on Cajun culture, especially in relation to the various jobs, and the strenuous day-to-day effects of that work on young men and family men in the industry. He also mentions the racism and sexism that existed in the industry when he worked in the oilfield.

Ronald “Randy” Hernandez

Lafayette, LA
February 14, 2011
LE449

Ethnographic Preface

Dennis Sullivan referred me to Randy Hernandez. Dennis informed me that Randy works for one of the major oil companies designing safer platforms. Diane and I met Randy at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana for an interview

Randy Hernandez was born in 1958 in Lafayette. He graduated from North Side High School in Lafayette. During high school he did electrical work. After his high school graduation he went to the University of Southwestern Louisiana for a short time, but took a break for a while and continued his electrical work. At his father’s barbershop, he got an offer to apply for a job with an oil company. He got an interview with “one of the majors” and has worked for them for the past 30 years. His employer supported an educational program, so he went back to school fulltime through a 7/7 industrial technology program. After eight years, Randy completed his degree in industrial technology. He started his oilfield career as a maintenance specialist and worked his way to technical project management positions. He moved into his current house in Lafayette in 1989. Randy has a wife and two children.

In the interview, Randy discusses his participation in the 7/7 program in industrial technology at USL (now ULL) before it was phased out. He describes the workings of the major company he works for, and the benefits of how they do their work. He talks about major changes in technology in his work, how he

prepared himself to do other work, and how he contributed to safety programs within his company. Randy briefly discusses the role of women in the industry, including those he worked with. Towards the end of the interview, he shares some of his thoughts on the BP spill, and on the future of oil in Lafayette.

Willie Hernandez

Lafayette, LA
June 18, 2015
ML003

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala called Willie Hernandez and told him about the oral history project. Willie was interested in participating, so he responded to a mass email that Cherie Hebert had sent out about the project. We scheduled an interview with Willie at his office for June 18, 2015.

Willie Hernandez is from south central Texas. He started working in the oilfield as a welder and later worked for Chevron as a roustabout. Willie earned his associate and bachelor's degree through the Nicholls State University [Thibodeaux, Louisiana] seven-and-seven program. Willie worked for Chevron as a quality improvement coordinator. In 2006 he started working as an operations manager for an operating company. He currently works as the operations manager for the Marine Well Containment Company at Wood Group PSN.

Paul Hilliard and Steve Maley

Lafayette, LA
December 14, 2010
LE436

Ethnographic Preface

Referred to Paul Hilliard as a "good authority" on the history of Lafayette by many previous interviewees, I met with Mr. Hilliard at his office at Badger Oil. An employee of his, Steve Maley (a petroleum engineer), joined our conversation.

Paul Hilliard is from Wisconsin. He began pursuing studies at the University of Wisconsin, but joined the military soon after. He was in the service from 1943 to 1946. Upon returning from the war, he finished his university studies at the University of Texas and earned a law degree in 1951. He was hired by Chevron and began work in New Orleans. In 1954 he went to work for H.L. Hunt. Around April of 1955, he was let go from Hunt and went to work as a landman for a small independent from 1955 to 1958. He then made the decision to begin his own independent company, and in 1959 he opened his business. He discusses the move of Hunt Oil to Lafayette during the 1950s and the reasons for this impetus, as well as the business strategies and federal regulations and how they have changed.

Steve Maley calls himself "second generation oil patch." His father moved here from Kansas. His parents both worked in the oil business; his mother worked as a bookkeeper for a drilling company, and his father was a draftsman for Skelly Oil Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Maley did not see himself going into the industry himself until he took a geology class in Oklahoma. While pursuing his university studies, he worked for Skelly and graduated in 1978 with a degree in petroleum engineering. After graduation, he took a job in technology advancement with Shell and moved to New Orleans. He discusses differences in

working for major and smaller independent companies, life in Lafayette currently, and the TEFRA bill of 1986.

Both Mr. Hilliard and Mr. Maley discuss the transition from on paper to 3-D seismic and computers, how the oil embargo of 1973 was felt by those in Lafayette, changes in drilling policies throughout the 1980s, and the business of oil in Lafayette. They also speak in-depth on the wealth of the 1980s and the consequential decline in the 1980s in relation to culture, the climate of the real estate market, and the future of the oil business in Lafayette.

William "Bill" Holland

Biloxi, MS
July 26, 2007
VP027

Ethnographic Preface

Victoria Phaneuf was referred to Mr. Holland by local residents who were aware that he was one of the last remaining wooden boat builders in Biloxi, Mississippi. She contacted him and asked if he would be willing to do an interview. He agreed, so Victoria and Diane Austin arranged to meet him at his boat yard in Biloxi, which is next to his house. The interview took place in the enclosed construction area of his yard. Diane led the interview, with Victoria present taking notes.

Mr. Holland was born in 1946 in Biloxi. He began his boat-building career at the age of nine and spent time with many of the local boat builders, including the Kovacevichs who built oilfield boats. After high school in 1964, he went to work for Ingalls, where he learned to weld and burn. His tenure lasted until 1970 but was interrupted by his military service in the US Coast Guard during the Vietnam War. He worked other construction and layout jobs but always built boats outside his work hours. Both his daughters work in his small boatyard and he employs about two fulltime employees. They renovate and build different types of wooden boats, though their specialty is carvel round bottom boats. He notes that after doing more repair jobs than usual in 2006, they had done few in 2007 and he attributes this mostly to the rising price of materials and people being unable to afford boat maintenance. Especially since the 1990s and after Hurricane Katrina, wood for boat building has been increasingly difficult to procure. He also talks about the stress and expense in recovering from Katrina and his disappointment and shock at the lack of assistance he received from religious groups and companies. This was different than their experience after Hurricane Camille, which hit the Gulf Coast, especially Mississippi, in 1969. He discusses what he sees as the end of the wooden boat building craft and describes his dedication to teaching people about it.

John and Claire Hollier

Lafayette, LA
July 8, 2015
LL003a, LL003b

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Hebert, a previous interview participant, referred John and Claire Hollier to the research team. Morgan Lundy set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Laura Loewer co-

conducted the interview. John and Claire Hollier met for lunch with Laura and Morgan at the Petroleum Club before beginning the interview.

John Hollier is from Lafayette; he began in the industry in 1977. He earned his degree in geology in 1979 and moved to Houston, Texas as a geologist working for Tenneco. Claire Hollier is from England and grew up in the industry in Iran, where her father worked. She spent two years in college. She worked for Gold King Oil Company and was transferred to support in a secretarial administrative position in Houston. She currently runs an office in Lafayette. John and Claire worked for the same oil company in Houston and that is how they met. John and Claire moved back to Lafayette from Houston in 1995.

Elmo Hubble

Lafayette, LA
July 2, 2009
JT019

Ethnographic Preface

Elmo Hubble grew up in the oilfields of Illinois, and graduated from Oklahoma University in 1958 with a degree in petroleum engineering. Hubble worked for the Federal Power Commission in Washington, DC, for part of the 1960s, but found the US Geological Survey far more amenable to his background and interests. After living and working in New Mexico, Hubble transferred to New Orleans in 1964. There he helped to establish the Lafayette office of the USGS Conservation Division—later merged into the USDOI Minerals Management Service (MMS)—and was promoted as MMS District Manager for Lafayette, covering offshore operations.

John Rossman Huff

September 24, 2011
Houston, TX
TP020

Ethnographic Preface

After graduating in 1968 with a degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech, John Rossman Huff joined the Offshore Company before signing up with Zapata in 1970. At Zapata, Huff was involved in major business operations, where he especially enjoyed the marine side of the work. Huff moved to Oceaneering in 1986, at the nadir of the economic slump in the petroleum business. At Oceaneering, Huff rose steadily through the company and retired around 20 years later as its president.

Claude Huntsberry

Erath, LA
June 24, 2015
ML012

Ethnographic Preface

Claude Huntsberry emailed the research team, voicing interest in being interviewed. He had become aware of the oral history project after reading about it in T*he Daily Advertiser* a few weeks before. We scheduled his interview to take place at his home in Erath, Louisiana. Morgan and Laura conducted the interview together.

Claude Huntsberry is from Gueydan, Louisiana, but currently lives with his wife in Erath. Claude has been in the oil and gas industry for 25 years. He started his oilfield career rolling pipe, but switched into production, where he has stayed for the last 18 to 20 years. When he switched to production, he started out as a roustabout. Over his career, Claude has worked his way up to his current position as PIC/ Lead Operator. In his interview, Claude discusses the changes in safety, regulations, and the types of workers who go offshore. He also describes the kind of racism he experienced offshore as an African American in the industry, and how the situation has improved over time. Overall, Claude has appreciation for the industry and his employer.

Bob Ingram

Lafayette, LA
July 29, 2015
LL016

Ethnographic Preface

Bob Ingram's former employee, Dolores Hawkins, referred the team to Bob. As a favor to Dolores, Bob agreed to do the interview. Laura Loewer met Bob at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 29, 2015 to conduct the interview.

Bob Ingram, originally from Missouri, attended Missouri School of Mines, graduating in chemical engineering. After he got out of the US Army in 1959, he got two offers to work for Philips Petroleum and began his career in production around the Texas panhandle. He worked between Texas and Oklahoma for many years. In October of 1977, he transferred to Lafayette, but stayed only eight months. His second transfer in 1992 was permanent. In 1999, he retired from a career with Philips Petroleum as a regional manager overseeing southern Louisiana and offshore production.

Johnny and Paul Johnson

Coden, MS
January 17, 2011
PP544

Ethnographic Preface

Early in the fall of 2010, I stopped by the crab and oyster processing plant operated by Johnny Johnson, his son Paul, and other members of their family. At the time I had spoken with them about some of the impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on their business. I mentioned that I was hoping to conduct some oral history interviews with people in the area who were involved in the seafood industry, and they indicated that they might be willing to sit down for an interview. I got back in touch with Johnny in early January. He said that he would be willing to do an interview and we tried to get a proper time scheduled. I

ended up swinging by their processing plant one day when I was in Coden, and ran into Paul. He called his father, who drove over, and we ended up talking on the floor of their plant.

Johnny and Paul Johnson were both born and raised in Heron Bay, a community around Coden, Alabama. They discussed coming from a family with a long history of working on the water, and spoke about the earlier days of the seafood industry in the area. The family had historically owned a crab shop where the processing plant was currently located and Johnny, Paul, and Johnny's other son had officially taken over operations in 1994.They described having slowly built the business up over the years since then. However, over the years a variety of factors, including increased regulations, Hurricane Katrina, and most recently, the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, had taken a heavy toll on their business. Among their major concerns at the time of the interview was how difficult it had become to obtain oysters since the spill, and the loss of much of the customer base, which they had built up over the last 15 years.

Dwight Johnston

Robert, LA
September 9, 2009
JT021

Ethnographic Preface

Dwight Johnston grew up in Dallas, Texas in a family full of engineers. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated with a degree in civil structural engineering. In 1978 he went to work in the oil patch with Shell, and remained with the company for over 32 years. Johnston worked in Houston, Texas and in California, but in 1988 he landed in the New Orleans area where he stayed for good. There, Johnston was on the ground floor of the industry's push into deepwater in the Gulf. Johnston worked as a manager of technical services for such landmark developments such as Mars, Brutus, and Ursa. Afterwards, Johnston moved into the position of operations manager for both the Mars and Ram-Powell tension-leg platforms.

Bobby Jones

Waynesboro, MS
January 6, 2011
PP581

Ethnographic Preface

I had met with Mr. Jones during the summer of 2010. Mr. Jones was the Director of the Vocational Training School in Waynesboro, Mississippi, a position he had occupied since 1995. When I arrived back in the area in 2011, I contacted Mr. Jones and we spoke about what had transpired in the area since I had been away. I mentioned that I was hoping to conduct more oral history interviews with local people about their experiences working in the oil industry. He said that he would be willing to speak about his time in the oil industry, although he had only spent a short time working offshore. I stopped by the school a few days later and we conducted the interview in Mr. Jones' office.

Mr. Jones was born in Georgia in 1955. His father worked for Shell Oil Company and the family moved around when Mr. Jones was growing up, but he spent a good portion of his early years in the area around Waynesboro. He mentioned the timber and oil industries as two of the major sources of employment in the area. His father's family had been in the logging business. Mr. Jones began working in oilfield

construction onshore during summers when he was in high school and continued working in the oilfield while he was attending college. When he finished college Mr. Jones had no desire to teach so he went to work for his family's logging business until an injury forced him to quit and take up a school teaching job. Soon after, he went to work in the onshore oilfields as a roughneck. He worked in onshore oilfield construction for the majority of his career in the industry and only worked offshore for six months in the mid-90s. He mentioned being very impressed with the safety standards that were prevalent in the offshore industry at the time relative to onshore work. Mr. Jones said that he stopped working in the oilfields and returned to the education field in the mid-90s because he wanted to be with his family. He still missed working in the offshore oil industry and said that he thought about going offshore "everyday."

Jerry and Jeremy Jones

Bayou La Batre, AL
May 22, 2008
VP073, VP074

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Jerry at a book signing a couple of weeks earlier. We'd agreed to meet and do an interview for the project. We met at the shop where his grandson, Jeremy, was working as the manager. We were introduced and we started with a tour of the shop. After the tour, we sat and had the interview in the front office kitchen.

The Jones family has built trawl boards for five generations. In 1974 Jerry and his son started their business building trawl doors. They quickly diversified into other marine supplies, even expanding into oilfield boats in the late 1970s. The Joneses started servicing shipyards and continue with that work today. The also do repairs for truck driving companies and farm equipment. Jerry retired in 2002, but his grandson, Jeremy, continues working in the business. Jerry and Jeremy talk about the changes in their business and what factors have impacted their success.

Ollie Otis "Double-O" Jones

Houma, LA
July 22, 2009
JT049

Ethnographic Preface

Ollie "Double-O" Jones grew up near Nacogdoches, Texas, where he finished high school in 1949. Soon after graduation, the Tennessee Gas Transmission Co. (Tenneco) came in to survey a pipeline path, and Jones joined the company that August. Jones moved so as to follow the progress of the work, and stayed on, surveying other lines like the Grand Chenier in the early 1950s. While still in his mid-20s, Jones worked as a "rod man" on the Muskrat line from the Atchafalaya River eastward, clearing the way through the brush and vegetation. After a long career with Tenneco, Jones retired in 1996, having accrued an impressive 47 years with the company.

Patrick W. Keene

Pascagoula, MS
February 27, 2008, April 1, 2008
VP038

Ethnographic Preface

Patrick Keene was recommended to me by a lifelong Pascagoula, Mississippi resident as someone who would be particularly knowledgeable about the history of shipbuilding in Pascagoula. We met at his house for the interview. We settled in the living room with our glasses of ice water and Patrick asked a number of questions about the study before I began. The interview was mostly recorded except for a couple of parts at the end. Patrick agreed to a second, followup interview, on April 1, which also took place at his home.

Patrick Keene grew up in south Georgia where his father worked in the paper industry. None of his family had any maritime background, but Patrick eventually became a well-respected nuclear submarine engineer. He attended Georgia Institute of Technology for chemical engineering while working at the same paper company as his father, but with hopes to see the world, he transferred to the Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point, where he received a marine engineering degree. After he graduated in 1962, he sailed all over the world for four years with a steamship company where he became a chief engineer. Patrick eventually went to work for Ingalls Shipbuilding Company as a nuclear engineer working on nuclear submarines. His dedication and passion for engineering allowed him to quickly climb the corporate ladder, and he was eventually the vice president of production and engineering. He became the president in 1999 and remained in that position until he retired in 2001. Simultaneous with his work at the shipyard, Keene taught for a year at Jackson County Junior College. At one point Ingalls sent him to Los Angeles, California and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1972 for two years to design a gas turbine prototype. During his 36 years with Ingalls, Patrick accumulated much knowledge about the shipbuilding industry and the US Navy's use of nuclear power. He discussed the mergers, labor market and unions, decline of the industry, effects of Katrina, and the history of the Ingalls family and the company. He talks in some depth about the company's decision to diversify into building cruise ships in the early 2000s and how this related to the end of Cold War. Later he discusses the competition that exists within the repair or overhaul market. He said his biggest challenge as president was keeping the company moving and getting and keeping a good labor base. Maintaining a workforce is a big challenge requiring lots of investments in recruiting and training (particularly since changes in informal and formal education), and flexibility. He describes the company's structure and systems to ensure workplace safety and notes that safety is part of everyone's duty. He also talks about the company's different departments and how they work independently of one another. Finally, he discusses the change in corporate culture in terms of management over time and particularly in terms of workforce diversity when Northrop Grumman took over the shipyard.

John Kelly

Houma, LA
July 23, 2009
JC323

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Kelly was referred by John Monteiro, who had hired Mr. Kelly to work for him briefly in the mid 80s. He has wide-ranging experience in construction, operations, and sales with numerous sectors of the oil industry. As a result, he knows many of the contractors and service companies that have arisen in Houma, Louisiana since the 1960s. Mr. Kelly provided insightful comments on the transitions in the industry throughout his career. His wife joined us for segments of the interview, and makes several comments. We met at their home in Houma.

Mr. Kelly was born in Ada, Oklahoma, in 1930. His father worked for Kerr-McGee and so John was familiar with the oil industry from a young age. He was married in 1950, and then went to Korea in the

US Marine Corps. Upon his return in 1952, he began working for Associated Rentals, which serviced the oilfield of the Louisiana coast. In 1957, he took a sales and operations job with Drilling Tools, Co. based in Lafayette. He moved to Houma in 1959 to work for Delta Ironworks in fabrication and construction. In the early 70s he took a job with Luke Construction, laying pipeline and constructing offshore facilities. Luke went bankrupt in the early 80s, and Mr. Kelly worked for John Monteiro and finally the Dupres Brothers in operations and sales before retiring.

Sean Kennedy

Pascagoula, MS
May 16, 2008
VP069

Ethnographic Preface

I met Sean Kennedy on board his yacht, *Mariner III*, which was in Pascagoula, Mississippi at a dry dock for a US Coast Guard inspection. The captain gave me a tour of the yacht; Mr. Kennedy showed up in the afternoon. I explained the study and we sat in the kitchen for the interview.

Mr. Kennedy's family has been in the diesel engine business for three generations, selling to oilfield and fishing vessels. They are based in Biloxi, Mississippi. In 1979 the family bought *Mariner III*. It was built in 1926. Initially the family kept it for personal use, but began chartering the yacht to keep up with its maintenance costs. Throughout the interview, Mr. Kennedy discusses the family businesses and how they operate.

Francis L. "Frank" Knott

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015
ML038

Ethnographic Preface

Upon finishing his interview with me, Michael Castille suggested I interview some of the people he worked with and provided me with their contact information. Frank Knott was among the recommended people. Michael had called Frank and told him about the oral history project. I called Frank to see if he would be interested in doing an interview. Frank agreed to the interview; we decided to conduct it at his house on July 28, 2015.

Frank Knott started working in the industry in 1976 after graduating high school. He also studied petroleum engineering at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL). He has worked as a roustabout, in refining, mud logging, and in ML and WD tools (measurement and logging while drilling). Until recently, Frank worked at Pathfinder Schlumberger as the field operations manager.

James "Phil" and Patricia "Patty" Lacasse

Lafayette, LA
July 13, 2015
LL004a, LL004b

Ethnographic Preface

Phil Lacasse heard about the oral history project from the KATC-3 News story and emailed the research team to set up an interview. His wife, Patty, accompanied Phil and participated in the interview as well.

Phil Lacasse has been working offshore for 39 years. Phil graduated high school in 1971 and he and his wife, Patty, were married in 1973. He started in the oil industry in 1975 working in Lake Charles for Dresser Atlas. From there he went to work in production for Chevron in 1979. In 1981 he went to work for Mesa Petroleum and throughout the mergers he worked 28 years with them until they were sold. He worked for Pioneer, North Star, and Anchor, all on the same platform. In 2015, he still works offshore and he and his wife Patty have raised two daughters and one son out of their home in Iota, Louisiana, about 45 minutes west of Lafayette.

George Lagers

Houston, Texas
October 10, 2009
TP022

Ethnographic Preface

George Lagers was born in Maastricht, Germany, in the middle of World War II. Lagers eventually became interested in naval architecture, and in 1968 earned his degree from Delft University. Lagers' first job was at a shipyard near Rotterdam, Holland, one engaged in offshore work (including fabricating jack-up rigs). Lagers left the yard in 1977, after nine years and having analyzed primarily dynamic positioning systems. In 1978, at the Ocean Minerals Company, Lagers worked on dynamic positioning issues for a seafloor manganese nodule mining concern. In 1992, Lagers formed his own one-man consulting company. In the late 1990s, Lagers gained fame in the historical community when he co-published *Fifty Years Offshore* with Hans Veldman.

Albert J. Landry

Lafayette, LA
July 6, 2015
LL001

Ethnographic Preface

Albert Landry's wife, Carolyn, contacted the research team after seeing Morgan Lundy on KATC-3 News. They set up an interview with Albert at his home. Half way through, his wife joins us, but does not say much until the recorder is off.

Albert Landry is from Lafayette. He is a helicopter mechanic, employed at PHI for 38 years. He began in the oilfield right out of high school in 1975. Albert's first 20 years at PHI were in the overhaul shop, inspecting parts and putting them together and sending back out to the field. Now as a mechanic, he says his main focus is to keep the helicopters flying.

Drew Landry

Lafayette, LA
December 13, 2010
LE434

Ethnographic Preface

I met Drew Landry in Scott, Louisiana outside Paul Begneaud's house. He is Becca Begneaud's son, and she had wanted me to interview him on the extensive documentation and community involvement he has been engaging in since the *Deepwater Horizon* spill on April 20. He was playing catch with someone in the yard across from Mr. Begneaud's and approached me asking if I was a documentary filmmaker. I said no, and explained the project and that I'd seen his website and he'd been referred to me. He said he'd stop over at Paul's house a little later.

Drew Landry is from Scott. He has been active in documenting the spill since it happened in April and is primarily concerned with raising public concern and "getting the truth out." He spoke of the work he's been doing as well as the politics (both local and national) that have surrounded the event. A musical artist as well as a filmmaker, he snuck into one of the hearings on the BP oil spill at the Baton Rouge capital building. He pulled out his guitar and played a song all about the spill. He knows Greg Guirard, and considers him one of his "greatest heroes," having worked with him extensively on film projects. He discusses how he got involved in documenting the spill, the detrimental effects he's seen both from the spill and the moratorium, and the environmental and social issues surrounding these events.

Glenn and Meloney Landry

Lafayette, LA
June 11, 2015
DA654

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala and I met Glenn Landry and his wife, Meloney, at a Lafayette, Louisiana restaurant where we talked about the community, the oil and gas industry, and the Oil and Gas History project. Glenn started working offshore on the platform where Lillian worked, and they had reconnected after the *Deepwater Horizon* rig explosion in the Gulf in April 2010. Glenn agreed to participate in an interview and invited us to his house for the interview and then dinner.

Glenn Landry is from Erath, Louisiana. He graduated from high school in May 1979 and began working for ODECO in June of that year. His father and brother-in-law were both working for ODECO at the time. His first job was working offshore on the Round Barge and F Platform where Lillian was the gauger. He was laid off in 1982 during the downturn and was out of work until February of 1984 when he was rehired by ODECO. He remained with the company until 1999. At that time, he changed careers and went into law enforcement with a pay cut of more than 50 percent.

Lori Landry

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015
LL018

Ethnographic Preface

Morgan Lundy met Lori Landry at the monthly Desk and Derrick meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana. Interested in the research project, Lori set up an interview at the Petroleum Club with Laura Loewer. Lori was on lunch break and didn't have as much time to talk as she had hoped.

Lori Landry, a Lafayette native, began her career in the oil industry in December of 1980 working for a small independent exploration and production company. She has worked for two companies in her career. Lori is enjoying her 34th year in the industry at Bean Resources, a small company located in the Oil Center. She has also been involved with Desk and Derrick since 1997 and became the National President of Desk and Derrick in 2015. In her interview, Lori discusses changes in the industry's technology, workforce, and presence in Lafayette. She also talks about Desk and Derrick's role in the industry and community.

Jill Laroussini

Lafayette, LA
July 10, 2015
ML020

Ethnographic Preface

Diane Austin and I met Jill Laroussini at the Blue Moon in Lafayette, Louisiana during the Blueberry Festival. Through chatting with Jill, Diane learned that Jill is a nurse and that she had worked as an emergency room nurse from the late 1970s to the early 1980s in Lafayette. During her time working in the ER, Jill saw and treated offshore workers. Diane got Jill's contact information and passed it along to me so I could schedule an interview with her. We met on July 10, 2015 at the Petroleum Club to do the interview.

Jill Laroussini is originally from New Orleans. She has been living in Lafayette since 1974. From 1978 to1982 she worked in the emergency room. She shared some of the most memorable injuries she had seen offshore workers suffer. She recalls how the oil and gas companies had company doctors that could only treat workers injured offshore. Jill has seen improvements in safety and health promotion practices from the oil and gas industry.

Edward "Ted" Latch

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
ML029

Ethnographic Preface

Ted Latch heard about the oral history project on the news. Interested in participating, Ted emailed the research team. We set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana for July 21.

Originally from Philadelphia, Ted Latch moved to Lafayette as a child when his father got a job as a pilot for PHI. After graduating college, Ted began his 35-year oilfield career. He worked primarily for service companies. Ted stayed with his last employer, Schlumberger, for 25 years. Ted has worked in various parts of the industry, including well completion and sales. He also worked internationally for six years. He recently retired from Schlumberger.

Michael "Mike" LeBlanc

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
ML034

Ethnographic Preface

William Thibodeaux referred Mike LeBlanc to the research team. William had introduced Mike to us through an email. Interested in his perspective, we emailed Mike to learn more about him and see if he would want to do an interview. Mike agreed to participate in an interview on July 23, 2015 at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Mike LeBlanc was born in 1951 in Abbeville, Louisiana. He worked in the oil and gas industry from 1980 to 1989 in drilling. Mike's father worked for Texaco and had been heavily involved with union organizing. Before working in the oilfield, Mike earned his bachelor's in history at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL) and his master's in anthropology at the University of Kentucky. He moved to Lafayette in 2003 and currently works in city planning. Having an anthropology background, Mike offers interesting insight on the oilfield's impact on the culture of southern Louisiana.

Wayne Legrom

Meridian, MS
May 7, 2010
PP310

Ethnographic Preface

Preetam met Wayne Legrom while visiting the Workforce Development Program associated with Meridian [Mississippi] Community College. Wayne was currently the workforce project manager at the community college. He spent the greater part of his career in management in a variety of industrial settings, but was introduced to Preetam by one of the instructors at the Workforce Development Program because he had worked offshore in the early 1970s. Preetam contacted Wayne the following week and they arranged to meet at Meridian Community College. Wayne had worked offshore for just a little over a year, and so he could not speak to many of the long-term transformations that had affected the industry. However, his perspective was unique in that he had entered the industry with a college degree. He was born and raised in Alabama but went to college in Mississippi and entered Shell Oil Company's training program for recent graduates. Wayne discussed the unique aspects of his experiences offshore in light of the numerous positions that he had worked in since that time.

Joseph "Joe" Leimkuhler

Covington, LA
June 12, 2015
ML002

Ethnographic Preface

Joe Leimkuhler learned about the oral history project in Lafayette, Louisiana from an email sent out by Cherie Hebert. Her email explained the project and put a call out for interviews of people tied to the oil and gas industry in Lafayette. Even though Joe is based in Covington, he emailed the research team and expressed interest in being interviewed. The team arranged to meet him at his office for an interview.

Joe Leimkuhler is currently the vice president of drilling at LLOG Exploration, a privately-owned deepwater exploration company. He is from Pennsylvania and went to college in Montana and Wyoming. He started as a mud engineer working in the Wyoming Overthrustbelt in the 1980s. In 1987 Joe transitioned to deepwater drilling when he accepted a job with Shell. Upon accepting the job, Joe moved

his family to Mandeville, Louisiana. After 25 years at Shell, Joe started working for LLOG Exploration in 2012.

Joe Lochridge

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP023

Ethnographic Preface

Joe Lochridge grew up in central Texas and attended Rice University on a US Navy ROTC scholarship. He served aboard an active-duty destroyer during the Korean War, and then had the opportunity to transfer to teach at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. An engineer, Lochridge moved to Brown & Root after leaving the military service. He first worked in the marine design group, working on offshore structures primarily for Lake Maracaibo and the Gulf of Mexico. Lochridge was briefly detailed for Brown & Root work in Libya, but returned to Houston, Texas in time to start working on the landmark Project Mohole in 1962. During the remainder of his time at Brown & Root, Lochridge became involved primarily with pipeline work, including line laying and maintenance

Robert D. “Bob” Lowe

Lafayette, LA
June 19, 2015
ML007

Ethnographic Preface

John O’Maera, the general manager of the Petroleum Club, in Lafayette, Louisiana, introduced Diane and me to Bob Lowe while we were eating at the Petroleum Club. John insisted that we interview Bob because he is a prominent figure in the Lafayette oil and gas community. Bob is in his 90s and is still active in his company and community. Upon our introduction to Bob we arranged a time to conduct an interview with him. Because he is a very busy man, he agreed to only do a 30-minute interview. We met Bob at the Petroleum Club on June 19, 2015 for the interview.

Bob Lowe is originally from Hutton, Louisiana. He started working in the oil and gas industry while he was in high school. After four years in the US Marine Corps, he moved to Lafayette in 1952 to pursue opportunities in the oil and gas industry. He started his own oilfield construction company, which became one of the biggest companies of its kind. During his interview, Bob discusses the development of the Oil Center in Lafayette, the Petroleum Club, the relationship between banks and the industry, and the relationship between the industry and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (once University of Southwestern Louisiana).

Stanley “David” Luke

Biloxi, MS
March 17, 2011
PP719

Ethnographic Preface

I had stopped at Mr. Luke's ice and fuel plant in Biloxi, Mississippi, previously to speak with him, his son, and wife about how their business had been since the oil spill. Mr. Luke's son ran a business unloading shrimp out of the same location as the ice and fuel plant. I had spoken with Mr. Luke a few times after this initial meeting about getting together to do an oral history interview. I decided to stop by the plant today to see if I might catch him there. Mr. Luke turned out to be in the office and agreed to do the interview that day.

Mr. Luke was born in Dulac, Louisiana in 1940. His father worked as farmer and trapper and eventually became involved in the seafood processing business and moved the family down to Dulac from Franklin, Louisiana. Mr. Luke briefly attended college before joining the US Marines in the late 1950s. He worked for the oil industry, both on a rig and in a warehouse, for a few years before going to work in the seafood processing business in the mid-1960s. He operated his father's processing plant until 1981, when he handed this plant over to his brother and started his own. In 1994, Mr. Luke opened the ice and fuel plant in Biloxi, Mississippi, where we met for the interview. He had been motivated to do so, in part, by the fact that it was often difficult for Louisiana fishermen and shrimpers to get fuel and ice at locally owned plants. In 2000, Mr. Luke sold his processing plant in Dulac and has since then operated just the plant in Biloxi. His business suffered considerable damage during Hurricane Katrina and was powerfully impacted by oil spill.

Robert Lynn, Jr.

Pascagoula, MS
June 13, 2008
VP117

Ethnographic Preface

I had spoken to Robert Lynn on the phone and we set up a time to meet at his machine shop next to Flechas' shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Once I explained the project he was very open to talking with me, much more interested than I had suspected from our first conversation.

Robert Lynn grew up in Pascagoula and graduated from high school in 1954. His father opened Lynn's Machine Works in 1945. The company serviced shipyards, mainly working with Flechas Shipyard. After graduating high school, Robert joined the US Navy from 1955 to 1959. Upon leaving the Navy, Robert used the GI Bill to attend Mississippi State University. He graduated with a degree in industrial engineering in 1962. Robert got a job with McDonald Aircraft, working on the Gemini Space Program in St. Louis, Missouri. After his father had a heart attack in 1964, Robert returned to Pascagoula to help run the family business. In 1969 Robert took over the shop. He ran the business until 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit and put him out of business. These days, Robert mainly does repairs for Flechas.

Bonnie Blue Maillet

Lafayette, LA
November 6, 2015
DA655

Ethnographic Preface

Bonnie Maillet and Lillian Espinoza-Gala became acquainted, and Lillian recommended that Bonnie participate in an interview. Because Bonnie was still running her company, it took several tries for us all to find time to get together. We conducted the interview at Bonnie's office in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Bonnie Blue Maillet literally grew up on a rig floor, because her father, a roughneck on land drilling rigs in the 1950s, took her to work with him. Shortly after getting married and starting a family, she realized her family would struggle to get by on her husband's salary as a high school coach. Her familiarity with drilling rigs served her well when, in 1974, she took her first oilfield sales job, on consignment, making calls to the rigs to sell janitorial supplies. Without a college degree, Bonnie had to learn on her own everything about running a business, so she took advantage of every opportunity she could. She found mentors throughout her career as she moved into a salaried position, then co-ownership of a supply company, and finally ownership of her own company specializing in additives for drilling fluids.

Gary McGoffin

Lafayette, LA
November 11, 2010
LE415

Ethnographic Preface

I met Gary McGoffin through David Goodwyn, who referred me to Gary because he sees him as an active community member (he's been involved in the Boy Scouts of America his whole life), is a civic award recipient, and has worked in the Oil Center in Lafayette, Louisiana since the 1980s.

In 1962 McGoffin's parents moved him and his family to Lafayette, Louisiana from Kansas when he was 10 years old. He graduated in 1970, but went back to law school for his master's degree and stayed to get his doctorate, which he received in 1976. He worked as a clerk for one year in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. He then worked as a landman for two years from 1977to 1979 in the New Orleans area. He said he had a lot of fun, but did not see it as a future career. In 1979 he began working in legal services and has been working as an attorney ever since.

Gary discusses the deteriorating education system and negative race relations, which he sees as the most critical issues facing Lafayette today. He talks about Lafayette over time and how it has changed in industry, culture, and economics. He also describes the current effects felt from the moratorium and the BP spill.

Thomas McIlwain

Ocean Springs, MS
May 13, 2008
VP114

Ethnographic Preface

I met Dr. McIlwain at his office at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. We had spoken on the phone but never met in person. I had first introduced myself and the study some weeks before and he mentioned he had been giving it some thought before the interview.

Dr. Thomas McIlwain has been a resident of Ocean Springs since 1966. He grew up in Pascagoula, Mississippi, living behind Ingalls, where his father worked for 44 years. He discusses what life was like in Pascagoula during and after World War II, and provides some details about a union strike and pressure to join the union. He also worked in the Ingalls yard from 1958 to 1959, first as a machinist apprentice and later as an aid in the nuclear power department, in between taking college courses and joining the Army. He discusses the work that he did in those sectors (e.g., on the USS *Blueback*, *Sculpin*, and *Snook*). He graduated with a B.S. degree in biology and psychology, and later with an M.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi. In March of 1965 he began working for the GCRL, which is part of USM. He received his doctorate in 1978. He discusses the year he took off to work as a legislative assistant on marine issues with then Congressman Trent Lott in 1983, and his role in the creation of the Marine Fisheries Initiative, or MARFIN, Program. He continued at the GCRL lab, acting as director from 1989 until he retired in 1994. Then he worked for NOAA and also again as a legislative assistant with then Senator Lott (Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act). Since 2003 he hasbeen the program coordinator for the development of the Cedar Point Campus and more recently was appointed to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Johnny McKinsey

Sandy Hook, MS
May 13, 2010
PP312

Ethnographic Preface

Johnny McKinsey was referred to Preetam by Walter Heathcock, who had been interviewed for the study previously. Johnny had acted as a mentor of sorts for Walter when the he first entered the offshore oil industry in the 1970s. Walter credited Johnny with imbuing him with much of the basic knowledge that enabled him to stay safe and to succeed in the oilfield. Johnny's wife was present for much of the interview, which took place in the sunroom of their home in Sandy Hook, Mississippi.

McKinsey worked for a local contractor in the industry in the 1950s after graduating high school. He and his wife lived in Chalmette, Louisiana for several years while Johnny worked onshore for a contractor. During a temporary lull in the onshore oil industry, Johnny took advantage of the availability of an offshore job with Chevron to move back to Marion County, Mississippi in the late 1950s, where he and his wife were originally from, and intended to return. He worked his way up from a roustabout to drilling supervisor during his time with Chevron. He remembered the late 1960s and1970s as the time when many people from Mississippi had initially gone to work offshore. McKinsey was generally positive about the changes that he had witnessed during his time in the industry, saying that the oilfield had become "much more educated" over the course of time. He retired from working offshore in the early 1990s, during a time when Chevron and other major oil companies were offering many of their longstanding workers retirement packages. Since then, he has worked at a variety of different jobs, including driving trucks and raising horses on his own property.

Arthur and Juanita McRoy

Bayou La Batre, AL
June 9, 2008
VP118, VP119

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Mr. and Mrs. McRoy earlier in the spring at the Bayou La Batre-Coden Historical Society booth at the Blessing of the Fleet in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. We made arrangements to meet at the Historical Society Museum for an oral history interview.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McRoy were born in 1938 and grew up in Bayou La Batre. The McRoys met in the fifth grade and married in 1958 at the age of 20. Mr. McRoy joined the US Air Force, where he had a 36-year career. Mrs. McRoy worked in the post office for 24 years, retiring as the postmaster in St. Elmo, Alabama. Both have been involved with the Historical Society since the mid 1970s. Throughout the interview they talk about the history and character of Bayou La Batre area.

Drew Michel

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP024

Ethnographic Preface

Drew Michel was born in south Louisiana, where he naturally gravitated to the oil patch. Michel left his home in Morgan City in 1960 to join the US Navy, after which he worked for both Honeywell Electronics, in California, and NASA. On a trip back through Louisiana, Michel heard about an open position at Ocean Systems, having to do with deep diving, and he joined up. Michel soon moved on to Taylor Diving in 1968, and stayed there for 18 years. Taylor deployed both divers and early-generation ROVs at Shell Oil's massive Cognac fixed platform in the Gulf in the late 1970s. Michel was also involved with the installation of the Auger tension-leg platform, and continued to provide ROVs and subsea expertise to the offshore oil and gas industry for decades afterwards.

Lillian Miller (also Lillian Espinoza-Gala)

Lafayette, LA
September 19, 2010, September 24, 2010, March 7, 2011
LE407, LE409, LE474

Ethnographic Preface

Since her first interview with Diane Austin in 2004 for the previous history project, Lillian Miller (also Lillian Espinoza-Gala) has helped with subsequent research projects. In addition to providing her expertise and insight of the oil and gas industry, Lillian has also provided a home for Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA) researchers while they collect interviews for the current oral history project. Laura Ek lived with Lillian during her fieldwork in Lafayette in 2010 and 2011. Having a wealth of knowledge, Lillian has always been willing to be further interviewed. While living with Lillian, Laura conducted three separate interviews with her.

In Laura's first interview with Lillian on September 19, 2010, Lillian talks about what it was like living in Lafayette during the mid to late 1980s during the oil bust. At that time, she worked for Channel 3 News, and has extensive information about the companies that existed during that time, who exists there now, and what happened to them (e.g., merging, where they moved, etc.) She also discusses the intentional community Mr. Heymann was attempting to create beginning in the 1950s. In order to bring everyone together from the oil industry, Mr. Heymann created the Oil Center. She mentions life working offshore, especially the background of those that seemed to be more successful in offshore work.

In the second interview, on September 24, 2010, Lillian discusses her involvement in the Vietnam War era protests in the late 1960s, and her transition to working offshore. She also talks about the accident and injuries she sustained on her job while working for ODECO. Lillian describes her feelings about working offshore, especially in light of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on April 20, 2010.

In her final interview with Laura on March 7, 2011, Lillian discusses her feelings about being involved in and the subject of a short film on her life and work in peace activism and offshore work. Laura and Lillian discuss the process of their collaboration and making the video.

Frank Millet

Houma, LA
July 22, 2009
JC321

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Millet is a family friend of the interviewer's friend, David Davis, who grew up in Houma, Louisiana. After a dinner at the Millet's house in Houma, Mr. Millet agreed to be interviewed about his career in the oilfield service industry. Georgette, Frank's wife, was also supportive of this project, and offered to help obtain statistics and historical documents from the study period, through her position with the City of Houma. Mr. Millet and I met at his office on Venture Blvd. Afterwards, over lunch, he introduced me to other service industry managers.

Mr. Millet was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1951. His father was a career postal employee. When he was still young, the family moved to Houma, where Frank has lived ever since. He first began working in the oil industry in 1973, taking a job with Wilson Supply. The company provided daily shipments to rigs and platforms, supplying basic necessities and light equipment rentals. In 1975, he took a position with TBW Industries, which manufactured and distributed tanks and winches to be used offshore. This company went bust in 1982, and he went to work for Alfa Laval, a company based in Sweden with an office in Houma, which built and sold centrifuges designed to separate drilling muds. In 1994, he started his own company, FM Equipment, which distributes Alfa parts and services these machines on drilling operations in the Gulf.

Dave Montague and Mark Shannon

Houston, TX
August 25, 2009
TPJT025

Ethnographic Preface

Dave Montague was trained at the Colorado School of Mines in petroleum engineering, but soon moved into petrophysics. Shell hired him in that capacity, and, by 1984, Montague's career focused on the deepwater Gulf . As a member of Shell's deepwater exploration group, Montague helped to discover major finds, like the Auger, Mars, Ursa, Mensa, and Brutus fields. Called on in 1988 to work on Shell's interdisciplinary "Turbidite Task Force" (organized to advance the firm's knowledge of turbidite geology), Montague aided in the discovery that deepwater sands could produce oil and natural gas at high rates.

Mark Shannon began at Shell as a chemical engineer, before being informally drafted by the petrophysics team. His work with Shell took him to California, the Gulf Coast, and beyond. At the beginning of Shell's efforts to understand the geology of the Gulf beyond the edge of the continental shelf, Shannon was called on to be one of three co-heads of Shell's internal Turbidite Task Force in 1988. There, he worked with colleagues, including Dave Montague, to decode the geology of the deepwater Gulf.

John Monteiro

Houma, LA
July 14, 2009
JC313

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Monteiro was referred by Bill Ellzey, who described him as a major contractor and businessman in the region for the past 40 years. We met at his house on Bayou Black west of Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Monteiro is a dynamic and mercurial person, having tried many different oil-related ventures through his long career in the area; some succeeded and others went bankrupt. He was very active in the community during the 1970s and 1980s, serving on the Chamber of Commerce, numerous boards, and running a Boy Scouts of America troop. Despite failing health, he continues to work, mostly on small engineering contracts.

Mr. Monteiro was born 1927 in New Orleans; his father was a civil engineer. Before college, Monteiro was in the US Army during the final years of World War II. He earned an engineering degree from Louisiana State University in 1952. During college, he worked summers for McDermott on pilings barges on the Gulf Coast, and for the California Co., now Chevron. He met his wife during one of these summers; she was a Houma, Louisiana native, and in 1953 they moved to Houma permanently. Shortly afterwards, he took an engineering job with Schlumberger, which he held until 1962, mostly working in shallow water offshore. He then worked for Houma Valves in sales, later for Lane Wells as logging manager, before starting his own companies. Mr. Monteiro, with his sons, operated companies ranging from construction, to boat building, to air transport, to measurement, to engineering consulting. In 1985 he went bankrupt and has never fully recovered.

William Hugh "Billy" Mouton and Arthur D. "Art" Mouton

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
LL012a, LL012b

Ethnographic Preface

Art Mouton initially contacted the research team via email after reading the news story in the paper. He and his brother, Billy Mouton, were interested in doing an interview together. Laura Loewer and Morgan Lundy interviewed them at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Billy had to leave about half-way through the interview.

Billy and Art Mouton describe themselves as fifth generation lawyersand as having ancestors here since 1763. Art, Billy's younger brother, started working with Billy and their father in 1972. He served in the US Army and, after graduating from law school at Louisiana State University, transferred to the industry. Billy began working in 1966 and retired in 2013. In the late 1950s, he began working in the industry doing title abstracting running indexes. In 1966, he took the bar exam and started practicing law. Billy retired in 2013.

King Munson

Lafayette, LA
December 9, 2010
LE430

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to King Munson by Steven Anderson, a fellow geologist in the Oil Center, in Lafayette, Louisiana, who had collaborated on projects with Mr. King in the past.

King Munson grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana where he still lives today. He has an independent geologist consulting business in the Oil Center. He graduated high school in 1976, left the state to attend college, and graduated in 1982 with a degree in geology. In high school and college, he did work for his dad's surveying company in oil and gas and other general surveying. Right out of college, he got a job with a major oil company working offshore. From there he left to pursue his own independent company. He is married with a wife and children.

Mr. Munson talks about his peers entering the oilfield and its effect on their education. He also discusses the history of Lafayette, the Oil Center, the nature of the independents in the industry here in Lafayette, the family support he describes that is needed to pursue the kind of job he has (mostly he attributes this to support from his wife), and his family in the industry. He also discusses technological advances in his work, such as 3-D seismic and how they shaped what he does.

Charles "Chuck" and Hallie Myers

Lafayette, LA
July 24, 2015
ML035a, ML035b

Ethnographic Preface

Hallie Myers heard about the oral history project from the news. She thought her husband, Chuck Myers, would be a good person for the research team to interview. She called the team and set up a time to interview Chuck. We agreed to meet on July 24, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Chuck Myers is 67 years old and is from west Texas. He has been in the industry since he was 15. He currently works as a field supervisor for Schlumberger; he works in the drilling side of the industry. The oil industry has moved Chuck and Hallie to many different states. They moved to Louisiana in 1994 and to the Lafayette area in 1999.

Joseph "Sonny" Navarre

Houma, LA
July 8, 2009
JC306

Ethnographic Preface

Sonny Navarre was first contacted during the History II study, referred by Pauline Moniet, but he was not interviewed. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. His wife, Judy, served us coffee and made

several comments. Mr. Navarre worked for Pure Drilling, which later merged with Union Oil, and retired in 1989. Presently he spends most of his time carving decorative fowl, showing his products at conventions, and teaching soap carving to youth around the region.

Mr. Navarre was born in 1929 in Gueydan, Louisiana. In 1946, he entered the Navy where he remained for two years. Afterwards he worked several jobs around St. Louis, Missouri before returning to Louisiana to begin working for Pure Oil Company. He roustabouted on inland gas field jobs before he was transferred to Houma and took up residence here in 1965 after Pure merged with Union. He worked in production until 1970, when he moved to the drilling department, and did jobs both inland and offshore from Alabama to Texas.

Edward "Peanut" Neil

Houma, LA
July 29, 2009
JC328

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Neil was referred by David Smith. Mr. Neil spent much of his career with Texaco, and provided valuable information on Nicholls State University's seven-and-seven petroleum engineering program, which he completed while working for Texaco. He agreed to meet me at his office in the Tetra Applied Technologies' main building south of Houma, Louisiana.

Mr. Neil was born in Chauvin, Louisiana in 1947; his father worked for Texaco. In 1968, Mr. Neil started working for the company, as well, in the kitchen. Over the next several years he was a roustabout and a driller, but realized he would not advance in the company like he wanted without education. With an advance from Texaco, he started the Nicholls seven-and-seven petroleum engineering program, eventually graduating with a focus on mud engineering. He worked in this capacity for the next 15 years, throughout the Gulf Coast, California, and Virginia. In 2001, he retired from Texaco, having spent his final eight years in the office. Not ready to be retired, he took a position with Tetra Applied Technologies, a salvage and recovery company based in Houma. Mr. Neil is in charge of the division that plugs old wells and cleans them up for abandonment.

Ken Nelson

New Orleans, LA
August 21, 2008
JT026

Ethnographic Preface

Ken Nelson's father and his partner founded the Waldemar S. Nelson and Company in 1945, and his son grew up working in the Gulf offshore oil and gas community. Much of the firm's early work pertained to offshore sulfur extraction. The company also began to specialize in the design and building of fixed platform structures and topsides. In 1999, Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc., opened a Houston, Texas office, eventually transferring about one-third of its business there from its headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the time of interview, Mr. Nelson was a senior vice president for the firm.

Sheila Nelson

Lafayette, LA

November 12, 2010
LE417

Ethnographic Preface

In September, I had met Sheila Nelson while mapping the Oil Center in Lafayette, Louisiana with Lillian Miller. We were walking around and stopped in the MedcoEnergi office to look at their paintings in the lobby, and Sheila was introduced to us. She seemed very willing to talk and I stayed in touch with her in the hope that we could set up an interview upon my return to the area.

Sheila Nelson was born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. Her family is from Scott and Carencro, Louisiana, and she describes her family as poor Creole sharecroppers who were not well educated. She was among the first in her family to complete high school (1978), and went on to college before leaving after three and a half years to take care of her ailing mother. She said she had no regrets about leaving for her mother, because family is important to her. In 1981 she was married; her husband, who is from New Iberia; she described his family as a long line of sugarcane farmers. From 1981 to 1982 when the oil bust began, his family encouraged them to move to New Iberia because it was in a better location; they did so and they found work there. Sheila got a job at Sears to supplement their income and they lived in an apartment to save money. Her first job in the oil industry was with Fireboss, for whom she worked from 1986 to 1990. Her duties for Fireboss included being a receptionist and training workers with their safety glasses. From 1986 to 1988 she and her husband and two daughters moved to New York for work because jobs in Lafayette were not available. In the 1990s, she and her husband and two daughters moved to California for about a year. Her husband stayed to work, but they came home to Lafayette. She worked for the *Daily Iberian* in the early 1990s (a newspaper in New Iberia). She became one of the first female and Creole lay ministers in her Catholic church in 1978 or 1979. She recently became actively involved with her church again because she enjoys it and has a strong faith.

Sheila worked for CSI Service Tech, American Oilfield Divers, and Schlumberger. At American Oilfield Divers, she was involved in operations directly with six project managers, calling divers to their locations. At Schlumberger, she was a data coordinator where she converted raw data from offshore to supply to MMS. She began in a temp agency and they eventually placed her at MedcoEnergi (first Darcy Exploration then Louisiana Oil and Gas before it became MedcoEnergi in 2005). She is currently in charge of human resources at MedcoEnergi. She said it was a milestone for her to be working in the industry and has provided an open door of opportunity to her and other members of her family. She discusses the moratorium, the culture of this area, and what keeps her coming back.

Herman “Ray” Nolan

Bayou La Batre, MS
February 2, 2011
PP668

Ethnographic Preface

A few people I interviewed suggested I interview Mr. Nolan because he had experience in both the seafood and offshore oil industries. I contacted Mr. Nolan and explained that the connection between shrimping and fishing and the offshore oil industry was something that I hoped to gain more insight into. Mr. Nolan agreed to meet with me for an oral history interview. We met at the Community Center in Bayou La Batre, Alabama.

Mr. Nolan was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1951. His father was in the US Air Force and the family moved around when Mr. Nolan was growing up. The family moved back to the area when Mr. Nolan was

in high school. After graduating high school, Mr. Nolan went to school for instrumentation and began shrimping when he was finished with this training. A number of his family members worked in the shrimping and fishing industry. Mr. Nolan got his start working as a deckhand for one of his uncles. He eventually came to own and operate his own shrimp boat before deciding to go to work in the offshore oil industry because of the stability of this work compared to shrimping and fishing. Mr. Nolan remained involved with both the seafood and offshore oil industries over the years, and also operated his own trucking business since the late 1980s. Mr. Nolan discussed how the 2010 Gulf oil spill drastically impacted his trucking business and his plans and options for the future. He had been looking for work offshore since the previous summer but had had little luck locating anything. He expressed having enjoyed working in both the offshore and shrimping industries, although he emphasized that the latter was characterized by a high degree of instability.

Charles Odom

Stonewall, MS
May 26, 2010
PP316

Ethnographic Preface

Robert Boles, whom I had interviewed, put me in touch with Charles Odom. Charles had initially found Robert a job offshore and both men worked for varying periods of time at a local denim factory, which was the dominant employer in the area. However, at the time, Charles said that he was not interested in participating in the project. I ran into Charles and his wife several weeks later at a charity event in Quitman, and Charles spoke at length about his experiences working offshore and agreed to meet with me for an interview the following week.

Charles Odom related that when he was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s some people in the local area had already begun to go offshore. However, it was in the 1970s when offshore work really picked up as an option for people in the local area. Charles initially went to work for a drilling contractor in the 1960s and then for a number of contractors before finally settling in a position at Shell in 1967. In the early 1990s, when Shell, along with most other major oil companies, began offering early retirements, Charles initially chose to continue working, although it entailed a considerable pay cut and a move to the production side of work. He mentioned the increased use of computers offshore in the 1980s and 90s as one of the main reasons he eventually retired. After retiring from Shell in the early 1990s, he took a job with a contracting company but quit after a few months because of the inferior quality of rig equipment and a lack of adequate knowledge of rig operations among this company's employees. One of the significant changes that Charles witnessed during his time in the industry was the shift from the informal, often kin-based networks that characterized hiring and recruitment in the early days, to a much greater formalization. Among the major impacts of this shift was a decrease in the amount of power and influence that drillers, toolpushers, and others in mid- to high-level positions on the rigs had over the constitution of the workforce.

Tim Osborne

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
LL010

Ethnographic Preface

Tim Osborne was referred to the oral history project by Marti Thomas. Tim is a retired geologist who has worked in Lafayette, Louisiana since 1984. He was interested in the project and set up an interview with Laura Loewer at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. Throughout the interview, he articulates a lot of background information on how wells are drilled, independents compared with major companies, and the unique aspects afforded by living life and doing business in Lafayette.

Tim Osborne is from New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his master's degree in petroleum engineering from Tulane University in New Orleans. He started his career in the late 1970s with Gulf Oil and worked for them for three years. In 1981 he went to work for the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company and worked another four years in New Orleans as a geologist. He got to Lafayette in 1984 when he was transferred from the company he was working for in New Orleans. He quit after 21 years in the industry sometime in the early 2000s to do mission work ministry with a local church. He lives in Lafayette with his family.

Thomas Owen

Pascagoula, MS
May 17, 2008
VP115

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Thomas Owen at the Jazz Club in Pascagoula, Mississippi, some months ago. Sometime after that we met at the bar at the La Font Inn and I told him about the study in more detail and he agreed to participate. The interview was conducted at his house in Pascagoula, a one story, brick building a couple of blocks from the water.

Thomas Owen is from Pennsylvania. His father was a physics professor from Wales. When Thomas was a child, Thomas' father moved the family to England so he could teach. He got a job in Ohio just as England and Nazi Germany fell out. The family took a ship back to the US in order to move to Ohio. After graduating high school, Thomas joined the US Navy. After his time in the service, Thomas attended Antioch College. He then went to work in Michigan for Clark Equipment. He stayed there for about 12 years. In 1969, Thomas took his boat down the Mississippi River and lived off his boat in a marina for five years. In 1972 he worked as a marine surveyor. He stayed in that profession for 15 years, living in New Orleans. Tired of living in New Orleans, Thomas and his now-ex-wife moved to Pascagoula, where he has stayed ever since.

Robert Patterson

Houston, TX
August 28, 2009
JT027

Ethnographic Preface

Robert Patterson grew up just south of Jacksonville, Florida. He attended the University of Florida, where he earned a doctoral degree in engineering science and mechanics. After a chance encounter with a Shell employee, Patterson abandoned his initial aim of becoming a professor and soon joined the company. Some of his early work included designing catenary pipeline arrangements for steel risers to hang off of a floating structure. That work took Patterson to the deepwater Gulf, where he worked on the Auger

tension-leg platform, designing its novel production riser and tensioning systems. Patterson later worked on the Mars TLP as well. In the late 1990s, Patterson was instrumental in Shell's reformation of a Deepwater Projects division.

Doug Peart

Houston, TX
July 16, 2009
JT028

Ethnographic Preface

In 1977, Doug Peart graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans, with a degree in mechanical engineering. He promptly went to work for Shell in New Orleans. After working onshore on production projects for a number of years, Peart became a production superintendent offshore in the Gulf. As deepwater drilling began to increase in the early 1990s, Peart was called to become a deepwater project manager for Shell's subsea systems, heading up the first such group, chartered in 1993. Peart helped to bring major Shell projects like Tahoe, Auger, Popeye, and Mensa from design to first production.

Bob Peatross

Lafayette, LA
February 22, 2011
LE451

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Bob Peatross by Joseph Beck at Halliburton. Joseph Beck referred him as someone with perspective on the smaller mom-and-pop operations around the oil industry in the Gulf. I called him and a week later we set up an appointment to meet at his office in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Bob Peatross has worked for Halliburton for the past 38 years. He graduated from high school in Fallbrook, California. He attended Texas A&M University, earning a degree in geological engineering. A year after graduating, Bob joined the US Marine Corps and served in Vietnam until 1967. After returning from Vietnam, Bob attended the University of Missouri, earning a second geological engineering degree in 1972. Soon after graduating, Bob got a job with Wellex, which was later bought by Halliburton in 1989, operating a logging truck. He moved to Houma, Louisiana, where his wife is from, in 1973. He joined the sales department at Halliburton in 1974 as a way to get out of the rain and says he preferred it. Bob moved to New Orleans in 1975 to do servicing for Shell Oil. In 1985 he moved to Shreveport, Louisiana to work in sales. He moved back to Lafayette in 1993, and currently resides there with his wife and three sons.

In the interview, Bob discusses his work and how it has changed over time, especially in regard to technology. He also mentions seismic and LWD tools. He talks a little about the Lafayette community and what he does in his spare time. At the end of the interview he touches on some of the ways his company has responded to the moratorium from the previous summer. He also talks about the "wildcatter mindset" of the 1970s and how that had changed when he came back to Lafayette in 1993. He also talks about his own job and the nature of the industry.

F. Daniel "Dan" Peirce

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015

LL015

Ethnographic Preface

Marti Thomas is friends with Dan Peirce and recommended the research team interview him. Laura Loewer called Dan and set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Dan Peirce lived in Algiers, Louisiana as a young teenager. He graduated from LSU in 1979 with a degree in geology. He worked on barges during summers in college hauling supplies to the rigs, and after graduation began work in the oilfield with Exxon in New Orleans as a scout. He later worked for ARCO as a combination scout and geologist and then moved into full-time geology, which he did for 20 to 25 years on and offshore in south Louisiana.

Larry Pickens

Waynesboro, MS
May 29, 2010
PP318

Ethnographic Preface

Bobby Jones, the director of the Wayne County Vo-tech Center in Waynesboro, Mississippi, initially recommended that Preetam speak with Larry Pickens. Bobby mentioned Larry was quite heavily involved with younger people in the area. Preetam and Larry arranged to meet at the latter's house in Waynesboro. After high school, Larry went to college, where he earned a degree in education; he then joined the US Army. While in the Army he was stationed in Louisiana and heard about the possibility of working in the offshore oil industry. Immediately after he left the Army in 1984, he was hired by Chevron as a roustabout on a production platform. He worked his way up to operations specialist. He mentioned that, during his time at Chevron, the company underwent several mergers with other major oil companies, which resulted in increasing systematization of training procedures and safety standards. Larry also mentioned that obtaining a job offshore, especially on the production side, entailed increasingly higher educational requirements, which disqualified some local workers. He spoke favorably about the benefits of offshore work, especially the seven-and-seven schedule, which he claimed to have "fallen in love with" over the course of time.

Larry "Moon" Porche

Houma, LA
July 17, 2009
JC320

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Porche was referred by Peanut Crochet during the History II study, but had declined to be interviewed at that time. With some persistence, he was persuaded to meet at his house in east Houma, Louisiana, where his wife served me coffee. She also made several comments during the interview. Mr. Porche spent his entire career with Texaco and continues to keep up with his friends from the company, such as Burleigh Ruiz, who he insisted I talk to. Otherwise, since his retirement, he fishes and volunteers with the church.

Mr. Porche was born in 1931, on Bourg Lane in Houma. His father worked with Texaco, based out of Montegut, Louisiana, for his whole career. In the US Army, Mr. Porche fought in Korea, then spent four

years in the National Guard. In 1955, he started working for Texaco as a laborer, rolling pipe. By 1959, he was the lead man on a pile driving and construction crew, which he did until retiring in 1990. Notably, he mentioned that because of the creosote on the pilings his crew handled, which was toxic and contained carcinogens, they "were like snakes, shedding their skin every seven days." A man from Morgan City developed a lotion that helped somewhat, but his job always involved damage to the skin. Many people couldn't handle it and quit, but he never did.

Joseph "Joe" and Nelda Powell

Lafayette, LA
July 27, 2015
ML036 a and ML036b

Ethnographic Preface

After the story about the oil and gas oral history project was on the news, I received an email from Joe Powell. He informed me that he had worked in the oilfield and wanted to share his perspective. We set up an interview for July 27, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Before the interview, Joe asked if he could bring his wife, Nelda, so I could get her perspective. Interested to hear about Nelda's experiences, I told Joe to bring her to the interview.

Joe Powell has been in the industry for 45 years. He is from New Orleans but moved to Lafayette when he was 17. After moving to Lafayette, he met Nelda and married her; they have been married for 46 years. He started working in the industry as a roustabout and eventually became a platform manager for BP. Joe retired from BP in 2014.

Werlien "Moose" Prosperie

Houma, LA
June 30, 2009
JC301

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Prosperie was referred by his friend, Leland Crochet, who sat in on the interview and makes several comments through the course of it. We met at the Jolly Inn, a Cajun restaurant and dance hall in Houma, Louisiana, owned by Mr. Prosperie. The dance hall is decorated with photos and artifacts from Houma's early days–oilrigs and crews, hunting and fishing in the bayou, and the town itself. Retired from work in the oilfield, he now runs the Jolly Inn and plays accordion in a local band. He spoke proudly of his career with Texaco and later in the "fish and tool" support industry.

Mr. Prosperie was born June 19, 1935 in a houseboat on the bayou south of Montague, Louisiana. When he was seven years old, he and his mother moved to Houma after his parents divorced. He shined shoes and did street performances, and his mother worked in a sugar refinery. At the age of 18, he began working in the oilfield, which continued for 45 years, until his retirement in 2000.

Philip D. Rabinowitz

Houston, TX
January 10, 2009
TP030

Ethnographic Preface

Dr. Phil Rabinowitz is a former professor of oceanography, and geology and geophysics in the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University. Rabinowitz has taught and conducted extensive research in the areas of marine geology and geophysics, plate tectonic reconstruction, and scientific ocean drilling. He was named Regents Professor by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in 2004 and held the D. B. Harris Chair in Geophysics. Rabinowitz came to Texas A&M University in 1981 as a professor of Oceanography. Before that, he was a senior research associate at Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University in Palisades, New York, where he earned his doctorate in marine geophysics. After joining the faculty at A&M, Rabinowitz was director of the Ocean Drilling Program from 1983 to 1995, was named professor of geophysics in 1988, was interim head of the Department of Geophysics from 1993 to 1994, and was head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics from 1994 to 1998.

[note: preface adapted from http://icop.tamu.edu/news/110-rabinowitz-named-industry-pioneer-by-offshore-energy-center]

Abigail Ransonet

Lafayette, LA
March 3, 2011
LE463

Ethnographic Preface

I met Abigail Ransonet at her home in Lafayette, Louisiana. After running into her at the post office since then, I gave her a call and we set up an interview at her company office, Abacus Data Exchange.

Abigail Ransonet was born and grew up in Loreauville, Louisiana. She describes her community there as an agricultural and boat-building community. Her father started out in the oil industry and ended up with a job at Dow Chemical. All three of her brothers worked for Texaco. Her mother worked making dirty rice and other local dishes for offshore catering companies, which she helped with from 1976 to 1983. She did extensive marketing for the tourism industry in the area, including preparation for the World Fair at New Orleans in 1986. In 1975, she began serving on the New Iberia Chamber of Commerce. She raised two daughters and a son, two of whom still live in Lafayette. Abacus Data Exchange also services oil companies in the Oil Center and elsewhere in Lafayette.

Abigail starts off discussing the repurposing of the Oil Center and the building where her office is currently located. She discusses extensively the tenacity, dedication, and creativity that she finds the local Cajun and Acadian culture have lent to the success, and indeed the shaping, of the oil industry in Lafayette, southern Louisiana, and the Gulf. She talks about the diversification of Lafayette, and the development of the city since that time. She also discusses the difficulties they faced with the 1980s booms and busts (including who stayed and who left) and the prosperity of the 1970s, and where the community is headed in the future. She also mentions Katrina and its effect on the Lafayette community as well as their unique response to the disaster, another thing she attributes to the culture here. She ended by showing me a few historical photos of her family as moss pickers and sugarcane farmers.

Richard “Fuzzy” Redmond

Houma, LA
July 22, 2009
JC322

Ethnographic Preface

Burleigh Ruiz referred Mr. Redmond; both men are Texaco retirees and friends. Mr. Redmond meets with this Texaco group for coffee semi-regularly. Mr. Redmond lives on Presque Isle, Louisiana, near the Houma airport, which is where the interview took place. His son, Richard, Jr., lives in Montegut and currently works for Chevron on deepwater platforms. Mr. Redmond retired in the early 1990s and said his son would be able to speak about the industry since that time. Mr. Redmond was proud of his work overseas and provided valuable information about this experience.

Mr. Redmond was born in Montegut, Louisiana in 1937; during his youth the town was dominated by Texaco. As a young man, he worked with his father in a machine shop, then started working for Texaco in 1956. He began in the kitchen, and then worked as "extra board," filling in for hands that were out all over the region. After two years, he started as roughneck on a rig that used and tested experimental equipment. After drilling for one year, he moved to toolpusher, working on rigs throughout Terrebonne Parish. In 1972, he went to Nigeria for seven months on a job. In 1976, he worked on land rigs in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Through the rest of his career, until 1994 when he retired as a drilling superintendent, he worked a 21-and-21 schedule, travelling to Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela and Tunisia.

Bobby Regan

Sandy Hook, MS
May 24, 2010
PP315

Ethnographic Preface

Bobby Regan was referred to Preetam by Johnny McKinsey, another Sandy Hook, Mississippi resident with a long history of working in the oil industry. When Preetam interviewed Johnny a few weeks earlier, Johnny had mentioned that Bobby Regan might be willing to participate in the study. Preetam contacted Bobby the following week and they arranged to meet a few days later at Bobby's home. Bobby started working in the oil industry in the 1960s. He spent a considerable period of time working onshore, before making the transition to working on offshore rigs. During the interview, he spoke about some of the differences between offshore and onshore work. He also discussed the importance of both onshore and offshore work for residents of Sandy Hook, as well as other nearby communities. Bobby stopped working offshore in the 1990s. He took a few years off and was heavily involved in the construction of a church in the nearby area. He went back to work for an offshore contract company as a dispatcher before getting out of the industry for good in the late 1990s due to health problems.

Villiere Reggio

Baton Rouge, LA
March 5, 2009
DJ031

Ethnographic Preface

Villiere Reggio joined the USDOI Bureau of Land Management in 1976; he helped cover the leasing aspect of the offshore oil and gas program in the Gulf. Reggio worked on National Environmental Policy Act assessments and was an early proponent of the rigs-to-reefs idea. In 1987, he published a small book

that addressed the policy options for platform abandonment and reefing disposal, which would prove to be a foundational text for the rigs-to-reefs movement.

Gabriel Rel

Grand Bay, AL
June 9, 2008
VP120

Ethnographic Preface

I had met Gabriel Rel sometime earlier, he is related to some friends of mine and, with his cousin, owns a Mexican restaurant in Grand Bay, Alabama. We had met in person a few times and spoke over the phone to arrange the interview. We had initially made arrangements to do the interview with a friend of his who had worked in offshore oil since the 1970s, but something came up that day and the friend couldn't make it. We met at his restaurant and sat in the kitchen. As we talked he was cutting, cleaning, preparing for that evening's dinner.

Gabriel Rel was born January 20, 1961 in Pascagoula, Mississippi. After working a series of different jobs, Gabriel started working offshore as a rouastabout and then as a roughneck in drilling. Around 1991 he started working for ODECO out of New Orleans. After a hand injury in 2005, Gabriel had to leave the oil industry. He laid tile for a short time before opening his restaurant in Alabama.

Ronnie Rhodes

Houma, LA
July 8, 2009
JC307

Ethnographic Preface

Ronnie Rhodes was first contacted during the History II study, referred by Richard Goodroe, but was not interviewed. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. He worked for Unocal and retired in 2003. The following year he took a position as a salesman with Measurement Technologies, an oilfield service company, and still holds that position. He maintains ties with many of his former Unocal coworkers and provided me with numerous contacts.

Mr. Rhodes was born in 1950, in Houma and has spent almost his entire life there. He was drafted to go to Vietnam, but was released due to a shoulder injury. In 1971 he was married and that same year started as a roustabout for Unocal Oil Company. Ronnie moved up the ranks until becoming a production foreman by the late 1970s, in charge of three offshore fields. In the mid-90s he was moved to construction foreman, a position he held until being forced into retirement in 2003 when Unocal was bought out and management positions were liquidated.

Wilson “Tut” Rhodes

Houma, LA
July 16, 2009
JC317

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Rhodes contacted me after seeing the *Houma Courier* article, and stated that he would like to participate in the study. He said that he wanted to be sure I was getting people to "tell it to me straight" about the role of the oil industry in the area. He had spent his entire career working in the industry, and wanted to share his perspective. We met at his house in Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Rhodes was considerably more critical of the oil companies than most of his peers in the area. In addition to speaking about his experience working for an oilfield service company, he commented at length on the corruption at all levels of the industry in south Louisiana, and the mixed impact it has had on the people of the region.

Mr. Rhodes was born in Houma in 1933. His father was a fisherman and oysterman. Mr. Rhodes trawled for shrimp when he was younger. His two older brothers worked for McDermott on derrick barges. Mr. Rhodes studied for two years at Nicholls State University, and from 1957 to 1959 went to Korea with the 101st Airborne Division. Upon his return to Houma, he was married, and began working for Dresser (later bought out by Halliburton). He began with the company as a rigger, running wire line and logging. The second half of his career was spent in sales and service, finally as an operations superintendent. He retired in 1991.

Jim L. Rike

Houston, TX
January 10, 2009
TP032

Ethnographic Preface

Jim Rike was born and raised in Malakoff, a small Texas town. His career began at Kilgore Junior College, from which he transferred into Texas A&M University. Rike only got through a few years at A&M before he was drafted and entered the US Navy during the World War II. There he served as an aviation electronics technician's mate. After the war, Rike completed his degree in electrical engineering and joined Humble Oil. By 1956, Rike had returned from a stint in west Texas back to the Houston area, where he continued his work at Humble on pipe engineering, helping to develop coiled tubing. Rike helped Humble secure multiple patents on down hole or well engineering practices. In 1970, Rike founded his own company as a consultant, Risk Services, primarily training the oil and gas workforce.

Delmar Robinson

Walnut Grove, MS
September 27, 2011
PP970

Ethnographic Preface

Clenistine Fortune suggested that we try to speak with Mr. Robinson about the history of the African American community in the local area. I contacted Mr. Robinson soon after Kelly arrived in town. He was open to the idea of doing an oral history interview and we arranged to meet at his place in east Biloxi, Mississippi later that day. We conducted the interview in Mr. Robinson's living room.

Mr. Robinson was born in 1937 in Biloxi. He spoke in detail about his family's lengthy history in the area. A number of Mr. Robinson's family members, including his grandfather, had been involved in the seafood industry at one time, but by the time he was born, African American involvement in the industry had declined considerably. Mr. Robinson's father worked for the postal service after returning home from

serving in WWII. Mr. Robinson described having felt it necessary to leave the area after graduating from high school due to the system of segregation that was then in place. He joined the US Army and travelled widely across the country. He attended college in San Francisco, but was eventually drawn back south by the onset of the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Robinson lived in Kentucky and North Carolina for many years working for the USDOI's National Park Service. He and his wife returned to Biloxi in the mid 1990s. Mr. Robinson has held several consulting positions since then, which have focused on community development.

Myron Rodrigue

Houston, TX
August 13, 2009, September 22, 2012
JT033, TP034

Ethnographic Preface

Myron Rodrigue was born in Thibodaux, Louisiana in 1947. Rodrigue earned an engineering drafting certificate and joined the US Army Reserves. In 1958 he started working for McDermott. After a few promotions, Rodrigue went to night school for several years, learning cost analysis and gaining more engineering experience. Rodrigue worked as a field engineer in McDermott's fabrication yard, and then as a project engineer for the massive Shell Oil Cognac fixed platform in the 1970s. He later worked for another fabrication firm on platforms in the North Sea, but returned to McDermott in time to work on Shell's landmark Bullwinkle structure. Rodrigue later worked for Aker, building large structures for deepwater projects in the Gulf of Mexico, including Conoco's Jolliet tension-leg well platform.

Joseph Rodriguez

Bayou La Batre, AL
May 22, 2008
VP075

Ethnographic Preface

I dropped in on the Bayou La Batre, Alabama, office of Rodriguez Boat Builders. I met Joseph Rodriguez, the president, explained the study, and gave him the description. He said he had just a few minutes to talk with me before lunch, and that I could come back another day. However, the interview ran longer than that. Periodically, when I asked him if he had to go he said no, I could ask a few more questions.

Joseph Rodriguez is in his early 50s and very energetic. He comes from a boatbuilding family. Joseph began his business with his family in 1976 with at the age of 20. They built the shipyard partially on family land in Coden, Alabama. They started off building shrimping boats but soon diversified into oilfield vessels. Most of the work they have now is oilfield related. Throughout the interview, Joseph discusses the ins and outs of his business.

Michael Sanzin

Gulfport, MS
January 31, 2011
PP669

Ethnographic Preface

I initially ran into Mr. Sanzin while conducting another oral history interview in the area. I spoke briefly with Mr. Sanzin at the time and he said that he might be willing to do an oral history interview. I spoke with Mr. Sanzin a few times over the following weeks and we finally agreed to meet at his house in Gulfport, Mississippi to do the interview.

Mr. Sanzin was born in Gulfport in 1954. His father came to the area from Yugoslavia after the World War II. Mr. Sanzin described being raised in a shrimping and fishing community where even young children were expected to work and contribute to the household. He himself got his start shrimping at a very early age and went to work on his father's shrimp boat after leaving school. Mr. Sanzin recalled that the offshore oil industry drew some workers from the area during the 1970s but said he had had nothing to do with this type of work during that time. He remembered the 1980s as being the time when local people could make considerable money in the shrimping industry. Mr. Sanzin continued working as a shrimper until 2000, when he decided to go to work for the offshore oil industry as a boat captain. He described the difficulty that he had moving up in the industry as a person from outside of south Louisiana, but expressed that he always got along very well with the older generation of workers from this area. Mr. Sanzin took some time off from work in the past year, and said that it was a very good experience for him because he finally had a chance to spend some time with his family. He was unsure exactly what type of work he would end up doing in the future, but expressed a desire to find something with a high measure of stability.

George A. Savoy

Houma, LA
July 24, 2009
JC326

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Savoy was referred by Emory Beltaine. He has a wide network of contacts in the oil industry in the region due to his decision to work only for himself throughout his career; he ran a welding and construction business, working for many different companies. He spoke about working through the challenge of not being from Houma, and competing for contracts in the tight-knit community. Since he retired, Mr. Savoy has bred and raised beagles for rabbit hunting.

Mr. Savoy was born in Cameron, Louisiana, in 1928. His father was a farmer and served as a French interpreter in World War I. In 1948, Mr. Savoy started with McDermott as a roustabout, working in Louisiana between Sulphur and Cameron. He joined the military, serving in Guam and California from 1950 to 1954. In 1955, he returned to the region and began working for McDermott again, laying pipeline and driving piling. He quit in 1972 due to problems with new management, and that year started a welding and pipe fabrication yard. He capitalized on contacts with major companies accrued through his time with McDermott, and had work right away, mainly with Conoco. He built a reputation for good work and got contracts this way rather than through payoffs, which he said were common. Mr. Savoy sold his company in 1982, just before the bust hit, saying he saw the writing on the wall.

Herb Scheuermann

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
LL008

Ethnographic Preface

Herb Scheuermann expressed interest in participating in the oral history project after he saw Morgan Lundy on KATC-3 news. He contacted the research team via email and set up an interview. Laura Loewer met Herb at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 20, 2015 to conduct the interview.

Herb Scheuermann is from New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Nicholls State University with a degree in teaching. He taught science for four years. In 1968, he got his first job with Dresser-Magcobar, making twice the salary he did as a teacher. He created a career doing work from mud engineering to sales engineering, working offshore and inland from 1968 to 1987. In 1977 he moved from Houma to Lafayette with his wife and son. His career in the oil industry concluded in 1987 as a sales engineer with Smith Tool. In 1987, he went back to school and pursued a degree in computer accounting. He sold electronics and beepers for a number of years, and later in life opened a furniture store, from which he is now retired. He and his wife of 51 years reside in Lafayette.

Ron Schnoor

Pascagoula, MS
May 30, 2008
VP083

Ethnographic Preface

An individual in my yoga class knows Ron Schnoor and said he would tell him about our study. He did, and Mr. Schnoor said I could contact him. I was able to arrange to meet him, and conducted this interview at his office in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Mr. Schnoor is the chief operating officer of Signal International in Mississippi and Texas. He began his career with Brown & Root, and then in 1984 went to work for Ham Marine in Pascagoula as a project manager. He advanced through the company and watched it grow and merge with other companies (e.g., Friede Goldman) to become more vertically integrated. In 1995 he was named president. When the company was bought out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy by investors to form Signal International, he was named senior vice president of operations, the position he holds today. In this interview, he describes the evolution of his company, particularly their strengths and the ways they have diversified over the years. He discusses with some detail the labor issues the company has recently faced and their use of H2B visa workers through contract companies and their own recent troubles with sponsoring H2B visa workers. He sees the future of offshore oil and gas work in the Gulf in the deepwater.

Harold and Sarah Schoeffler

Lafayette, LA
November 15, 2010
LE420a, LE420b

Ethnographic Preface

I met Harold and Sarah Schoeffler through David Goodwyn. He referred me to them as long-time social and environmental activists in the Lafayette, Louisiana community. After being introduced to them, I set up an interview with them at their home a few days later. Lillian Miller was invited and accompanied me to the interview in Lafayette.

Harold Schoeffler is from Lafayette. His grandfather, grandmother, and father came here in 1910 from Germany. His mother's side is Cajun French. He has lived here his entire life except for four years when he was in the US Air Force. He joined the Air Force in 1961 and got out in 1965. He became his father's partner at his Cadillac dealership and took over management of the business in June of 1965. He is now retired from the Cadillac business. He is extremely involved in the local Boy Scouts of America and has been since his own childhood. He has also been active in the Sierra Club since 1968 and is active in developing wind energy in Texas and Louisiana. He has also played an integral part in implementing recycling in Lafayette, and was also involved during with opposing the shell dredging and coastal restoration. Sarah Schoeffler, his wife, is originally from Franklin, Louisiana. She works actively for the Live Oaks Society, the local Sierra Club chapter, and several other organizations. They have several children, all middle-aged adults. One of their sons, whom I met at dinner, is a landman and is doing very well in his job.

Harold and Sarah speak extensively about what Lafayette looked like from the 1980s onwards, and the effects of the offshore oil and gas industry on the environment, the community, and the economy. They both discuss the future of energy in Lafayette, and the nature of the "family oriented" community of Lafayette. They also talk about the impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, their roles in the community, and major turning points in history for the town, such as desegregation and environmental policies.

Thomas "Tommy" Schultz

Biloxi, MS
October 14, 2010
PP441

Ethnographic Preface

I initially contacted Mr. Schultz after speaking with PP425, who told me that he would be an important person to speak with in the area about the history of the shipbuilding and fabrication industry. When I contacted Mr. Schultz he readily agreed to meet with me at his house to talk about the industry as well as the impacts of the oil spill on the local community.

Mr. Schultz grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi. He entered the shrimping industry in the 1950s and worked as a commercial shrimper for more than 40 years. He described the heavy economic fluctuations that had historically characterized the industry in the area. He also spoke about some of the difficulties that marked the relationships between local fishermen and shrimpers and the Vietnamese who immigrated to the area beginning in the 1970s. Mr. Schultz stopped commercial shrimping in the early 2000s and worked for Mississippi State University in its Coastal Research and Extension Center. He currently serves on the Mississippi Gulf of Mexico Commission, which is intended to play a crucial role in devising short and long-term strategies to help Mississippi recover from the oil spill.

Morris Sekul

Biloxi, MS
February 7, 2011
PP609

Ethnographic Preface

I was invited to visit the Slovenian Lodge in Biloxi, Mississippi by one of their members, PP600, after I had expressed my interest in local ethnic and industrial history when we spoke over the phone. PP600

introduced me to several members of the Lodge, including Mr. Sekul. PP600 thought that it would be good for me to speak with Mr. Sekul because he was one of the last members of the lodge who still made his living as a shrimper. After being introduced to Mr. Sekul, I asked if he might be willing to take part in an oral history interview, to which he agreed. The interview was conducted at the lodge.

Mr. Sekul was born in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1950. His family was involved in the seafood business and his father was a shrimper, but Mr. Sekul did not immediately go into shrimping after leaving school. He worked at Ingalls Shipyard for a little over 10 years, until1982, when the shipyard experienced a decline in work. After leaving the shipyard, Mr. Sekul went into shrimping. He described the 1980s as a good time for the local seafood industry, a period when people were able to make a decent living shrimping and fishing. He noted that many of his friends in the industry had gotten out of it over the years to pursue various other lines of work, including in the offshore oil industry. He himself never had any desire to go to work offshore and said that he had been able to do alright in the shrimping business until the early 2000s. Since then, the rise in fuel costs and regulations, and the concordant decline in the price of shrimp had made things very difficult for people in the industry. Mr. Sekul also spoke at some length about his experiences in the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill of 2010.

Michael Sevel

Pass Christian, MS
January 10, 2011
PP665

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Sevel was referred to me by a couple involved in the seafood industry in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, with whom I had conducted an oral history interview a few months previously. They described Mr. Sevel as someone who had a long history in the shrimping industry and who could give me some insight into this industry's development along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I contacted Mr. Sevel in December 2010 but was unable to meet with him before I left the area for the holidays. When I returned, I got in touch with him and we arranged to meet on his boat in the Pass Christian, Mississippi harbor.

Mr. Sevel was born in Laurel, Mississippi in 1953. His father, who hailed from a shrimping family on the coast, remained in Laurel for a few years after Mr. Sevel was born, but soon moved back to the coast. Mr. Sevel had lived in Gulfport on the Mississippi Gulf Coast since he was two years old and said that he got his start in the seafood business when he was five. He did a little bit of oystering when he was younger but mostly focused on shrimping throughout his career. After operating his own shrimping boat for a number of years, Mr. Sevel started up his own wholesale seafood business in 1993 and had a fleet of five boats working under him. Hurricane Katrina destroyed his plant in 2005. Since then, Mr. Sevel and his wife worked on just a single boat. Mr. Sevel discussed some of the impacts of increased regulations, in-migration to the area, and other factors that affected the local seafood industry over the years. He also spoke about the impacts of the 2010 Gulf oil spill on the present and future condition of the industry.

John Sevin

Amelia, LA
March 25, 2010
JT035

Ethnographic Preface

John Sevin graduated from high school in 1982, then earned a degree in petroleum engineering technology from Nicholls State University, and began working for McDermott in 1988 at its Amelia yard. Sevin worked on some of the pipe machining for Shell Oil's landmark Auger tension-leg platform (TLP) in the early 1990s. When Shell began to fabricate the even larger Mars TLP, Sevin was appointed as head engineer for one of the facility's five topsides modules—the process module. Sevin also worked on Shell's Ram-Powell, Ursa, and Brutus TLPs, rounding out his career with Bay Offshore.

Matthew Shelley

Forest, MS
May 6, 2010
PP309

Ethnographic Preface

Preetam first met Matthew Shelley when he travelled to Philadelphia, Mississippi to speak with some of the instructors and other individuals involved in a workforce development program associated with East Mississippi Community College and located on the Choctaw reservation. Matthew currently works as an electrical instructor at the program. Matthew grew up in Scott County, Mississippi when it still was heavily rural. He began working offshore for a drilling contractor in the 1970s after spending some time working in road construction and at a local saw mill after he graduated from high school. As he put it, he was looking to "get rich quick" when he first went offshore and also searched for a way to avoid the constant travelling that was a part of road construction. Matthew started out working as a roustabout and eventually worked his way up to derrickman. He worked a seven-and-seven schedule during his time in the industry and worked as an electrician during his time off for much of that period. Matthew related how the 1980s downturn had a significant impact on people from Mississippi who had gone to work offshore by that point. He left the industry in 1985 after an incident involving a blowout on a rig. He related how many people in the area who were laid off from offshore during the 1980s found other jobs and did not go back to working offshore in the 1990s. Matthew went to work as a commercial electrician and described the difficulties of adjusting to the longer hours and lower pay after working offshore. He went back to work offshore in 1995, but quickly left due to the considerable changes in safety regulations during his time away.

Steve Shirley

Morgan City, LA
September 10, 2010
DA405

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Shirley has been a supporter of the research on the impacts of the offshore petroleum industry on communities along the Gulf since 1998 when researchers from the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA) at the University of Arizona began conducting fieldwork in Morgan City, Louisiana. In addition to helping us understand Morgan City and east St. Mary Parish, Steve and his wife, Jean, welcomed several generations of BARA researchers into their home. Throughout the years, though we had talked informally on many occasions, we had never pinned Steve down to an interview. In the course of gathering oral histories for the study of the deepwater era, though, I was finally able to get him to agree to a recorded interview. The interview was conducted at his home; Laura Ek from BARA was present, as well.

Steve Shirley was born sometime in the 1950s and grew up in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. He moved with his family to Morgan City in 1973 and got a job at his father's newspaper business, the *Daily Review*. In his interview, Steve describes life in Morgan City during the 1970s, the boom years, and then the 1980s, when the area went into what he refers to as a depression. His father worked to keep the paper in circulation during those difficult years. Steve and his brother became owners of the *Daily Review* in December 2001 when their father passed away; he became the editor and publisher at that time. He and his brother sold the paper in December 2010, shortly after this interview.

Gregory "Greg" Simoneaux

Lafayette, LA
July 10, 2015
ML021

Ethnographic Preface

After KATC-3 aired the news story about the oral history project, I received an email from Greg Simoneaux expressing his interest in providing an interview. After emailing each other back and forth, we agreed to meet the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 10, 2015 to conduct an interview.

Greg has been working in the oil and gas industry since 1980. Greg works on the production side of the industry as a mechanic; he works on natural gas engines and compressors. He is from Rayne, Louisiana and currently lives there, but he has worked in other places like California, Texas, and Broussard, Louisiana. Greg has gone offshore a few times, but most of his work has been on land or inland water. He has worked contract work and for independent companies. Greg also ran a consulting business for 12 years.

David "Smitty" Smith

Houma, LA
July 9, 2009
JC308

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Smith was first contacted during the History II study, referred by DJ Chauvin, but declined to interview at that time. Though he was suspicious and unwelcoming at first, he eventually agreed to speak with me. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. His wife continued to be very skeptical of the project and read the consent forms several times before finally allowing Mr. Smith to participate. As the interview progressed, he became more comfortable and shared a wealth of information, demonstrating an uncanny memory of places, dates and names. He was an astute observer of evolving trends in equipment and technology in the oilfield, and named many people responsible for these innovations. Mr. Smith should be interviewed again.

Smitty Smith was born in 1936 in Brookhaven, Mississippi; his father was a roughneck for Marshall R. Young Co., Delta Drilling, and Southeastern Oil. He came to Larose, Louisiana in 1954, to work for Southern Production, now called the Offshore Drilling Company. He started as a roughneck on inland barges, spinning chain on the floor because his father was known as the best chain spinner ever born. He moved to Houma in 1962. He was promoted to driller at 26 years old, and six years later became a toolpusher. He also worked on steam rigs for Standard Oil until this was phased out in 1967. Mr. Smith then worked for Bay Drilling Company (owned by Texaco) as an assistant drilling superintendent, in an

office on Bayou Blue in Houma. In 1987, after the downturn, he was moved back to the rigs as a toolpusher. Three years later, Bay Drilling was bought out and Smitty became the drilling foreman, aka "company man," for Texaco, and retired in 1999. He has been offered consulting jobs but has refused them.

Alden Sonnier, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
LL009

Ethnographic Preface

Alden Sonnier heard about the oral history project through the KATC-3 news special with Morgan Lundy. Through email, he set up an interview with Laura Loewer at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Alden Sonnier is originally from Crowley, Louisiana. He graduated high school and immediately went to work in the oil industry in 1973. Since then, he worked for several companies in mud engineering, drilling, field sales, and corporate and executive sales, all out of Lafayette. He currently works for MI SWACO (part of Schlumberger) in executive sales. He is also the current Lafayette Chapter President for the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

Robert Spencer

Moss Point, MS
May 21, 2008
VP037

Ethnographic Preface

I arranged to meet Mr. Spencer on the last day of classes for the year at Moss Point High School, where he instructs students in welding. He had played some of the students the CD of his previous interviews that I had given him the week before, and they were interested in meeting the woman who did the interviews. During the first interview he discussed his working life and during this interview he discussed his early life.

Mr. Spencer was born in 1942 and grew up on a farm in Coy, Alabama, before moving with his family to Mobile in 1957 when his father got a job with Alcor Aluminum. He graduated from Central High School in 1960 and took two years of schooling each at Bishop State Branch of Alabama State Teacher's College and a vocational school, where he got his certificate in welding. He was drafted into the military and was released in 1967. During the last half of the interview he discusses his family's subsistence off the land during his childhood and his love of hunting and fishing.

John St. Julien

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
ML033

Ethnographic Preface

John St. Julien was instrumental in building support for fiber optic internet in Lafayette, Louisiana. After reading an article in the local paper, the *Independent*, about the history of fiber optic internet in the city, Lillian Espinoza-Gala thought it would be a good idea for the research team to interview John St. Julien. Lillian got his contact information and helped put the team in contact with him. I called John and arranged an interview with him on July 23, 3015 at his home.

John St. Julien is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and was a professor at the University of Delaware. He moved to Lafayette to be closer to his grandchildren. Around the time John moved to Lafayette, talk of a fiber optic network had just begun. With a background in education and technology, John became involved in the movement to bring fiber optics to Lafayette. He became an organizer for Lafayette Coming Together, a grassroots coalition for fiber optics. In his interview John discusses the history of fiber optics in Lafayette, the politics involved, the context of Lafayette, and the impacts of fiber optic internet on the city.

Bill E. Stallworth

Houston, TX
January 9, 2009
TP037

Ethnographic Preface

Bill Stallworth was born in Rosebud, Texas in 1932. In 1951, after attending Tarleton for a few years, Stallworth transferred to Texas A&M University. After two years spent in the US Air Force, Stallworth went directly to Brown & Root in 1956. He first worked as a cost engineer and worked for a good amount of time in the Middle East on onshore-based petroleum projects. Stalwart was involved in major British Petroleum projects in the North Sea during the 1980s and 1990s, including the Forties field.

Gordon Sterling

The Woodlands, TX
June 1, 2009
TPJT038

Ethnographic Preface

Gordon Sterling was raised in Ontario, Canada, and quickly developed an interest in engineering. He earned a master's degree in structural engineering at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania in 1965, and soon ended up with Shell Oil in Houston, Texas. Two years later, working in New Orleans for Shell's central engineering group, Sterling began working on major design projects for platforms in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. From there, he gained experience at the Bellaire Research Center and then worked on designing the early deepwater fixed platforms, including Shell's Cognac and Bullwinkle developments. Gordon was then named manager of "Project X," which turned out to be the Mars tension-leg platform development. Gordon retired from Shell in April 2000.

Greg Stutes

Lafayette, LA
July 24, 2015
LL013

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala referred us to Greg Stutes. Morgan contacted Greg and set up an interview at his office in Lafayette, Louisiana for July 24, 2015. Laura conducted the interview.

Greg Stutes is from Houston Texas, but in 1976 moved to Lafayette, while he was in the sixth grade, because of his father's job with the railroad. He started college at Louisiana State University in mechanical engineering, and completed his degree at University of Southwestern Louisiana in industrial technology. His first job was offshore with Conoco in 1988. Greg worked offshore for five years and then seven onshore in the office before they moved to Houston. He worked for Drilling Services of America for almost a year, then Halliburton for four years. He worked for Chevron for a short time, but got into consulting in 2005 with Completion Specialists. Greg currently works for Completion Specialists as an engineering advisor. Greg has been married for 27 years.

Dennis Sullivan

Lafayette, LA
July 19, 2017
DA656

Ethnographic Preface

Dennis Sullivan first met University of Arizona researchers at a radio station fundraiser event in Lafayette in the fall of 2010. He shared information about his work and, because of his background in the oil and gas industry, he put the researchers in touch with several other individuals. In 2017, he participated in a phone interview about his career and experiences in the industry.

Dennis G. Sullivan was born in 1950 in Germany and moved around a lot as a child because his father served in the U.S. Army. He lived the longest in Gainesville, Florida, graduated from high school in 1969, and then went on to the University of Florida, obtaining a liberal arts degree in 1973. He traveled a bit after graduation and worked at a couple of different jobs until a friend of his living in Lafayette encouraged him to move to Lafayette to enter the oil and gas industry. Because he had a college degree, Dennis was pointed toward mud logging. He was hired by Baroid Logging Systems in 1977 and spent his career working for service companies where he helped introduce new technologies such as measurement while drilling (MWD) and participated in early efforts to bring people together across disciplinary lines to address technological challenges. In his interview, he describes his career trajectory and reflects on the industry and its evolution.

John J. Swoboda, Jr.

Houston, TX
September 24, 2011
TP039

Ethnographic Preface

John Swoboda's parents immigrated from Czechoslovakia and John was born in Galveston, Texas. When a third party showed Swoboda's father plans for an offshore drilling rig, John helped with its fabrication—on the workover rig that became known as Skytop. During college, Swoboda worked for Collins Construction Company, helping to lay offshore pipelines in the late 1950s. After college, at the start of the 1960s, Swoboda landed a job building military equipment for jet airplane munitions, and later assisted with an offshore diamond mining concern. Doing business at a small firm back in the US,

Victoria Machine Works—which his father had founded—Swoboda was able to acquire several contracts from McDermott for barge fabrication. His firm worked on a wide array of projects over the decades, including the US Navy's historic SEALAB habitat. By the 1990s, the firm employed over 200 people.

Merlin "Mert" Talbot

Schriever, LA
July 7, 2009
JC305

Ethnographic Preface

Merlin Talbot was first contacted during the History II study, after a Halliburton retirees' breakfast, but was not interviewed. We met at his home just north of Houma, on land where his father used to farm cane and dairy cows. He worked for Halliburton for 31 years, and retired in 1997 because he no longer wanted to deal with the terrible seasickness he experienced traveling offshore. He continues to meet regularly with other Halliburton retirees for coffee at a local donut shop every other Tuesday.

Merlin Talbot was born in 1941 in Houma, Louisiana. His father was from Napoleonville, and, after the Depression, had received a land grant in Houma to farm cane. In 1966, pressured by his mother to get a "real job," Merlin started with Halliburton as a bulk hand. He climbed steadily up the ranks, moving from supervisor of a marine unit to the Halliburton Clean Gulf environmental department. When this division was sold to the Marine Spill Response Corporation in 1997, he retired. His son Ricky presently works for Halliburton offshore.

Allen Taylor

Biloxi, MS
February 8, 2011
PP598

Ethnographic Preface

I stopped by Mr. Taylor's marine supply business in Biloxi, Mississippi about a week ago to speak with him about how his business had fared since the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. During this visit we also discussed some of the history of Mr. Taylor's business and the more general industrial history of the area. I mentioned to Mr. Taylor that we were hoping to conduct some oral history interviews with people in various historically significant industries in the area. He said that he would be fine with doing an interview and told me to get in touch with him the following week. I called Mr. Taylor the next week and we agreed to meet at his business.

Mr. Taylor was born in Macon, Mississippi in 1945 but he moved down to the coast with his father soon afterwards, and grew up in the area around Escatawpa. He remembered the significance that the local seafood and shipbuilding and fabrication industries had in the area historically. His father worked in a local processing plant. Mr. Taylor worked in the plant himself while he growing up in the area but went to work for a finance company after he finished school. He worked his way up in this company and then went to work for a marine equipment and supply company in the area in the late 1970s. In the 1980s, he bought out the two company owners and has run the business ever since, dealing with the commercial and recreational shrimping and fishing industries, as well as the offshore oil industry. He discussed how his business had changed over the years with concordant changes in these various industries, and also spoke about the impact that the oil spill had had on his business since the previous summer.

Billy Joe Teu

Stonewall, MS
May 4, 2010
PP307

Ethnographic Preface

Robert Boles, whom Preetam interviewed shortly after arriving in the Meridian, Mississippi area, had initially tried to put him in contact with Billy Joe Teu. Billy Joe was a friend of Robert's who had grown up in the same rural area in Clarke County. Preetam spoke with Billy Joe shortly after he interviewed Robert and they arranged to meet the following week.

Due to financial constraints, Billy Joe Teu had been unable to attend college after graduating from high school. He hitchhiked to New Orleans, Louisiana to get a job in the oilfield. He repeatedly described the oilfield of the 1960s and 1970s as a "man's world" and emphasized that opportunities existed in the oil industry if one was capable and hard working. He was, at times, sharply critical of the excessive safety and environmental regulations, which he believed came to characterize the industry in recent years and drastically altered the nature of work. The increasing reliance on professional engineers, and automated and computerized equipment since the 1980s also drew his criticism for having contributed to a de-skilling of the workforce, and to young people with very little experience assuming authority over longtime industry workers. Billy Joe worked his way up from roustabout to driller, working for Shell Oil Company for much of his career. He retired from Shell in the early 1990s, but then went to work for a consulting company. At the time of the interview, due to health issues, he had recently stopped working in the oil industry.

James R. "Rusty" Thibodeaux

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015
ML037

Ethnographic Preface

Rusty Thibodeaux emailed the team after reading about our oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser* in Lafayette, Louisiana. He told us he would be interested in doing an interview. We scheduled an interview with Rusty for July 28, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

Originally from Lafayette, Rusty Thibodeaux graduated from the University of Southern Louisiana with a degree in chemical engineering. Throughout his 34 years in the industry, Rusty has worked for ARCO, Vastar, BP, and Frank's International. He has held a variety of positions, including engineer, environment advisor, safety coordinator, and safety director. After retiring from BP, Rusty moved back to Lafayette from Houston, Texas, where he had lived for the past five years. In the last few months he started working at Frank's International as the safety director. He has worked in the office and offshore.

Inez Thomas

Biloxi, MS
October 10, 2011
KM416b

Ethnographic Preface

Ms. Inez Thomas is the owner and operator of Inez's Café in Biloxi, Mississippi. Many people in the community suggested that she would be an important resource for information. I stopped by to introduce myself and Ms. Thomas agreed to sit down with me on another day after the lunch hour. I arrived and ordered the daily special, fried chicken with a side of red beans and rice, collard greens, corn bread, and sweet tea. Her café features a daily special but also offers a menu of various items. She's still not sure what is going to happen with the business after she retires.

Ms. Inez Thomas was born June 4, 1939 in Canton, Mississippi, about 20 miles outside of Jackson. Following the path of her sister, she moved to Jackson and then to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, in 1956. In 1962, she moved to Biloxi and worked for Biloxi Laundry. She and her partner, Vireece Proby, worked for a friend to learn how to run a business before opening their own lounge and then café. Mr. Proby focused his work on the lounge and Ms. Thomas on the café. They were closed for almost two years after Hurricane Katrina. When they reopened, business rebounded quickly. Today, Ms. Thomas continues to run the café.

Marti Thomas

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015
LL017

Ethnographic Preface

I met Marti Thomas through Trinity Bible Church, where she works as the executive pastor. She practiced oil and gas litigation throughout the 1980s and 1990s and had read about our research project in the *Daily Advertiser*. She was interested in an interview, and we agreed to meet at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Marti Thomas is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She went to law school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Upon graduation in 1981, she was hired by Liskow and Lewis, a law firm with an office in Lafayette. Marti and her husband moved to Lafayette. While working for Liskow and Lewis, Marti became one of the first women to get a membership to the Petroleum Club. In her interview she talks about the discrimination she experienced as one of the first women in the club in those early days. After practicing at Liskow and Lewis and eventually becoming a partner in the firm, she took a break from law to raise her children. After being gone from law for four years, Marti got a faculty position at the LSU Law School. In 1998 she opened her own practice, specializing in securities. In 2009, Marti left law all together and became the executive pastor at Trinity Bible Church.

Diana and Rodney Thompson

Coden, AL
January 18, 2011
PP675a and PP675b

Ethnographic Preface

Diana and Rodney Thompson were recommended to me as two people in the area who had experience in both the seafood industry and the offshore oil business. I contacted Diana over the phone. It took some to

set up a good time for the interview. Our interview took place in the living of Diana and Rodney's home in Coden, Alabama.

Both Diana and Rodney Thompson were born and raised in the area around Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Both grew up in families that were involved in the seafood industry and at an early age gained experience working in this industry. They mentioned how various factors had contributed to the decline of this industry over the years and to them shifting to offshore oil work. These included the influx of imports, the entrance of non-locals into the commercial seafood industry, and pressure from environmental groups and recreational fishermen. Rodney began working on supply boats in the 1970s to supplement his income and to provide his family with the health benefits and stable paychecks. Rodney described working in the offshore oil industry throughout the 1980s and said that he never was affected by the general downturn that affected the industry during this time. Diana began working with Rodney, co-captaining supply boats in the 2000s. They both agreed that there were more husband-wife teams working in the industry some years ago, but that they were among the very few at this point. Following the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, Rodney and Diana worked on the Vessel of Opportunity program, but explained that offshore oil work had slowed down drastically in the aftermath of the spill. They are both currently employed by the same company, but expressed doubts about how long the company could continue to pay them and other employees without work coming in.

Ronald J. "Ronnie" Trahan

Houma, LA
July 27, 2009
JC327

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Trahan was referred by his wife, Carline, who works at Songy's Sporting Goods store in Houma, Louisiana. Ronnie knows many of the contract companies working in the Houma area; as operations manager for a major welding company, he negotiates contracts with major oil companies as well as small shops. He agreed to be interviewed in his office at Marine Fabrication Company in Houma.

Mr. Trahan was born in 1955 in New Orleans, but his family moved to Houma when he was one year old. His father worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Ronnie took welding in high school, and after graduation he started his first job with Delta Iron Works. A year later he began working for a family-owned business, repairing rigs, boats, barges, and pipes along the coast. He drove a welding truck, doing "dockside" work, making welding repairs that kept rigs in operation. In the late 1970s he began going offshore on repair jobs. He also worked in shipyards during this period. In 1992 he started Marine Fabrication and Repair with other partners. He is currently operations manager for the company, after his brother bought him and the other partners out six years ago.

Craig Turner

Lafayette, LA
June 25, 2015
ML013

Ethnographic Preface

After the oral history project was written about in the *Daily Advertiser*, many people contacted the paper and the research team, voicing their interest in being interviewed. One of those people was Craig Turner. He contacted Ken Stickney, who passed along Craig's contact information to the team. I called Craig and

scheduled an interview with him that took place at his house. We conducted the interview in his workshop; his wife, Denise, joined us for the interview.

Craig Turner went to Nicholls State University and earned two degrees: one in business administration and the other in petroleum technology. He was one of the first graduating classes of Nicholls' seven-and-seven program. He started working offshore in 1974. He has worked in many places all over the world and for several companies including Union Oil of California, Diamond Shamrock, and Conoco Phillips. He retired in 2014.

Hank Van Calcar

Houston, TX
October 10, 2009
TP040

Ethnographic Preface

Hank Van Calcar grew up on a ranch in Oregon, and attended Oregon State University (OSU) to study power engineering. With an additional master's degree from OSU in hand by 1959, Van Calcar worked on control and feedback systems for TRW Systems. After several years, Van Calcar relocated to Seattle, Washington to work for Honeywell, where he became involved in building dynamically positioned ships for the offshore drilling contractor, SEDCO. Over his long career, Van Calcar worked on the landmark Shell Cognac fixed platform, as well as on the Exxon first-of-its-kind Lena guyed or compliant tower. Van Calcar retired from Honeywell in 1992.

Dr. George Vance

Houston, TX
September 25, 2010
TP041

Ethnographic Preface

George Vance grew up in Brooklyn, New York and after high school shipped off immediately to the US Coast Guard Academy. Vance spent 20 years in the US Coast Guard, the first half as a shipboard engineer—primarily on an icebreaker—and the second as a professor at the Academy. While at the Academy, he earned his doctorate from the University of Rhode Island, focusing on modeling vessel behavior in ice. For three years, Vance was able to test scale models of icebreaker designs in a custom-built ice tank built by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Vance retired from the US Coast Guard and took a job with Mobil, in their ice engineering section, where he helped design the landmark Hibernia platform. Vance was also Mobil's designated representative in the DeepStar industry consortium. When Exxon and Mobil merged in 2000, Vance retired, having spent 20 years in the US Coast Guard and 20 at Mobil.

Leon Vincken

Houston, TX
September 24, 2011
TP042

Ethnographic Preface

Leon Vincken was educated in the Netherlands in mechanical engineering, and joined Shell Oil in 1955. Vincken was immediately sent to Venezuela, where he spent the next decade of his career. Upon returning to Europe, Vincken was assigned to Shell's research section, on a project working to determine the ultimate depth limit of a human diver. Two and a half years later, Vincken was dispatched again, this time to the South China Sea. In 1975, he returned to The Hague to head Shell's offshore research group. Vincent retired from Shell in 1989, and began his own senior management consultancy firm, before joining a commercial bank.

James "Governor" Waller, Jr.

State Line, MS
May 30, 2010, January 5, 2011
PP319, PP673

Ethnographic Preface

I initially interviewed Mr. Waller about his work in offshore production during the summer of 2010, at the recommendation of Larry Pickens. When I returned to the area in 2011, I contacted Mr. Waller to see whether he might be willing to meet with me to discuss any changes in the oil industry and his work since the previous summer. Mr. Waller agreed to meet with me at his home in State Line, Mississippi and we conducted the interview in his living room.

Mr. Waller was born in Waynesboro, Mississippi, but had moved around quite a bit as a child because his father was in the military. He initially went into seismic work in the 1970s shortly after he graduated from high school. After doing seismic work for several years, he applied for and got a job with Texaco, where he started off as a roustabout. Mr. Waller worked in production and eventually worked his way up to crane inspector, a position that he still has with Chevron. He currently works out of Pascagoula, Mississippi, only 80 or so miles away from his home.

Throughout his first interview, Mr. Waller talks about the dramatic changes in safety and technology he witnessed throughout his career. According to Mr. Waller, technological advances, and the accompanying increases in required expertise and education levels, were especially pronounced in production, as opposed to drilling, since the 1980s.

In his second interview, Mr. Waller discusses the *Deepwater Horizon* rig explosion and its aftermath. Mr. Waller spoke in defense of Chevron's safety record and procedures, although he thought that it was inevitable that the industry would be subjected to some changes following these events. He described the deaths of the 11 men on the *Deepwater Horizon*, a number of them from the State Line area, as the greatest impact of the oil spill.

Jodee Ware

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015
ML040

Ethnographic Preface

While being interviewed, Penny Young discussed the oil and gas industry's philanthropy in the local community. She mentioned a nonprofit called Rebuilding Together Acadiana (RTA) that helps repair and

rebuild homes in low-income communities. Halliburton and other oil and gas companies support RTA. According to Penny, Halliburton provides RTA with supplies and an office space in their building free of charge. In the past, Halliburton also had a company workday in which employees could do community service for RTA and still get paid their wages. After seeing my interest in this organization, Penny offered to put me in contact with RTA's director, Jodee Ware. After an introductory email from Penny to Jodee, I called Jodee to ask if she would be interested in being interviewed. She agreed and we met at her office in the Halliburton offices in Lafayette, Louisiana. Jodee Ware has been involved with Rebuilding Together Acadiana since 1999 when she was an AmeriCorps volunteer. She currently is the director of the organization.

Sally Ware

Lafayette, LA
March 9, 2011
LE468

Ethnographic Preface

I was referred to Sally Ware when I was in Lafayette, Louisiana last fall. She has worked for LAGCOE (Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition) since 1980 as their primary employee. The trade-show runs every other year in the fall, and she is in charge of setting up and coordinating the event.

Sally Ware is from Duncan, Oklahoma. In the 1940s, her family moved here because her father was in the oil business. She graduated high school in 1962. She said there were several occasions when they moved away from Lafayette when the industry wasn't doing well, but after she came back for college at ULL, graduating in 1967, she decided to make Lafayette her permanent home. She worked for Superior Oil Company beginning in 1967, and then moved on to Lion's Petroleum, an independent exploration company, where she worked for 10 years.

In the interview, she discusses what LAGCOE is, what she does to promote it, as well as what it means to have it in the Lafayette community. She speaks about the community of Lafayette and how it has changed over the years, in particular the Oil Center and the Petroleum Club. She also describes the work she did for the oil companies she worked for, and how she got into the job. She also talks about why she enjoys living in Lafayette and what she likes about her job.

Cathy Webb

Meridian, MS
April 22, 2010
PP303

Ethnographic Preface

Preetam initially contacted Cathy Webb after speaking with Richie McCallister, the Dean of Occupation Education at Meridian Community College in Meridian, Mississippi. Richie told Preetam that Cathy's husband worked offshore and might be willing to speak with him. Preetam met briefly with Cathy, who taught in the English Department at the college. She called Preetam back a few days after their first meeting, saying that she would like to sit down for an interview and that she could provide the perspective of an "oilfield wife" even if her husband was not willing to participate. The interview took place at Cathy's office at the community college.

Cathy Webb grew up in the Mississippi Delta and moved to the Meridian area after meeting her husband. She talked about some of the challenges she had to go through, having been raised in a wealthy, upper class Delta family and having to learn to fend for herself in various ways when her husband was working offshore. Overall, she held a positive view of offshore work and the financial stability it provided her family.

Denis Weber

Morgan City, LA
March 25, 2010
JT043

Ethnographic Preface

Denis Weber was born and raised in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, and earned an engineering degree from Nicholls State University in 1975. The following year, he was hired by McDermott as a cost estimator; during a career of 34 years with the firm, he worked in a number of capacities. Weber was a senior project manager for Shell Oil's Auger tension-leg platform (TLP) in the early 1990s, helping to oversee its fabrication and assembly. In 1993, as the Mars TLP development began to come into shape, Weber was the overall project manager for Mars. At the time of interview, Weber was a Division Chief Engineer for McDermott.

Charles "Mike" Webre

Lafayette, LA
June 18, 2015
ML004

Ethnographic Preface

Joan Craft, the executive assistant at Frank's International, referred Mike Webre to us. Joan learned about the study through Cherie Hebert who had been helping advertise the oral history project and facilitate interviews at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Joan scheduled the interview for Mike. We met him at the Petroleum Club to conduct the interview.

Mike Webre is the Vice President of Engineering at Frank's International. He received his degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL). His work in the oil and gas industry started in 1975. The majority of his career has been spent working for Frank's International.

Benny West

Waynesboro, MS
May 23, 2010
PP314

Ethnographic Preface

Geoffrey Clark, a Waynesboro, Mississippi resident with whom Preetam had spoken, recommended Benny West as someone who might be willing to participate in the study. Preetam contacted Benny soon after and they arranged to meet at Benny's house in a development on the outskirts of Waynesboro. Benny began working offshore in the mid 1970s and stayed in until the mid 1980s. After he graduated

from high school, he went to work in an oilfield supply company based in Wayne County that supplied onshore rigs. After a few years in the supply business, Benny went to work offshore. He worked in both derricks and drilling during his time in the industry. He left the oilfield because he had an opportunity to work as a plant manager for a local business when the offshore oil industry slowed down. He claimed to sometimes wonder if he had made the right decision in leaving the industry when he did, and described the difficulty of getting used to the pay scales of locally available work after working offshore.

Steven Wheeler

Houston, TX
September 25, 2010
TP044

Ethnographic Preface

Steven Wheeler hailed from Montana; he followed his father's career into the oil industry and eventually to Houston, Texas. Wheeler earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 1975, and promptly joined Texaco. He spent 12 years with Texaco in the North Sea, where he was introduced to subsea production technology and worked on several record-setting subsea tieback systems. In 1988, Wheeler returned to the Gulf of Mexico, and helped form a team that projected Texaco's potential future in expanding into deepwater. After management declined to fund a program up to perhaps $70 million, Wheeler and others at Texaco used a smaller amount of money to begin setting up a joint industry research group known as DeepStar. The DeepStar group is widely recognized as having helped advance deepwater and subsea technology rapidly in the early 1990s, contributing to the deepwater boom that followed.

Phil Wilbourn

Houston, TX
September 25, 2010
TP045

Ethnographic Preface

Phil Wilbourn studied in Cookeville, Tennessee at Tennessee Tech University on a baseball scholarship and graduated in 1966 with an engineering degree. In 1967, Wilbourn signed on with Texaco and worked for two years focused on shallow water platforms in the Gulf. He worked for Texaco across the Gulf Coast and in Saudi Arabia. He also worked on the design phase for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port. Wilbourn worked with Curtis Burton and Steve Wheeler investigating the future of technology in deepwater; after Texaco management declined to fund a program up to perhaps $70 million, Wilbourn and others at Texaco used a smaller amount of money to begin setting up a joint industry research group, known as DeepStar. The DeepStar group is widely recognized as having helped advance deepwater and subsea technology rapidly in the early 1990s, contributing to the deepwater boom that followed.

Lou Wilkerson

Prosper, TX
June 26, 2009
JT046

Ethnographic Preface

Lou Wilkerson grew up in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas. In 1961, Wilkerson went to work for Shelland later completed a master's degree in chemical engineering. Wilkerson worked on a thermal project in east Texas and Arctic design projects, but predominantly on subsea and deepwater activities in engineering management. He helped deploy Shell's first subsea manifold experiment in the Gulf in the late 1960s. Wilkerson also worked on the pipelines for the landmark Shell Cognac fixed platform. In the 1990s, Wilkerson was chosen to be the project manager for the massive Ram-Powell tension-leg platform. Wilkerson retired in 1999.

Dale Williams

Coden, AL
June 17, 2008
VP103

Ethnographic Preface

I stopped in at Willams Fabricators in Coden, Alabama, to find out more about the company and was able to arrange an interview with Dale Williams. We met in his office.

Mr. Williams was born and raised in Fowl River, Alabama. His parents were commercial fishermen and when the seafood industry was slack, his father took various jobs in the shipyards. He discusses growing up around wooden boat builders and his entry into the industry, in 1969 at the age of 18, with a ship fitting apprenticeship with Ingalls Shipyard. During his seven years with Ingalls, he learned many different skills and, importantly, had the opportunity to learn about mold lofts and become interested in design. He was laid off in 1976 and for the next 15 years worked a variety of jobs and even opened several businesses, before going back to work for Ingalls in the early 1990s in their engineering department. He quit that job and in 1998 reopened Williams Fabricators, where he built new boats (mostly fishing vessels) and developed a new framing system.

At the time of the interview, Williams Fabricators was getting into conversion work. Mr. Williams discusses repair work in general and plans to slowly grow and diversify. In terms of industry cycles, he says they are very difficult to predict and during down cycles, you just have to live with the given situation, hope the quality of your work gets you through, and maybe diversify a bit. As a small yard, when they are busy they subcontract out a lot of the different skilled crafts, though when business is slower they do more in-house. Towards the end of the interview, he describes optical lofting and the use of computers in design work, and goes through the process from order, design, build, and testing. For Mr. Williams, the gratifying part of the job is seeing the boats that they are able to make operational. The hard part is dealing with the rising prices of materials.

James Williams

Waynesboro, MS
May 21, 2010
PP313

Ethnographic Preface

Bobby Jones at the Wayne County Vo-Tech Center, in Waynesboro, Mississippi, had mentioned James Williams as someone that Preetam should try to contact for an interview. Preetam and James met at James' house a few days after speaking on the phone.

James Williams was one of the few people that Preetam interviewed in Mississippi who had spent a substantial part of his career working overseas. He attended junior college for two years and had then worked in the lumber industry until a friend had told him about the opportunity to work onshore in the late 1970s. He worked onshore for several years until informed by another friend about the increased pay and other benefits offshore. The rig he started out working on for Chevron was soon moved to Argentina in the mid-1980s and he decided to go with it. Since then, he has worked in Brazil, the Middle East, Trinidad, and Nigeria, among other places. He reported greatly enjoying most of his experiences overseas, stating that the Middle East was the only place he worked where he felt uncomfortable and somewhat unwelcomed. He eventually worked his way up to Offshore Installation Manager. He discussed the importance of keeping work life and home life separate given the often stressful nature of offshore work and being away from home for a month at a time. He left offshore work in 2005. Afterwards he consulted for a short period for onshore rigs, but did not care for onshore work.

Luther R. Windham

Lafayette, LA
July 16, 2015
ML025

Ethnographic Preface

Luther Windham called the research team after learning about the oral history project through the news. He currently lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana, but Luther agreed to do the interview in Lafayette on July 16, 2015. Roxanne Barros was also present for the interview; it was unclear what her relation is to Luther.

Luther Windham is from Jonesville, Louisiana and has been in the oil and gas industry for 42 years. He started off working land jobs with his dad. Luther has worked in different parts of the industry including offshore, deepwater, fracking, drilling, and production. Luther currently owns his own oilfield consulting company, Redneck Consulting, Inc.

William “Bill” Wooten

Lake, MS
January 7, 2011
PP678

Ethnographic Preface

Diane Austin first contacted and interviewed Mr. Wooten and his wife at their home in Union, Mississippi. When I arrived in the area during the summer of 2010, I contacted Mr. and Mrs. Wooten and met with them at their home on several occasions.

Mr. Wooten’s family is from Mississippi but moved to Miami, Florida when he was in school. After high school, he went to work for his father’s construction business and remained there until his father moved back to Mississippi and began raising cattle. Mr. Wooten started his own business doing industrial sandblasting and commercial coatings and worked at it for several years until he decided to move back to Mississippi. He worked on his dad’s farm and started a ready-mix business, but when the business turned sour after several years, his cousin, who worked offshore, suggested he apply for a job as a mechanic. He started as an assistant mechanic on the Shell Auger platform and then moved into a position as a mechanic for Tideco. He remained with the company when it was bought by Hercules and spent most of his career working on Rig 64.

Mr. Wooten discussed how much more difficult it had become in recent years for people in the area to find and maintain positions in the offshore oil industry. He mentioned that it had often become necessary for experienced workers to take substantial pay cuts and work in entry-level positions, something that had affected him personally. He emphasized the high wages and good benefits that kept him working offshore, but expressed uncertainty about where the industry would head in the future.

Penny Young

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
ML023

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala referred Penny Young to the research team to participate in the oral history project. Diane was initially going to interview Penny; however, Penny's granddaughter was born and the interview was rescheduled for a later date. Through email, Penny and I agreed to conduct the interview at her office on July 14, 2015.

Penny Young has been in the oil and gas industry for 27 years. She started in administration and worked her way into sales. Penny started her career with Axelson, but as companies merged, she came to work for Halliburton and currently with NOV. During the interview, Penny reflected on the challenges of being a woman in the industry and the changes she has seen during her career.

Jeremy Zirlott

Coden, AL
February 13, 2011
PP674

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Zirlott had been referred to me by his parents, who had long-term involvement with the seafood industry in the area. They had said that Mr. Zirlott operated large freezer boats that went shrimping in the deep waters of the Gulf and that he could give me some insight into the historical and current state of this segment of the seafood industry. I tried contacting Mr. Zirlott soon after speaking with his parents, but he had been out on the water at the time. After I interviewed Mr. Zirlott's brother in February, I attempted to contact him again and this time we agreed to meet at his home in Coden, Alabama for an interview.

Mr. Zirlott was born in 1972 and grew up in Coden. He recalled that both the shipyards and processing plants were important to the local economy while he was growing up in the area. Mr. Zirlott grew up working with his parents on the water and went to work shrimping fulltime after he had gotten out of school. Mr. Zirlott regretted what he perceived as the steady decline of interest among younger people in the area. In response to the rise in imports, increased fuel prices, and other factors, Mr. Zirlott went further into the retail portion of the seafood industry. He recently purchased his own dock space and maintained storage space to stock his own shrimp. In the course of the interview, he expressed his uncertainty about what the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill might portend for these investments and for the future of the shrimping industry more generally speaking.

Patricia and Victor Zirlott

Coden, AL
December 10, 2010
PP564a, PP564b

Ethnographic Preface

Some time ago, I had been told by PP546 to contact Patricia and Victor if I wanted to learn more about the history of the fishing and shrimping industry in the area. I eventually called and spoke with Patricia, who was enthusiastic about the idea of meeting for an interview. She told me to come on over to the house later on that day to speak with her and her husband, Victor. I interviewed Patricia and Victor in their kitchen. Victor still goes out crabbing and shrimping and they still operate a seafood processing business from behind their home in Coden, Alabama.

Patricia and Victor Zirlotte were born in 1953 and 1951, respectively, in the Coden area and lived and worked there throughout the courses of their lives. Both of their families have lengthy histories in the seafood industry. Victor's father also worked running supply boats for the offshore oil industry for much of his career and Victor discussed the events that had resulted in his father beginning to work for the industry. Victor worked offshore very briefly and expressed not having enjoyed the work. Since the late 1980s, Patricia and Victor had operated a seafood shop, which they expanded in various ways over the years. Initially they only processed seafood, but over the years they came to market a variety of gourmet products. They said that these efforts had worked for a long time but that more recently numerous factors had contributed to making it increasingly difficult to make a living in the seafood industry.

Robert "Chris" Zirlott

Coden, AL
December 13, 2010
PP566

Ethnographic Preface

PP546 recommended that I contact Chris Zirlott when I had asked about people in the area who might be able to speak about the history of the local shrimping and fishing industry. I called Chris a few weeks later and spoke with him and his wife. He had said that he would likely be available to do an interview the following week. When I called back the following week, Chris said to come on over to his house in Coden, Alabama, where we spoke at his dining room table.

Chris Zirlott was born in Coden in 1949. He grew up fishing and shrimping and had also learned the basics of shipbuilding when he was younger. He worked for a short time in in Pascagoula, Mississippi and Moss Point, Mississippi at the shipyards and paper mill before deciding to go back into shrimping and fishing fulltime. Like his younger brother, Chris had worked on an offshore supply boat one time before deciding that it was not for him. He discussed that many others involved with the local seafood industry had begun to work offshore over the years as it became more and more difficult to make a living. Chris described the 1980s and part of the 1990s as being a good time for shrimping and fishing. However, in recent years hard economic times hit the industry, forcing Chris to start selling used cars on the side in order to make ends meet.

Simon Zirlott

Coden, AL

February 9, 2011
PP649

Ethnographic Preface

I had interviewed Mr. Zirlott's parents for the oral history project a few months previously and they mentioned that they had two sons involved in the shrimping and fishing industry whom I might try to interview, as well. I happened to arrive at Mr. Zirlott's house by accident, while I was searching for an oyster processing plant. Mr. Zirlott and I spoke for a while on this occasion about the current state of the fishing industry in the area after the oil spill, and about some of the history of this industry in the area. I had asked Mr. Zirlott if he might be willing to do an oral history interview at some point and he had said that he was planning on heading up to central Alabama to go hunting for a few weeks but that I could contact him in February. I got a hold of Mr. Zirlott a few weeks later and we agreed to meet at his house.

Mr. Zirlott was born and raised in the Coden, Alabama area. He worked with his parents in the seafood industry while he was growing up and decided at an early point in his life that this was how he wanted to make his living. In his mid-teens, he quit school and went to work as a fisherman. He did not regret it. Mr. Zirlott described himself as being among the few people in the area who focused almost entirely on commercial fishing and said that he had been attracted by the particular challenges presented by fishing relative to shrimping, crabbing, or other pursuits. Mr. Zirlott said that while fishing had been relatively less impacted by imports and falling prices, increased regulations played a major role in affecting his ability to make a living. Mr. Zirlott was confident about the Gulf's ability to recover in the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and believed that the greatest damage to the seafood industry after the oil spill came from the negative media attention that was focused on the area.

Chapter 3. Ethnographic Prefaces with Summaries

Adriel Abshire

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
ML028

Ethnographic Preface

While attending a Desk and Derrick meetingin Lafayette, Louisiana with Lillian Espinoza-Gala, I met Adriel Abshire. Through talking to her, Lillian and I learned that she had worked for Schlumberger since 1967. Because Adriel had been involved with the industry for over 40 years, we thought it would be a good idea to interview her for the oral history project. At the end of the meeting, I asked Adriel for her contact information and asked if she would be interested in doing an interview. She agreed. I called her to schedule the interview. We conducted the interview at her house on July 20th.

Adriel Abshire has lived in the Lafayette since 1963. She started out with Drilling and Service, which was bought by Hycalog. The well logging part of Hycalog was bought by The Analyst, which was eventually bought by Schlumberger. Adriel stayed with Schlumberger from 1967 until her retirement in 1991. She worked on the administrative side of the industry. From 1967 up until present, Adriel has been a member of Desk and Derrick.

Notes before recording started

Background: Adriel's husband was in the US Navy during World War II. Before the war, there were only rice farmers in the Lafayette, Louisiana area. After the war, Adriel's husband got a job from an aunt in Houma. The company was called Wilson Supply Company; they worked in transportation and dispersal of oilfield equipment. The aunt would answer phone calls from home and Adriel's husband would go to the businesses.

Husband with Penrod Drilling: Adriel's husband got to know people at Penrod Drilling Company and eventually started working for them in an office position. When they moved to Houma, Adriel started working because they needed the money; she worked at a dress shop and then at a funeral home working with insurance. She worked until she became pregnant with their first child. They had three kids in total. When Penrod moved to Lafayette, Adriel's family moved with the company; their furniture was moved in the same trucks as the company furniture. Penrod had an office by the Petroleum Club. At the time, during segregation, Penrod hired a black woman to answer phones.

Adriel entering the industry: When all of their kids were in school, Adriel got a job at a diamond bit company called Drilling and Service. Adriel's husband still worked at Penrod. She worked close enough to come back home for lunch. Her husband got off work at 2:00 and Adriel got off at 5:00, thus her husband did the "mom" work after school for their kids.

Buyouts and mergers: Hycalog bought Drilling and Service Company. There were layoffs during the merger, but Adriel did not get laid off. The company moved, but Adriel still drove to work. She worked in insurance, human resources, and billing. The Analyst bought well logging from Hycalog. Schlumberger bought the Analyst. Schlumberger had a contest to rename the Analyst; it switched to Anadrill. During

her time there, Logging While Drilling technology developed. Adriel stayed with Schlumberger until she retired in 1991.

Husband's health problems: Adriel's husband had open-heart surgery in 1982. He also had cancer. Adriel took a three-week leave of absence. She didn't get paid during that time, but the company continued paying for her insurance.

Summary

Start in the industry: Adriel has been in Lafayette since 1963. When all three of her kids were in school, Adriel started working for Drilling and Service. Through the process of several buyouts and mergers, Adriel started working for Schlumberger.

Changes: The changes in technology were unbelievable, but Adriel didn't work much with the technology part.

Adriel's job: She worked on the administrative side. The company was looking to hire people with degrees; it didn't matter what the degree was in because the company would train the person. Adriel worked in human resources and insurance. She did the paperwork for new hires and tell them about their benefits. She also did the paperwork when people left the company and removed them from the payroll; that was difficult for her. She still has friends from the industry and sees them around town.

Women in the industry: There were as many as 13 ladies working for Anadrill when Adriel was there. They worked in inventory, administrative work for the field engineers, accounts receivable and payable, shop people, and answering phones. Adriel did invoicing and human resources. Insurance was outsourced to Sugarland, Texas.

Challenges: Every day there was a challenge. Adriel had to keep up with timesheets; that was a chore. It was challenge making sure the time worked matched up with what the customers were charged.

Downturns: The heartbreaking part was seeing good people being laid off.

Helping someone out: Adriel remembers a foreigner who came to work for the company. He had gone to school in Oklahoma. He had totaled his car while driving to Lafayette, but still made it. Adriel gave him some of her late husband's clothes to wear. She was happy she could help him.

International workers: People from all over the world came to work for Schlumberger. There were people from Scotland and Canada who came to work in Lafayette. Schlumberger would move the district managers to new locations often.

Lafayette and the industry: Lafayette has grown since she moved there. Back then, south of Ambassador Cafferey was just woods; that area developed because of the oil and gas industry. Now the Oil Center should be called the medical center. Lafayette General Hospital has grown.

Work after retirement: One of Adriel's neighbors, who is a consultant, asked her to do some typing work for him. His office is in the Oil Center. She reorganized his files and did typing. She had a key to the office and would work from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Now she does some of the typing work from home. Adriel learned how to use the computer by herself; that was a challenge.

Desk and Derrick: Adriel had to learn something about the industry, so she joined Desk and Derrick in December of 1967. Dot Segal was the president of Desk and Derrick at that time. Adriel worked for

Schlumberger in Opelousas. She went to the first convention in Manhattan, New York City, New York. She was reimbursed for her trip because she had sold directories and gone to the nine mandatory meetings. She has done lots of traveling through her involvement with Desk and Derrick that she wouldn't have gotten to do otherwise; she's gone to Alaska, Hawaii, California, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. She used to be more involved, but has let the younger members step in. At every meeting there is a presentation.

Notes after the recording

Schooling: Schlumberger gave Adriel the option to go school, but she took the money instead.

Desk and Derrick: Adriel got to meet other women in the industry. The Lafayette branch of Desk and Derrick grew so large that there were almost two clubs in town; there were over 200 members. Adriel used to be on the Desk and Derrick House Committee. She spent her Sundays organizing nametags for the meetings. She had also been elected to the Board of Directors. She stepped back when her husband passed away in September of 1990. Adriel retired from Schlumberger in 1991.

Penrod and Lafayette: Penrod needed to be in Lafayette because that's where all of the oil companies were, in the Oil Center. When she moved to Lafayette, she didn't know anything about the town. She had to talk to people to figure out where to live. When Adriel's husband first started working for Penrod, he had to wake up early and make sure reports were ready to go to Dallas, Texas. He eventually switched to a position with normal hours.

Family in the industry: Adriel's sons work in the oil and gas industry. One son has worked in South and Central America and in the North Sea. Her middle son worked for Penrod in the Mediterranean; he married a woman from Tucson, Arizona and lived in Tucson while working internationally. He left the international department, moved back to Lafayette, and started working offshore as a toolpusher. One of Adriel's grandsons works as a clerk and makes sure equipment is sent to the oilfield. One of her other grandsons used to work summers cleaning rigs; he is an environmentalist and a toolpusher for Knight Oil.

Edward J. "EJ" Anderson

Lafayette, LA
July 22, 2015
LL011

Ethnographic Preface

Edward J. Anderson found out about the oral history project on the KATC-3 news segment featuring Morgan Lundy and contacted the project researchers. I responded to Edward and set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Edward was accompanied by a friend, Patrice, and she spoke briefly toward the middle of the interview, but left to get to work with about 30 minutes left in the recording.

Edward James Anderson was born in 1958 and is originally from Lafayette. Edward James (also known as "EJ") did not graduate from high school, but began working offshore September 1, 1976 for Teledyne Oil and Gas. He worked for 10 different companies throughout his career. When he sustained an injury on the job and had to have back surgery, he was unable to return to work and retired around 2000.

Summary

Career background: Working for a bakery, EJ wanted to get a better job. He had just gotten married and began looking for a job in the oilfield. His first job was with Teledyne Oil and Gas offshore. When they first hired him, they told him they did so because they had to hire a minority (EJ is African American). EJ worked at his first job for two and a half years before getting a job with

Challenges on the job: EJ describes being given all kinds of "crazy jobs" when he first started working offshore. Construction on the platforms and salvaging was particularly difficult. He was given all kinds of names, and people thought he was not intelligent enough to do the job at first. However, he chose to work with everyone and learn everything there was. He said it hurt his feelings when people would call him names and say he was "only working offshore because he was black." He says he learned everything on his own. On his day off several years later, his colleagues were in a bind and called him on his day off to ask for help. Because he was African American, he was treated as just a hand, but he says he was more than that. He said he loved what he did offshore and really liked the pay, even though, "They called me Little Black Sambo." He says his colleagues were nice to him when they got back onshore and would usually drop their racist language.

He describes standing in front of his supervisor and pretending to talk to an imaginary dog. He illustrated that his colleagues didn't see him because of the color of his skin, just like his supervisor couldn't see the imaginary dog. His supervisor took the information back to the office and before the end of the year they were hiring more African Americans and treatment wasn't as bad.

He tells several other stories of the challenges of working offshore and proving himself in difficult work situations and how he navigated those challenges. He says black guys spoke out and made it better.

EJ shares a story of a toolpusher he worked for who told him he would trust him with his life, but he would never invite EJ to join him at his kitchen table. Even though EJ encountered this kind of racism, he says, "I loved my job."

Offshore mindset: One thing he learned working offshore was to choose a different attitude. He says you can never bring your job home. Accidents were more common on crew change day because people's thoughts were at home.

Training: During EJ's time in the oilfield, companies began training the hands more. He said there was a strong mentoring relationship between older workers and new workers. More experienced hands would take them under their wings and orient new employees to the job. EJ had to train himself on the job early on and also later on. Today, he says, the oilfield is training people more. Even cooks have to go to a training school now, and everyone offshore has to have a Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC).

Changes in EJ's career: EJ left Teledyne when he ran into some issues with not receiving his pay. When he confronted the captain, the captain told him he'd do whatever he wanted, so EJ threatened to quit. His threat resulted in his being fired, due to "insubordination." At the time, EJ was the only black man on the rig, with 27 white guys. All 27 men came in to the office and defended EJ, which led to the firing of the captain who had been with the company for 17 years, and EJ was hired back. He says the oilfield was getting better.

After leaving Teledyne, EJ went to work for Inland Well Service out of Abbeville, Louisiana for four years doing rough necking. He didn't know anything about rough necking, but needed a job, and he was hired. He picked up the job quickly, and started being mentored by a friend working in the derrick. After

two months his friend got sick and they had no derrick man to replace him. They offered EJ the derrick man job after he proved himself on the job. He remembers bragging about it, and being told, "If you ever get a derrick man job, that is the job on the rig that they can't afford to lose you." As the third person in control of the rig, EJ liked being a derrick man because he figured people wouldn't mess with him. He got his own room, which he assumed was because they didn't want him to mix with the white guys, but later found out it was a perk of the new position, to be given his own quarters. After his work in Abbeville, EJ went to work for a fabricating company in New Iberia, Louisiana as a crane operator. Because he didn't like the idea of coming home everyday, he quit the job after six months so could go offshore. EJ went to work for Henley Drilling. He began in the yard, and learned from his colleagues. EJ picked up information quickly; information he was able to apply when one day the rig was down and the company was in a bind. EJ says, "The oilfield is a good place to work, you can learn and you can make good money, but you got a lot of ignorant people," something which he has found less at the office and more on the rigs. EJ transferred from Henley Drilling and began working for a different company doing a drilling job. He worked seven Christmases and never had time off to be with his children. He went into the work-over department, and recalls a company man treating him like a galley hand, and when EJ introduced himself as the night driller, the company man was shocked. This led to another conflict where EJ was fired on Christmas Eve. After Christmas, EJ's company hired him back and gave him a bonus, with an apology from the company man.

Changes in safety: EJ led safety meetings with his crew, one of the only people to do so. He recalls a young man who got killed who hadn't been given proper instruction. He says the ignorance is prevalent, but he saw this change. Companies began hiring safety personnel, and they would come out for quarterly meetings and give safety awards. EJ says, "In the '70s and '80s we didn't have safety meetings. We didn't have on the job training." He recalls other stories of companies disregarding safety.

Staying offshore: At one company EJ worked for, he went offshore in January 1992, right after New Year's, and stayed on the rig until the January 10, 1993. He had lost his father and his mom didn't have much, one reason he stayed offshore. He says he saw a lot in that year and tells stories about the crew.

Communication: EJ says one thing offshore he wishes companies would change is communication. He says that having one man in charge, even if they didn't always agree on everything, the job would be easier with one authoritative figure.

Changes in crew change and schedule: One big change was when EJ was on a land rig. The schedule at the time was to drive in to the job late at night, something that increased accidents. He suggested a change in which employees would drive in at noon so they'd have time before the job started and then work only six hours on the last day. He says they changed to that schedule and there were no accidents or breakdowns after that.

Summer work program: At one company EJ worked for, he suggested a summer work program for kids in high school. The work program he encouraged the company he was with to start was a success. He says that, after graduation, high school kids have experience and can get into the industry more easily.

Changes in communication: EJ says they were trained more, and reporting was done with computers. The amount of meetings increased, with a focus on safety. He says in 1989 or 1990, communication got better because it used to be "real poor." They began to talk more about what was going on at the job. He talks about problem wells and how important communication is when dealing with difficult drilling situations. He shares a story of working on the Avery Island salt dome and how they sunk the rig. He says they also increased whom they sent in for training. His son, now in the industry, says there are Spanish-speaking classes for rig workers.

Getting injured on the job: He recalls some stories of accidents that were his fault and how he was injured. After his accident they tried to give him "light duty" work, though EJ says there is no light work in the oilfield. After his back surgery in early 2000, he did not go back to work.

Change in safety: He said in his early days with Teledyne they would red through storms offshore. In 1984 he remembers a rig that flipped in the Gulf due to a bad storm. EJ says today they bring people in when there are bad storms and hurricanes. Personnel started to come out in 1991/1992 with his company. He was working for Blake and Falcon when he saw more safety start to happen. They began sending employees to well control school. He notes when he started in the oilfield with Teledyne, they had "no safety."

Challenges with chemicals: He talks about how dust and chemicals would get in their lungs while working. After a while respirators were available and they installed big box fans, per EJ's suggestion. Organizing and saving the tools cost the company money, something that EJ prioritized on the drilling rigs. When he was working for Teledyne, EJ suggested black out safety drills, something they began to do more and more.

First day offshore: EJ remembers going out on a boat. He says he got to "an island of steel." Arriving on the rig, he didn't see anyone his own race. He didn't sleep that night, and recalls even though he worked hard he had a good boss. He said three meals a day and having his clothes washed was "paradise." He recalls a birthday cake the cook made him one year on the rig. "You was like at home."

Women in the workforce: He saw more women engineers, and the first one he saw worked for Schlumberger. He says people used to not want to hire someone if they were a different race, gay, a woman, or of a certain religious background. EJ had a female cousin who worked offshore as a galley hand, and a sister who was a cook offshore. EJ has seen women welders and roughnecks. He says it doesn't matter you background as long as you can do the job.

Expectations by gender: EJ said the expectations were the same—men and women would even cuss each other out. One difference he notes, however, is when they were on the rigs with women they weren't allowed to have playboy magazines. He gives an example of one woman (a night time cook) who made a sign that read "pick up after yourself; your mom doesn't work here." She had another sign that read: "I must be crazy to work out here…and it helps." EJ says this sent a message "not to mess with her." This particular female employee was a counselor to the men on the rig and EJ said she was supportive.

Cycles by gender: Yes, EJ says they were all affected. He said you had to like what you were doing at work.

Changes in pay: They weren't paying them to load and unload supplies when they went onto the rig. This changed around 1986/1987 when a lawsuit was made. They received back pay for their work. He talks about changes in pay and the rates he was paid.

Impact: EJ sees the impact the oil industry has as far reaching. His friend Patrice interjects; sharing her opinion that Lafayette "thinks they are rich." Patrice says: "To me, it's overinflated." She describes the haves and have-nots, and talks about some of her struggles when she came to Lafayette in October of 1988 to work with the school board, and now working in television. EJ and Patrice go on to discuss how the government handles things in the oil industry.

Cycles of the oil industry: EJ notes the current downturn, but thinks it will pick right back up again—maybe even next year. He notes election season has an effect on the cycles. The 1970s was up, but then

they shut it down. In the 1980s, he said the industry was doing so well "You could have quit your job and walked across the street and get on with a crew with another rig."

Changes in company culture: EJ says they used to have picnics and crawfish boils, but later in his career did not see that anymore. He also notes how crews would stick together in the 1980s, but in the 1990s he says this mindset changed more to "everyman for himself" and noted they were more short-handed offshore.

Networking: "It's not what you knew; it's who you knew." He recalls calling a friend who was a drilling superintendent and how he got his son a job with the same company he's been working with the past 11 years. Even though Lafayette is currently going through a slow period, EJ says Lafayette is still the best place to get a job.

What about Lafayette made it possible for companies to exist: EJ says the university is an asset. He says even though there aren't major oil companies in Lafayette, he thinks the oil industry is still successful. EJ notes the geographic location of Lafayette makes it easier to ship out to the job. He references the atmosphere and the people, saying Lafayette is a good place to be.

Oil companies learning from industry cycles: EJ says they've learned a lot. He talks about the expansion of oilfield companies from Lafayette to Broussard. He says Lafayette is a good place to start a business and finish a business in Lafayette, meaning everything is easily available (geographic proximity to other cities, companies, and the airport).

Companies returning: EJ says Schlumberger left for a while, but returned to Lafayette. He says Knight Oil Tools and Parker Drilling slowed down and never left, but just stopped doing as much business. He says companies never fully move away and keep a small presence in Lafayette.

Proudest moments: He is proud of working in the oil industry, learning a lot in the industry, and teaching others. He remarks on the relationships he's made. His says after his accident in the oilfield, he and his wife got divorced: a difficult time. However, he's proud of the money he was able to make, and says it was a good life, though even after 30 years he was forced to retire and wishes he could go back to work. Referring to the oilfield, EJ says: "If you wanted to do well and make money, that was the place to be."

Anonymous

Lafayette, LA
June 24, 2015
ML011

Ethnographic Preface

ML011 contacted Ken Stickney after Ken had written the story about the oral history project in the Daily Advertiser. ML011 was interested in participating, so Ken gave the research team his contact information. I called ML011 and we agreed to conduct the interview at his home in Lafayette on June 24, 2015. ML011 requested that we not use his name, but permitted us to record and archive the interview.

ML011 is from New York. He went to school at Texas A&M. He started in the industry working for Exxon. He moved to Lafayette through his work in oil and gas. He worked as a company man and rig supervisor. ML011 primarily worked in drilling. He has worked in the Gulf and internationally. ML011 is currently retired.

Summary

Background: ML011 is from New York state originally, and went to Texas A&M for college. He was a mud engineer in the oil industry before he went back and finished his degree. After college he got hired on with Exxon. He explained there was a recruiter at Texas A&M, and because he had already been in the oilfields, he got to talking with the recruiter about their mutual friends and acquaintances. The recruiter invited ML011 to New Orleans to talk about a job. They flew ML011 and his wife down. They made an offer and it was 2.5 times higher than what he could make in any other industry. When he went back to college, he didn't intend to go back into the oilfields. But after the offer from Exxon, he went back. He became a company rep and then a supervisor on a rig. He worked for two years in Africa and all over the Gulf of Mexico.

Start in the industry: He explained he was almost always offshore. He said he didn't know anything on his first day. He was sent to Corpus Christie, Texas where it allegedly never snows. He was scheduled to go out to a production platform. It started snowing. He said he just about froze to death in the boat on the way out there. When he was climbing up to the platform he cracked his head on a beam and was bleeding profusely. He said that was the start of his career in the oilfield. He said it sounded like something he would like, as in not a desk job. He didn't know why he started in the first place; he didn't have a burning desire for it, and no family background. Things just happened and fell in place.

On Lafayette: He was hired on as a lead man at Exxon. He worked two years there, and had a friend that he shared a desk with. They both hated it – the company would send them out for a week, a full seven days. The policy was that for every weekday they worked, they would get half a day off and if they were out on weekends they earned a whole day off. However, ML011 said that never happened, he never got those days off. ML011 and his friend went across the street from the Exxon office in New Orleans to a place called Burmont Oil and Gas, a company they had never heard of before. He was hired on with them and they tripled his salary, plus time off. He was there for six months and all of a sudden they were moving their whole operation to Lafayette. He had an option to stay or go. That's how he got to Lafayette. He bought a home and put the kids in school.

Lafayette was very prominent and was like the adult parent of the whole industry. Everything was there, like service companies. It is a hub. He said Lafayette is probably the most progressive town there is in Louisiana, and that it has the best restaurants. He says the town keeps progressing and moving forward, even if Louisiana politics leave little to be desired.

Working offshore: He said when you start going offshore you go with someone that knows what they are doing. Because of his previous mud engineering experience he was pushed along pretty quickly. Then, they put you out by yourself. He had pretty good communication with the other guys he worked with or else "it would have been something." He explained he did a few land jobs in False River, which is an oxbow off the Mississippi River. They moved in the biggest rig in the world at the time up there and ran 12,000 feet of casing. He said this was a big accomplishment. He has been offshore on about every kind of rig there is.

He talked about a rig that blew recently and killed 11 men. The guy who was in charge of that operation broke out under ML011. He explained that man doesn't work in oil anymore.

Changes in the industry: ML011 explained the main changes in industry have been safety and paperwork. Both increased, safety very much to the betterment. He said they say God protects drunks and babies, and you can throw oil workers in there too. He said the whole time he was in the oilfield, he only

witnessed two deaths. He said that was pretty good. He said the deaths were tragic but for an industry that has the potential of someone dying everyday, it was pretty lucky.

He explained that they used to have tenders, and you have a platform, and on top there was a derrick. He said the living quarter area was on one side, and the well bay on the other. They had a flight of stairs that was probably the equivalent of four to five flights but one. You would walk down the stairs from the living quarters and at the bottom there was a little platform. There was a rope between that platform and a platform on the other side. When the tender would come up you'd have to get across. If you miss-time the tender rising, you are just hanging on the rope. He said if someone wasn't strong enough to hold on the rope and didn't get across in time they would fall and "bust something." They don't use those anymore.

He said there is a rig in Morgan City, it is open to the public like a museum now. He worked on that rig when it was operational. They drilled by Dolphin Island and Mobile Bay. On that rig you couldn't let a drop of water off the decks. If they caught anything coming off the rig, there would be huge fines. They had to devise ways to use gutters and catches to get it and put it in the tanks. Then boats would come along and pump the waste to the boats.

As for paperwork, he said the government got involved and everything is getting technical. It probably had to do with insurance and having everything documented.

Challenges: He has a daughter, who is an adult now. He would go out and be gone 2–3 weeks. One time he went out with a full beard. While he was out, he shaved everything off. When he came back, his daughter was hysterical. She didn't recognize him – "that wasn't daddy." He said that was one of the hardest things. He said you have to have a wife that is understanding and that you can trust. She has to be a strong woman with a lot of responsibilities.

The rigs would run the crews for 24 hours. There was a night man and a day man. He said because of all of his experience, he was usually the day man. That meant he would sleep 6pm to 6am and work from 6am to 6pm. He explained that if anything went wrong during the night, the night person would come get him. He never went a whole week without getting up at night three or four times because the night guy couldn't make the decision.

Norway: He lived in Norway for two years. ML011 and his family had a 5-bedroom farmhouse with three barns. This included his wife and three kids. Once in Norway, he was out on a drill ship. They had a storm come in, a hurricane. It first hit in the Gulf of Mexico, went across the US into the Atlantic, and then into the North Sea. ML011 was sure that the hurricane hit them. They had a man from Houston on the boat to do a wave study. He charted the waves – his instruments recorded 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and finally 60ft waves. Every wave they hit was measured. When the storm came, the waves were higher off the chart – they estimated 75ft waves. He said they lost five stands of drill pipe. The storm went on for three days. They broke six anchor chains. They had to take the rig in afterwards, and it took six months to put the rig back together.

International work: ML011 also worked all over Africa. He recalled the invasion at Mogadishu in Somalia, and explained that he had been standing right on that beach a month before the invasion. He was also in Morocco, and he went with some of the other guys from the rig all the way to this little town, it was 200 miles by jeep to get there. They were up on a hill and looked down on a white stucco village. The village was an Italian fishing village that had been abandoned because of overfishing. He said the roads were terrible into the town and the people lived in squalor. In the middle of the village they had a gazebo, and in the middle there was a camel tied to a stick. The camel was walking around in a circle squashing peanuts. From that, the villagers were making peanut oil. The people couldn't import wood, so they

would pick up the things the rig discarded, such as boxes and crates, and they made incredible furniture. He explained he worked for a consulting outfit at the time.

Benefits of the job: ML011 said you have got to be someplace in this area to work in oilfields. He said people can work it in Texas and Oklahoma. In the field, he had a good rapport with everyone. He was more like one of the hands than a supervisor.

Change in kinds of people working offshore: It used to be guys that were "around," and fairly used to working with their hands and working with heavy iron and in industry. Now, they are starting to get more and more young guys that don't know what they are doing, and the accident rates started going up. He said when you have new guys on the crew, you go a little slower, and everyone knows if there is a green hand on the floor. The other guys watch out for them. A drill team consists of a driller, derrick man, and three floor hands. Lots of them have worked together for many years.

He said they'll get people looking for work coming from elsewhere, but a large percentage of workers are from Louisiana, especially the offshore workers. At this point, the work has basically come to a screeching halt with very little activity. He thought that might be because we are getting oil from other sources or importing it. He said offshore drilling is not anything like it used to be. Personally, he wasn't ever really affected by the downturn. However, he said he knows a lot of the actual workers who were affected. It causes a lot of trauma and stress at the house, it is a rough go not knowing if you will have work.

Opportunities for mobility: He explained there are some opportunities for mobility but not many. There are not that many positions available. He explained there are five man crews. Then there are rig pushers in charge of that crew. The rig pusher gets that crew to do things. Then there are roustabouts that unload the boats. Roustabouts can progress to the rig floor. But there is not much of an opportunity to get to be a pusher; you have to have a lot of experience and years. He said very often the majority of guys that last that long in the field and don't want the responsibility.

Living on a rig and offshore: He was a company man, and those rooms depended on the rig you were on, and much nicer than standard rooms. The standard room had four in a room with bunk beds. The galley served four meals a day, buffet style. He explained the workers are not limited in much they eat as long as you are not wasting food. The food on his rig was pretty good. He remembered that the guys from Mississippi ate some crazy stuff. The rigs have catering services that provide that stuff. On a rig, if you got a good cook and caterer, you were happy. So often you got a bad cook, who could basically only cook eggs. The majority of the time the food was good, because if the crews are complaining about the food, that goes to the pusher and then the pusher is going to complain. He explained that there are not a lot of African Americans working on the rig, and very few in any phase of offshore work. aIt was getting more inclusive in the oilfield when he was departing, but there were few and far between.

Proudest moments: He said he was fortunate that the job suited his personality, he was lucky to have it. He told his wife that he didn't think if he went around and hunted he could have found a better job. He explained that he gets along with people. He didn't put himself above the crews or anything. He mixed in real well with them. He never had any kind of personality problem.

Emile J. "EJ" Aucoin

Houma, LA
July 17, 2009
JC319

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Aucoin was referred by Ronnie Rhodes, his coworker from Unocal. We met at his house south of Houma, Louisiana on Bayou DuLarge. Mr. Aucoin farms vegetables, and has an orange and peach orchard on his sizable property. He was very generous, offering me fish and food from his land to take with me. He spoke at length about the problem of insurance for landowners in south Louisiana; in the past 10 years his home has become increasingly difficult to insure. Mr. Aucoin offered insightful commentary on changes in labor regulations and relations in the oilfield through his careers.

Mr. Aucoin was born in Amelia, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana in 1935, on a houseboat. His daddy was a fisherman and trapper as well as a tugboat skipper. Mr. Aucoin helped his father on his boat, and built cypress boxes to ship catfish when he was younger. In 1953, he hired on as deck crew on a tender for Kerr McGee. In 1956 he was drafted into the US Army, and served for two years. After returning to south Louisiana, he started as roustabout for Unocal in 1959. He moved up the ranks, to operator then production foreman, mostly working on inland lake wells, both oil and gas. In 1967, he became offshore superintendent, based out of Unocal's Dulac office, in charge of production and transportation. He moved his family to live in Houma this same year. His last three years with Unocal were spent in industrial relations, working with personnel on insurance and benefits. He retired in 1992 and began farming.

Summary

Born in Amelia, Louisiana, in 1935, on houseboat. Helped family trap and fish as young man. In 1953, started as deckhand for Kerr-McGee. Drafted by US Army for two years, fought in Korea. Returned during recession in oilfield. In 1959, hired by Unocal Co. as roustabout. Progressed to offshore superintendent in 1967, in charge of Dulac region, production and transportation. Took up residence in Houma same year. Jobs moved into deeper water through career; retired in 1992. Spent last three years with Unocal in industrial relations; insurance and benefits with personnel.

Noted that most early equipment and machinery, especially transport, came from the US Navy. Old Navy equipment was refurbished for oilfield, up into 1970s. Federal regulations became stringent in 70s; added stress level for all workers that Feds could shut down job. New positions, whole new industry came in with focus on safety. Through 70s, became more difficult to fire a lazy worker; lawyers brought in fear of discrimination suits, need for more documentation. In early days, black people did not apply for oilfield jobs; this changed in 70s, this demographic grew. Noted rise of contractors through 70s, move towards efficiency in industry. Company hands rarity now; today most workers on platforms on contract. Companies differed in philosophy on training; Unocal invested in developing workers, but not all oil companies did. Also different in stance on family – Unocal avoided nepotism, while others embraced it. Noted tension that resulted from mergers, workers with conflicting loyalties. Problems in 80s as engineers jumped ahead to supervisor, lacking practical experience.

William "Bill" Bacque

Lafayette, LA
February 28, 2011, July 22, 2015
LE460, ML032

Ethnographic Preface

In 2011, Laura was referred to Bill Bacque by Kim and William Goodell. The Goodells referred her to him as an authority on real estate in the Lafayette, Louisiana and surrounding parishes during the 1980s. Laura called him and explained the project and set up an interview at his office.

Bill Bacque is the CEO for Van Eaton & Romero real estate, a position he has held since 1987. He graduated from high school and went on to college in finance at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He graduated in 1974, and a year before that in 1973 he married his high school sweetheart. He moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1973 (or 1974) and pursued a job in real estate, receiving his real estate license. In 1981, at the encouragement of family and friends in Lafayette, he moved back with his wife and their two sons. He got a job in real estate handling repossessed properties for the Veteran's Administration, where he worked in until 1987 when he became the CEO of his current company. Today, he gives lectures on real estate to groups in the region (e.g. the Kiwanis Club) and manages his company.

In Laura's interview, Mr. Bacque brought a presentation of prepared slides with graphs showing changes in real estate from 1981 to 2010. For a large portion of the interview, he describes each page of the presentation and what those numbers mean for Lafayette. He discusses changes in value for homes and their direct correlation to jobs in the area (including oil), the reason for spikes and crashes in real estate in the town, and who left and who stayed during the bust. During the last part of the interview, after the recorder was turned off, he goes on to discuss more on the culture of Lafayette and the nature of having the oil industry here.

In 2015, Sarah Schoeffler heard Morgan was looking for community leaders and people working in other industries to interview about the effects of the oil and gas industry on Lafayette. She recommended Morgan talk to Bill. Sarah gave his contact information to Lillian Espinoza-Gala who in turn shared it with Morgan. Morgan contacted him and set up an interview for July 22, 2015 at his office.

Morgan found out after she scheduled the interview that Laura had already interviewed him in 2011 but decided to interview him again to see if she could get any new information. During his interview, Bill went over real estate monthly reports for the last couple of years and provided a copy of the data. Morgan did not audio record the interview but provided a summary of his interview and presentation for the study.

Summary

Characteristics of Lafayette: Lafayette had a hard time with the crash of the oil and gas industry in the mid 1980s. Since then, the economy in Lafayette has significantly diversified. Lafayette has the second largest university in Louisiana, which has a significant economic impact. Lafayette also has the largest concentration of the medical industry between New Orleans and Houston. Lafayette also has a retail hub that serves not just the 180,000 people living in the city but the surrounding parishes too; there's a retail base of 500,000 people. There have been significant increases and advances to attract other companies outside of the oil and gas industry. For example the fiber network is attracting tech centric companies.

Oil and gas industry impact: Oil and gas is still major in Lafayette. It's a high paying industry; there are people making six figures. It is a source of employment that can't be replicated. The oil and gas industry may not be the whole engine, but it encompasses a couple of cylinders. The overall economy in Lafayette experienced some distress when the price of oil dropped last year. There were 11,000 to 15,000 job layoffs. LEDA (Lafayette Economic Development Authority) would be a better source for that kind of information.

Monthly reports: Van Eaton and Romero is the leading real estate company. They track monthly sales. There are five indicators that their monthly report looks at. The first indicator is the number of closed housing sales; they only compare that to Lafayette brokered sales. The second indicator is the dollar volume of sales; this is a historical measurement of the market place and looks at prior 30 to 60 day activity. The third indicator is pending sales, which are the sales that have gone under contract. The fourth indicator is the number of listings that have occurred; there is further analysis based on different price points. The fifth indicator is how long listings are on the market.

Real estate in Lafayette: 2013 was a record year for sales in Lafayette. Bill wasn't sure about the impact for 2015 since the year isn't done. The housing market is still strong in Lafayette. Interest rates are at record lows. Generations X and Y are creating a big bubble. These generations are moving through the bubble and starting families. Some of the people in these generations are economically depressed by the overall economy and college debt. There is still a strong desire for home ownership opposed to renting. The problem with looking at the average sales price is that it skews the perceptions of value; it's better to look at the median prices because it is less skewed by the extremes. Builders may be cautious because of the oil and gas industry. There is no indication of people dumping houses. The months of supply are a gauge. Six to seven months are the equilibrium; more months indicate and oversupply of houses and less than six months is an indication of insufficient supply. Bill can't tell if the market is good or bad because of the oil and gas industry. An area of concern is supplying affordable homes under $150,000. The midrange is where the bulk of sales occur; the demand in Lafayette is up by 10% and there has been a drop in the active inventory. The $350,000 and up homes consist of 17% of all sales; the inventory of these homes have increased. Builders don't want to build homes valued $150,000 and under if they don't have to; most are building in the midrange. If people can't find what they want they won't buy. Builders have built too much in the upper price range.

Media and the market: The media misrepresents what is happening in the market. Because there was a big drop in the market in California, Nevada, and Arizona people in Lafayette worried about the market here; look at what is happening in your market. At the time of the recession, Lafayette's economy was going well. Now it has been a little affected by the price of oil. A house is on a fixed ground and isn't influenced with what is going on in other places; it is affected by what is happening here. Interest rates are more attuned to what is happening. The drop in sales tax is tied to oil.

Frank Barker

Lafayette, LA
July 17, 2015
ML026

Ethnographic Preface

Frank contacted the team after he learned about the oil and gas oral history project in local the news. He was interested in being interviewed. Morgan followed up and Frank agreed to meet on July 17th at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Frank Barker is originally from Jennings, Louisiana. He got his degree in engineering and worked for General Electric and in chemical engineering. He moved to Lafayette and started working in the oilfield in 1977. Frank was in the industry for 27 years, primarily working for Chevron, specializing in gas turbines. Although he is from Jennings, he married a woman from Lafayette and lived there from 1983 through 1984. He continued living close to Lafayette after he moved out of town. Frank retired from Chevron in 2004.

Summary

Background: Frank was born in Jefferson Davis Parish in the Louisiana bayou country. Frank wanted to be a pilot so he went to school and got his degree in engineering. He didn't want to work in engineering and didn't make it as a pilot so he worked for General Electric as a field service engineer building power plants. While working in the chemical business as a mechanical engineer, Frank lived in Lake Charles. Frank got divorced, went to Lafayette, and got a job in the oilfield working for Tenneco, which was later

bought by Chevron. He stayed at the same job for 27.1 years. When he first started, Frank didn't tell his mom he was working offshore; she was hysterical when she found out. It was safer working offshore than it was working in his previous jobs. Frank never had a lost time accident in the oilfield and he was never unemployed. Frank specialized in gas turbines. He was responsible for nine units. When Frank worked on those units they went up in reliability from 96 to 98.9%. The factory called Frank and asked for advice in building the turbines; they implemented two of his ideas.

Challenges with management: Frank didn't like the management's philosophy of not needing to know how to do a job in order to tell someone else how to do it. There were some stupid rules. In order to save money, the oilfield got to the point where they would run equipment without maintenance until it would quit. In the long run, it cost more money to run the equipment without regular maintenance. They used to have fun working offshore. It seemed like management was trying to take away the morale from the people.

Technology: When computers started coming out, the company started unmanning some of the platforms. Sometimes the computers reported inaccurate production. Technology is great, but you are tweaking something the whole time. Money management with buying new equipment didn't make sense.

Downturns: In the 1980s the price of oil dropped from $40 to $5 or $6 per barrel. Managers would send out bulletins that the foremen would post saying now is the time to get rid of people who don't fit in; the field people saw those notices. Things didn't get better after that; it wasn't as fun. During the late Reagan and early H.W. [George HW Bush] years, they switched from getting raises to just getting bonuses; bonuses were a one-time thing and raises were permanent. They used to have a profit share, which was decreased to 8%. "We did all the giving and they did all the taking."

Status in the industry: The smaller companies had some perks, but they weren't as good as the big companies. Frank and his coworkers were company employees, who had status, and the others were called third party. The third party people were often mistreated. When drilling guys came on the platform they would hide anything of value because the drilling guys would steal it.

Change in workforce: When he started working offshore, the workers were farmers. Then truck drivers were hired. Then there were policemen to monitor the truck drivers. Then there were teachers to show people how to be polite. Then geeks who knew computers were hired; they were smarter than the bosses and made $100,000 a year. The computer guys had no concept of working offshore; they didn't realize how the salt air affected computers. There weren't many females. The company hired women who worked in shipping and receiving in the office but received offshore pay. They didn't want the women offshore.

Maintenance changes and challenges: It got to the point where they would want you do maintenance based on what the computer reported. If Frank did anything else it became difficult reporting what he did. In the 1980s they came out with preventive maintenance; they would have to maintain and switch out things like oil filters even if it wasn't necessary. Then in the late 1980s they wouldn't change anything at all—they went from one extreme to another. The engineers were not involved in the business and didn't understand. Frank would write reports with suggestions, but no one would read them. Working offshore interrupted upward mobility. There was disconnection between the office and the people working offshore; offshore workers didn't feel like they were involved in problem solving.

Living offshore: Frank worked a seven-and-seven schedule and loved it. It was better than the 14-and-14 schedule people work now. When you worked offshore, you had to transition yourself to go back home and then to go back to work. It was a dangerous job and Frank felt like there was always a good chance he wouldn't make it back home. You were by yourself and confined when you went offshore. It was like

being in jail but he was getting paid. The supervisor would screen calls and determine if they were important enough to let you know, then you'd have to call back using your own credit card. If the call was during work hours you'd have to let the supervisor know what you were talking about. Things changed and you could make more phone calls.

Children: Frank raised his kids so they could live without him. Frank's wife raised the kids and they told him their mom did everything for them, not Frank. All of his kids are independent. One daughter works in New York as an environmental engineer. Another child is a technician with Oceaneering. His other son works in Lafayette.

Seven and seven program: Frank did the seven-and-seven program at UL. He already had a degree in engineering from Southern; it wasn't looked at as a top engineering school. All of the guys who did the seven-and-seven program did it show their bosses they were trying to improve themselves; the good ol' boy system was more effective than education. Frank started the seven-and-seven program when he was 35 years old. He learned computers and aced all of his classes. He didn't use much of what he learned.

Downturn continued: Everyone was hurting. There were years where they wouldn't make overtime. A lot of money was lost, fields were shut in, and sometimes all they would do was maintenance. The downturn lasted so long. In 1983 and 1984 Frank didn't make money at home or offshore. There would be notices announcing layoffs. With mergers came layoffs. There used to not be as many layoffs and the companies would give more notice and some money to a person they knew they were laying off. The layoffs and their public announcements hurt morale. Management is the biggest problem in anything.

Lafayette and the 1980s downturn: In the 1970s there was a lot of wealth in Lafayette. Local people lost their jobs and outsiders got jobs. During the downturn, people lost their homes and property prices dropped. Things were tight; businesses dried up and people lost money. There is no manufacturing in Lafayette; the oilfield brought salaries and service companies to Lafayette. People were just living and passing through Lafayette.

Leaving Lafayette: Frank built a home outside of town and moved there with his wife in 1985. She didn't want to live in Jennings and they wanted to live on at least three acres of land. He lived 10 miles outside of Lafayette and they are still in and out.

Good times: Frank remembers working on a platform that was producing oil for $0.63 a barrel. He also worked on the number five profit maker for Chevron in the world.

Bad times: Frank recalls when the guy who slept in the bunk above him was killed in a helicopter accident. Frank also rode out in a hurricane to work on a well 120 miles from Galveston, Texas. He has also seen platform fires and started one himself.

Safety changes: Safety made it so you didn't have to work and that you'd be on the computer all day. They had to wear gloves when working, which made mechanical work difficult. Frank couldn't bring a pocketknife with him any more. Frank always told the young people to take advantage of the safety; do the right thing for the young people.

Helicopter accident: Frank remembers waiting at the heliport in Intercostal City, Louisiana. He was visiting and joking with two of the guys waiting with him. Frank almost went on the Puma that crashed. The other guys he visited with were on that helicopter; 17 people died in that crash.

Family dislike of the industry: Frank's mother was not happy when she found out he was working in the oilfield. Frank was the first one in his family to go into the industry. His grandpa had leased some land

and a well was built on it. Frank remembers his grandpa telling him to stay away from the well, saying it was nothing but trash.

Entering the oilfield: Frank started working in the oil and gas industry when he was 28. He was going through a divorce. He had tried working at a chemical plant to save his marriage but that didn't work. He decided to go to the oilfield. The majority of the oilfield consisted of divorcees and babies of the family; Frank was both.

First day offshore: Frank got on a helicopter. As they were getting ready to land he saw a work-over rig with dirty guys working on it. Frank didn't think he was going to be there long. The helicopter landing was rocky. Frank started working on a compressor station. "Once you wear that first pair of boots in, that's it, you're hooked." The isolation was the hardest thing to get used to. People would tease each other about "Jody", [a slang term for someone who has affairs with wives and girlfriends while their spouse is away]. The crew and foreman tried to tease Frank about "Jody".

Different personalities: Some guys love going into the jaws of death. There was one pilot who had a PhD and would fly in dangerous conditions. Sometimes the pilots would cheat on their hours so they could have free time to fly the chopper for fun. The guys in drilling were some nutcases. Frank remembers trying to fix some lights so the helicopter could land. He was working on a 10 but wouldn't walk on it because it couldn't support him; two guys from drilling walked and were jumping on it.

Lafayette and Frank's career: Frank wanted to move to Lafayette. He had lived in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lake Charles, and Jennings. Lafayette has more of an educated population and it has more of a free spirit than anywhere else in Louisiana. Lake Charles is too much like L.A., the crime was bad in New Orleans, and most of the people in Baton Rouge were from southern Mississippi.

Networking in Lafayette: Lafayette has the fiber optic. There are a lot of service businesses in Lafayette. A lot of business is done between friends and family. It would be difficult for Frank to go back into the oilfield. Frank applied to work for a project engineering position; because Frank wasn't in the network they didn't want to talk to him. Frank has been turned down a lot because of his age. In Lafayette people will pull strings for each other; it's a close-knit group.

Impact of oil and gas industry on Lafayette: There wouldn't be a Lafayette without the industry. Lafayette is bigger and much more advanced than New Iberia and other towns because those towns didn't want the oil business.

Alvin "Al" Bellaire, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
June 22, 2015
ML008

Ethnographic Preface

Upon arriving in Lafayette, Louisiana, the research team was taken to a Desk and Derrick meeting by Lillian Espinoza-Gala. While there, we met a number of women who work in the administrative side of the oil and gas industry. We received contact information and shared ours with the some of the meeting attendees. After the meeting we received a call from a Desk and Derrick member, Kay Gotte. Kay wanted to schedule a time to interview her boss, Al Bellaire. Al is a vice president at Sierra-Hamilton. We agreed to meet at Al's office to conduct an interview on June 22nd.

Al Bellaire is from Lafayette. He started his career in the oil and gas industry as a production foreman at Shell. After serving in the Vietnam War, Al continued working for Shell. For a time he worked as a mud engineer. He then came to Lafayette and started working in drilling. He and a few other men started a consulting business. That business was eventually sold and merged with other companies. Currently, Al is the vice president at Sierra-Hamilton.

Summary

Background: Alvin Bellaire, Jr. is from Lafayette, Louisiana. He said his last day of college was in 1960. At the same time, he was classified 1A during the draft, so he was one of the first ones called up.

Military: He started working for Shell as a production foreman in a training program, which he described as an educated roustabout. Al worked there for a year. He explained that one of the detriments of being classified as 1A for the draft is that he didn't know whether he was going to be around in a year, and it was hard to find a job. He said sure enough he found out after that year that he had been inducted into the US Army. He was on active duty from 1961–1963. He was attached to 18th Airborne Corps.

After getting married in 1961, he and his wife had to go out and live on their own without family, and deal with him in the Army. He was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He got out of the Army in November of 1963, and went back to work for Shell. He remembered that was the week Kennedy was assassinated.

Back into the oilfield: He explained that he came back to Shell after two years active duty, and was still doing the same things when he left. He said he ended up resigning, because he felt like he had a better job with the Army than at Shell. He got a mud engineering job with another company shortly after. He worked offshore as a mud engineer. He came to Lafayette to set up a dry mud product for Gulf Coast companies. In Lafayette, he found someone looking for engineers. They told him, "We will teach you more in six months than the five years you've been out of school." He said he was sold after that, and wanted the job.

He went to work drilling wells. He explained generally in the industry there were well control problems, and no one knew what was going on. Someone from the company where Al worked came up with the idea of a well control technique. Everyone was learning about it and it was fantastic. They were doing something no one else was doing. Later, another company started publishing articles about it, and everyone started doing it. After a few more blow outs, people realized there was more to it than "cook booking it."

Eventually, Al wanted to get in the consulting engineering business. He said running his own business was a great learning experience. He explained that in 1970 the rig count was at an all time low, and he had trouble finding work. He knew someone who had five wells to drill. They took one rig and drilled all five wells. That job started him and his business partners off, and their work multiplied after. But then in 1982 the wheels came off the industry. From 1982 to 1990 the rig count was going down. At the time, they had one job, which was supporting 17 people. He explained that in 1987, he was ready to throw in the towel. He explained it just wasn't profitable. However, he held on and rode the cycle back up. He ended up forming alliances with two drilling contractors for turnkey work. He went to Mexico for two years in the 1990s. He explained that by 2005 he was tired of working, so he sold the consulting firm. Two years later the new owners couldn't come up with the money to keep it open, so another company absorbed the business. In 2012, yet another company absorbed them. After that merger, there were lots of offices and individuals with different ideas. He said everyone is still trying to make the inroads work. He explained he worked with same three partners: everyone had a strong suit that made the business work. One had to act as a referee once and a while, but they were good business associates.

Lessons from the downturns: He explained that the people who survived the downturn in the 1980s are now in management, and they had seen it coming. They laid people off and cut their losses immediately. They are survivors. He said he didn't think there were any lessons learned from the previous downturns because everyone does the same thing every time. The industry doesn't learn from its mistakes.

Changes: He said that the industry sees the same cycles. He said the oil industry has come a long way to be self- sufficient. He said right now, people are looking forward to getting the law changed to export oil. The technology has increased. He said there are very few rigs running on the shelf and very few prospects running on shelf. He explained deepwater is now the name of the game.

Highlights: He explained that he goes to work every morning looking forward to doing something. He said he doesn't have dexterity anymore to go offshore, but he can stick to inland and land rigs.

First day offshore: He explained he was a mud engineer. For his first job, he was going out to condition the mud for packer fluid. He was staying at his parent's house. He was working with sodium chromate. He thought he was going to go for a couple of hours. He said it was five days later before he got to come back. Al was working on creating a fluid, and put sodium chromate in the fluid. It clumped together, which it is not supposed to do. It was three clumps of solids. He said he didn't know what to do, and had to ask one of the other guys. He put another chemical in, which dispersed it again. Al said he was relieved. He said it was hard because he had been there five days without a toothbrush, change of clothes, or anything.

Family: Al is from Louisiana. His dad worked for the Texas Pipeline Company. That's all his father knew. He said his father was basically a pumper, and made sure the pipes stayed online. He got caught up in Eisenhower recession, and got laid off after 16 years service. Al said his dad thought the world had come to an end. He said he was a senior in college at that time, and had been commuting from his parent's house to school. Al volunteered to drop out of school. His dad said no. Instead, at 50 years old, his father went to work laying board roads in swamps in southern Louisiana so that Al could stay in school. Al said he knew the sacrifices his parents made for him to stay in school.

Lafayette: Al said Lafayette is a hot spot for the service industry, lots of opportunities here. He likes it because it is close to home. He said it is a growing community. He said at one time, the oil industry was 30% of the business in this town. He said since the downturn, the medical industry has come in. Lafayette has continued to grow despite the downturn. He said new communities are being built outside of town.

Lafayette and downturns: He explained he thought that the oil industry went from being 30% of the industry in the town to less than 15%. He said in these downturns, everyone wants to consolidate back to the headquarters and bring their operations closer to home. So many operations go back to Texas or wherever they are from. He said there is still a thriving industry in the sense that the oil industry supports things like fundraisers and golf tournaments. They are looking for fundraisers. He says the industry does a good job supporting charitable events.

Relationship with the university: Al said back in the 1980s and 1990s, USL appealed to the industry for supplies. He said the oil industry is a major contributor to funds in engineering and sports at USL. He said they also donated a building for a lab. He explained lots of different people from the industry donated money. They have also renovated mud labs, and natural gas labs. He said they have done a good job supporting the university.

Proudest moment: Al explained one proud moment was in the well control side of the industry. He was working on drilling a well, and the team had had just dug a very deep well, 19000ft. Al was involved

from the planning stages to executing it. He had wanted to go to the beach with his wife and kids, but needed to find the best casing point for the well first. Finally, he thought he did. So he went on vacation with his family, and got somebody to relieve him while he was gone. He said he came back on a Sunday, and went to his office on Monday morning. He got a phone call that said they had to shut in the well. Al explained he ran out to the well site, and the engineer who had relieved Al was covered in oil-based mud, and there was oil mud all over the place. Al said he cleaned that oil mud up, and sent the other engineer home. Al started trying to kill the well. He explained that it should have been a simple kill, but he couldn't get it filled, and finally ran out of mud at about 2:00am. Al was trying to figure out why it couldn't be killed. He got more mud, and continued trying to kill the well. He started doing it mechanically, and finally got the pressure of the well down. He said a highlight was that he didn't have an underground flow or a blow out. He was able to kill the well. Al remembers that very well. He explained that it was in the early part of his career, and it was part of building a reputation for his firm. He said he felt pretty good the next morning. He handled it without publicity.

He said he likes to think he has the respect of peers. He says that is what you work for every day. He can come to work every morning, and it is a treat.

Darren Benjamin

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
LL005

Ethnographic Preface

Darren Benjamin was referred to the oil history project by his brother. The team contacted Darren and agreed to have an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. At the end there may have been some miscommunication as he thought it might be an interview for a job opportunity. Despite the confusion, Darren provided insight to the catering side of the oil and gas industry.

Darren Benjamin is from Lafayette. He first began working offshore in May 2010 as a cook. He worked mainly in deepwater and had never experienced life offshore before that point. His brother, having been in the industry for 20 years, encouraged Darren to apply and go offshore. His first offshore job was working for Taylor's International Catering Service.

Summary

Career background: He said it was something new he had never experienced in his life, and would encourage everyone to spend time offshore. For himself, he saw it as a long-term career; you could learn a lot and travel a lot. He didn't know much about catering at first, but took it upon himself to learn from others and try it out. Darren's brother has worked in the industry since 1988/1989 as a valve technician. Though Darren always knew it was what he wanted to do, he never put effort into it. He called his brother one day and said he was ready to go offshore. His brother suggested he apply at Taylor's International Catering Service. He applied and got the job with no past experience in the industry. Since then, Darren has been on rigs for Apache, BP, Chevron, and more, and said he really likes it.

Working offshore: Darren said if you don't have a good mindset, you wouldn't make it offshore. He likened the job to being in jail, but getting paid for it. He said if you have a bad attitude, you won't last. For Darren, he said if the customer was satisfied, he was satisfied. As Darren continued in the job, he was continually challenged by supervisors and continued to thrive and work as a team player.

First day offshore: He took a four-hour boat ride out of Cameron, Louisiana. He heeded advice from his brother, laying down and sleeping the whole boat ride. He had no idea what he was getting himself into and stayed offshore for a week straight until they found him a replacement. His schedule was 14-and-7, but he asked for more work on his days off. He did seven days in Port Fourchon and enjoyed the work there so much that he returned.

Challenges: The biggest challenge Darren described was when new people were hired with the company and didn't know what was going on. He said people would challenge him and test what he knew and test his abilities at his job.

Women in the workforce: Darren said he has worked with three women offshore. He remembered one engineer who was nice and friendly to work with. He said women could be nervous, and he had to make sure people didn't disrespect the women. He had seen men run off the rig who had the wrong idea of the women working offshore.

Health issues: Darren shares how he developed a sickness in his lungs and had to have emergency surgery during his offshore career. Unfortunately, he said he had not been compensated. Though he's still suffering from the condition, he said he wants to continue working offshore because he loves doing it.

Significant moments: Darren said his best time was when he could cook and do well—he was at his best. He said some people regard the job as a joke, but a strict "three strikes, you're out" policy kept the job professional and there was zero tolerance for unprofessionalism.

Why Lafayette: He noted the companies he's worked for are all worldwide, and he has worked with many people from the Philippines. He talked about working for different catering companies and how some have a reputation for cutting pay. He thinks in particular people like the food offshore from Lafayette because of the good Cajun and Creole cooking. People from all over the world work offshore, and he said his favorite dishes are always from Louisiana.

Impact of industry in Lafayette: Darren said the industry brought a lot of jobs to Louisiana, and it has always helped the economy.

Handling downturns: Darren said companies have learned over the years. One example he saw is instead of laying people off like they used to, they are cutting back hours, and continuously trying to find ways around laying people off.

Proudest moment: Darren said he is most proud of his daughter graduating college and supporting her towards that dream.

David Bergeron

Houma, LA
July 13, 2009
JC310

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Bergeron read the description of the study in the *Courier* article, and called to say that he wished to participate. We met at the main the Terrebonne Parish [Louisiana] library for this interview. He regularly commutes to New Orleans for work every day, but had this Monday off so was able to speak with me. Mr. Bergeron has always maintained a separation between his work and family lives, travelling regularly

and not sustaining many friendships from work. As a result, his social network is made up entirely of family, with almost no work ties. He is proud of his work, however, and his knowledge of the industry and articulation make this an informative interview.

David Bergeron was born in Houma, Louisiana in 1956, near Southdown Sugar Plantation where his father worked in the mill. He graduated from Terrebonne High in 1974 and started as a roughneck for Wheless Drilling Co., based in Shreveport, a job he attained with the help of his future father-in-law. He made driller after three years of work and toolpusher the following year. He enrolled in a seven-and-seven program in petroleum technology at Nicholls State University, finishing in 1980; adding a petroleum safety degree in 1982. In 1980 he took a job with Placid Oil, entering a drilling foreman training program later that year. After becoming a drilling foreman the following year, he worked on rigs throughout the Gulf until the company went bankrupt in 1994. He took a job with Eagle Consulting, but did not like the hours and began with Shell in 1996 as drilling supervisor, moving off rigs to the office, a position he currently holds.

Summary

Born in 1956; in Houma on Southdown Sugarcane Plantation. Married his neighbor from childhood, her father got him job with Wheless Drilling Co., as roustabout. Moved up to driller and toolpusher quickly. Completed petroleum technology degree at Nicholls State; taking advantage of seven and seven program. Later completed petroleum safety degree at Nicholls also. Took position with Placid Oil Co.; went through drilling foreman training; spent 14 years working widely throughout Gulf for Placid. Worked for Eagle Consulting for one year, then hired by Shell for deepwater job. Took "job nobody wanted" to spend more time with family – office work, doing drilling reporting in New Orleans; commutes to work every day.

Noted that in early 70s, deepwater (1500 ft.) work done by "making it up as we went along." Seafloor formations not consolidated; caused many problems, such as "gumbo attacks," pressure pushes mud up pipe onto deck. Conditions led people to say if you can drill in Gulf, you can drill anywhere in the world. Major change through 70s and 80s - amount of planning and prep; job prognoses (progs) went from one page to 200 pages. Increased detail, engineering and tech. specs directing each job. Small companies give more freedom to get job done; Shell and other majors need 'committee' to move ahead with anything. For Shell, safety is number one priority–proud of top safety ranking. Even though Shell deepwater platforms cost $1million/day, any worker can stop operations if they feel unsafe. Noted that computers were hard for older generation to deal with; also much of safety focus thought to be waste of time. But in 80s Gulf called the "Dead Sea," thought to be tapped out; but 3D seismic revitalized the Gulf. He saw men work for a month straight offshore–made big money but often divorced; different decisions made offshore impact family life.

Melvin Blanchard

Houma, LA
July 3, 2009
JC303

Ethnographic Preface

Melvin Blanchard was first interviewed in 2001 for the History II study, as EB046. We met at his home on the north side of Houma, Louisiana; his wife sat in on the interview and made several comments. They were happy to receive a CD containing materials from the previous project. In 1986, Mr. Blanchard retired from Marathon and has chosen to distance himself from the oil industry, saying he cares not to

follow very closely what happens offshore now. He is pleased that Houma has a diversified economy (health industry) and should be better prepared for swings in oil prices.

Melvin Blanchard was born in 1930, in Harvey, Louisiana. His family moved to Houma when he was one year old; his father and uncle purchased farmland in the area. Choosing the oil patch over farming, Melvin started as a roustabout in the Beaumont, Texas area, steadily advancing through his career to roughneck, driller, pusher, and finally drilling foreman in 1979, working mainly for Marathon on rigs between Cameron and Venice. He was let go by Marathon during the mid-80s downturn.

Summary

Worked in water no deeper that 300 ft. deep; towards the end of his career, these platforms had 12–15 wells on them, rather than the single well rigs he had drilled in the early days. Deeper water meant greater logistics required. Weather was more of a factor, demanded more stable equipment, new technologies. Directional drilling demands precision. Noted that the cost of insurance was cause of increased safety regulations late 60s, early 70s. MMS, Coast Guard, and insurance companies pushed regulatory climate. Described mandatory blow out prevention (BOP) school introduced this period, also sexual harassment training as more women hired.

Significant change during the deepwater period was steadier, stable work. Major investment by companies for offshore meant regular hours, steady shifts. Oil shortage after ’74 also increased demand. Work conditions and pay rate also improved. Life on platforms was generally good, workers got along well. Shift to helicopter transport was major improvement for workers going offshore. But after 80s downturn, many major companies left–Texaco most importantly. All companies had big lay offs. When things picked back up, hired young workers–lost considerable knowledge with older experienced hands gone for good. Melvin says this cost companies billions of dollars in accidents and problems.

Michael “Mike” Boudreau

Lafayette, LA
July 16, 2015
LL007

Ethnographic Preface

Mike Boudreau heard about the oil history project through the news special on KATC-3 in Lafayette, Louisiana. He emailed Morgan and Laura, and scheduled an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette.

While working in the oil industry, Mike Boudreau’s father was transferred from Houston, Texas to Lafayette in the 1960s. Mike attended high school and college in Lafayette. He initially went to work for service companies in Lafayette. In 1978 he started working at Exxon, retiring in his 37th year in February of 2015. He worked 28 years offshore and eight years in Angola. Mike has been married to his Lafayette-native wife for 36 years.

Summary

Career overview: Mike Boudreau moved with his family to Lafayette, Louisiana from Houston, Texas in the 1960s when his father, who worked in the oil industry, was transferred. He began working with service companies out of college. In 1978 he started at Exxon, and retired in February 2015 after 37 years. 28 years he spent mainly offshore and in the Gulf, and he worked his way up to a supervisor position. He spent two years in the Houston office with the first ever deepwater project that Exxon participated in.

Four and a half years he worked out of Houston internationally. His last eight years he spent in Angola Africa working deepwater projects, as well as international work in Europe. He was responsible for developing the start up projects within his company and did a lot of overseas training and project development.

In 15 years Mike moved to 11 different production facilities within the Gulf, a little more unusual in his career line. Some people started and ended a career on the same platform. From Lafayette he left for offshore out of Intracostal City, Louisiana, then was moved to Grand Isle in 1994, which was a four-hour drive. When working for Exxon, he lived in New Orleans seven days a week and came back to Lafayette on his seven days off.

Mobility: Mike says the upward mobility definitely existed. He says if you came to work every week, showed initiative, and worked 12 hour days, you had every opportunity to move up. You'd start as a gang hand to a tech-type position, and then move up to a senior operator position, and from there you may work as a field foreman and then a field superintendent.

First day offshore: Mike says he absolutely remembers his first day offshore. It was an hour and a half flight. They stopped to get fuel and he only knew one other person on the rig. He had steak for lunch and went to pick up a bottle of A1 sauce, shaking it and accidentally spilling it all over the field superintendent, whom he figured, would make it his last day offshore as well. But he stayed on, despite hating the work his first week and wanting to quit. By the second rotation he had acclimated to being gone all the time.

Changes: The biggest changes Mike has seen have been in safety. A lot of what was acceptable at Exxon when he started working in the 1970s changed. Safety glasses weren't mandatory then, and most things were a recommended practice and not necessarily a requirement. He said it got better and you wouldn't ask people to do now what you did then. He also references technology and how it's changed. With deepwater, it requires a lot more computer technology.
Shift from shelf to deepwater: He remembers the industry cut their teeth on a platform off the very edge of the shelf in 1,500 feet. The next deepwater was at 5,200 feet. He describes the process of what they needed and how they made it happen.

Changes in the workforce: He says the workforce became much more integrated. After 3–4 years working for Exxon he saw a lot more women, which continued. Within the Exxon family he said it was an easy transition, and the women did their jobs and were well accepted. "It was an easy transition for them."

Expectations: Very similar for men and women, but the biggest difference Mike notes was the physical challenges. The regulations required all employees to ask for help when moving things 50 pounds or more. Men would not adhere to these rules, but this was often an area women needed extra help.

Jobs held by women in the industry: He speaks personally of the women he's worked with. He describes them as sharp. Often they worked in electronic instrumentation first. One woman he knows and worked with is now a training manager in Russia, someone he continues to have a good relationship with. He thinks women have moved up as well as anyone else.

Challenges: When Mike first started the 7-and-7 schedule was a hard schedule, and different from what other people did. He said it was tough to leave home and family and the isolation part took getting used to. You had to be flexible. Working 12-hour days offshore were not actually limited to only 12 hours. Not always easy, you could end up being awake multiple times a night.

Cycles: With Exxon he was never in fear of being laid off. When things went down in Lafayette in the 1980s and independents were closing and big service companies were moving elsewhere, Exxon never laid anyone off. Mike always had a job and a check through the entire low period, whereas a lot of his friends didn't. His brother-in-law, a building contractor, struggled because of the oil industry crash and kept up with small jobs and remodeling, and was able to survive.

Downturn: During the 1980s there were a lot of unemployed people and people leaving Lafayette in the middle of the night. People would just pack up and leave.

Impact on Lafayette: From Mike's observations, Lafayette rises and falls on the oil industry and has since the 1960s. People today argue it's no longer an oil economy with the new businesses that have come into Lafayette, but Mike says you have to have people with jobs to go the hospitals, to support businesses. Many of those jobs come out of the oil industry. As service companies cut their workforce, it cuts everything else. "I would say that Lafayette, still, is an oil based economy."

Networking: Mike agrees Lafayette is a good place to network. Even though he is currently retired he's had opportunities to go back to work because of people who know him, know his skill set, and know what is in demand. "I would say Lafayette is still a really good hub where you can find out who's hiring in Houston or New Orleans or anywhere in the industry." "Most people I know that retire from a major oil company have opportunities to go back to work for other companies or smaller independents." Whether they are hired on as contractors or as fulltime employees. He would consider going back to work but his skills would likely take him to Houston or abroad, and he doesn't really want to do that work again as he's already done it and doesn't want the commute.

Networking by gender: Mike says he's been detached from the Lafayette scene for a while since the last eight years he's worked in Angola. He doesn't see a difference in networking for men and women.

Lafayette and company moves: Exxon is no longer in Lafayette. Exxon moved to New Orleans and maintained an office at Petroleum Point in Lafayette for many years. When Mike started with them there was a district office in Lafayette, but when they began to consolidate they moved everything to New Orleans. Mike says the atmosphere in Lafayette and the friendly people welcome the industry and he sees the industry as continuously supported in Lafayette.

Significant moments: He says his first trips overseas were a culture shock. He said it was not something he could prepare himself for. His life has moved on relatively calm and he said he has done and seen a lot of things he wouldn't have in other industries. Getting involved in the first deepwater project opened doors that would probably never been opened otherwise, as deepwater requires a very specialized skillset and is a very specialized type of production. This opened opportunities internationally for him to mentor and train people abroad. He knew a lot of folks when he got to Angola because Exxon had already brought them out to the Gulf for training.

Cooperation and competition: There is certainly competition between companies doing the same job, but Mike also thinks there is a lot of sharing within the industry. If something was needed you could get it from your competitor and sell it to the customer. Everyone is in it to make money and you'll do what you have to do to survive.

Small companies and majors: Mike's father worked in the oil industry. His father was transferred from Houston. He says the difference between working for the service companies and the big majors was tremendous. The service companies would give you a company car. For Exxon, out of the 28 days you were on schedule you worked at least 27 of them. When he worked for Exxon, they were not nearly as safe as they are now, but were tremendously safer than the service companies that Mike had worked for.

However in the mid to late '70s, if you didn't like your job you could get a job anywhere because "the business was just booming here." You could quit a job today and have a job in 30 minutes.

Schedules: You had to be flexible. You might go in for three or four days and then go back out if they needed you. He says the 5-and-2 could actually be more challenging when he worked between Lafayette and Houston and Lafayette and New Orleans. Work never stopped. If he had to fly out internationally for 12 days, and came back to Houston, he was expected to stay and work in Houston until the weekend came. The last eight years working 28-and-28 in Angola was the hardest thing for him to do and was tough to get used to.

Lafayette: All his family lives in Houston or the surrounding suburbs. Mike says he would never leave Lafayette. He turned down a position with Exxon that would have moved him to Houston because he didn't want to take his family out of Lafayette, a choice he has no regrets about. He thinks it is the best place he could raise a family and maintain a life here. When he was a kid growing up, most people knew who his father was, and he describes the small town feel. His wife is from Lafayette and she and Mike went to high school together. He says all the festivals in Lafayette are nice and "It's still kind of a quaint town and I wouldn't care to live anywhere else."

Observations of the downturn: Mike said things pulled back but nobody lost their job. He said everything was pretty much shut down, and he saw lots of friends lose jobs and companies go out of business that didn't come back. Some people who left during the downturn actually came back and started new companies after closing. They might have been doing the same things but weren't called by the same name.

Training: Exxon provided training and Mike details some of the training available through the company (e.g., offshore installation manager training, geology training, etc.) He says his specialization came more from hands-on training than the Exxon training. Mike says there were specific jobs, but there was a lot of overlap and interface between the positions. He says it worked well, and they had set the standard for integrating operations and development together. Mike speculates in a smaller company you would not see that interfacing because service companies are more specialized and handle a more specific group of things. At ExxonMobil they used everybody and learned form everyone. "Working with a major I think you had more opportunities to learn from different vendors."

Mergers: Mobil and Exxon merged in 2000. It was painless from Mike's experience, and it was more Mobil merging with Exxon. He said the name changed and that was mostly it. He worked with new people but figured they could all work together.

Proudest moments: Mike says he's the most proud of being married for 36 years to the same woman, a roof over their heads, and food on the table. From the industry standpoint, he is the most proud of working his overseas projects. He says he was empowered to make decisions. The start up of five deepwater projects within Angola is his proudest achievement in his work career.

Reflections on career: He says it was never really easy doing this work almost 37 years, and there was always some stress, especially as you moved up in the company. The biggest thing was time away from home and missing important family events. For Mike, though, he says every bit was worth it.

When the recorder is off:
LaFonda: Mike talks about getting together with friends and colleagues at the restaurant LaFonda. He says you could always gauge what the industry looked like from what Lafonda looked like on a Friday night. He remembers 2.5 to three hour waits for a table at LaFonda. He says during the downturn it

emptied, but never closed. Back before the downturn you could see everyone you knew in the oil business there, but it is not like that as much anymore.

Martial Broussard

Lafayette, LA
June 30, 2015
ML016

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala recommended that I interview her friend, Martial Broussard. I had met him previously at a gathering at Lillian's house, at which he had given me his contact information. A few weeks later I called him asking if he would like to do an interview. He agreed to participate. We conducted the interview at Lillian's house.

Mr. Broussard, a Lafayette, Louisiana native, started his career in the oil and gas industry during the 1980s with Teleco developing measurement while drilling (MWD) tools. He also worked doing directional drilling, as well as international consulting work. He worked for Schlumberger for a few years before retiring in 2006. In his interview, Martial discusses the different companies he has worked for, changes in technology, safety, and his work abroad.

Summary

Background: Martial is from Lafayette, Louisiana and grew up there. He went to the University of Southwestern Louisiana and had one year of medical school at Louisiana State University. He was in the US Air Force for nearly 12 years; he flew Phantoms in the Vietnam War. Martial had a wife and three kids while in the service. He came back to Lafayette and got a job with Teleco doing measurement while drilling for 13 years. Sonat bought Teleco, and then Baker Hughes bought Teleco Sonat. Martial did directional drilling for Baker Hughes. He went overseas as a consultant in Venezuela and Colombia. He had a divorce and then helped with the startup of south Louisiana Community College as the outreach coordinator of business for a year. Then he went back doing MWD with Pathfinder. He was divorced again and then started working for Schlumberger Saudi Arabia. He retired in 2006.

Why work in the oil and gas industry: Martial wanted his kids to know their family and have a Catholic education; coming to Lafayette was the best way to do it. Oil and gas was the only industry in town. Martial had a Master's in psychology, but there was no way to start a practice. The decision to join the oil and gas industry was driven by financial need. His neighbor at the time was working for Teleco; the company had been around, but there was a change in management; Martial got in on that. He doubled his salary in the first year. Teleco doubled revenues every year for the first four years during the 1980s downturn; Teleco was hiring while other companies were laying people off. Martial enjoyed traveling for his job.

Onshore and offshore: Martial worked in shallow water and did land work. Working offshore is like being in prison with a chance of drowning. Inland barges felt homey. Land work was the best; he could get away from it.

Difficulty with Teleco: The toughest part with Teleco in the beginning was that there was one guy per job; there was a lot of stay awake time and he could be up for 2–3 days.

Schedule: There was no schedule; he was on call 24/7. Directional drilling had much more of a predictable schedule; he could be off for a week or two at a time. In his international work with

Schlumberger he had six weeks on and three weeks off. There was better pay and he could stick around for another job. He had pleasant working conditions. Martial wishes he would've stuck with Schlumberger.

Downturns: Downturns did not cause him to lose any work; he survived two layoffs. During downturns the company did more with less; if someone survived a layoff he worked much harder.

Technology changes: There were better mud motors and bits, which meant they could stay in the hole longer. With MWD there was an industry-wide awakening to what technological advances could do for their bottom line. MWD tools were outlasting the bits, which lead to the industry looking at bit technology. Martial was there for some innovations. Changes in the industry were driven by technology.

MWD: Teleco was the only game in town with MWD until Schlumberger started putting money into MWD. Schlumberger was a lot faster; they started doing logging. Teleco lacked resources to compete worldwide with Schlumberger. Sonat saw Teleco as investment and knew they were going to sell it. Baker Hughes bought MWD from Sonat; that was significant because they didn't have sophisticated technology at the time. MWD really changed the industry; they could stay in the hole longer, save more money, and take more risk. Logging while drilling allowed one to know what was happening in the hole in real time; that was significant. MWD was and still is a big deal; it inspired other technologies.

Specialization and hiring: New technologies lead to changes in hiring; companies would hire people with degrees because they could expand into logging. Training became absolutely necessary; people had to learn how to use tools. Companies with technologies had to become efficient at hiring and training. People hired were mostly from here, but started reaching out to schools like the Colorado School of Mines.

Challenges: Being away from home and the absence of family was a challenge. Being offshore was a problem; the "good ol' boys" resented having high-tech stuff on their rig that they didn't understand initially; not the case now.

Mobility: There were opportunities for mobility. Martial moved up by glomming on to new developing technology; he found the new technologies interesting.

Lafayette and the downturn: Martial couldn't talk much about the relationship between Lafayette and the oil and gas industry because he was gone most of the time. He has general impressions of what went on; there was mild panic during the 1980s downturn. Lafayette started to diversify after the 1980s. Lafayette suffered with the downturn; there was nervousness. There was catering to the industry to get companies to stay. Lafayette was dependent on the industry but learned life goes on. "Dependent apathy on the oilfield." Lafayette started to diversify like with the restaurant and real estate industries.

If companies learned during downturns: People realized the cycles and that this business isn't forever. Downturns taught companies to prepare, diversify, and treat workers better. Drilling companies lost a lot of people who didn't want to come back after layoffs.

Highlights: Traveling was very enlightening; Martial got to see the sites and meet people he wouldn't have met otherwise.

Working internationally: Martial talked about security while working in Colombia, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia. Schlumberger was the best company when it came to safety. He worked in South America in the 1990s; there was still guerilla activity. He remembers visiting Bogota and being escorted; Martial wasn't aware how dangerous it was. His favorite place he has gone was Saudi Arabia; there was a huge

change in culture. He recalls an audit job for mud motors he had in Saudi Arabia; he analyzed the working conditions of the man working on mud motors.

Praise for Schlumberger: Martial was proud to be associated with the company. It's the best oil company in existence. When they tell you to be safe they work on it and show you how. They do everything possible to keep injuries to a minimum; one example is in the monitoring of driving.

Safety: Martial doesn't know if safety has improved; he only knew it was good with Schlumberger in Saudi Arabia. When he was offshore safety was a joke. The *Deepwater Horizon* spill is what is driving the emphasis on safety. There's an atmosphere of change, but he doesn't know if the industry will maintain it. He thinks it would be rare to hear of drilling suspension; he could be wrong, especially with deepwater. Martial used to forecast and document pore pressure; he would send in reports and the company man wouldn't look at them. If he knew what he knew now he would've gotten relief and got off the rig. When working for Baker Hughes Martial requested relief and didn't get it; those were different times.

Proudest moment in career: Martial's proudest moment was being hired by Schlumberger; he has respect for the company; he knew they were selective in hiring. He is proud to have worked for that company; they treated everyone well.

Changes in himself: Martial is a different person now. He is an environmental activist, anti-carbon, and has lost faith in corporate America. He has joined the Sierra Club, and has an interest in politics. "We've got to get away from fossil fuels; it's time to stop;" it might be too late.

Wayne Broussard

Lafayette, LA
July 2, 2015
ML017

Ethnographic Preface

When I first arrived in Lafayette, Lillian Espinoza-Gala took Diane Austin and me to a Desk and Derrick meeting. The club tries to have a guest speaker at every meeting, and Wayne Broussard was the speaker for this meeting. He gave a presentation about safety and communication. At the time I did not know what Wayne's official position was, but some of the ladies recommended we interview him for the oral history project. I was going to email him after the Desk and Derrick meeting, but he emailed me first sharing a story about someone else. In my response, I asked if he would be willing to do an interview with me. He agreed. We arranged to conduct it at his office.

Before the interview Wayne Broussard sent me some documents regarding the work he does. For the last 15 years, he has worked for Wood Group PSN as the training manager. His current work focuses on training offshore workers. He creates and gathers information, graphics, and animations about training and safety to share with anyone who wants to use it. In his previous work he was a troubleshooter for equipment on platforms. Wayne has also been the operations manager for a manufacturing facility. In his interview, Wayne discusses the importance of safety, changes in the workforce, and the impacts of downturns.

Summary

Background information: Wayne lives in Abbeville, Louisiana and is 60 years old. He has been in the oil filed since he was 18. He started as a broom jockey in a welding shop and worked his way to being a

troubleshooter-diagnostician for oilfield platforms. He also worked as an operations manager for a manufacturing facility that built vessels that go on offshore platforms, as well as other equipment. Around the age of 40–45 Wayne felt it was time to switch careers; less manual labor. He wanted to channel the knowledge he had down a different road; he started with the training department. He likes collecting information; he has a library consisting of three terabytes of information, videos, etc. Wayne tries to tie animations and pictures into the training department at his current job.

Why he is in his current career: Wayne was getting old. He wanted everyone to have the same level of knowledge. His current company is an operations company; they rent people out to work on platforms for oil companies. There are other companies that do the same; they are competitors, but that doesn't matter when it comes to safety and training; "safety shouldn't be selfish." He gathers and shares information with everyone even competitors. He has developed an information disk with 25 years of experience on it; he shares the disk with anyone. He will not sell the info disk; someone's death is not worth it.

Mentorship program: Wayne started the program on his own; he does it in his backyard trailer. He sent out emails telling people about the program and got 250 resumes but could only take six people. The class takes place every Saturday from 9:00AM–4:00PM for six months. The first class started this January. He trains his students about processes on the offshore facilities and safety devices. He also provides them with a 30-hour OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) course, a 40-hour hazardous materials session, confined space training, and crane awareness. His students get 10 certifications they would've gotten while working; that means it costs less money for employers to train them making Wayne's students more likely to be hired. The first class graduated two weeks ago; Wayne is getting ready to start the next session.

Safety changes: Employees used to not be able to tell the boss no if they were uncomfortable doing a job; someone else could do the job. Companies now realize hurting one person costs more than training. Training is not a cost but an investment. If hurt, companies have to pay the cost and it is hard to incorporate someone new into a crew. Keeping people safe helps production and the emotional stability of workers. It is good for workers; they feel the company has a "high give-a-damn factor" about them. Safety leads to a lot more changes in the industry; there are now more trainings.

Wayne's grandfather: Wayne learned a lot from his grandfather and passes that information along to the guys he works with. He also tells them "let no man talk you into dying;" in the past the bosses would push you into doing things; that's not so much the case now.

Change in workforce: Some guys nowadays don't have the knowledge they need to do the job or live day-to-day; especially in regards to money. 50% of marriages fail, thus half of these guys are growing up without fathers to teach them how to use tools. The changes in schools and the education system also affect the industry; with the computer age fewer guys want to take industrial arts, thus schools shut down those programs. They have to train the new guys from day one; if they had that fundamental information they would be more employable. Wayne thinks this change in workers happened because of Roe v. Wade; which led to the loss of the sanctity of the womb and life. Loss of the sanctity of life and religion lead to a low "give-a-damn factor" and skills.

First day offshore: Wayne worked offshore for 25 years. When he went offshore for the first time, it was his first helicopter ride. He didn't have training or a briefing before flying out. The floor of the platform had grating so he could see the water 100 feet below; it was a little disorienting. A lot of the new guys walk on the high beams in the grating; that is how you knew they were newbies. Wayne didn't worry about it because he didn't care if he lived or died. The food offshore was excellent; it was like a never-ending buffet. Wayne also liked the winters offshore; it was cold and there was nothing to block the wind.

He liked the hot showers after his shifts. Wayne likes the oilfield because it's a contrast of experiences and emotions.

Work: Wayne worked on land, in shallow water, and in deepwater. He was flown out to wherever he was needed.

Libraries and learning: Wayne got a library card for the engineering department at the University of Southwestern Louisiana; it had a large section of books about oil and gas. He would go in his free time to read those books. His library kept growing and now Wayne has one of the most extensive libraries out there. He learned how to use computers, Microsoft© Word, PowerPoint© and Paint©. Wayne also taught himself how to animate pictures to show other guys how things worked. In the 1980s there were plastic models, but they weren't as transportable as a hard drive is now. This technology makes it easier for him to share safety information.

Family: Wayne's grandpa was a carpenter. His father was a janitor and an alcoholic. His mother was a housewife and mentally ill. When he grew up, Wayne knew he wanted his family to be different. He heard there was big money in the oilfield. He stopped working in a restaurant and started sweeping in a welding shop. He spent lunches in the pump shop where they tore apart and repaired pumps; he tore up pumps for a month and then transferred to the pump shop. He learned how to repair pumps and he could see how they worked. Wayne could see illustrations and understand how things worked three-dimensionally. He emphasized the importance of understanding rather than memorizing; as he understood more about how things worked he became more valuable to employers because he could better understood why things were not working. Wayne started going offshore as a service technician.

Challenges: Being an introvert was a challenge; Wayne had to become extroverted. Public speaking is an important part of being an instructor and training others; Wayne had to learn how to do that.

Downturns: He hasn't personally been affected by downturns. In downturns, companies keep only the good people. Those who are laid off have to sell their "toys;" there were lots of layoffs in the 1980s. People were losing their families too. People started mowing lawns to make ends meet. Other industries were affected by the downturns; people didn't have money to go to the movies, eat out, or fix up their houses. After the downturns a lot of good workers and knowledge were lost; they didn't want to work for the oil companies anymore. The next generation remembers how the downturns affected their dads and families and don't want to work in it. The generation after can be talked in; they forget about the things that happened. The downturns happen again and the cycle continues; it happens every 7–10 years. The oil companies don't ever learn in that regard. Wayne discussed the importance of winning the family to win the man for the company. Company loyalty "went out the window with job security."

Schedule: He was on call 24/7. Wayne had to stop whatever he was doing when he got called out to leave. He missed Thanksgivings and Christmases. He has a good wife; when working offshore one needs good family support.

Sons in the industry: Wayne has three sons. One was in the US Air Force but now he works for one of the competitors, Shamrock, as a recruiter. His youngest son wanted to go offshore so Wayne helped him get certifications. Wayne wouldn't get a job for him. His son applied and waited in the company office for five days until someone talked to him and hired him; he has been with that company for 10 years.

Relationship between Lafayette and the industry: Most of the oil companies, "the brains," are in Houston. The manpower and workforce are in Lafayette and southern Louisiana. There were some major oil companies in Lafayette, but the oil moved to Houston. There was the mindset that the quality people were in Houston and the workforce was in southern Louisiana.

Training the younger generation: Wayne talked about how the younger generation does not know how to read or write in script; this is problematic when the older supervisors write JSAs and the younger guys can't read it. Wayne tries to learn bits of information like this to share. He made a Microsoft© PowerPoint© slideshow discussing the differences between generations. Instructors in their 50s and 60s need to learn how the younger generation thinks in order to properly teach them.

Success in Lafayette: Wayne would not have been as successful if he were in another city. Most of the guys he has dealt with are hands-on people; there is not the same environment or class of people in the rest of the country. The people he has worked with are good people, especially in this area. People here are instant friends until proven otherwise; that is specific to the culture in southern Louisiana.

Proudest moment in his career: His proudest moment was when he received an email from a guy thanking him for his training. The man wrote him that if he had had a teacher like Wayne in high school he wouldn't have dropped out. The man is going back to get his diploma and will go to college to become a petroleum engineer. Wayne knew he changed someone's life and that he will also change the guy's wife and kids' lives and it will continue on. Wayne's grandpa is still training others through Wayne. Wayne is training his grandchildren and it continues on. People will continue to benefit from Wayne's knowledge after he dies.

Billy Ray Bundy

Houma, LA
July 2, 2009
JC302

Ethnographic Preface

Billy Ray was first interviewed in 2001 for the History II study, as AA011. We met at his home in Houma, Louisiana, into which he had recently moved from the much larger house he had built and lived in for 35 years; he and his wife needed fewer stairs. After a long career working in the oil industry, he dabbled with real estate briefly before retiring and traveling widely in his RV. He continues to meet with his friends from Otis and Halliburton over coffee several times a month.

Mr. Bundy was born March 28, 1930 in Bossier Parish. His father had transferred from east Texas as a driller for Texaco, moving the family in 1932 to Golden Meadow, and later to Houma in 1937. Billy Ray struggled as a young Texan in the predominately French-speaking town of Golden Meadow; his family had to be careful "not to get run out" by the Cajuns. He started working for Halliburton in 1948, then roughnecked for Texaco for six years before settling into a service industry career, mainly with Otis Engineering.

Summary

Born in 1930, shortly after family moved to Louisiana from east Texas. Grew up in Golden Meadow, town was rough for a "Texian"–said there was "no law" down the bayou at that time. Worked for Halliburton on A Platform, one of Exxon's first offshore wells, near Grand Isle in 1948. Later built career selling and servicing production tools for Otis Engineering, which was bought out by Halliburton in 1957. Said Mr. Otis was pioneer in offshore drilling tool development. Mr. Bundy proud to have worked for him.

Spoke about changes that took place in industry late 1960s, early 1970s. Regulations: a) environmental–could no longer throw waste and trash overboard, b) safety–safety meetings required for every shift, c) training–steadily more technical work, requiring classes and skill development. Spoke about deeper water bringing heavier machines, more pressure and therefore more dangerous work–offset by new technologies and more precision. Changes in workforce–Halliburton started school in Dallas where workers throughout industry gained training; greater focus on quality, rather than quantity. Workers held more accountable for safety, skill development. Texaco biggest job provider in parish during this period. Arabs, Indians and foreigners of all types arrived to observe and train. Most significant to Mr. Bundy is that technology and equipment changed drastically–all parts began to be designed and manufactured custom for particular well; not inventory stored up as in the past.

Walter Camos

Lafayette, LA
July 15, 2015
LL006

Ethnographic Preface

I knew Walter Camos through the Lafayette, Louisiana community and he expressed interest in the oil history project. We set up an interview at his office, where he is now a practicing licensed professional counselor.

Walter Camos is originally from Lafayette. He graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) with a degree in petroleum engineering. He began working in high school for an oilfield service company in 1973. In 1985 he made a transition out of working in the oil industry to spend more time with family. He owned a general contracting company for several years. At one point, he decided to return to school and is now a licensed professional counselor in Lafayette. He has been married to his wife for 38 years, and they have two daughters.

Summary

Career background: Walter began working for an oil service company throughout high school and notes that most of his family was in the oilfield at some point in their lives. “I was interested in the oilfield because it was a such prevalent business and industry in the Lafayette area.” He attended USL and received a degree in petroleum engineering. His first job after college was with a small independent company in the Lafayette area. He worked mainly on land, in the bays, lakes, and basins, and three miles offshore (at the most). He had an uncle who owned a well service and Walter did roughnecking work for him for a while.

Getting into the oil industry: Walter was interested in engineering and the processes of how the technology worked. He continued working for oil companies throughout his college years as service personnel. He mainly drilled and ran pipe to the well sites.

Changes in technology: Today they are drilling along the horizontal features, whereas in the past they drilled more vertical wells. He elaborates on well drilling technology improvements and changes.

First day of work: 16 at the time, Walter got a job at an oilfield service company. His first day, he was given a broom and told to sweep the shop. He recalls the broom turning black on the bottom because the floors were covered with grease and oil. By the time he left, he was covered in grease.

Changes: Walter talks about how the responsibility for potential loss and risk gradually shifted from the actual independent oil company to the drilling contractors. He talks about changes to completion fluids and drilling fluids.

Family and schedule and work challenges: Walter was in the industry when he and his wife had their first child and "watched her grow up in a step wise fashion." He said it was a tough transition for his daughter. As an independent he didn't have anyone to switch crew change with, so he could often be on the job for a week, three weeks, or even months at a time, depending on the job. When he and his wife had their second child, he promised his wife he would change careers and get out of the oilfield. "Not because of the oilfield, not because of the work, not because of the wonderful experience and excitement that comes when you bring in a big well, but because I wasn't home." He says he missed his family.

Transitioning from the oil industry to a new career: In 1985, Walter completely transitioned out of the oil industry as a field and petroleum consultant. Walter pursued a career in construction, and said it wasn't bad transitioning out of the oil industry. He built a general contracting firm with over 20 employees. Though he wasn't as interested in this career, he said his engineering degree helped set him up for success in this new career path, and he gives some details of this new career, including energy-conscious design.

While he liked the construction work, he really enjoyed working with people. He began doing religious instruction at his church. He taught third grade through high school, and decided to go back to school, taking classes that ultimately led him to psychology. Eight and a half years later, he graduated with a bachelor's in psychology and two graduate degrees from ULL in psychology and counseling. He graduated in 2004 and continued pursuing his LPC before opening his practice.

The process of drilling a well: "Although drilling an oil well is very exciting and rewarding, and not the easiest thing in the world to do, you are continuously preventing something from coming to the surface in a controlled manner, and when you finally direct what the well does it is a very invigorating feeling."

Downturn: There was a cyclical downturn in 1988 during which the majority of people he knew were out of work. There were signs on doors: for lease, for sale. Bankruptcies occurred on a frequent basis. The philosophy until about 1982 was that "the rates at the bank were so good, go and borrow as much as they'll lend you." Walter says because he didn't agree with this philosophy he made it through that time without negative consequences. He had to rearrange a few things and made it through, unlike many people he knew. "There weren't any jobs."

Challenges: Walter said one of the most challenging things was finding the wherewithal to leave family for work. When he got home it was hard to leave. Working for the oil industry was a 24/7 type of job and he was always available when the company needed him. He recalls in the 1980s he had a mobile phone in his truck and a pager. He describes the oil industry as similar to the military. You had to maintain and turn in daily logs, and there was also a sense of constant urgency that you had to plan for. He talks about the necessity of planning and the forethought required. As an independent consultant he didn't have much back up, whereas the majors might have two or three engineers on a job. Independents were only hired one person at a time. Carrying professional liability insurance was also very expensive. "It was very stressful; very intense at times."

Mobility: Walter always knew he was going to go to college and get educated. He got more field experience in the oil industry with roughnecking. He never went to work for a major like many of his friends out of college. He says he had friends who worked for independents who knew what his skills were and they would hire him, allowing Walter to "skip a few steps." At the age of 21 he was a consultant

on a rig drilling a well, and though he was the youngest person on the job site, he was in charge of everything.

Challenges continued: He says it is intense working in the oilfield. “If you allow it to, it could suck the life right out of you.” He mentions burn out where people don’t want to do anything and become depressed. He says he can make this statement because he sees this in his current job as a counselor. The way the job is set up today, there is relief for men working, and that is for “good reason”—to let a person come home and relax, recharge their batteries, and not suffer from burnout. He discusses how poor decisions come from burn out.

Walter remembers wells he went on after there were problems, fishing tools that would get lost in the holes. He recalls some of the technical challenges they faced and wrong calculations

Current downturn: Walter mentions Lafayette is currently in the potential third downturn since the 1980s. He mentions a major leaving town that may layoff 300+ people.

Learning from cycles: Lafayette is more diversified today. The medical industry has grown, the city is more diversified and has a greater diversity of people working. He also points to technology, merchandising points for large companies that have come to Lafayette, and the reduction in (or waived) tax structures that encourage other companies to come to Lafayette. He says today they can have other industries pick up the slack from loss in oilfield revenue. “I think we are a little more insulated from the oil industry than we were in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s.”

How the oil industry has affected Lafayette: Walter mentions how much Lafayette has grown in population. “The oilfield made Lafayette appear on the map.” Most everything you need, you can find in Lafayette, because people with means were coming in and could afford things, bringing those luxuries.

Cajun culture: The food culture and Cajun culture are amazing in Lafayette. Festival International de Louisiane brings in tourists worldwide. Walter mentions other examples of art, theatre, and culture.

What about Lafayette made it possible for oil to thrive: Friendliness of the people has made it much easier for the oil industry to grow. No matter where you go, people are open to communication; they’ll help you if you need help. He mentions friends who chose to move here for college and stayed in Lafayette after graduation. The higher education in Lafayette is also a great support in Lafayette. He says, however, the infrastructure with roads and streets has “a long way to go.” Walter notes that Lafayette was recently voted the happiest city in America, and once was in the top 10 places to retire. He mentions there is poverty in Lafayette, but also many philanthropic millionaires in the city.

Networking: He thinks Lafayette could be good for networking, but he is not aware of much networking.

Proudest moments: “That I never cost my clients any significant amount of money” (e.g., more than $1,000). He said his conscientiousness kept him busy with lots of jobs. He says he is proud of this, because in the oil industry it is very difficult to not overspend. He also mentions a high-pressure job where he successfully brought the well to completion.

Reflecting on his career: Walter concludes by saying he would do his career in the oilfield again, despite difficulty and stress. Because it took time from his family, this is the main reason he stopped working in the oilfield. He got out right in the middle of the downturn, but still had some work if he wanted it. His family means a lot to him, and although he really loved the oilfield and the money he made, he chose family. He’s been married 38 years and is proud of choosing his family. “I wouldn’t change anything.”

Had he not shifted careers, he thinks the oilfield would have made him "bitter" and "more rough around the edges." He says he made a good decision when he was young, and is happy he is where he is today.

Aubrey Carlos

Gray, LA
July 13, 2009
JC311

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Carlos was referred by Merl Talbot, who was his coworker at Halliburton. We met at his home in Gray, Louisiana, just north of Houma. His wife was present and made several comments. Mr. Carlos has battled cancer twice in the past 10 years, but his health has recently stabilized. He is a regular attendee at the Halliburton retiree breakfast, and recommended speaking with Herb Barret, who was interviewed in the History II study.

Mr. Carlos was born in 1941 in Houma. His father was a tugboat captain for Superior Oil for most of his career, and the majority of his family went into the oil industry. Mr. Carlos served in the US Air Force from 1960 to 1963. Upon returning to south Louisiana, he started working for Halliburton as a bulk cement truck driver. In 1971 he was promoted to cementer, which he did until 1978. From 1978 to 1998, he ran service tools in wells, he also ran well tests, and he worked in the office. He retired in 2000, having spent his last two years working in the office.

Summary

Born in 1941; north of Houma. His daddy was a boat captain for Superior Oil. US Air Force from 1960–1963. Started with Halliburton in 1965 as truck driver. Promoted to cementer, worked from 1971–1978; to running service tools and well tests, from 1978–1998. Mostly worked land rigs in area around Houma. Always on 24-hour call. Worked six days per week. Regularly slept in a truck; work conditions not very good. Family had to deal with him leaving all hours of the night. Yet said Halliburton great place to work; benefitted from profit sharing, and a guaranteed 60 hour week.

Noted that safety was the most significant change during his career. Early on, people hurt regularly, not a major concern for foremen, workers were disposable. Now safety number one priority on every job. Working conditions improved considerably; deepwater platforms rival hotels, good food, TV, comforts. Technology changes also significant. Requiring more training and certification. Service companies once needed to gain certification for each company; by 1990s skills development and certification standardized. Service companies such as Halliburton requires personnel to live within one hour of office; most employees local, unlike oil company hands. Noted that deepwater saved the region's economy in 1980s; exploration kept many people employed, though still terrible.

Sarah Cart

Iota, LA
August 18, 2015
LL019

Ethnographic Preface

Sarah Cart was referred to the research team by Phil "James" Lacasse, a neighbor and someone who had worked with Sarah. After rescheduling once, Sarah met with Laura Loewer at her house in Iota, Louisiana.

Sarah Cart is originally from Iota, Louisiana (west of Lafayette). She was born in 1958. Sarah graduated high school and began work in a sewing factory in Crowley, Louisiana, as a secretary. For two years after that, she went to work in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as an operator for a plant called Hercules that produced polymer plastics. In 1980 at the age of 21, Sarah was hired fulltime with Exxon (now ExxonMobil). Her career spanned 34 years, and she retired in November of 2014 as a board operator. During her career with Exxon, she was exclusively offshore except for seven years working inland waters and seven months in the Exxon office putting together conferences on safety for the company.

Summary

Getting into the oil industry: Sarah notes the money and security were what inspired her to find a job in the oil industry. She wanted to work with a large company "that didn't go up and down with the economy and had long-term vision." She found Exxon to be a secure company, and notes the money was good and the time off was good.

Schedule: Working for Exxon, Sarah worked seven-and-seven, but her years in inland waters were a five-and-two (business week) schedule. The advantage to her schedule was "equal time off." She also notes the good family time the job allowed her. Losing her brother early in her career, she was able to help out her sister-in-law, and help family when she was home.

First day offshore: Sarah recalls the first flight offshore being a new experience, as she had never flown before. She describes being offshore 109 miles out and seeing nothing but water, and notes she was the only woman offshore.

Changes in the workforce: Sarah says there may be another woman on your shift, but they typically schedule them on opposite shifts. "There still aren't many women out there." She remembers a woman offshore who worked the opposite hitch she did in 1980 when she began working for Exxon.

How she got her job with Exxon: Sarah says she knew people, but still had to go through the interviewing process. She met people who encouraged her to get a job with a larger company. Though she did not have family in the industry, she had several friends who worked for the majors.

Work roles: Sarah technically began as a roustabout, or maintenance specialist. She moved up to outside operator and before her retirement became a board operator andcontrol room operator. Sarah describes her job as a board operator, operating facilities remotely, and dispatching work to the platforms.

Changes in work: Sarah notes many things were done manually when she first began her career, and as her career transitioned the job became easier. Sarah notes things got easier and there was less physical demand, and if there was physical work, they had the equipment to handle the heavier things.

Changes in safety: Sarah recalls when she began working offshore in the 1980s; it was a "get 'er done" mentality. Sarah said it was a "do whatever you need to do to get the job done." The company transitioned to talking safety, but did not enforce it, and then towards the end of her career, safety measures became enforced and mandatory. If people didn't work safely, they had to leave or were encouraged to find a job elsewhere.

Changes: The largest change Sarah says she saw was in drill operations. Operating a new drill, you had to stay and watch the gauges. When she got to Mobile Bay, Alabama, she says they had transmitters, allowing them to set alarm ranges, which would tell them in the control room when to work on a well. They got signals when something needed to be done and were no longer watching a myriad of manual gauges. She said you could also switch valves automatically instead of manually, and remarks: "Many fewer back injuries."

Where she worked and lived: Sarah started out of Intracoastal City, Louisiana, then shipped out of Grand Isle, Louisiana for one year. She spent seven years around Morgan City and Patterson, Louisiana and the last 22 years of her career were in Mobile Bay, Alabama. While she was working, she lived in Crowley, Louisiana and briefly in Lafayette. She moved to Patterson briefly. When she was transferred to Mobile Bay she moved back to Iota, Louisiana.

Working offshore for Exxon, she began in Eugene Island for 3–4 years until she was transferred to Grand Isle for a little over a year. For seven years she worked inland waters, five years in Duck Lake and two years in Lake Sand andBayou Carlin, Louisiana. Her last 22 years were in Mobile Bay. Technology was more prevalent, so even if she was checking multiple facilities she would come back to her main quarters every night.

Women offshore: Sarah says she didn't see many women electricians. There were a few female mechanics she saw. If you were working for a company, Sarah says, you were an instrument person, or an operator. In the early days she said a few women went on to be foremen. Many women were cooks or galley hands offshore, and Sarah says: "Many times when I'd say I worked offshore they're like, oh, you cook!"

Cycles by gender: Sarah says if you work for the company (referring to Exxon), she hoped it would be an even playing field. However, if a woman loses her job offshore, Sarah thinks it would be easier for a man to get rehired somewhere than a woman. Sarah says you typically don't see women working for smaller companies out in the field, assuming this is because they meet their gender quotas by hiring women in clerical or office positions. If a man lost a job he could find a job more easily, something Sarah doesn't see as much for women.

Majors and independents: Sarah says, "If you can work for a major, that's the ultimate." She notes the benefits, the safety, and the policies. Being a woman, Sarah notes that the major companies demanded that all employees, regardless of gender, be treatedwith respect. In smaller companies she says she has "heard stories" but doesn't elaborate.

Challenges of working offshore: Being away from home, foggy weather, eating someone else's food and not having control over what you ate, and long hours are just some of the challenges Sarah finds. She was often the only woman, and she says there was no camaraderie. She says for her, this was the greatest challenge. She had a few men she'd speak with, but would try not to socialize much offshore because "business is business and when you become buddies that tends to mix all up." She was concerned about expectations in work ethic might also drop with mixing work and friend life. There were a few men she'd speak with in the evenings, but mainly she would go to her bunk and read or stay to herself.

Expectations by gender: Sarah says the companies can be afraid to expect a woman to do what the guys could do. Sarah says for her, there was no difference and she expected herself to do the same work as the guys. She references getting a cheater pipe (extension on a wrench) to make her strength equal to that of her male coworkers. Sarah thinks women should be expected to meet the company's requirements.

Challenges: A huge challenge Sarah describes is if a man and woman with the same years of experience walk onto a new rig, the mindset of the people on the new rig is that the man knows what he's doing and he's good. For a woman, though, with every new supervisor or location, she had to prove herself. Sarah says, "This was one of my greatest frustrations." As she got further in her career, her male coworkers would defend her work ethic and ability to those who may question her.

Significant moments: She shares a story of swinging onto a boat with a swing rope, and a new young employee who said they would be "crazy" to do this. Sarah found from this experience she was an "adrenaline junkie" and enjoyed the thrill of being offshore. She recalls another time she was going from the rope to the boat, and how she was able to save own her life by swinging in and having her life jacket hit the rig platform. She notes how her personality typically has a plan B and how her "brain kicked in."

Offshore mindset: As an operator, Sarah says loving adrenaline was "perfect" and made her a great employee for Exxon. She says a craft person works on one thing at a time, but an operator had to multitask, something she says was perfect for her career.

Networking: The first person Sarah met who worked for a major company lived in Lafayette. She worked with "such a secure company." Sarah calls Exxon her "home." She said she found herself working for the best, and therefore didn't need to network.

Mobility: Sarah says, "ironically most people strive to move up, and I really took a lot of heat because I did not want to move into a management position because then they controlled where you live, and when you report to work." Sarah notes that she lived so she could work and did not work so she could live. She recalls an old boss telling her, "The closer you stay to the well, the more you control your career." Sarah notes she had many opportunities with Exxon but did not want to put her location and schedule in jeopardy.

Training: Sarah says if the company saw you were serious, they would open doors for you. Sarah did training all over, from Texas to Mississippi, including Houston, Texas and Lafayette, Houma, Amelia, and Thibodeaux, Louisiana.

Mentoring: Sarah says there was mentoring. When she first went to work for Exxon she couldn't touch a thing on the rig for the first six or so hitches. The company didn't care if you had experience, and when you were hired on you had to wait and watch. Sarah also helped train other board operators while doing her duties on the job. She describes the on the job training as some of the best training for her.

Lafayette and the oil industry: She says in the 1970s and 1980s when the industry took a hit, Lafayette took a hit. Since then, Lafayette has made great job opportunities and diversified. Sarah remarks on the current low prices in 2015 in the oil industry and neighbors who are laid off.

Companies learning from cycles: Sarah says she is blessed to work for a company in the energy industry and not just oil and gas. She says Exxon-Mobil isn't as affected as the smaller companies who may be solely oil and gas.

Cycles: Sarah says Exxon would consistently say they were a long-term company with vision. Exxon was a conservative and well-run company. When the price of oil was very low, they would not hire and would work very short-handed through the tough times. Sarah notes the last layoff at Exxon was in 1957.

When Sarah was hired in 1980, Exxon was hiring a lot of people, as there was a large percentage of their workforce preparing for retirement. In the mid 1980s to the late 1980s and early 1990s, Sarah says, things were very tight. Around 2005, Exxon started hiring again as Sarah's generation was getting ready to

retire. Sarah says because they were grateful employees who didn't follow the traditional "hire when it's good and layoff when it's bad" pattern; there was a respect and appreciation for the company. She says they understood they'd have to do more with less.

Proudest moment: Sarah has always asked the Lord to help her finish as strong as she's started. She's thankful she retired giving 150%, the same way she began her career.

Hurricane safety changes: In the early days, Sarah says, they would wait too long for evacuations, causing people to get stuck in the Gulf. Then, they evacuated too early. Now, Sarah says she is seeing a turn where new supervisors are waiting too long again. She is concerned for safety. Around the late 1980s she says it changed, and around 2005–2007 there were new supervisors coming in who had no history, perhaps making them likely to take a greater risk.

Working for Exxon: She says when you start with Exxon and resign, people wonder why. Sarah describes Exxon as a great company that pays employees well and treats them fairly, while expecting their employees to treat the company well. She says very few women stay in the field in production. Many take a more administrative or foreman job, or transfer to safety or office group jobs. She hasn't seen many women finish their careers offshore.

Safety training: Exxon would pull a field person in every year to put on safety seminars. Sarah went in for 6–9 months, putting on several conferences before returning to the field. Sarah says most employees would bring people in from the field on temporary assignments.

Women in the field at Sarah's 2014 retirement: When Sarah retired in 2014, she was the only woman on her hitch, besides a cook who worked for their contracting company. She remembers another lady who was an instrument tech, and no one else. Sarah remarks she would see tons of female engineers who would come offshore for a few nights at a time to complete an assignment and go back in.

Communications: Sarah says it was interesting to live offshore without wi-fi; it felt isolated. In the early years of her career she had to wait in line for the phone, with a five- or ten-minute call limit. She says she would have to prepare her family for when she could call them. She says Exxon never fully allowed employees to have internet access offshore. Some had access but only for work. She says there was typically one phone, and that is how she spent her evenings. She says while working in Mobile Bay, Alabama they could get cell phone reception, so in the late 1990s, she was able to communicate more with family by cell phone.

Sarah says Exxon was a great company to work for, and was thankful to work for them. They have not cut back employee benefits like other companies, and are an honorable company. Exxon also provides seminars for employees, offering classes early, mid, late, and during the retirement phases of their career to help them transfer out.

Michael Castille

Lafayette, LA
July 22, 2015
ML031

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala's friend, Cherlyn Hebert, recommended I talk to her friend Michael Castille. Michael has been in the oil and gas industry in Lafayette, Louisiana since the 1980s. Interested in hearing

his perspective, I got Michael's contact information from Cherlyn. I called Michael and we arranged to have the interview on July 22, 2015 at his home.

Michael Castille is from Lafayette and started in the oil and gas industry in 1980. He worked in the drilling side of the industry, specifically with MWD and LWD tools. He also helped develop a field operation support center while working at Path Finder. Michael retired from Pathfinder, which was owned by Schlumberger, in 2013. In his interview, Michael provides many insights, particularly on company mergers, the development of oilfield technology, and the impacts of the 1980s downturn.

Summary

Background: Michael is from Lafayette, Louisiana and his career in the industry started in 1980 when he was 25 years old. He got into the oilfield because his family needed more income than the family business could provide for them.

Career overview: He started with Scientific Drilling working with steering tools and wire line. Michael then went to Smith International doing the same kind of work. Smith trained Michael to run magnetic and gyroscopic surveys. He stayed with Smith until 1986 during the midst of the 80s downturn. He did what he could to make ends meet during the downturn, including contract work. Smith rehired him in 1991. At that time he switched from steering to MWD tools. In 1995 Smith sold the drilling and measurement and survey divisions to Halliburton; Michael stayed at Halliburton until 1999. Halliburton sold Pathfinder, where Michael was working, in order to buy Sperry Son. Pathfinder was sold to WH Energy. Pathfinder was the only independent LWD company at that time that opted not to be in directional drilling. Michael worked in the field for WH until 1999. At the point, he moved out of the field and into the computing center for two years. He helped develop a quality control position. The quality analysis team was created. The team would look at problems with the tools that could affect relationships with clients. Michael would then go talk to the client and figure out how to move forward; this process helped build Pathfinder's positive reputation. In May 2004 he worked as an operations manager. In 2007 Michael was offered the position of the North America LWD manager. One of the best things Pathfinder did was build groups to support field personnel. He helped build a field operations center that uses satellites to set up a network; Pathfinder developed software that was a comprehensive troubleshooting guide for problems in the field; it helped save the company lots of money. Pathfinder also developed a group that specialized in well placement. In 2008 Michael was asked to be the global geoscience manager. In the same year Smith International purchased Pathfinder again. In 2008 there was another downturn and the company was instructed to pause work. It was difficult to keep up with work when things picked back up in 2009; the cycles are getting shorter. In 2010 Schlumberger bought all of Smith, including Pathfinder. In 2013 Michael was offered a retirement package and took it.

Work locations: Michael worked doing river crossings and some land jobs, but most of his fieldwork was done offshore. Michael worked in the field for 20 years. He worked mostly in shelf water and some deepwater jobs.

Changes in technology: The guys without degrees were doing the hard work on the rig; a lot of the innovation occurred in a laboratory. When there were just steering tools and hydroelectric powered motors you didn't know where you were you were drilling; you only knew if you were going up or down or left or right. Changes in the motor allowed for steering as needed, but it would rotate when you didn't need to; there was better control in well placement. The evolution from wire steering to a survey package allowed for the initiation of a deviation at a low angle; it saved time. MWD and LWD tools were huge for efficiency. The evolution of logging tools was amazing, too; drillers could see the flow of electricity and formation characteristics. They developed a neutron density tool. They also developed a gamma ray tool called IPZIG that won tool of the year at the World Oil Conference. It takes measurements while rotating

and provides an image of the formation. The technology center in Houston asked the operations center what they needed and wanted and would develop tools from those requests.

Education and the workforce: Pathfinder did not have a policy of hiring only people with degrees. Michael doesn't have a college degree. People with degrees have to start off in fieldwork. Pathfinder recruited people from all over. Their recruiting favored people from Lafayette, because that is where the company is located.

Challenges of working in the industry: When Michael entered the industry he was already married. The younger guys have a hard time establishing that kind of relationship; "not all relationships survive the absence." The financial aspect can be tricky. The young guys coming out of college experience a big increase in pay and have the impulse to spend it without putting money away in case of a downturn. In 1991 Michael had only $40 in his savings account; he swore to his wife that would never happen again. There are two aspects of being financially cautious in this industry. The first is being careful with home mortgages. The second is saving enough money that you have the luxury of finding another job if you are asked to do something you don't like. Money is the byproduct of the job; it's a trade of time for money.

First day offshore: Michael's first day offshore was on the Mr. Max rig while working for Kerr-McGee. His first job was on Grey Wolf Six by False River. It was a shock to his system when he found out he had to stay awake for the duration of the job, which could be three to four days. The company he retired from required that their employees have eight hours of sleep in a 24-hour period before they could drive.

Work in the North Sea: On one job in the North Sea, Michael helped kick off three wells. He was up for four days. He had worked so long that when he finally got to sleep he slept for 18 hours and through a fire drill. In 1981 he worked out of Aberdeen, Scotland in the North Sea for a few weeks. Michael was offered to transfer to Aberdeen and other places, but he didn't take those jobs because his family was in Lafayette.

Women in the industry: The first woman Michael saw offshore worked as a roustabout. The women he saw offshore worked in catering and cleaning bedrooms. Halliburton had hired three or four women college graduates; one of those women filed a harassment suit and won her case after WH bought Pathfinder. Michael hired a woman who had graduated from the School of Mines. She was trained as a geosteering specialist. She spent six months in the field shadowing other geosteering specialists. She became an integral part of the geosteering team and was doing all of the training. She left Pathfinder to work for Southwestern Energy. They didn't try to keep women out of the industry, but the physical demands deterred them.

Difference in work environments: Procedurally, there are no differences between deepwater and shallow water drilling. The well depth is deeper and the formations act differently. With deepwater, until you get to a formation with integrity, you have to be able to handle pressure while drilling; it can be tricky. Land work is preferable because you don't have to deal with the confinement of offshore work.

Longest time offshore: Michael had worked 86 days offshore; after a nine-hour boat ride back to shore, they wanted Michael to go back offshore, so Michael quit his job. This happened when Smith sold the division to Halliburton and the company was shorthanded. People are less tolerant today.

Safety: This kind of work is dangerous. Michael has been on rigs where people lost fingers and died. Safety has improved; there are billboards around town for personal injury lawyers.

Lafayette: Lafayette is a compelling environment and there is so much talent here. Michael would want to start a business in Lafayette because there are good people here. For example, one of the men who

helped start operational response was from Venezuela and worked for Halliburton. He didn't want to work in Angola, Africa anymore and had family living in Lafayette. He came in and asked for work at Pathfinder and became the next performance analyst specialist and helped create the Operations Support Center, which started in 2004 or 2005. It started so people working in the field wouldn't depend on just one guy to help them if they came up on trouble. The inspiration behind the Operations Support Center came from difficulties with a software update that crashed.

Changes caused by MWD: With MWD you didn't have to be up for most of the job and you could get some sleep. The environment became quieter because it was no longer necessary to have a diesel engine for the wire line unit constantly running.

Performance analyst: That position was internal to Pathfinder. Before this position, there was a project with six rigs out of El Paso; there were problems with four rigs with the resistivity tool. The president wanted to fire people; Pathfinder told him what the problem was and fixed it. They didn't work with El Paso again until the problem was solved. Michael's boss decided they needed someone to get to the root causes of the problems, write a report, and explain it to the customer. Customers appreciate the truth.

Industry impact on Lafayette: When Michael remembers when he was a child South College Drive in Lafayette was just a dirt road and the only thing out there was Guidice Inn. It has developed to and through Youngsville and Broussard. There aren't many oil companies in the area; it's primarily service companies. Agriculture is not the driving force in Lafayette Parish. The medical industry has big influence in the area. The medical industry has developed because Lafayette has money.

Networking: Michael is a part of some groups including SPLA. There is a group for every interest.

Proudest moments in career: Michael is proud of the success of the groups he helped form in addressing problems. He is also proud of the growth he was involved with from 2004 to 2008.

Living offshore: With 86 days, Michael has the record for being offshore the longest. During that time he learned he could only take so much country music T.V.; service hands couldn't change the channel. There was always someone to talk to, but, after long periods of time, Michael got tired of hearing men's voices. When Michael worked in the field there were no cellphones: if someone wanted to call home they had to ask the company man. Now everyone has a cell phone.

Downturns: The knee jerk reaction of companies during a downturn is to cut personnel. There were waves of layoffs; Michael was laid off in the last wave and there were only six people left. WH kept all of its people and gave them training. Smith had layoffs and furloughs during the downturn. Schlumberger had a 5% reduction of its workforce. The last downturn was a bloodbath; there were layoffs and 50% cutbacks. Lafayette diversified because of the oil and gas industry.

Leroy Charles

Houma, LA
July 30, 2009
JC329

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Charles was referred by EJ Aucoin, who was a coworker of his at Unocal. I had told Mr. Aucoin I was having trouble contacting African Americans who had worked in the oilfield during the project period, and he immediately recommended Mr. Charles, saying that he had a remarkable career with

Unocal and would be very knowledgeable. Mr. Charles agreed to meet with me at his office south of Houma, Louisiana. He requested that the audio and transcript of his interview not be made public, though he was fine with the material being used in reports.

Mr. Charles was born in 1948 in Houma. His father was a laborer and construction worker. He noted that African Americans were not hired in the oilfield during his daddy's day. Mr. Charles was drafted into the US Army in 1969, and was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Germany. Upon his return in 1971, he started with Uncial as a roustabout, when Texaco did not offer him a job. He began working maintenance, then became a utility man after one year. In 1975 he made Operator 2. In 1982 he was promoted to Operator 1, in charge of Unocal's projects in the lakes of Terrebonne Parish. In 1991, he was promoted to special project foreman, supervising construction projects in the region. One year later Unocal reorganized and created a pool of foremen, sending Mr. Charles widely through the Gulf, doing construction inshore and offshore. In 2002 he went to well control school, and started working on drilling rigs, but this lasted only one year. From 2003 to 2005 he continued working construction, based out of his house. In 2005 Chevron bought Unocal and Mr. Charles retired. He worked as a consultant from 2005 to 2007, when he was hired by Chet Morrison's company, Rooster Petroleum, as a production foreman.

Summary

Born in 1948 in Houma. Father a laborer in area. Drafted in Army from 1969 to –1971. Hired by Unocal upon return, moved up from roustabout to operator and construction foreman by 1991. Travelled widely through Gulf, inshore and offshore jobs, overseeing construction on rigs. Brief stint drilling. Retired from Unocal after Chevron buy out. Consulted for two years, then hired by Rooster Petroleum as production foreman.

Noted the rise in permitting and regulation through his career; discharges from drilling and production process limited to near-nothing now. Discussed changes in the wetlands through project period; hurricane damage to barrier islands massive, noticeable changes in wave action against barges and structures inland lakes. Notice major sand shifts, loss of vegetation. Noted seven and seven schedule worked well for him and family; built on a trust that existed, but not all workers had that trust. Discussed importance of communication; email and the rise of accountability, evidence for reports ensures action on issues, not as easy to fudge numbers. Noted the lack of initiative in workers in recent decades; waiting for boss to tell you to work. Money was a factor early in his career, but not THE factor; took pride in work. Now people trying to get hours, make jobs last longer. Discusses link with greater regulations, OSHA, etc.; making employee number one, center of business. With this came slip in quality and quantity of work; worker expectations rose. Moved from dedication to "what's in it for me?" With safety, employees use regulations to take advantage, demand breaks. Discussed coming into oilfield with only one other African American; pushed him to succeed. Witnessed racism and ignorance, but had strategy of being positive, proving them wrong. Noted Houma was segregated before 1970s, but with blacks getting oilfield jobs, money differential changed, started having mixed neighborhoods, whites dealing with it.

Andre Comeaux

Lafayette, LA
July 31, 2015
ML042

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala put me in contact with Andre Comeaux in order to schedule an interview with him. Andre is the vice president of Region's Insurance, but he has a background in drilling. Interested in hearing his story, I called Andre and scheduled an interview at his office for July 31, 2015.

Andre Comeaux is from Lafayette, Louisiana and went to school at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where he earned his degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for Amoco until the 1980s downturn. Andre started working in the insurance industry; part of his work includes insuring oilfield companies. At the time of the interview, Andre was running for a seat in the Louisiana state legislature.

Summary

Background: Andre was born and raised in Lafayette. He went to school at the University of Southwestern Louisiana where he studied mechanical engineering. During his college years, he worked offshore during his summers off; he worked for Amoco as a roustabout with a seven-and-seven schedule. When he graduated, the price of oil began to fall; oil companies weren't hiring. Andre got a job with a service company working on rig floors with tube and tongs for six months. In 1985 he got a job with Amoco as a drilling engineer stationed in Lake Charles. When the industry worsened, that office closed in 1986. He moved back to Lafayette. There were more layoffs and Andre decided to leave the industry. The Amoco offices in Louisiana eventually closed and the company operated out of Houston, Texas. Andre got a job in the insurance industry in 1987 in Atlanta, Georgia. Now Andre insures oil and gas companies. From Atlanta, he moved to De Ridder, Louisiana. Andre and his wife moved their family back to Lafayette; he now works at Region's as an insurance broker.

Changes in data sharing: When he worked as a drilling engineer Andre had to go offshore to observe the different phases of drilling. He noticed changes in the way measurements and results were shared. Results used to be printed on paper then driven to the office to be analyzed. When Andre started working in the field, facsimile machines were used to send measurements to the office. Now measuring happens in real time as the well is drilled. The measurement tools are incorporated in the drill string above the drill bit; this saves time and money. The information can be read in real time by the engineer in the office or from the comfort of his own home.

Changes in drilling: When Andre started, directional drilling was used from a single hole to reach different reservoirs and to change direction of the well; that work used to be done by a mud motor. While Andre was in the oilfield, the technology was transitioning to real-time drilling. Those techniques evolved to horizontal drilling, which greater exposes a reservoir. Horizontal drilling and fracking has created the current gas boom in the US.

Changes in insurance: There are several different lines of insurance. Since Andre has been in the business, nothing has really changed [insurance-wise/workers-comp?] with offshore work. The relationships between the lease operators and the contractor companies have changed; there are now complex agreements outlining responsibility. There is insurance for well blowouts and uncontrolled wells; that insurance includes physical assets and possible expenses associated with a blowout. There is also insurance for facilities and wells damaged by wind and waves. This kind of insurance changed after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; the available insurance shrunk and became highly restrictive and expensive. This changed how companies bought insurance; they only insured what was critical.

Telemedicine: Telemedicine allows for offshore medics to call a doctor on land to help figure out what is going on with a patient offshore. This is a new technological development. Andre also insures the medical industry. This new telemedicine advancement proved challenging because the insurance underwriters

didn't understand the risk or the combination of oil and gas insurance with medical malpractice insurance in federal and international waters. The underwriters needed to be educated.

Challenges: Communication is the most important thing; you have to make sure underwriters in different parts of the country and the world understand the risks of offshore work. In drilling, communication between the well site and the offices is important: decisions in the office need to be well informed and timely. Communication has improved over the last 30 years; information is expected and shared more quickly in both the insurance and oil and gas industries.

Memorable times offshore: Riding in the helicopter was a treat. Andre enjoyed flying over the marsh to get to his facility. There was plenty of good food offshore. They would go fishing; some of the guys also caught some sharks. Andre brought home a set of shark jaws and he had to figure out how to clean them. Andre worked as a roustabout and got paid well; he felt like he was working with the men. Andre used his tax return money from his roustabout job to buy his first car.

Where Andre worked: During his first summer working in the industry, Andre mostly worked offshore out of Intracostal City, Louisiana. During his second summer in the industry, Andre worked as an intern engineer in an office in Lafayette. In the third summer Andre worked in New Orleans with a reservoir group; he studied a reservoir and worked on updating the estimated amount of gas the well would produce. While he worked spinning tube and tonging, Andre worked on land, in marshes, and offshore. As a drilling engineer with Amoco he worked in the Lake Charles office, which is primarily a land office.

Transitioning from the oilfield to insurance: His work in insurance required him to interact with policyholders. Andre's work in the oilfield was more technical and he had to report only to higher ups on the technical side. Andre had to learn how to work, deal with, and talk with people on the phone. Andre learned how to be a critical thinker in college and applied that to his underwriting. When he switched industries, Andre had to go through trainings to learn about insurance. According to Andre, an insurance company is like a big machine, but the parts aren't as reliable because they are people; you have to communicate frequently; that was one of the biggest differences Andre noticed when switching industries.

Why the switch to insurance: Andre was discouraged with the oil and gas industry because it was unreliable. When he left the industry he didn't specifically look for a job in insurance. Andre figured the insurance industry would give him a good idea of the different industries out there and help him find what he wanted to do next; it was supposed to be temporary.

Relationship between Lafayette and the oil and gas industry: Oil and gas used to be "our daddy;" the economy was heavily driven by the industry. It was easy to get into the industry. Now the oil and gas industry is more like a grandfather; it's still very important in Lafayette but the city doesn't depend as much on it. Lafayette has expanded into healthcare and tourism. The fiber optic network has also attracted tech businesses to the area.

Oil and gas companies in Lafayette: The oil and gas companies that held leases and ran the projects had offices in Lafayette. There were also a lot of service companies in Lafayette. Lafayette's higher elevation and relatively close distance to the coast contributed to the presence of oilfield companies in the city.

Andre's start in the oil and gas industry: Andre is the first person in his family to work in the oil and gas industry. Andre's family worked in pharmaceuticals, farming, medicine, and law. His friend got Andre interested in the oil and gas industry; when the oil and gas companies came to the school for interviews, Andre applied. The companies were actively recruiting petroleum, chemical, and mechanical engineers from USL. The relationship between USL (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette, ULL) and the oil and gas industry is still strong.

Running for state legislature: Andre didn't have an interest in politics when he left Lafayette, but when he came back he had renewed appreciation for Lafayette. Lafayette wanted to be more and Andre wanted to be a part of that. He became involved with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and other groups. A friend of Andre's ran for state legislature and he helped with the campaign. Andre thought about running for office once his friend termed out. Andre thinks he can use his critical thinking skills to make a difference. Andre wants to be a part of the leadership in Acadiana.

Key issues of Andre's campaign: The state finances are unstable and there has been an increase in spending. He wants to follow up on initiatives to streamline the government and see if they work. Reducing tax rates is another issue. Continued support of the oil and gas industry is also important to Andre's platform. He is the only Ragin' Cajun in the race; he wants to get funding for ULL to get a new engineering building. Education and healthcare are also important to Andre. Interstate I-49 is important to Andre and the region; it's expected to follow highway 90 to New Orleans; Andre will be pushing for this project in Baton Rouge. I-49 will help with transportation between Lafayette, New Iberia, Houma, and New Orleans (especially in regards to equipment for oil and gas industry). I-49 will also help with evacuation plans.

Joel Conner

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009
JC315

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Conner was referred by Ronnie Rhodes; the two worked on many service jobs together. Ronnie said that Joel would be a good engineer to talk to. We met at Starbuck's. There are two audio files for this interview because we moved out on the patio to escape the noise of the shop, and the second file begins outside. Joel continues to work for Baker Hughes, mostly in training, and has a large network of friends and colleagues in Houma, Louisiana through the oil industry. He was a willing participant in the project and provided valuable information.

Mr. Conner was born in 1946 in Abbeville, Louisiana. His father was a career military officer, and Joel served in the Vietnam War. He attended Texas A&M, and earned a degree in electrical engineering. In 1969 he took a job with Dresser Atlas, doing electrical measuring and petro-physics. In 1971 he moved to Lafayette as the offshore fields began to pick up. Baker Hughes bought out Dresser Atlas and he stayed on. In 1975, he attended a four-month school in Houston to learn new technologies for measuring fields and production. In 1977 he worked testing new instruments and reporting equipment. By the late 1980s and 1990s, Joel began working as a trainer for Baker Hughes all over the world. He was instrumental in building the company's employee development program, and making it an important priority. He designed the company's mentoring program in 2005.

Summary

Born in Abbeville, Louisiana, in 1946. Father lifetime military man; Joel Vietnam vet. Trained as electronic engineer at Texas A&M. Took job with Dresser Atlas (later Baker Hughes Hughes) in 1969. Specialized in electrical measuring of oil and gas deposits, production. Gained numerous certifications and did training through 1970s; worked to test new measuring equipment on drilling platforms throughout

Gulf. From 1980s to present, conducted various trainings for Baker Hughes Hughes worldwide. Contributed to company's employee development and mentorship programs.

Provided detailed descriptions of evolution of oilfield measurement and logging processes through project period. Noted move from analog to digital of extreme importance; cost and time saving improvements. In early 1970s, 1/3 cost of the rig was in measurement; primitive faxes to computerized data coming from drill today. Development of "memory tools" and MWD, measure while drilling. Noted that measurement expanded through his career, to give readings on pressure, water level and other levels in addition to oil and gas amount. Noted increased specialization of service companies in 1970s, a niche for everything. Increased focus on maintenance and fast repair offshore, due to high cost of shutdown. People taught how to fix a machine before knowing how to use it. Noted that company man was once in charge on location, but with communication came consensus-based decision making; all partners involved. Noted that in 1980s, many companies decreased push for employee development, training–hires were "flat." Joel lobbied for more, structured skill development program with Baker Hughes Hughes. Noted significant changes through his career in safety protocol, and cost effectiveness. Increased focus on risk management. Lawyers playing a major role. Fed agencies increased inspections, paperwork, requires refined organization in companies. Noted important role of Catholic Church in Houma during 1980s bust; brought people together and provided for them.

Howard Cornay, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
June 23, 2015
ML009

Ethnographic Preface

Leslie Davis called the team after reading the article about the oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser*. She informed us that her father, Howard Cornay, Jr., used to be an insurance executive who worked with oil and gas companies. With Leslie's help, we scheduled an interview with her father at his house for June 23, 2015. Howard and his wife invited us to stay for lunch after the interview. Howard, Leslie, his son Steve, and his wife were all present at the interview. We also interviewed Steve after lunch.

Howard Cornay, Jr. and his family are from Lafayette. Howard's father worked in the oil and gas industry. Howard started his career installing natural gas appliances in people's homes. He then got into the insurance business with his brother; they created insurance packages for independent oilfield companies. Howard also helped start LAGCOE and was on the first board of directors. Howard retired at age 79.

Summary

Background: Howard Conray, Jr. lives in Lafayette Louisiana and is 87 years old. He worked in the liquefied petroleum gas business, safety, and finally in insurance. His career in insurance included most of the advents of the oil and gas business. He had accounts all over the nation and in other countries.

Howard's son: Steve Cornay, Howard's son, who also participated in the interview, had been working offshore for 30 years. He lives in Lafayette with his wife and family. His career started in Baton Rouge doing onshore work. He worked installing new oilfield equipment and technology. Some of those skills he learned were useful when he moved to working offshore. Steve's primary focus has been on being an operator and being in compliance with safety guidelines. Watching the safety and production move forward, he worked to make a safer working environment.

Cornay family history: Howard explained that the original Cornay family was French and came to the US to get away from the Napoleonic revolution. His grandfather came to Lafayette to work for the railroads. Howard's father was born and raised in Lafayette. He was a district manager for the old Standard Oil Company and worked all over southern Louisiana. His father was also active in business affairs and the president of the chamber of commerce at one time. Someone his father worked with got the idea that there ought to be an oil exposition, or oil and gas trade association in Lafayette. Howard's father used his position in the chamber of commerce to back the idea. Howard was the chairman of the marketing committee at the time, so he was a part of the first board of directors for the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Initiative. This initiative started in 1955, and the oil exposition is still going on. [That exposition is LAGCOE.]

Howard's early work: Howard's company was a division of marketing for another gas company. He worked for his dad's oil company as a sales manager and oil manager. Steve explained that while his dad was working for that company, they were changing the way people lived. Before everyone had natural gas in their houses, they had wood they collected to start stoves and such. Howard was working to put in fridges, stoves, and hot water heaters in people's houses. Howard started doing this work in the late 1930s.

Work in the insurance industry: Howard eventually went into the insurance business and worked with people who operate oil wells and process and distribute oil and gas. Howard and his partners first started developing insurance packages for independent oil companies, which are commonly used all over the nation now. They first worked with land operators, as opposed to the big name oil companies that were working offshore at the time.

When the independent oil companies went offshore in later years, they invested in risk of well offshore. Howard's role was to develop insurance packages to cover that risk, particularly for independent companies. He had some claims and blowouts, workers compensation injury claims offshore fell into two categories: people who work on the docks, unloading and loading ships, and then the sailors and seamen. The courts said the sailors and seaman were different from longshoremen on docks, and therefore had different insurance claims. Howard got proficient in insurance claims for longshoremen.

Senate hearing: Steve reminded Howard that he had testified at a Senate committee. Howard said, "My head swelled up so big I couldn't put my hat on" when he got invited to testify at a senate hearing. The hearing was on the updates regarding longshoremen insurance law. Howard was one of four people in the nation chosen to testify.

Career development: In the meantime, his agency joined larger agency, and became part of national and international group of insurers, with a specialty in the oil and gas industry. Howard spent 47 years in the insurance game and he retired when he turned 79.

Highlights: Howard explained that as an insurance agent, you have to find enough business to rotate every year. He had customers retained for 40 years and he had a wonderful relationship with most of his clients. He kept their business and didn't have to replace it every year. He experienced continuity.

Other highlights were his trips to pre-revolution Havana, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Los Angeles, and Phoenix. He said everyone in his business wanted to go to Phoenix in February because of the golf courses and a lot of the guys were golfers.

Howard started his business as a two-man operation; in the end he was working in a company with 400 employees.

Working with his brother: Steve explained that Howard and his brother, Hugh, started worked together because there was a need that needed to be recognized because there wasn't a lot of support in terms of insurance. There wasn't very much competition when they first got started.Howard explained that his brother Hugh was his original partner. Hugh worked for a trucking company that transported oilfield equipment. Then, in 1957, Hurricane Audrey came through and destroyed all of that equipment, and they didn't have flood insurance for the trucks. Hugh got interested in insurance because of that experience. Howard had worked with the gas business that served oilfield and drilling contractors, so he knew what was going on in the drilling business contrary to what many other insurance competitors who didn't have that experience. They went in as specialists. Howard and Hugh were somewhat pioneers in that field, and out of it grew a specialty program for oil and gas companies. As that industry developed, Howard's business did, too.

Changes in the industry: As for other changes, computers became a central part of maintaining records. Howard's agency was one of the first offices with a computer in Lafayette. Rather than boxes of files, everything was done on the computer. Steve said he remembers going to Howard's office in the late 1950s, and he had a 10-key calculator. At the time, that calculator was a $150 dollar machine; now it costs $2.99. In terms of insuring oil and gas companies, as the technology in the industry changed, Howard said it required different knowledge on the part of agents and the insurance company. Howard had some clients who helped his agency learn what an oilfield operation was. He had enough background knowledge to understand the technical part of the operation of their clients. His company was chosen to provide insurance to some companies that were developing new products. Howard said he understood mud logging better than others, and also the analytical recording of the process of drilling and using drilling fluids. Howard's clients would show him new technologies, such as directional drilling.

Challenges: He said competition was a challenge. He explained that by the time the industry developed, other agents and companies started getting involved with this type of insurance, although many of the companies were based out of state, such as Houston or Dallas. Howard said that being from Lafayette was an advantage because he could communicate on a daily basis with many of his clients.

Lafayette: He said Lafayette is a unique city. He says it was a middle-class city. He described it as hardworking and believing in education. He said much of the development of the community centered on education. Howard and his family explained that agriculture was previously a dominant part of the economy in south Louisiana. Cattle ranching was important, starting with the Acadians in the late 1700s. Those people were from Canada. There are a lot of French in Louisiana, but the Acadians were a particular group of French people that came through Canada to Louisiana. Then, there are a lot of other French people that came to Louisiana a different way. They all came together and farmed, fished, and trapped. Then the plantation economy developed.

Education: Howard said early on the university offered courses in physics and geology that directly related to the operations of drilling and producing products. There was a petroleum-engineering program. Howard himself got a B.S. in astronomy, physics, chemistry, math, and statistics. All of which adapted to the oil business and everything else he went into.

Lafayette and offshore oil and gas: He explained that he could have had a successful career elsewhere because he was a good salesman. Steve explained that Howard never forgot a name. They couldn't go anywhere without him knowing somebody. He talked about how Lafayette developed into a marketing area. Many people worked to make Lafayette a home for the service industry, and there was a great growth spurt.

Possible move to Houston: There was one point where he thought about moving to Houston. He worked for company that was being sold and he was offered another job. He knew it would be a great business

opportunity. However, Howard then received a promotion as he was trying to figure out how to move to Houston, which meant instead he had to move to Alexandria. Eventually, Howard and his family wanted to get back to Lafayette. Howard's wife said, "He loves Lafayette."

Howard's clients: Eventually they sold their company to a much larger insurance company. His company become part of the 13th largest insurance agency in the nation, and he did insurance in other countries. Howard had clients in Africa, in the North Sea, and the Indian Ocean. All of these claims were administered out of Lafayette. Through all the changes, Howard kept his clients, no matter who he was working for. Most recently, he joined another company based in New Iberia, Louisiana and stayed there for 12 years. He eventually sold his business when he retired. He misses it. Howard's wife explained, "He says he's ready to go back every day."

Howard said Lafayette has a great environment compared to other cities. He said he had other opportunities to do other things, but both his family and other wonderful people are in Lafayette. He said the city has continued to improve in terms of infrastructure, education, transportation, and medical services. People are willing to commit to the growth of the community.

Steve Cornay

Lafayette, LA
June 23, 2015
ML010

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Cornay is the son of Howard J. Cornay, Jr. Steve's sister, Leslie Davis, had seen an article about the oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser*. Leslie called the research team to set up an interview with her father, who had been an insurance executive working with the industry. When we arrived to interview Howard, Steve was there as well. We quickly realized that Steve would be perfect to interview about his own experiences in the industry. After we interviewed his father, we interviewed Steve, too.

Steve Comay received his degree in marketing from Southeastern Louisiana University, but worked in the oil and gas industry instead. Steve has been in the industry for over 30 years working primarily in production. He worked onshore for six years before going offshore in 1988.

Summary

Onshore work: Steve started his onshore career in 1980 in Baton Rouge working at the University Field owned by Louisiana State University. His job was replacing the old equipment and technology from the 1940s.

Onshore and offshore: According to Steve, the main differences between working onshore and offshore were the environments and the closeness between workers. Offshore workers had to live together and share spaces, such as the bathrooms.

How he got into the industry: Steve received his degree in marketing and planned on following in his father's footsteps. However, that kind of work did not suite Steve. He began working as a roustabout and worked his way up. He stayed in this line of work because it was exciting and he liked operating the big equipment.

Schedule: Steve discussed working a seven-and-seven schedule. He joked that when he would get home he would have a long "honey-do" list. When he would come back home, Steve said it was like a honeymoon with his wife.

Challenges: Steve talked about how demanding his job is; there are safety systems to protect the people, the property, and the environment. He also stressed the importance of being vigilant while working. He explained that the oil is processed by the time it leaves the platform.

Safety changes: The major changes over the years have been the safety processes. Steve gave an example of the outdated storm chokes of the 1960s and 1970s; there was no surface control. The new controls use hydraulic technology. Well controls are one of the biggest changes. There are ongoing trainings, such as water survival schools. Half of the trainings are done on computers now. Steve talked about some of the water survival classes that now have helicopter simulators. He joked that when he went through water survival school he had to sit in a plastic lawn chair and get knocked over.

Lafayette as the Oil Center: Steve briefly told the story of Mr. Heymann starting the Oil Center in Lafayette. As the industry grew, it centered in Lafayette. However, some of the businesses are moving to Houston. There still are a lot of service businesses in Lafayette and it brings an influx of money.

Safety changes continued: Even though there is a lot of computer training, there is still hands-on training that has to be renewed every few years. The safety culture has really changed. Now there is a job safety analysis for every non-routine procedure; they have lead to greater safety. Every company now has a safety department. Nowadays a person needs basic safety training before he or she goes offshore. Steve and his sister talked about the new high school course offered that teaches basic offshore safety.

Downturns and mergers: Steve discussed that downturns present a lot of opportunities for buyouts of struggling companies. Steve joked that his paycheck color has changed 22 times as the companies he worked for were merged with other companies. He has never had a period of unemployment. During a merger there often are changes in the benefits, employees, and culture; sometimes there aren't enough people to enforce some of the changes that a company tries to bring after a merger.

Learning during cycles: The companies do learn during cycles, especially in regards to safety. They learned that there needs to be enough people to operate so workers do not hurry; accidents occur when people are hurried.

Oil and gas industry and Lafayette: Lafayette is still dependent on the oil and gas industry, although there is some diversification. A lot of the festivals in Lafayette stem from the good lifestyle supported by the oil and gas industry. There also has been an increase in population in Lafayette because of the industry.

Downturns and the shifting workforce: Sometimes downturns make people plan ahead if they lose their jobs. That is how Steve got into safety. People moving to different jobs in the industry facilitate the sharing and spreading of knowledge. It is difficult hiring after a downturn; many of the people who were laid off had found new jobs. After the downturns, the companies hire new people who require new training or people who have been out of the industry for a while and require retraining. The new workers come from all over the country. Most of the people in production come from the Gulf Coast area.

Mobility: Nicholls State University offers the seven-and-seven program. Some of the community colleges offer some opportunities for the oil and gas industry workers. However, Steve has not noticed many of the workers taking those opportunities. Most of those chances for advancement and education are internal. Steve also discussed that advancement took less time than when he started.

Career overview: Steve started as a roustabout in Baton Rouge. Several companies owned the field he worked in over time, but he did the same job. He married and moved to Lafayette and started working offshore in 1988. Offshore work was new for him and different from what he was used to. He started offshore as a contract operator; he remembers his first day offshore. In 1990 he was hired on with Amerada Hess out of south Texas. In 1995 the company did a big sellout; Steve was offered a package and released from the company. He then started working with a contract company, OCS. Steve contracted with the operating company Flores and Rucks in 1995, working on a field the company had bought from Mobil. Flores and Rucks sold its offshore interests to Ocean Energy. Devon bought that field in 2003. In 2003, his position was cut and got another severance package. He started working for Island Operating. He worked for companies based in different places from Engle, Texas to Fourchon, Louisiana. He currently works out of Cameron, Louisiana. Regardless, Steve never moved his family. He currently works for Fieldwood Energy.

Changes in schedule: Steve used to work seven-and-seven, but now works 14-and-14. This change is a result of companies cutting costs. The change in schedule is a little tough, but he accepts the change now. He will be retiring in a few years.

Proudest moment in career: Steve was proud of bringing a production platform online at Ship Shoal. The production team worked on setting up the equipment. They helped setup the platform in less than six weeks. The platform produces 50 million cubic feet of gas a day. Steve helped set up the paperwork and file cabinets for the platform. He received a bonus for his work. He also got a bonus from Ocean Energy for controlling costs and keeping up production. Working hands did not start getting bonuses until the mid 90s.

Change in companies: Steve discussed and listed the different companies he worked for due to mergers and buyouts.

Offshore living conditions: There have been some updates in building materials. The living quarters are premade, like modular homes. Unless the platforms are big enough and have galleys, Steve usually cooks for himself.

Phyllis Cornell

Lafayette, LA
July 13, 2015
ML022

Ethnographic Preface

After I interviewed Bob Cornell, he emailed me suggesting that I interview his wife, Phyllis. She has traveled and lived around the world with Bob and their children. Bob thought it was important to get his wife's perspective of life in the oil and gas industry. I called Phyllis and arranged to do an interview with her at the Cornell home.

Phyllis and Bob Cornell currently live in Lafayette, but they have lived all over the world due to Bob's job with Schlumberger. They lived in Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Texas, and New Mexico. Among other points of interest, Phyllis reflected on raising her children abroad, changes in the industry, and her role in the Schlumberger Spouses Association.

Summary

Background: Phyllis is from Louisiana. Her husband, Bob, has been in the oil and gas industry his whole life and Phyllis has been ever since they have been married. In college Bob worked some hotshot jobs. He also worked as a dispatcher for Schlumberger while going to the University of Southwestern Louisiana. After he graduated with a degree in geology, Bob worked fulltime for Schlumberger and the Cornells moved with their two children to Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Working abroad: Bob got the opportunity to work for Schlumberger in Brazil. They moved to Brazil while Phyllis was pregnant with their third child. The Cornells were transferred to a smaller city in Brazil; Phyllis asked if there was a doctor there and was told that one of the wives of the engineers had had a baby there and died. Their baby came two weeks early while Bob was out on a job. No one had cell phones; Phyllis looked in the phonebook to look for a Schlumberger company to try and get a hold of Bob and let him know. They made good friends living there; friends become family while living abroad. After Brazil, they lived in Peru and Venezuela. They had to come back to the US when Phyllis was pregnant with their fourth child because there were no clinics and oil had been nationalized. In the US, Bob worked in Lafayette with his dad at his engineering firm. Bob got another job back in Venezuela; the family lived there for four years.

The bust: In the summer of 1986, the company knew they were going to lay someone off, but Bob didn't think it was going to be him. Phyllis and the kids had left Venezuela for the summer to go back to the US. Bob was laid off. Phyllis flew back to help him pack; they didn't get to say goodbye to their friends because everyone had left for the summer. Bob was laid off because he had met all of his work objectives and geology could "coast" for two years; he had worked himself out of a job. Bob then did contract work for Schlumberger in Mexico; the family lived in Louisiana at that time.

Raising kids: Bob didn't get much time off. Back in Louisiana Phyllis was home with the kids; the oldest two were in college and the younger two were in high school. People thought Phyllis was a single mom. It was difficult raising the kids by herself. Bob was burnt out, quit his job, and started working with his dad again. He got a position working for Schlumberger in Lafayette.

Bob's later career: They were then transferred to Oklahoma City and Ecuador; at this point their kids were grown. They left Ecuador because Schlumberger would not insure Bob because he had had cancer in the past. He transferred with Schlumberger to Midland, Texas; he could be insured in the US. They were later transferred to Artesia, New Mexico and Houston, Texas. They had tried to avoid working in Houston, but they ended up loving it. In 2009, Bob retired after two years in Houston. The company strongly suggested Bob take the retirement package offered to employees over 55 years old. Some people didn't take the retirement and were laid off without that package.

Change in the industry: The oil and gas industry got more cutthroat over the years; people who didn't understand the business were calling the shots. While in Artesia, Bob thought about retirement but Schlumberger gave him a retention package to stay. Bob was offered the retirement package in 2009, a few months before his retention term was finished; he did not get his retention bonus. Now Bob is teaching courses for Schlumberger.

Schedule: It's good for a relationship for one of them to go away and then come back. If Bob was back for too long, Phyllis would be ready for him to go back to work. Phyllis became independent; it was a good experience. Christmas was not always on December 25. She depended on friends whose husbands also traveled for work.

Change in communication: There weren't any cell phones in the 1970s and 1980s. When their daughter was born in Brazil, guys working offshore brought pictures of the baby to Bob's parents in Lafayette; they thought it was quick to get pictures to them in two weeks. When they were living in Quito, Ecuador, Bob and Phyllis instantly had a picture when their granddaughter was born. Now Face Time and Skype are available; they don't have to write letters anymore.

Changes: The company used to really care about the employees and make sure the wives and families were happy. That changed when personnel took over. The company became more standoffish. The companies got bigger and distanced from the employees. Managers used to know and care about their workers and their families. As the company grew, they got further from the personal side. There's an organization for retired Schlumberger people that meets once a year in Europe; Bob and Phyllis saw people they hadn't seen in a long time.

Impact of oil and gas industry on Lafayette: The industry was a big part of Lafayette's growth. It was the main industry in Lafayette. It has changed as oil companies have downsized; that has been hard on the families. Now the main industry is medical. There is a shift. Most oil companies are in Houston now.

Lafayette's role: Starting in Lafayette was the best thing for the Cornells because they are from here and had a support system with their family. Bob's dad was in the industry and proud of Bob.

Schlumberger Spouses Association (SSA): Spouses of Schlumberger employees meet once a month; it's a support system. Phyllis was the president of the SSA in Midland, Texas. It's good support for people transferring to new places. They had a lot of money in the organization so they offered golf lessons to the ladies in the club. There was also a book club. They didn't want people to feel alone. SSA would give packets to new people. They didn't have SSA in the beginning; they had SSA when they went back to Ecuador. Phyllis doesn't know when SSA started.

Benefits for children: When they went back to Caracas, Venezuela, they did it for their kids. Phyllis' children are fluent in Spanish and have used it in their professional lives. Culture can't be taught; it has to be experienced.

Robert Kirk "Bob" Cornell

Lafayette, LA
June 29, 2015
ML015

Ethnographic Preface

Bob Cornell emailed the research team stating he was interested in being a part of the project. After a few emails, we scheduled an interview for June 29, 2015 at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana. He thought his wife, Phyllis, would be home to sit in and add to the interview but she was at the store during our visit. After the interview, he emailed the team and recommended we interview his wife, too.

Bob Cornell was born and raised in Louisiana and is a third generation oilfield worker. After graduating from the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette in 1968 with a degree in geology, Bob worked as a geologist, primarily for Schlumberger. He retired in 2009. He has lived and worked in many places domestically and internationally.

Summary

Personal background: Bob is third generation oilfield. His grandfather was a drilling contractor in Mexico, west Texas, and New Mexico. Bob's father came to Louisiana working for Conoco drilling oil wells. Bob was born in Eunice, Louisiana and moved to Lafayette when he was a baby. His dad started an independent oil operation consulting company.

Where Bob worked: Bob started working in Lake Charles. He has also worked in Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela. He worked for his dad for a little bit before returning to Schlumberger to work in Venezuela. Bob did contract work in the states mostly for Schlumberger. Then he worked in Mexico and Brazil before coming came back to the states. He was hired fulltime for Schlumberger in 1990 in Lafayette. Bob was transferred to Oklahoma City and then went to Ecuador. After Ecuador, Bob moved to Midland, Texas; Artesia, New Mexico; and Houston, Texas before retiring in 2009. He has also done contract work in Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, and France.

Geology work: As an oilfield geologist, Bob's work included mapping, studying the subsurface, logging the oil well, measuring the conditions down the well, recovering samples, and completion work. He loved the work. Bob put in long, hard hours. He worked mostly in shelf water.

Schedule: Bob was away from home most of the time. In the US, while working offshore he worked 10 days on call and five days off. When he first went to South America he worked two years and then got 90 days off; that changed to 18 months on and 90 days off.

Moving: His family moved around with him. When he was a contractor, his family couldn't go with him; that was from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. He lived in Mexico for a year and was only home for four weeks. It was more challenging for his wife for Bob to be gone; they had four kids; she had a hard time. When living in Brazil, they had two little girls; they went to the local school. His third daughter was born in Brazil. Bob worked on land and offshore; when you went offshore you went until the job was finished. Moving was a challenge for the family; they moved 18 times with Schlumberger; they learned new languages and cultures. They thrived in South America; a lot of that has to do with their south Louisiana culture. It was hard missing Christmases. Bob was there for all but one of his children's births.

Venezuela: Bob and his family lived in Venezuela during the nationalization of oil in the mid-1970s. At the time his wife was pregnant; she was not allowed to have their baby at the local hospital; "gringos couldn't use the hospital anymore." His wife returned to the US with the kids; Bob quit his job and came home. They missed South America. Bob was lucky he was rehired; it wasn't Schlumberger's policy to rehire.

Technological changes: Technology and communication changes were incredible. One time he had tool failure while logging a well in the Amazon Basin; he only had two-way radios; he could not get in contact with anyone for days. In those days they only did one service at a time, but now they can do it all at once; they can get data on an iPad from anywhere in the world. Bob could monitor from his apartment; he could analyze data as it was happening.

Time in Lafayette: Bob graduated in 1968. Then he moved to Lake Charles until 1971. Bob was in Brazil for two years, then in Peru for two years, and then Venezuela for one year. He came back to Lafayette in 1974. In 1982 he went to Venezuela until 1986 when the oil industry collapsed. He came back and did contract work all over. He was rehired in 1990 in Lafayette. He moved to Oklahoma in 2001. Then he lived in Ecuador until 2003. He came back to Midland in 2003 and 2004. He was in Artesia, New Mexico for 2005 and 2006. He was in Houston from 2007 to 2009. Bob took his retirement in Lafayette; it's home and his family is close by.

Downturn: Bob had no work during the downturns. In the 1980s Louisiana really was dependent on the oil industry, especially Lafayette; it hurt badly. The medical industry has started to take over; Lafayette is not as dependent on oil. Hurricane Katrina helped Lafayette; it moved a lot of people, especially doctors, out of New Orleans to Lafayette; a lot of people stayed.

Start of the Oil Center: Bob's father was one of the first guys to come to Lafayette to start an independent oil company in the early 1940s. The companies had offices around town; they wanted the offices together. Some of the major companies were coming and talked to towns in Louisiana. Maurice Heymann was one of their buddies. Mr. Heymann owned a lot of land. They told Mr. Heymann what they wanted to do and he gave them land to do it; started the Oil Center. Mr. Heymann built Lafayette. Bob grew up with Mr. Heymann's grandchildren.

Early life in Lafayette: Lafayette was a liberal town in the Deep South. Races were segregated but there was no animosity.

Safety changes: None of Bob's kids are in the oil and gas industry; he's glad about it because he didn't want them on the rigs because it's so dangerous. The safety improvements are marvelous. He roughnecked; he was the only guy on the rig with all of his fingers. Now with mechanized equipment everything is bigger; it's much better. Safety is emphasized.

Mobility: Bob started as a worker and was trained as an engineer. Schlumberger had a pretty well laid out program; there are four grades of engineers. Bob went through the first two grades pretty easily. Bob never did the fourth; at that time his family had to go back to the US; he was mad and quit. Bob liked the hands-on work and working with the data; he wasn't begging to be a manager.

Health and changes in career: Bob had to leave Ecuador in 1999 because he had cancer. The company insurers opted out of insuring him when he turned 60; that's why he had to come back to the US. Bob had several heart attacks in Artesia, New Mexico; there wasn't good cardiovascular care there so he took a management job in Houston. He didn't want to live in Houston, but enjoyed the two years there. In Schlumberger, a person earned his promotions; as a scientist he got pretty far up the line.

Manager position in Houston: The company wanted him in a less stressed position. Bob was more of a mentor; he was not doing commercial work, which is high stress. He had eight people that he was working with. During this time he tried to keep a reasonable work schedule.

Highlights: One of the highlights was the satisfaction of finishing and doing a good job. There are so many smart people in Schlumberger; Bob was challenged to keep up, but it was satisfying when he got the hang of it. Another highlight was seeing his kids growing up the way they did; they know different languages and have friends all over; they all went through college and worked. The most satisfying thing was when his boss called him in to tell Bob that the client drilled their best well where he told them to drill; acknowledgement of a job well done.

First day offshore: He went out to the rig; Bob remembers getting on it. There was 100ft air gap between the bottom of the rig and the sea level. There's a crane that lifts you up; you have to hang on while being lifted up; it was Bob's first time doing that. He was out there to do a perforating job, shooting holes in the pipe to produce the oil. Bob had been on production platforms when he worked in college; on those he had to swing on a rope to get from the boat to the platform.

Living on rigs: It was ok. Bob was terrified because the sleeping quarters were often in the hull of the ship beneath the water level. The guys gave Bob a hard time because he was small; it was all in good fun.

Politics and working in South America: In Venezuela, Bob was logging in an isolated location; a guy with a machine gun came and started barking orders for him to stop. The company man argued back and forth with the man. There were guerillas who were against the government; they had to explain that they were with CBP, not the government. Bob and his wife were in Cuzco, Peru during protests; the next day they went to the airport. The guy at the ticket counter was giving tickets to politicians to get out of town. Bob remembers seeing mothers of missing people protesting in Argentina in the 1980s. He never talked politics with the locals.

Trip to Russia: Going to Russia was fascinating; Moscow was a beautiful city; the people were wonderful. He went to the oilfields; the snow was 12 feet deep and the temperature was -17 degrees centigrade. The people were so nice and generous; Bob gave people souvenir bottles of Tabasco and they loved it.

Family: Bob's wife had the difficult part of the job. Bob was used to his dad being gone a lot. Bob was gone a lot. Families deserve all of the credit.

Jim Bob Crawford

Lafayette, LA
July 27, 2015
LL014

Ethnographic Preface

Jim Bob Crawford contacted the research team through email after reading the July article in the *Daily Advertiser* about the oral history project. They scheduled an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Originally from Ged just south of Vinton, Louisiana, Jim Bob Crawford came to Lafayette in 1962 with the oil industry. He has been in the oilfield since he was 17 years old; he worked his way up to vice president of NOWSCO Well Services. In 1976, he went to work for Air Products International as a general manager. In 1981, in Lafayette he opened Nitrogen Pumping and Coiled Tubing, LLC, and in 1993 started Crawford Technical Services, Inc. Jim is the current president-CEO of his company Crawford Technical Services, Inc. Jim holds 25 patents related to coil tubing and nitrogen services, and is the author of seven books. He has been on the board of many organizations, including the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Expo (LAGCOE). He is a graduate of a military academy and in 1954 went into the US Army during the Korean War.

Summary

Career background: Originally from Ged, just south of Vinton, Louisiana, Jim Bob Crawford came to Lafayette in 1962 with the oil industry. He has been in the oilfield since he was 17 years old. He worked 100 hours a week for the first year and then went offshore. He was a roughneck on the rigs in the first part of his career. He worked his way up to the vice president of NOWSCO Well Services Company. When he started roughnecking, his dad met a man who was starting up a new nitrogen supply company and told Jim to ask him for a. Though Jim was making more money for the current company he was employed with, his dad said he should go to see what he could learn. Jim says this was the best piece of advice he's received. He stayed with the company for 15 years and it led to several very lucrative employment opportunities. He's lived and worked in 50 different countries and owned his own companies (including one he sold in Canada for several million dollars).

Early memories offshore: Jim went to work on the first rigs that ever went offshore. He recalls a rig he worked on and one near by that flipped over, killing several of his friends. There were no helicopters at that time; he said boat rides were usually 9–10 hours long. During Hurricane Audrey in 1957, he came in from working offshore. When he got off the rig the wind was so strong they came in at 15–20 foot seas. In Cameron, Louisiana the storm surge was up to the wheels of their cars, and when they got to the bridge at the Intracostal Canal, they couldn't drive across. They left their car and swam across the Intracostal Canal until a boat picked them up and took them to a police station in Sulphur, Louisiana.

Coming to Lafayette: He was transferred to Lafayette when he took a job with NOWSCO, the nitrogen supply companybecause it was centrally located for taking equipment offshore. The major companies moved into the Oil Center for production. From Lafayette NOWSCO expanded and Jim worked offshore out of Morgan City, New Orleans, Texas, California, and eventually went to the North Sea. After being overseas for four years, he came back to Lafayette. He looked to see how much money he could borrow from the bank to start his own nitrogen service company. He was loaned the money and, with his sons, built one of the highest profit companies in all of south Louisiana. Jim was one of the ones to build the first nitrogen units that ever went offshore and was part of the first coil tubing wellhead mounted injector head that ever went offshore. His boss taught him about intellectual property and the patenting process, and Jim now owns 54 patents.

Safety changes: When he began in coil tubing, there was no safety because it was a brand new service. He wrote some of the first safety procedures in the field and trained people to operate the units safely offshore. He says strict rules regarding drugs have changed, as well. "In the oil industry you cannot learn the oilfield service business in college." Jim says while college helps, the engineers come to the service companies for jobs.

Changes in Lafayette: In Lafayette today, there are many service companies but the majors have moved their offices to Houston and elsewhere. Because Lafayette has low unemployment, high per-capita income, andmore millionaires per capita than anywhere else, it's agood place for young, hard-working men with good attitudes to make a good living. "Lafayette is a great town; it is a gateway city for the oilfield."

Family in the industry: He has five sons, all of whom have followed in Jim's footsteps, doing jobs from consulting to fracking. One of his sons built up a business and sold it, paying cash for a million-dollar home. He says when his sons went to work for him, they had to be able to run every piece of equipment on the yard before he'd give them a promotion.

Mobility: When he came to Lafayette to work for NOWSCO Well Services (a company that he helped develop and they eventually sold for $2.6 billion) all he did was work. In 1962 or 1963 the vice president found him, and told him that he'd logged 100 hours a week for the past year, logging more jobs for the company than anyone and with less downtime, and had equipment in perfect shape. He never complained about jobs, only asking "where is it and what time?" Because of this, they offered him the first sales and service engineer position ever in nitrogen service. Jim took the job, got a company car, and began training other people. Cajun boys brought oilfield technology all over the world. From this promotion, Jim became sub-station manager, then division manager. In 1967 NOWSCO bought a failing company in California and asked him to move out as general manager to fix it. He agreed, for double pay. He turned the operationsaround in 3–4 months, making it the highest profit operation in their company. Two years later, his mentor (H.K. Smith) asked him to head up another company, because he knew how to make money. He turned the company around in 90 days, which earned him the promotion to vice president of production, oil plants, and oilfield service, again making it the most profitable company under Big Three Industries, the parent company. As Vice President, Jim had 450 people working for him and a big office, but his wife was unhappy and his children were in trouble, so he asked if he could be transferred to

Lafayette. His boss agreed to move him, but at a pay cut of 70%, and to New Orleans, not Lafayette. In New Orleans he met up with a former competitorwho wanted to hire him as a general manager in Europe for a coil tubing and nitrogen business. At a salary 4-5 times larger that he had been making, he took the job.

Working internationally and moving back to the US: In 1973 or 1974 he moved to Europe, where he spent 2.5 years working for Air Products in Holland, Scotland, and England. When it was time to renew his contract after two years he was told he wouldn't be getting a company car.They wouldn't negotiate, so he quit. They were making two million dollars a month from his work, he wouldn't go back without a company car. When he landed in Houston, Texas there was a guy waiting for him promising to double his salary and give him a company car, so he renewed his contract. He picked out a big Mercedes. When he returned to Europe, they told him they were moving him under a Yale-educated man. He said no: he didn't want to be under a manager who just wants to manage but doesn't know anything about the oilfield, so he quit. This was a bit of a problem, because his family and all of his stuff was in England, but Jim found a friend who wanted to hire him but couldn't pay him the same salary, so he agreed to take a cut in pay if the company would pay to move him back to Lafayette.
The next job: Jim worked for his friend as division manager for a year, when his friend sold the company and retired. Jim became the president of Coil Tubing Inc., where he had two airplanes, a jet, and 25 salesmen. When the company merged with Cut Pressure Control, there could only be one president, Jim kept his salaryand took a board of director's position, in Oklahoma City. Jim moved, but didn't want to live in Oklahoma City, so called a company in Lafayette to ask them to start building him coil tubing equipment so he could go into business for himself. As soon as the units were built, he moved back from Oklahoma and became a competitor to his former employer.

His own company: In 1988 he came back to Lafayette and started his own company. He was bank financed and paid it off quickly. He gave his salesmen bonuses and expense accounts, he told them to meet their customers on their own financial level: take them on trips, to dinner.But if they didn't sell, Jim would let them go. During the downturn he said they were one company that never let one person go. He liked that company, he didn't want to sell it, but they got so big that he and his sons had to hire outsiders for theboard of directors. So he sold it to NOWSCO of Canada [around 1999]. He got paid half the money with a cashiers check. He went to meet his wife at LaFonda to drink a margarita with 4.5 million in the trunk of his car: "one of the happiest moments of my life." They paid him the rest of the money over two years.**His second company**: Then Jim opened another company: Crawford Technical Services, also in Lafayette. He still has that company today, around 20 years later. It's fun. He learned from his first boss at NOWSCO Well Services to patent everything He was hired to find a way to use coil tubing to clean out subsea pipelines. He describes the technical solution. Right away he called his patent attorney and filed and licensed what he found. He goes on to describe some of the patenting process and other things he's patented.

What about Lafayette made it possible: Jim is Cajun; his grandparents only spoke French. He loves the Cajun way: loyal and very family oriented. Jim says "I know I'm in Lafayette because of the Cajun way." He attributes a lot of success in the oilfield to the Cajun way of life: hard working and not afraid of anything. Lafayette is also good place for networking. Jim describes how, when first opened his company he went out on Doucet Road (in Lafayette); calling his five sons and one brother, they built a cement wash rig and put a fence around it. He called friends he knew at Hydra Rig and they lent him all the equipment he needed to get started. He says Hydra Rig did this for them because he'd done some past work for them giving them insider information to purchase new injector heads, something that made the company highly profitable. Now his sons are in the thick of the industry and know what's going on. Taking care of each other is the Cajun way. Once, one of Jim's employees was shot, he kept paying him until he recovered. He also networked through his membership in industry and volunteer organizations.

Surviving the downturn: In 1988 the price of oil fell to $9/barrel. Service companies were in a war. He chose to build the best equipment he could with the money he had, andhe was already established in the business because he had worked for many people in Lafayette before. The market was tough, how it took three or four years after 1988 for the oil industry to pick back up. When it did, he paid off all his equipment, so when the downturn camehe had an advantage; he could bring the equipment to location for less money, so no one else could compete.

Changes in the oil industry: Jim thinks that changes to retirement plans have been negative. He had a pension plan that was given to employees, now companies don't. Men are laid off after working for the company for 25 years, they can't retire, and can't live off their retirement.He's worked internationally, so he can say that while he loves America, it isn't the greatest country in the world. Other countries guarantee retirement benefits, education, medical care, and other protections. In the US now, he laments how the economy is structured and predicts that companies unable to pay their employees will create a domino effect where banks will fail and companies will lose stock.

Changes in the industry: When the industry first started in Louisiana, he says, guys were really tough. Back in the day, government regulations favored the industry and allowed the booms to happen. Now, they are more restrictive. He describes how, currently, oil companies have debt that they cannot pay because the oil prices are down. He thinks we should be allowed to export oil and liquefied petroleum gas. He expects that in the future the US will switch from producing energy with coal to natural gas. He praises Lafayette for running its buses on natural gas and notes that the oil companies could be at the cutting edge of new technology and transition to running their fleets on natural gas, which would help the country to transition, but the political leadership doesn't exist. Jim notes that political battles over global warming are a challenge to the industry.

Specialization in Lafayette: Jim notes that Lafayette is the only place these innovations would have been possible, because every oil company is represented here at the Oil Center, so communication is easier. The Oil Center makes it better because you can go from office to office, and this is why Jim focused his company here. He had an office in the Oil Center and at the Petroleum Tower. When he sold his company he got a smaller office in the Oil Center.

Women and minorities in the workforce: When Jim owned his company all the office personnel were women. Jim says he supported women going offshore to work, and he was for it. He suggested they could go into coil tubing and work. He recalls one woman who wanted to work offshore, and says he did not discourage it. He reflects that, in Lafayette,"We in the oil industry do not discriminate against black people or any other race. We all work together." He believes this to be because of a bond thatforms between people who work together offshore.Jim was abandoned by his parents at eight or nine years old, without love from his mother or father, Jim says he had to teach himself. He speculates he's become such a hard worker because "my job loved me, and I loved my job." He says a feeling of accomplishment is shared across races, creating the brotherhood he loves.

Women and the oil industry: In Jim's experience, women with children were based at home, but were still affected by the schedules and cycles of the industry thorugh their husband's job. In California, he interviewed the wives of the men he was going to hire so he could explain the trade off between higher salaries and less time at home. Once, a wife called him complaining her husband was never home, so he fired her husband until they could work out what they wanted. It is stressful, recently his grandson's wife left him because he was spending too much time away at his international oil career.

Networking, engineering, and sales: LaFonda used to be the place to be, according to Jim. He and other industry members used to have airplanes, and would fly from Florida to Cancun for socializing and networking. What they have now are websites, brochures, and marketers. Back in the day Jim had songs

written about the company, now a company's web presence creates more business. Engineering is also very important,but there can be a disconnect between salesmen and engineers. They have a "lunch and learn" where potential clients come to lunch and engineers talk about their products. He recently gave at the Petroleum Club where he discussed the technical aspects of their process and the creative conversations with other companies to find innovative solutions to offshore coil tubing processes. He discusses techniquest to clean subsea pipelines at length.

Industry cycles: With oil priced down, oil operators have no choice but to cut the bottom line, which is employees.That breaks Jim's heart. The independents can keep their oil and not sell itwhile the majors have tremendous debt because they're basing their profits off amount produced, and this debt will affect their stock. As an independent, you can react faster. Independents can shut down an operation and they don't lose as much money.

Industry impact on Lafayette: Lafayette was voted the happiest town in the United States, which Jim attributes to historically lower unemployment rates and higher per capita income than elsewhere. Also, as a university town, the level of educationis higher and they have a high number of millionaires per capita. Jim thinks that Lafayette gives people chances that would not be possible in Detroit or San Francisco. He's loved Lafayette from the first day he arrived and believes that if he had stayed in Vinton he would not have done as well.. For Jim, he had to travel to find success.

Early career: His first day offshore, Jim was working at a Phoenix Lake roughnecking. Later, when he was working as a derrick man, a well blew out and blew the eyes out of a toolpusher, killed a driller, and broke the back of a roughneck. He went in to pull the bodies out. He remembers a blowout, when a rig turned over offshore and killed friends of his, personal injuries sustained on the job by his friends, and when he fell out of a derrick.

Cliff Dugas gave Jim his first oilfield job. From working on the board roads, he was hired on a pipeline working 14 hours a day seven days a week. His high school girlfriend was pregnant, so he got married at 17 and they had their first son when he was 18. He brought his wife home to here family in Vinton to have their baby. Jim got a job working in the derricks, in the 1960s it was a drilling boom in Louisiana so there was a lot of work, he began working offshore because he was following the rig work. Around the end of the Korean war he was living in the back of a bar in Basile, working seven days a week when he was drafted. He went into Fort Bliss, Texas in 1954. He completed his GED degree, attended military school, andwas offered a position as lieutenant in the US Army, but he didn't think they paid enough, so he returned to Lafayette and went offshore. He worked for a company that used old mine sweepers as OSVs. At the time there were outlaws living offshore, there were warrants for their arrest, but they would stay out beyond the three mile limit so they couldn't be arressted. His schedule then was 10 days on and five days off.

Offshore attitude: While working in the North Sea in sub zero weather in the 1970s, one guy couldn't stand the conditions offshore and was sedated and brought onshore in a straight jacket. When Jim workedin Scotland they the potential employees to how much psychological pressure they could stand, because not everyone could handle it. He reflects that he doesn't feel much stress, and this mindset has given him an advantage working offshore. There is also physical strain on the body that not everyone can handle.

Proud moments: Jim never hurt anybody, helped as many people as he could, especially employees and their families. He's also very proud of reaching his dream, and persevering under many circumstances. He thinks that not being loved as a child created a strong work ethic in him. Otheraccomplishments were selling a wellfor 10 million dollars and his 54 patents. He's also always been impressed by the strength and hard work of roughnecks.

Tyrelle Daly

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
ML024

Ethnographic Preface

After KATC-3 news aired a story about the oral history project, the research team received many calls and emails from people wanting to be interviewed. One email came from Tyrelle Daly. She worked for ExxonMobil from 1978 until 2004. Interested in her story, the research team setup a time on July 14, 2015 to interview Tyrelle at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Tyrelle Daly is from Glenmora, Louisiana but currently lives in Lafayette. From 1978 until 1999 Daly worked on offshore production platforms. She even worked offshore while pregnant with her son. From 1999 until her retirement in 2004 she worked onshore at a gas plant for ExxonMobil. As a woman working offshore, Daly faced challenges in the industry. Despite those challenges, she enjoyed her career with ExxonMobil and had notable achievements, including her job as a fire safety instructor.

Summary

Background: Tyrelle started working offshore on a production platform for Exxon on December 11, 1978 when she was 20 years old. She started off working in maintenance. She wanted to go offshore because the money was better than what she was making in retail. Exxon was specifically looking to hire a woman because of affirmative action. The starting pay was $8.35 per hour. She was the first one in her family to work in the oilfield. Tyrelle grew up in Glenmora, Louisiana. Her mom was a nurse and her dad was retired from the military. Tyrelle's mom told her about the job with Exxon.

First day offshore: When Tyrelle arrived to the platform someone showed her where her room was, but no one was ready to give her a tour. When she looked around and only saw the water she told herself "Tyrelle what in the hell have you gotten yourself into?"

Working with the guys: Most of the guys were welcoming but there were a few that were resistant to having women work offshore. She had some problems in that aspect; there were no policies for dealing with a hostile work environment back then.

Platform fire: In February 1979, there was a fire on her platform; it was just a few months after she had started. They had to evacuate the platform. No one was hurt. They had to sleep on an outlying platform in the cold, without any electricity; they kept warm by body heat. The next night they slept on a Shell platform.

Fire safety: Tyrelle was a safety leader for many years with Exxon; it was rewarding. She was chosen as the only female instructor at the Exxon fire school at Grand Isle. She trained people to use and inspect fire extinguishers, and to use the fire rills. She also trained them how to protect themselves and help minimize danger for other employees.

Challenges faced as a woman: There were no policies for hostile work environments. There were instances when she was threatened and dealt with sexual harassment. Tyrelle just went through it; she didn't want to "stir up anything because that would only make it harder for" herself. When her life was threatened, she got a guard until the guy who threatened her was removed from the platform. That

situation improved a little, but not completely; she would be moved to a different platform when there was an instance of harassment. Tyrelle tried to report an instance once and it got 10 times worse for her.

Women and mobility: Tyrelle never saw more than one other woman when she went offshore. Only one of the women she worked with was a supervisor. Tyrelle was promoted to instrument technician, and the guys she trained were promoted to senior technicians, but she never was promoted to that position. It was difficult to move up. It was said that she would have moved up if she wasn't so feminine or if she did sexual favors for her supervisors. In her job she had the same expectations as the men, but she didn't see the rewards.

Changes in safety: When she first started going offshore there were rumors of guys sneaking drugs and alcohol on the platform; she had smelled marijuana by the living quarters. The implementation of the drug policy was good.

Training: To move up in her job she mostly had on-the-job training. Tyrelle did some schooling for instrumentation at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. She also went to another school in Kilroy, Texas for instrumentation. Tyrelle also had training for her safety leader position. She went to school at Texas A&M and Louisiana State University for her fire instructor position.

Fire safety job: In 1986 she went with a team to all of the platforms in the Gulf to check the fire safety equipment. They compiled reports and put together teams to put the equipment up to code; that was a time she was a supervisor. It was a six-month process.

Other parts of her job: Part of her job was to go through the annual instrumentation inspection for the government. She had one of the top inspection rates; the equipment and paperwork were in order. Tyrelle worked in South Marsh Island, Eugene Island, and South Timbalier. She also operated the stiff leg crane. Tyrelle helped take care of outlying platforms too.

Downturns: She wasn't really impacted. The only things impacted by the downturns were the raises; they weren't as big as they had anticipated.

Transition from offshore to on land: Tyrelle switched back to the maintenance crew when she worked on land. It was difficult switching back from a seven-and-seven schedule. She also took a drastic pay cut; she went from working 96 to 80 hours in a pay period. Tyrelle also switched from an instrument technician to a maintenance specialist, which had less pay. She had to switch to land because she started getting migraines that were triggered by motion sickness and heat.

Seven-and-seven schedule: Tyrelle loved the seven-and-seven schedule; the schedule became her way of life. She would miss some holidays, but the every six years her on and off weeks would reverse and she would be home for six Christmases in a row. If she had seniority over someone with kids, she let them go home for holidays.

Pregnant offshore: She had her son in 1988. Tyrelle worked offshore until a month before he was due. It was new for Exxon to have a pregnant woman working offshore. When she was pregnant, a co-worker was worried about possibly having to deliver the baby. He complained to the supervisor and Tyrelle was moved to the main platform. She was miserable on the larger platform when she was pregnant. She went back to work nine weeks after giving birth. Exxon's employees could use their sick days for maternity leave. The male employees got one full paid day off if their wife had a baby; they would get three paid days off for a C-section. Tyrelle didn't get any paid days off.

Returning offshore after giving birth: The first couple of hitches back offshore were hard because she was breastfeeding; Tyrelle would pump and store milk offshore to bring back home. Being away from her son a week at a time was hard but when she was home they would spend the whole day together. It was challenging finding a sitter for him when he started school. Her son also stayed with family when she was gone. Tyrelle's son spent quality time with her parents.

Proudest moment of career: Tyrelle's proudest moment was being chosen to be the fire safety instructor; that was an elite group. She instructed for three or four years. She did classroom instruction and hands-on teaching. She was also in an instruction video.

How she came to Lafayette: Tyrelle ended up in Lafayette because of her job with Exxon. She moved here in 1979 and she loves it here.

Oil and gas industry in Lafayette: It's a close-knit group not only for the oil industry, but for the Lafayette area in general. It's a city with a hometown feel.

Changes in Lafayette: The traffic has changed. Overall the city has grown with regards to the population, the arts, and entertainment. The growth in Lafayette is related to the oil and gas industry; people move here for their jobs.

Success in career elsewhere: She doesn't know if she would've been successful elsewhere. Being here afforded her the opportunity to pursue a career with Exxon.

Retirement: Tyrelle wanted to work until she had 50 years with Exxon. She worked 26 years. Tyrelle was forced to take medical retirement because of her migraines. They cut off her benefits after 18 months. She still likes the company.

Networking: Being in Lafayette has been a good place to make connections. Tyrelle works for friend who is a CPA; they met at an Ice Gators game. The original owners of the Ice Gators worked in oil and gas. There is support from the industry for ULL sports; they have signs in the stadiums.

Ending point: Tyrelle is grateful for the opportunities she had working for Exxon. She could vacation with her family and could financially afford to do things she couldn't do in other fields.

Aaron Matthew David

Lafayette, LA
July 9, 2015
ML019

Ethnographic Preface

Very soon after the KATC-3 news story aired on television on June 30, 2015, I received phone calls and emails from people wanting to participate in the oral history project. The first call was from Aaron Matthew David. He briefly told me about his experience in the oil and gas industry and voiced his excitement about our project. We agreed to meet at the University of Louisiana (ULL) at Lafayette student union on July 9, 2015.

Aaron Matthew David was born in Lafayette and grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana. He was the first in his family to work offshore. Mr. David had started in the oil and gas industry in the late 1990s doing wireline work. He also worked in production and in instrumentation controls. After being laid off in 2010,

he permanently left the oil and gas industry and started attending the ULL. He is currently in school and majors in pre-law.

Summary

Start in oil and gas industry: Aaron moved to Lafayette, Louisiana in 2005 and has been here ever since. He started in the industry when his friend referred him in 1999; he referred Aaron to Marine Wireline. Before this, Aaron had no oilfield experience. The first time he went offshore was on a jack-up boat that was so big he didn't realize it was a boat.

Overview of career: Aaron often changed companies to get better pay; companies gained advantage by stealing their competitors' workers. He started in wireline and worked mostly in production with some drilling work. There was no set schedule; he was on call 24/7. Later, he switched to instrumentation and production because he could make more money. He also worked in instrument controls with regulatory compliance; his to-be father-in-law mentored him. In production, there were three main objectives, to protect personnel, environment, and production. In reality, production came first and personnel came last. There were eight undesirables in production including: over pressure, under pressure, high temperatures, excess combustible gas in a firing tube, and a leak in the Gulf. As a senior technician he would make sure that 14 to 20 satellite platforms were tested and in compliance. Sometimes Aaron would have to swing on a rope from the satellite platform onto the boat going back to the main platform; it was dangerous.

Downtime: In production, there was a lot of downtime; the guys would sit around and watch TV. During some of that downtime Aaron and the other guys would throw biscuits into the water for the fish to eat; smaller fish would come in and then predator fish would come to eat. He saw marine life like sharks, dolphins, and a whale shark.

Shelf and deepwater: Aaron worked on the shelf and in deepwater. While working with Kerr McGee, Aaron worked on a floating platform; everything was much bigger. Deepwater had a better quality of living because more money was invested into it. There's a lot more production coming from deepwater. He worked on a deepwater platform in the Flower Garden [Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary], which is a protected area. On that platform nothing could leave the platform and go into the water. Aaron has been to every field in the Gulf.

Prejudice in the oilfield: Aaron explained that if you aren't from Mamou, Louisiana, your family didn't work in the oilfield, and you don't know anyone in the oilfield, you have a harder time; you better have knowledge and prove yourself as useful. His mom's family worked in abstracting, but it was unrelated to the work Aaron did. Climbing the ladder was difficult; Aaron's mentorship from Kevin Rocca (future father-in-law) helped him move up. The guys he worked with could have left him on a satellite platform for days without food; he didn't want to report things like that to the labor department. As Aaron moved up through the different strata of the industry, he would get bad treatment from higher ups. Some areas in the oilfield treated Cajuns poorly.

Women in the industry: Most of the women he saw worked in catering. He only met three or four women in the industry. There were no women on the deck.

Crane operating: Aaron did crane operating. It was terrifying because people's lives were in his hands, but Aaron never injured anyone. Crane operating was a big part of his job as a production operator. He would lift people on the boat for crew changes.

Generational gap: One of the challenges Aaron faced was the generational gap between him and the older guys. The older vets were retiring, the baby boomers were waiting to be in charge, and there weren't a lot of people his age (early 20s). Aaron was 20 when he started in the industry.

Leaving girlfriend: It was a challenge leaving his girlfriend behind. People told him "Jody" [a slang term for someone who cheats on wives or girlfriends when their significant other is away] was "taking care" of his girlfriend or wife.

Reasons to leave offshore: He first contemplated quitting offshore in 2001. While working in South Marsh Island in 2010, Aaron really started contemplating not going offshore anymore. What made him think about it was an instance in which he heard over the radio that the wife of one of guys working had died and that his kids were in critical condition. The man wasn't allowed to go back home because of the weather. That was an eye-opener for Aaron; "that could be me." Aaron realized how isolating it was being offshore.

Cycles: In 2008 Aaron was a senior technician for Linear Controls. He saw people get laid off; they didn't know until the crew change. Aaron had to start doing other people's jobs in addition to his own. Aaron thought he had good job security, but he didn't; he was cut. He started working on land for API in Carencro. He worked in pneumatics and taught it to the other guys he worked with. API cut hours, so Aaron left the company and went back offshore. He worked for Control Concepts; he did the same control work and was also a sales rep. He got paid a lot of money and worked a seven-and-seven schedule, which he liked. He was laid of in 2009; it was a big hit. He was let go because he didn't have seniority; Aaron had been the youngest senior technician at Control Concepts and had worked there for only eight months. He went offshore for a bit and worked in production as a B operator. He was laid off in 2010 for the last time and left the industry.

Life change: After being laid off, Aaron started going to college to be a lawyer. It was a culture shock switching from offshore to the university atmosphere. The transition was hard but he survived in school because he knew how the chain-of-command worked.

Changes in technology: Social media was a big change. There wasn't any wi-fi until 2008 or 2009. People could then get on the internet. Up until then Aaron only had contact with computers when he would turn in reports; those computers were closely monitored. Now people could get on Facebook. They could also email their third-party employer if there was a violation; people have more control. Before the internet was available offshore, it was harder to report things when there was a problem. Aaron learned the law and kept track of things that were happening that were illegal. Aaron remembers a time, before the internet was available offshore, when a lead operator told a B operator to make something look like it had been tested for when the Minerals Management Service came to inspect the platform. Aaron reported it. Aaron climbed the ladder through regulatory compliance; people didn't like him for that.

If companies learned after the downturns: There was a lot of weeding out and changing of old ways. There was a change in leadership and the chain of command as the veterans retired.

Lafayette and the industry: The traffic from Lafayette to New Iberia on US Highway 90 is an indication of how the oilfield is doing. You can also see how the industry is doing through shopping; there is a lot less happening now. The downturn has really affected the people in Lafayette; right now they are a lot more worried and desperate. Lafayette stayed stable during the recession because of the oilfield. Production in Saudi Arabia has affected work in the area.

Networking in Lafayette: On the south side of Lafayette, there are many oil and gas-related companies. Networking is easier here because there are more small companies, especially in the Oil Center.

Proudest moment in the oil and gas industry: When Aaron moved from Linear Control to API, his boss was not a nice guy. Aaron fixed a messed up panel that he wasn't sure he could correct, but the customer wanted it back. Aaron validated himself; he only had a ninth grade education, but he fixed it and cleaned it up. He tested the panel in front of the customer and it worked. He proved his boss wrong.

Life offshore: They had different themed food nights offshore (steak night and seafood, etc.). The basic shift was 12 hours, from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. He would wake up at 5:00AM. They would have to be finished eating by 5:30 and then go to the safety meeting. They would hang out by the handrail outside of the galley during downtime. They would look at the fish and watch the sunset. The galley hand would come with the chum buckets filled with food people didn't eat; they would dump the buckets into the water and watch the fish eat.

Safety changes: Safety changed with the generational switch. Veterans didn't care about doing things by the book.

Hurricanes: Hurricanes are job security for the oil and gas industry. There are jobs in repairing equipment and platforms.

Job safety analysis: Before doing a job you would have to fill out a job safety analysia (JSA). Aaron had to do it that way to keep a job. When he started working on Chevron jobs they had to do JSAs and make sure everyone signed it before doing a job; there was a lot of waiting time and jobs took longer.

The US Coast Guard and Cubans: In 2010 Aaron was the back deck operator for Island Operating while working for Devon. One morning they saw a 14-foot boat tied to another platform. It was a Cuban boat. Aaron reported it to the dispatcher and the dispatcher called the US Coast Guard. The Coast Guard inspected it and looked for bombs. Inside of the boat there was food for probably two individuals. They estimated that the boat floated for 14 days to get to the platform, but no one was on the boat or platform, they don't know where the people went.

L.J. "Joey" Durel, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
July 29, 2015
ML039

Ethnographic Preface

To get a wider perspective of the oil and gas industry in Lafayette, Louisiana, the research team decided it was important to interview community leaders in addition to oilfield workers. The team reached out to several government officials, including Joey Durel, the Lafayette City Mayor and Parish President. We called his office and explained the oral history project to his secretary. She helped us schedule an interview with Mr. Durel on July 29, 2015 at his office.

Joey Durel is the current Lafayette City Mayor and Parish President. He is serving his third term. He was born and raised in Lafayette and has a background in business. As a government official and businessman, Mr. Durel provides a different perspective of how the oil and gas industry has developed and impacted Lafayette.

Summary

Background: Joey Durel is the Lafayette City Mayor and Parish President. The city and parish governments were consolidated in 1996. He was born, raised, and educated in Lafayette. After graduating college, Joey became a retailer and opened his first shop in New Iberia. He opened a small chain of pet shops, restaurants, a pleasure boat business, and a furniture business. In 2001 he became the Chairman of the Board of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. In 2003 he ran for his current office. He won, and was sworn into office in 2004. Joey is serving his third and final term.

Changes in Lafayette: The city has grown in population. He remembers seeing the city limits of Lafayette extend. The growth is intimately tied to the oil and gas industry. When he was a student, Joey worked at his father's pet shop in the Oil Center. He would talk to the oil workers who came to the store; he remembers hearing them talk about how they turned down transfers to other places in order to stay in Lafayette because they didn't want to leave. Oil workers choosing to stay in town fostered that entrepreneurial spirit in Lafayette. The Lafayette area is unique in Louisiana because the first three cultures in the area were forced out of other places and had to assimilate to survive. The wildcatter mentality of the oil and gas industry transformed Lafayette. The culture and the oil and gas industry have made Lafayette an entrepreneurial area.

Challenges and advantages to working in Lafayette: Traffic is the number one issue in Lafayette, but it is an indication of success. The heat and humidity are other challenges. One of the advantages is Lafayette's higher altitude (36ft). The devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in other parts of the state is impossible in Lafayette. The area has flourished because of its higher ground; that is a reason why the oil and gas industry moved to Lafayette. The people and culture are also advantages to working in the area. Lafayette has a low crime rate and Harvard listed it as the happiest city in America. In order to be the happiest city you have to be a complete community. In the 1980s 80% of the Lafayette economy was dependent on oil and gas; today that percent has dropped into the 40%s. Lafayette's economy has diversified.

Relationship between Lafayette and the oil and gas industry: Lafayette is what it is today because of the oil and gas industry. The industry brought in new people and opportunities. The university, medical industry, and retail wouldn't be what they are today without oil and gas. Lafayette has been a fairly wealthy town during Joey's lifetime, which leads to non-profits doing well and universities getting more contributions. The industry has created millionaires. There isn't an aspect in Lafayette that hasn't been influenced by oil and gas. Aside from Boston, Massachusetts, Lafayette has the most children in Catholic school in the US; people can afford to put their kids in those schools because of the money they make from the oil and gas industry.

Industry cycles and Lafayette: Lafayette has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. The industry downturns don't impact that rate too much. Joey's businesses survived the 1980s downturn, but he had to cut back a lot. Lafayette seems to be weathering the current downturn better than the one in the 1980s; that's because the city has diversified. Lafayette may not be solely an oil town anymore, but downturns still impact the city in retailing. From the government standpoint, it won't skip a beat if the industry is in a downturn because there's enough money in the bank to weather a storm without cutting services. Diversification of Lafayette was the result of the 1980s downturn; people didn't want to leave Lafayette, so they had to reinvent themselves. There wasn't a specific initiative for diversification. The medical industry is the result of a growing population. Lafayette is also the retail hub for the surrounding area.

Acceptance of others: Lafayette is very conservative, family focused, and faith based, but it is still accepting of different people. People feel instantly a part of the Cajun culture. The oil and gas industry

has opened up Lafayette to the rest of the country and the world. A lot of the international students at ULL are in oil related fields, like geology and computer science.

Lafayette Utilities System **fiber optic**: The fiber optics was an intentional initiative for diversification; it was about attracting jobs and giving Lafayette a competitive edge. In 2014 within a span of 90 days three companies moved to Lafayette; thus far they have created 1500 jobs. Joey wanted to create good, clean, high paying jobs; some of those jobs will be tied to oil and gas. Lafayette will be a different place in 25 years because of fiber optics; it will attract different kinds of people, it will change how buildings are built, and it will change technologies because Lafayette was on the leading edge. The oil and gas industry did not push for fiber optics, but individuals tied to the industry supported it. Before Joey was in office, the city had put the fiber optics loop around the town; during Joey's term fiber optics was put down every street. Lafayette Utilities System sells symmetrical gigabyte speeds (download and upload speeds) for $69.95/month; you can't get that anywhere else. Now oil and gas technology companies have come to Lafayette because they can connect to fiber optics networks.

Future of Lafayette: The future is bright. Lafayette is a community that embraces and recognizes the importance of oil and gas. This nation and the world will always need oil. Joey's biggest fear is losing the oil and gas industry because of legacy lawsuits. The current attorney general hasn't defended the oil and gas industry from these million dollar lawsuits; it will be interesting to see what happens in the next election.

Main points about Lafayette: It has the second biggest university in the state, it is located on higher ground and won't ever need to evacuate, and it has high-speed internet. It's small enough that everyone works together and big enough to be relevant.

Orvis "Bill" Ellzey

Houma, LA
July 9, 2009
JC309

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Ellzey was referred by Jerome Meringue during the History II study, but had not been contacted. He is a retired high school teacher, an amateur historian, and writes a column for the *Houma Courier*. Mr. Ellzey took great interest in this project, and has provided support by describing it in his column, inviting community members to participate. Subsequent columns have followed up on the project, providing updates and more detailed information to potential participants. He also directed me to relevant library resources, and provided me with a number of contacts. We met at the main Terrebonne Parish [Louisiana] Library for this interview.

Bill Ellzey was born in 1943, on a military base in Florida where his father was stationed. The family was from north Louisiana and returned there after the service. After dropping out of Louisiana State University, he moved to Houma, Louisiana in 1964 to work offshore, but Hurricane Hilda struck and shut down the oilfield. While waiting for operations to resume, he took a job as substitute teacher, and then began working as a reporter for the *Houma Courier* newspaper. After two years with the paper, he began teaching in the Houma school system, a job that lasted 20 years. Then he wrote news for a local radio station, and later conducted historical research for a local utility company. Now retired, he writes two columns each week on history related themes for the *Courier*.

Summary

Born in 1943; on a Florida Navy base, then moved back to Sabine Parish in north Louisiana. Moved to Houma in 1964 after dropping out of English program at Louisiana State University, seeking oilfield job. Hurricane Hilda shut down oilfield; took teaching job after working for newspaper for two years. Worked as roughneck on inland barges for one summer and found work unbearable. Teacher pay was nearly best in the state, so stayed on a teacher for 20 years. Then was news writer for local radio, and historian for state utility company. Currently is retired, writes columns on area history for Courier; focuses on stories 50 years old and older. Travels widely with wife; they have no children.

Noted that a primary challenge for this History III project will be that many workers offshore from 1970s–1990s came from north Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas; they never lived here permanently and have left the area. Will be difficult to locate, yet their stories and experiences seminally important to the period. Noted that in 1970s Houma and other towns in the region became known as providing best pay for teachers, opportunities for non-oil related sectors; people came from around the state to work in Houma because of tax base. Service companies and contractors thrived in 70s. Also a "wild west" attitude–prostitution, crazy bars, and car accidents prevalent. Locals would segregate themselves from outside oilfield workers. Also in 1970s, contracts were made through "buddy system," bribes, favors, etc. Downturns of late 1970s and 1980s led to cleaning up, belt tightening, greater efficiency. Wasteful company practices and theft minimized with focus on efficiency, regulations. Houma Chamber of Commerce was made up primarily of Texaco bosses and other oil heads in 1970s; through 1990s big oil moved more behind the scenes, less explicit sponsorship and influence; these families and forces assimilated into community, became unobtrusive though still powerful.

Louis "Lou" Eschete

Houma, LA
July 24, 2009
JC325

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Eschete was referred by Paul, a ranger I spoke with at the Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, west of Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Eschete has a farm near the Refuge, and volunteers there. Paul said that Lou was a Shell retiree who had worked overseas, and was very knowledgeable about the industry. Mr. Eschete was eager to participate, and invited me out to his farm for the interview, where he also showed me the grapes and oranges he was cultivating. I later returned for a photo interview, documenting his photographs from when he worked in Cameroon and Brazil.

Mr. Eschete was born in 1939, in Houma, on the Southdown Sugar Plantation, where his father was a foreman, as was his grandfather before him. Mr. Eschete went to Louisiana State University on a football scholarship, but left to study agriculture at McNeese College. In 1956 he started as roustabout for Jumbo Construction during the summer while in college. After farming for several years, he took a job with Shell in 1965 for the better pay. He spent two years in the office, and then went into the field as a production foreman, mostly working in the East Bay area of the Louisiana coast. In the late 1970s he began working on a Shell project in Cameroon, Africa, taking the job because he was "ready for a change." He also worked on a project near Salvador, Bahia, in Brazil, in 1982. He worked in Cameroon on and off until 1987, saying he was glad to be in Africa during the bust on the Gulf Coast. For the remainder of his career until he retired in 1996, he worked out of Morgan City, Louisiana. Mr. Eschete has been married and divorced three times, and spends his time since retirement working on his farm and restoring old sugar mill machinery.

Summary

Born in 1939, in Houma, Louisiana. Father and grandfather both foremen at Southdown Sugar Plantation. Grew up playing with black children, which he said made him more tolerant with Africans when he worked there for Shell. One year at Louisiana State University, then agriculture at McNeese University. Roustabout during summers for Jumbo Construction. After farming for several years, started working for Shell as production foreman. Worked on Gulf Coast until late 1970s, transferred to Cameroon, Africa offshore job. Also one year in Salvador, Brazil. Return to Morgan City, Louisiana office in 1987, until retirement in 1994.

Noted that "shutdowns" were major advance in early 1970s safety; means of preventing blowouts and making the rig safer; ESD, emergency shut down. Rise of the "daisy chain," sensors that shut down operations on platform when necessary. Development of central control panels, allowed checking of levels in one place, rather than seeking out problem at the source. Also improvements in communication made work and life easier; could call home from platforms by late 1970s. Strong woman key to having a family working offshore; she must focus on kids and home, rather than partying. Spoke about working in Cameroon; similar conditions to Gulf, so was recruited for job. Major challenges with training local workers, preaching safety, stopping theft from rigs, keeping Cameroon government happy. Noted he watched his conduct when off work; much adultery and troublemaking among his fellow foreign workers, their wives. Cameroon villages "like Southdown Plantation in 1948," intense poverty, unclean, "primitive." Some Shell employees worked with missionary groups to provide services. Discussed loss of accountability on rigs in recent decades; one crew passes problem to next, only concerned with making hours, not quality. Evaluations focus on degrees rather than experience; too many workers not prepared to do job.

Tobe Fondren

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009
JC314

Ethnographic Preface

Mrs. Fondren contacted me after seeing the project description in the Courier, saying that she wished to contribute to the study by sharing her story. We met at her house, where she served me pie and coffee. She continues to work as an accountant and maintains relationships with many people in town by doing their taxes, and through the church. Her husband, Jim, is a Texaco retiree, but they did not socialize with other Texaco families to a great extent, other than at the country club. She said that Houma was a good place to raise children, and she feels that people are generally nice.

Mrs. Fondren was born in 1929 in New York City. Her father died when she was five years old, and her mother supported their family by working in garment factories. She met her future husband in New York after he returned from World War II, the day of the Victory Parade; he was in the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army. In 1946 they were married, and moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where Jim got a job with the Burris Corp. servicing business machines. The company moved them to Houma in 1951, and several years later he started working for Texaco. At first she struggled with being alone his seven days out, but got used to it. She was in charge of the family's finances, and filling the freezer with food. The year before Jim retired in 1981, she started an accounting firm, and developed a large clientele for tax preparation, which she continues to run.

Summary

Born in New York City, the East Bronx, in 1929. Father died young, and mother raised the family working in the garment district. Met her husband Jim upon his return from World War II; married in 1946. Lived in Jackson, Mississippi for two years; he worked for Burris Corp., in business equipment service, she as secretary. Transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana; after three years to Houma (1951). Jim started with Texaco, and worked until retiring with company in 1981. Couple has four children. Tobe responsible for raising kids, keeping up the finances, the house and cooking. Also became Certified Public Accountant, started her own business when husband retired.

Noted that her mind was eased by Texaco's good safety record; husband was daredevil and ok with oilfield work. He fished and whittled with his free time on rigs; two separate groups of hands offshore– card player-trouble makers and "clean" men. She noted husband fished and filled her freezer with the catch; a family man, not drawn into wildness of other hands. Friends were through church and country club. Noted that companies' allegiance to workers died in early 1980s; she knew people who were fired just before retirement. Those over 50 years old thought job for a lifetime; under 50 ready to switch jobs for small raise. She supports unions; said Texaco kept unions out by giving benefits to workers; yet workers had nowhere to turn if mistreated, fired for no reason. She was glad there were no women offshore, doesn't believe the mix works.

R.J. "Bronc" Foreman

Lafayette, LA
June 19, 2015
ML005

Ethnographic Preface

The general manager of the Petroleum Club, in Lafayette, Louisiana recommended that we interview Bronc Foreman. He called Mr. Foreman and set up the interview at the Petroleum Club on June 19, 2015.

Mr. Foreman is in his 90s and has decades of experience in the oil and gas industry. Before working in the oilfield, Mr. Foreman graduated from Lafayette High School in Lafayette, Louisiana, attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and then joined the US Air Force, working as a pilot during World War II. After the war, he began his oilfield career in the 1950s as a roustabout. Working his way up, Mr. Foreman came to own four land rigs that he contracted out to other companies. He sold his last rig sometime in 2013, marking his retirement from the industry. During his interview, Mr. Foreman discussed the introduction of the oil and gas industry in Lafayette and how it impacted the city. He also talked about his employees and the importance of courtesy in the industry.

Summary

Career development: Mr. Foreman always wanted to be in the oil business but he didn't think he could make it. He started out as a handyman. One day a superintendent from an oil company came up to him and said he had a rig that his son was working and that he wanted to go into business with Mr. Foreman. The superintendent asked if Bronc wanted to buy him out. Bronc said he didn't have the money to buy him out, but the superintendent said he could pay as he goes. The superintendent had observed Bronc and thought he was a good contact man. The son of the superintendent and Bronc soon bought a second rig. Bronc did the contact work. The son, Jim Riley, wanted Bronc to buy him out. Then Bronc bought a third rig. In contact work, Bronc would call up superintendents and travel. Bronc made the visits and Jim did the fieldwork. Recently Bronc bought a fourth rig; the biggest one he could drive. The rig did one job

before Texaco bought it from him. Bronc got his first rig in the 50sand left the business 2.5 years ago. The rigs worked in Louisiana. Trucks moved the rigs; they were drive-in rigs.

Workers: Bronc talked about his workers and the importance and treating them well. Most of the workers came from Lafayette; others came from other towns in Louisiana.

Early years: Bronc went to Lafayette High School so he could play football. His brother got him a Model T truck to commute to school. Bronc delivered vegetables in the morning before going to school. He went to the Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now ULL) for three years before World War II started. Bronc joined the US Air Force and became a pilot. After the war, Bronc returned to the oilfield in 1946.

Courtesy: Bronc talked about how he instilled courtesy into his workers. He stressed the importance of courtesy in business.

The Oil Center: The Oil Center started when Bronc was in school. Bronc used to work for Mr. Heymann doing gardening work. Drew Cornell rented buildings to start a service company and kept going from there. Drew Cornell and Fred Bass were the pioneers. They would hire engineers for the oil companies. The oil companies would get out of the way and let the engineers do their work; that's what Bronc did, too.

Changes in Lafayette: People from Oklahoma and other places started to move to Lafayette. These people moving in already knew about oil and gas and helped the folks already living in Lafayette. Most of the newcomers mixed in well with the people in Lafayette; if not they eventually did and learned the Cajun way. Bronc talked about his family's English ancestry and mixing in with the Cajun people. Bronc briefly talked about the Petroleum Club and the kinds of people who were members. Bronc discussed the French side of his family.

Oilfield memories: Bronc started as roustabout and worked his way up. He paid close attention while he was working so he could learn more about the industry. Bronc stressed the importance of being kind in order to work up the industry. He also recalled some of the teasing that happened in the oilfield and the good working relationship between Americans and Cajuns. Bronc worked for a number of oil companies , inlcuding Texaco and Union Oil of California. He had a reputable name in the industry.

Family: Bronc's grandson went to Duke University and is now back in Lafayette and owns his own business. His other grandson got a degree in engineering from Louisiana State University. His granddaughter had worked in New York for a bit, but returned to Lafayette because the people in New York were not friendly. Bronc's son is a doctor and never turns anyone down.

Impact of oil and gas in Lafayette: The industry positively affected the community in Lafayette, especially in terms of education and jobs.

After the Recording:

Change in drilling: Drilling used to be hard work, but has become easier with new equipment.

Downturn: Bronc's company survived the downturn by tightening its belt and cutting back.

Safety: Each of Bronc's rigs had two preventers to prevent fires. None of Bronc's rigs ever had a blowout.

Change in the Petroleum Club: Bronc helped change the Petroleum Club out of Heymann's name; Heymann donated the club.

Robert Gerard

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
ML027

Ethnographic Preface

After hearing about the oral history project in the news, Robert Gerard contacted the research team and said that he would be interested in doing an interview. He also knew Steve Hebert, who had done an interview with us. Steve had encouraged Robert to contact us. He agreed to meet for an interview at the Petroleum Club, in Lafayette, Louisiana, on July 20, 2015. He brought some pictures, company newsletters, and timesheets to share with the team.

Robert Gerard is from Scott, Louisiana and currently lives there. He worked in the oil and gas industry from 1977 to 1986 as a gas compressor mechanic. He worked onshore and offshore. He left the industry in the mid-1980s because he was unhappy about the time he had to be away from his family. Since then he has worked primarily in the medical industry in refrigeration.

Summary

Background and career overview: Robert is from Scott, Louisiana. He got started in the industry when he was 20 because it was a good opportunity to make decent money for his family. He started off with Energy Industries building natural gas compressors. He then had a service truck and worked in the field for nine years. He worked in the Gulf of Mexico, east Texas, north Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Virginia, and West Virginia. He lived in the Lafayette-Scott area and would drive or fly out to the job location. He worked for a service company. Robert's father worked in Lafayette for a service company that set up oilfield trucks. Everyone in the area had or knew someone in the industry. It was a good industry for people to make a good living with just a high school education or less. The schedule was demanding. Robert got burnt out working this schedule and never being home so he quit the industry around 1986. He started working at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in the plant; it was a big cut in his income. During that time his wife went to college. He worked two more years in the oilfield on compressors. He had to balance the financial side with family time. He started working at Lafayette General at the plant for 15 years; towards the end he was the plant operations supervisor.

Memorable times: They rented seven compressors to Amoco in Alabama and Robert spent six weeks in Gulf Shores, Alabama while working on the compressors by the beach. He also went to the Caterpillar School in Illinois.

Schedule: It was normal to leave around 3:00 or 4:00AM to drive to the port and fly out. He could get a page on his beeper at any time and would have to leave; Robert never knew where he would be for work. It was demanding. The industry started him off well financially, but it was rough.

Challenges: Working with compressors was dangerous. He flew most of the time to go offshore if the compressor was down because they wanted the work done as soon as possible. He's flown out in dangerous weather and had to swing onto the platform by rope or go up in the personnel basket. When he left early to go to work he would have to eat unhealthy food on the go. Sometimes the food on the platforms was either really good or really bad. He has had to fly in dangerous conditions to get to the platforms; sometimes the winter weather was worse than hurricanes.

Workforce: Most of the field mechanics were from southern Louisiana. There were people from the northern part of the country that worked in the fabrication shop.

Types of people in the industry: Robert left the industry before the big downturn in the 1980s. During the 1970s companies were begging for people to work. Hitchhikers would go to Morgan City because there was a lot of work for people with a "strong back." The people like Robert who worked in compressors were more specialized and required more training. Drilling and production are the two main parts of the oilfield; Robert was on the production side. In drilling, there were pumpers and roustabouts. This industry gave the common man with little education a good living. There were people in service companies, too; they all complained about the demanding schedule.

Change in the business: Robert started in the industry when he was 21, had his own truck at 22, and left the industry when he was 30. When he was working, most of the guys in production had been with the same company for 40 to 50 years. The mechanics wanted to get on with a major company and stay there for that long; the benefits were better. The feasibility of that goal changed while Robert was working in the industry. There was more equal opportunity hiring going on for women and minorities, which prevented Robert from getting hired on with a major company. The increase in buyouts, mergers, and contract work ended the norm of working for a company for 40+ years. Major oil companies had more pressure to hire minorities and women. The smaller independents and service companies had minorities working for them, but the main criterion for being hired was being skilled.

Connection with Caterpillar: The service company Robert worked for had a shop in Broussard but was a part of the Caterpillar dealership out of Corpus Christi, Texas and had branches elsewhere. Robert went to the Caterpillar School. He was also a technical representative for Caterpillar. Engineers from Caterpillar would go with Robert offshore to inspect engines.

Training: Caterpillar School in Illinois was very interesting for Robert, especially since he hadn't traveled much at that point. It was a weeklong program; it was required that you had to already be working in order to go to that school. He has also attended spark plug school, packing school, and safety school. Robert also gave schools to customers about how the product worked.

Changes: There were changes in environmental regulations. Robert had worked in inland water bays east of the Mississippi River. At that location there were oil spills every other day, but no one ever heard anything about it and the Department of Environmental Quality never came out. After his term, Governor Edwin Edwards was appointed to the board of directors for the oil company where these spills were occurring; that explains why there were no fines and lack of action.

Planes and helicopters: Robert remembers flying on a seaplane to go to a job for Pennzoil; the fuel cap wasn't on and they had to do an emergency landing. Robert recalls an accident that happened 15 miles away from the platform he was on; a PHI Puma helicopter hit a crane cable and crashed; 19 people died in the accident and two survived. After Robert got out of the industry and started working at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital there was another helicopter accident that started a fire on a platform and killed 13 people; Robert was there when they unloaded the body bags. Robert was in another helicopter where the pilot was having a heart attack; the pilot knew what was happening and safely landed the helicopter on the platform.

Switching careers: Robert was really burnt out when he left the industry. People would call him on his days off requesting he come into work. The breaking point was when Robert was falling asleep while driving to a job; he turned around, went home, and quit. He got a job at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and went to refrigeration and air conditioning school at night. He later started working for Lafayette

General Hospital. It was difficult adjusting to the pay cut, but it's a balance between money and time spent with family. Robert's son works in Wyoming on rigs for Baker Hughes; he is out for 28 days at a time; his son was used to the schedule because he had been in the military.

Shift and growth of the industry: Intracostal City, Cameron, and Morgan City are now like ghost towns; everyone goes out of Port Fourchon. Between New Iberia and Lafayette there are more oilfield businesses; it used to be just sugarcane in the 1970s.

Lafayette and the industry: Lafayette is still heavily dependent on oil and gas. Before World War II, Lafayette was very poor and rural; after the war the oil business replaced farming. The farming land has been divided among families; there has been a big rural spread. The industry made it possible for a high school graduate to get a good job without any college, which put a damper on people wanting to get a higher education; that isn't so much the case now. The ULL petroleum engineering program is pushed more; that program focuses more on the drilling side of the industry.

Acadian influence: In the 1970s and earlier, everyone spoke French in the oilfield. Robert grew up speaking French and English. Robert remembers when he was working for Superior there were two older guys speaking about Robert in French and after awhile Robert surprised them by asking a question in French.

Proudest moments: Robert's proudest moment was getting the Heart of Gold award at Lafayette General Hospital. In the oilfield as a technical representative Robert was proud of being able to fix something on a machine that others couldn't.

Potential move to Texas: While working in the oilfield, the company wanted Robert to move to Midland, Texas to take over a branch. The company also wanted Robert to move to Corpus Christi to work as a trainer. Robert didn't move because his wife didn't want to leave and he didn't like the Corpus Christi area.

What he would change: If Robert could do it again, he would've have gone to school for mechanical engineering right out of high school.

Hours and burnout: While in the oilfield Robert was paid from when he got into his truck to when he got out of his truck. Robert worked mostly on location. He would put 50,000 miles on a truck every year. He would drive and then work long days. Robert recalls a job where he would leave home at 1:00AM, drive five hours to location, work until 5:00PM and then drive back home. It was common to work 16 to 18 hour days. Robert was burnt out by the time he left the oilfield.

Cancer: Robert was around a lot of hazardous chemicals. He has fought with cancer over the last five years; he wonders if the cancer was connected to any of the chemicals he worked around. The doctors couldn't tell Robert what caused the cancer. Robert has been cancer free for two years.

Why he switched to the medical industry: Robert wanted a job with a regular schedule. He learned that hospitals had plants with equipment similar to what he worked with in the oilfield. Robert also thought a Catholic hospital would take care of their people; it wasn't what he expected. He ended up working at Lafayette General Hospital for 15 years. Sometimes he had to work night shifts and emergencies, but he knew he could be home within 10 minutes.

Common themes working offshore: Guys working seven-and-seven were grouchy when they would first come back offshore, in the middle of the week they were normal, and then towards the end of the

week they were in a great mood. The old guys would tease the new guys about "Jody," [a slang term for] someone messing around with their girlfriends.

The medical industry in Lafayette: The medical industry has grown in Lafayette and helped the city diversify. The medical industry has taken over some of the Oil Center offices. Lafayette has grown because of the food and culture, the hospitality of the Cajun people, the location (highways and far enough away from the coast), and there is a lot of money in the Lafayette area.

Houston migration: There is a connection between Lafayette and Houston, Texas. A lot of companies moved to Houston, but the service companies are still in Lafayette. You'll see a lot of Texas license plates at specialty meat shops in the area before they go back to Texas. A lot of people in Lafayette have family in Houston because of the oilfield.

Retirement: Because of his cancer, Robert retired when he was 59. He enjoys traveling, but won't move from where he is living now; he has lived there even when he worked in other places while in the oilfield. When Robert left Lafayette General Hospital, he started truck driving so it wouldn't be as rough on his knees; his wife didn't like it and the schedule was similar to his schedule in the oilfield. He went back to work for Lafayette General. He also worked for Siemens Technology for five years.

Ronnie "Ron" Gillock

Lafayette, LA
August 21, 2015
LL020

Ethnographic Preface

Having heard from many interviewees about LaFonda, a Tex-Mex restaurant that has been in Lafayette since 1957 and is famous as a gathering place for people in the oil business, Laura Loewer stopped by there to find someone to speak with. Ronnie Gillock is the assistant manager and has worked at LaFonda since 1965. He was interested in an interview and shared a book written about the history of LaFonda. The interview was scheduled at the restaurant, and though it was partially recorded, the recorder died during the the interview. The restaurant was so loud and crowded that the recorded audio was barely audible, thus the interview is recorded from written notes. Throughout the interview, Ronnie greets the many people he knows that come into the restaurant.

Ronnie Gillock is from Indiana. He came to Lafayette in 1965 when his father, who was in the US Marine Corps, was transferred to Lafayette. His father needed a supplemental income, and when he went to work for LaFonda, his two sons (including Ronnie) were offered jobs as bus boys. Ronnie began as a bus boy at LaFonda in 1965. In 1966, he was drafted into the US Marine Corps, and served until 1972. He attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana for a short time in pre-med, then nursing, but found he made so much money working at LaFonda, that he quit school and returned to the restaurant business. He worked as a waiter. He has been the assistant manager since around 2000. A margarita at LaFonda is named after him: the "Ronnie Rita."

Summary

The relationship between LaFonda and the oil and gas industry: Ronnie describes the relationship of LaFonda to the oil and gas industry as a "conduit" for the industry. Oil companies often had open expense accounts, and would spend their money at LaFonda. Back when "money was no object," companies could do a lot. "Everyone in the oil business comes to LaFonda's." Ronnie says LaFonda and Red Lerille's Health Club (also in Lafayette) are two indicators of how business is doing in the oilfield. If these two

institutions are going strong, everything is ok. If either of these businesses are suffering, Ronnie says, this is an indication there may be trouble ahead.

Clientele: Ronnie says LaFonda caters to everyone from CEOs of major oil companies to celebrities like Paul Newman and Marlo Thomas. He remarks that customers always find their way back to LaFonda, even if they end up working in Houston or overseas, this will be one of the first places they come into town to do business or meet with friends. He mentions a veteran who recently returned from Iraq, and LaFonda was the first place he came to meet up with his family. Ronnie says LaFonda has a "magnetic pull" and "everyone knows who you are." "People here don't feel like they have to put on airs and you can be yourself." He describes the environment as comfortable. "You always see someone you know; that's the alluring thing about LaFonda's." Ronnie notes throughout the interview, that LaFonda is a good place for people to meet up with each other.

LaFonda's history and location: LaFonda used to be located one mile from their current location on Johnston Street. The resteraunt moved to its current location many years ago into what was a strip mall. In the 1980s, other businesses began to move out of the strip mall, and LaFonda bought the remaining businesses, converting the entire strip mall to their current-day restaurant. Ronnie says because they are centrally located in Lafayette, they have an advantage to getting customers from all over the city.

Hosting people from the oilfield: Ronnie describes fourth and even fifth generations of families coming to LaFonda. He says many people who are in the oilfield are also members of Mardi Gras krewes. LaFonda often hosted krewes and private parties for people in the oilfield. When the LAGCOE (Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition) show comes to town, they do all kinds of things for them.

Oilfield customers: Ronnie recalls a wealthy oilfield customer during the 1960s or 1970s and leaving with a bill for $2,700, a sizeable amount of money in those days. Other oilfield customers would stop to get meals and bring them to their employees on the oil rigs. Ronnie says they made a lot of money from the oil business.

Downturn: Ronnie says Lafayette is the first and the last to feel anything from the oilfield downturns. He recalls a slowdown in the 1970s and later in the 1980s. He notes the restaurants are slower to feel the effects, but definitely see a decline in business. "We felt it—everybody felt it." Businesses closed, especially during the 1980s, and people lost homes. LaFonda used to be closed from 2–5pm, just so they could accommodate service between the lunch and dinner crowds. During the 1980s they stayed open all the time, something they still do today. He says these ups and downs happen about every 15–20 years in Lafayette. When people no longer have as much disposable income, they aren't eating out; they would follow the price of oil at the restaurant.

Surviving the downturn: Ronnie says those who formed small companies, planned well, and grew did the best. In the first downturn, those companies were effective at buying up failing companies for pennies on the dollar because they had the foresight to shut down operations or have smaller operating budgets. He mentions many people in the Lafayette area developed and patented devices.

Expense accounts: When oil companies no longer have expense accounts, the restaurant feels the effects. Ronnie also mentions how business has changed over the years. They used to have a lot of salesmen from the oilfield catering clients at LaFonda. He remembers several gentlemen who closed deals, bought expensive cars, and even jets while they were at LaFonda. Now, Ronnie says companies are more conscientious and less likely to give their employees company cars. People used to drink a lot and were more irresponsible, something he says the companies saw as a liability. He also mentions changes in tax laws and an increase in driving under the influence penalties that may have decreased high expense accounts.

Lafayette no longer an oil town: Ronnie says Lafayette used to be a big oil town, and while oil is still a significant part of the economy, he no longer sees Lafayette as solely an oil town. He mentions that the university, the airport, and the medical center have brought diversification to Lafayette. He says Lafayette is evolving, and while the oil industry will always be a part of the economy, it may not be a major part. But, he says, "The mindset is to get away from oil" in the next 50 years and that is not practical on a national scale.

Impact of the oil industry on Lafayette: The oil industry is responsible for the initial growth of Lafayette and brought a lot of people to the area. Big contractors made a lot of money as the oil industry created a demand for housing and office buildings. The oil industry and Lafayette had a mutually beneficial relationship. Ronnie says they are an oil friendly town and realize they don't want to "bite the hand that feeds us." He says the oil industry has impacted Lafayette in "many wonderful ways." He says the oilfield has had a wonderful effect on Lafayette, and he also thinks Layette is becoming a more tech-centered city, and he sees major companies continuing to consolidate. As of 2015, Ronnie says Chevron will likely be moving out of Lafayette soon (the last major oil company in Lafayette).

Proudest moments: Ronnie says he has enjoyed a long career at LaFonda. He says his paycheck is even similar to what some oilfield workers make, and he enjoys the relationships he's built with customers over the years.

John Glover

Cocodrie, LA
July 6, 2009
JC304

Ethnographic Preface

John Glover was referred by Gerald Atkins during the History II study but had not been contacted. We met at the Coco Marina in Cocodrie, Louisiana, which Mr. Glover owns and has built up since acquiring it in 1974. Though he always envisioned the Marina to be a sport and recreation facility, he needed oil industry money to finance the business. Therefore, he serviced industry boats through the 1970s and 1980s, only recently focusing on sport and commercial fishing. As a result of his business and a political career, Mr. Glover is knowledgeable about the oil industry's operations in south Louisiana since the 1970s.

Mr. Glover was born in New Orleans in 1943; his family moved to Houma, Louisiana when he was one year old. His father was a car salesman. Mr. Glover became a pharmacist and ran a drugstore until 1974, when he bought the Coco Marina, which eventually became his fulltime enterprise. His marina had a crane and heliport, and he provided jack-up boats and other oil industry vessels with a variety of services. He was State Representative for Cocodrie from 1988 to 1992, and also served as Police Juror many times in Houma. Presently he is expanding his marina as a sport fishing business, bulkhead, and restaurant, while also selling real estate.

Summary

Born in New Orleans in 1943; moved to Houma in 1944, father a car salesman. Worked as a pharmacist and owned a drug store; bought Coco Marina in Cocodrie in '74, worked there fulltime after 1980. Still lived in Houma. Serviced jack-up boats and oil vessels during boom years–provided fuel, crane, docking and heliport. Didn't have deep channel, so 180-foot boats was limit for marina. Some offshore, but not deepwater vessels. Money from this period allowed him to build sport and commercial fishing marina.

Noted that Texaco and other major companies expanded beyond what Terrebonne Parish could support. Still some infrastructure, businesses and jobs in area due to oil industry, but minimal in comparison to 70s. Good while it lasted, but when companies left, devastation for environment and communities. Local people switched focus from renewable (fishery) to non-renewable (oil) resources; caused a generation to lose fishing trade, and heritage. Politicians did not demand enough for local people and infrastructure from oil companies. Fought in State Legislature for environmental, fisheries protection; established trust fund matched by federal government aimed at slowing coastal erosion. Argues that people in south Louisiana have always been shortsighted in terms of oil and the coast.

Ruben Lee Golden

Houma, LA
July 15, 2009
JC316

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Golden was referred by David "Smitty" Smith; Mr. Golden had been Smitty's boss at Bay Drilling for many years. Smitty spoke about Mr. Golden in reverent terms, noting that he was a tough boss, that he had invented the Kelly Spinner, an important tool, and that I would be lucky if he would talk to me. Mr. Golden agreed to meet with me at his home after some persistence on my part. He has had health

problems and has rarely left his house in several years. Reticent at first, Mr. Golden opened up during this interview, sharing much from his fascinating life story, and commenting on the changes that took place in the oilfield through his career. He asked me to shut off the recorder at one point to make a comment; the second file finishes up the interview.

Mr. Golden was born in 1927, in Robeline, Louisiana. His father was a rambler, taking his family across the country as he gambled and worked odd oilfield jobs. Mr. Golden went into the US Navy after high school, and was heading to Japan during World War II when the atomic bombs were dropped. Back in the US, he took a job in California with Butler Manufacturing, then worked as a roughneck for several companies back on the Gulf Coast. He said he never liked the marshy coast, but was driven to it by the "ghost of starvation," and stayed because the money was good. He began with Bay Drilling in 1957 as a driller, one of the company's first hires. Mr. Golden spent the rest of his career as a driller and drilling superintendent for Bay, bought by Texaco, retiring in 1989. In the late 1960s, he invented the Kelly Spinner, a tool to quicken pipe connections that is used all over the world today.

Summary

Born in Robeline, Louisiana, in 1927. Father a drifter, lived all over country as child. Five years in Navy, fought in WWII. Then began as roughneck for O.W. Dier and Crown (long defunct) based out of Houma. In 1957, hired on and helped start Bay Drilling Co. Worked as driller until 1977, then as drilling superintendent until forced to retire in 1989 due to poor health. Invented Kelly Spinner in late 1960s. Never liked living in south Louisiana; always wanted to return to northern part of state.

Spoke at length on degraded work ethic in oilfield; early in career, people worked hard, long hours, no complaints or get fired. Noted that they were all stupid – had to be idiots to take relatively low pay for miserably hard work. Pride and wage for their family was all that kept them going; without pride, competition couldn't last. Noted they were always behind on a drilling rig; never a moment's rest, "always in trouble." Yet said most beautiful thing in the world was a good drilling crew. Reliance on fancy tools and computers has made laziness rampant on platforms; causing more accidents than old days. Now job is about predictability – no fun, and doesn't keep workers alert. Noted that reporting on wells changed dramatically – old days people messed with reports, while computers cut this out, more accurate. Noted the rise of "yes men" in the companies, he hated them. More about politeness in later years, people didn't speak the truth or disagree; had detrimental effect on industry. Became dangerous when workers thought they knew something but didn't; educated foremen with no practical experience threat to crews and production.

Dolores Hawkins

Lafayette, LA
July 7, 2015
LL002

Ethnographic Preface

Morgan Lundy met Dolores Hawkins at a Desk and Derrick meeting. She was interested in an interview, and scheduled one at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Dolores Hawkins is from Ged, Louisiana. From an early age, she lived in and around the oil and gas industry. Her husband worked doing seismic work in the industry. In 1981 he got a job with Philips Petroleum, which brought the couple and their family to Lafayette, Louisiana. Upon moving to Lafayette, Dolores also got a job with Philips Petroleum as a clerk. In 2000, Dolores retired from Philips as a senior administrative assistant. In her interview, she discusses the changing roles and opportunities for women in

the industry. She also talks about her the industry-related groups she was involved with, including the Jane Philips Society and Desk and Derrick.

Summary

Background: Dolores Hawkins is from Ged, Louisiana. The oilfields of Ged are located south of Vinton, Louisiana. Dolores moved to Abbeville when she was three years old. She went to college, married her husband at 19, and has lived in Louisiana, Florida, and Oklahoma. In Oklahoma she worked for a company supplying water pumps. In July of 1981, she and her husband moved to Lafayette. Philips Petroleum (the same company her husband worked for doing seismic) hired Dolores as a clerk in 1981. She eventually worked her way up to senior administrative assistant, officially retiring close to the age of 60 in December of 2000. She was born in 1943 in Ged, Louisiana in her grandmother's house. Anyone who worked for the oil company could have as much property as they wanted but if they left the oilfield they had to leave what they had or sell it and have it moved. After 72 years, Dolores says she was recently back to the Ged oilfields and says the property is still there. Dolores's husband worked for Philips Petroleum in seismic. She met her husband through friends. They moved seven times in 11 years, and had several children.

How she got into the oil industry: In Oklahoma, Dolores began working for a company supplying water well pumps. Her husband had a chance to move back to Louisiana and chose Lafayette. In the meantime, an opening became available at Philips Petroleum and she applied and got the job and worked with Philips until her retirement in 2000. She began her career as a clerk and ended up as a senior administrative assistant to the area manager. She notes she was fortunate in her job and got the opportunity to do diverse things, including organizing two weeklong conferences with international oil workers. She also helped set up a nationwide art exhibition that came to the Heymann Museum in Lafayette.

Volunteer work: Dolores did volunteer work through her job as well. The Jane Phillips Society, which had been started by the wife of the founder of Philips Petroleum, and which she volunteered with, began because the wives of the husbands who worked in the industry needed to have something to occupy their time. The female employees got involved as well, giving away food baskets at the holidays and doing fundraisers. She says she was lucky to have good bosses, who encouraged her to go above and beyond what she could do, "Which was wonderful for me because I love challenges."

Changes in the workforce: "For women it started out very limited. Then women were able to become operators. Work offshore. Work on draglines. I had no concept of what offshore was like until one of my field bosses asked my boss if they were going on a tour of the offshore wells and he asked my boss if I could go since I have never been offshore…and he said yes. So I actually got to go offshore." Dolores encourages employers to let those who have nothing to do with production to go offshore. It gave her a perspective of how hard a job it is, and says it was a highlight of her career. She shares her memory of experiencing the beauty of the Gulf from an offshore platform.

Women are allowed to do anything now. She knew one girl offshore who eventually came to the office. If she couldn't lift things, she used a dragline offshore. Dolores says women are more accepted offshore and not just to work in the galley or as maids. She doesn't know women who worked in drilling, but mentions female engineers. She says the hands-on work is pretty dangerous and requires a lot of strength, and sees that as a limit for women in the area of offshore work. Women have a different perspective and notes international colleagues from Africa and Puerto Rico who came in to do safety training. She shares a story of her dad hurting his back while working in the Ged fields and how that led him to get out of the derrick work. Her grandfather also worked in the Ged fields. She said there were definitely no women there in her grandfather's time, recalling a memory of her grandfather in a steel hardhat covered in oil. Her

grandmother would fill a huge wash pot and boil her grandfather's clothes. She also recalls a few childhood memories from around the Ged oilfields.

Changes in the industry: Dolores says the oil industry is changing mostly because of everybody's perspective of it. She notes they get blamed for everything and don't get the credit for anything. She recalls oil leaks being blamed on the industry, but that the ocean naturally spews up oil from the ocean floor. Dolores recalls a friend who said she would go to the beach during the 1920s. She and her friends would look for tar patches and chew it because it was like gum. She mentions an oil spill in Florida and said every time they saw a slick of oil they'd blame it on an accident that happened years ago.

Oil industry outreach and Desk and Derrick: Dolores says without oil, we would be "naked." From hair products to clothes, she says the byproducts of the oil industry are endless. She did weekly classes at local schools to teach children about the oil industry, an endeavor Philips Petroleum allowed her to do. She says children didn't realize what the oil industry provided, and mentions a coloring book created by Desk and Derrick that also teaches children about the industry. She stated the oil industry was not the enemy, even though people make them out to be. She also talks about the drop in oil prices and how income and taxes are jeopardized when this happens.

Industry cycles and gender: Yes, men and women are affected by the cycles of the oil industry in similar ways. She says women can be laid off as easy as men and don't get priority. In her time working for Philips, she never saw a woman become in charge of a rig. She's seen women work on the platform as roustabouts, but they are never in charge of a rig. She says many women prefer to work onshore and don't want to work offshore as they don't want to be away from their families. She recalls even men did not like it when she would call them to take a class on their days off, even though they were well compensated. Some men would bring their families with them to the classes because they didn't want to be separated.

Expectations for women: Dolores speculates a woman is expected to pull her weight, and "rightly so," which is why she says she doesn't know many women working on the operator floor. When she first began with Philips she would collect water samples and run them at the office, in addition to her clerical work. She said it helped the engineers she worked for and she enjoyed finding extra ways to help out in her job.

First day at work: Dolores' first day at work was July 15, 1981. She remembers because they had been transferred to Lafayette in the beginning of July. A friend from Oklahoma (where they had moved from) said someone from Philips was trying to get ahold of her so she called the Lafayette Philips office. She was looking for a job. The secretary was leaving and asked Dolores if she wanted to come in, even though Dolores was very sick. She went anyway, took the test, did the interview, and was hired on the spot. She started a few days later. One guy she worked with still stays in touch. "That's the thing about the oil industry; we're a family."

Ups and downs: Dolores enjoyed attending conferences, helping to bring a wood carving exhibit to the Heymann Museum, and being challenged at work. The Philips office grew and they had to have more and more secretaries. Then the company downsized again and talked about moving everything to Houston. At that time she worked for safety and anyone who needed anything done. Their manager was in Houston and she said she saw the writing on the wall, and with all the lay offs around her she saw it was time to go. She made sure her house and car were paid off as she began to prepare for what she saw was "inevitable."

Being laid off: The day she was laid off she was working on a project with the environmentalists. She told her (female) boss she was going out to the print shop to pick up some pamphlets (she mentions by

this time there was a box packed under her desk with most of her things, ready to go), and her boss immediately wrote on a tablet and asked when she'd return. When Dolores got back she felt rushed to finish the booklets and said she knew she was going to be laid off that day. When they finished the last booklet and walked in to see her boss, who was crying, Dolores got the news she had been expecting. Dolores said she tried to get it over with quickly. They wanted her to go to Houston. She said Houston was too big and it was too late in life; Louisiana was home. Dolores was laid off few days short of her anniversary, when she would have been with Philips for 19 years and would have earned an extra week of vacation. In 1999 she was laid off, and she officially retired from Philips in December of 2000.

Staying out of the industry: After being laid off, Dolores did not want to go back to work. She was divorced from her husband to whom she'd been married for 23 years. And she waited until she was 60 to gain widow's benefits, something she says was because of good planning. She said she made sure she had an estate well planned and did a lot of volunteer work afterwards. She says the skills she learned at her job "helped her immensely" with volunteering at Desk and Derrick, and helping in her church with things like typing and paperwork.

Unique aspects of Lafayette: When Dolores came to Louisiana in 1981, "Lafayette was booming." She said in its heyday, it was amazing how many oil and independent companies were starting up in Lafayette. She says she can't pinpoint why so many moved to Houston, but speculates that transportation might be better (e.g., airlines). She said all the Oil Center offices were packed with nothing but oil workers, and today there are lots of shops and boutiques. When the industry was booming, she says if you were invited to the Petroleum Club you were doing really well.

Networking: Dolores says women are the best networkers there are because they watch out for each other. She mentioned Desk and Derrick and if a job comes up, you wouldn't see it on the internet. You'd get a personal email with the job details, and even now on Facebook they'll show companies hiring. Networking is not a problem in Lafayette, because people here use all the resources available to them to let people know there's a job listing. She notes it's a selective industry. Some people don't want to get into the oil industry because of the layoffs. If she needs something, she says she usually goes to Desk and Derrick, an organization she says does a lot of work for the oil industry.

Impact of oil industry on Lafayette: A lot of the oil companies make charitable contributions, such as to the arts. She mentions going to concerts and often hearing thanks to such and such oil company for the shows. In the church bulletin they advertise as well, and she says that helps the church. She says the oil companies are everywhere and nowhere. When they started cutting back you could feel it drastically and it affected the city immensely. Donations are made to the university and city, and the lack of them had an impact. She says Cajuns learn to work with the resources they have and "this is just the kind of people we are here."

Challenges and technology changes: Dolores calls her schedule ordinary because it was 7:30am–4:00pm. Her main challenge was learning the different electronic equipment. She recalls the first time she got a computer she had had little to no training. They handed her a book and she learned to use it herself, and that led to her being a resource for the company and teaching others. The equipment continued to be modified, the computer age moved quickly, and you had to keep up your skills. They would help each other in the office, and said she came to love working on the computer.

Oil company education: Philips sent her to a few schools and that gave her a quick start. She was sent to Houston a few times and also took some continuing education at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, all for computer skills. Sometimes they would teach classes at the office as well. She remembers being in a class and how the engineers needed a lot from them and realized how much they missed the secretaries when they were stuck in the office training together.

Companies learning from industry cycles: Dolores says oil companies always learn how to improve and "make it better." Drilling procedures have changed; she typed them so often she would point out mistakes to those asking her to put the procedures together. She remembers typing a report in which her boss wrote "shit" in a place where he meant to put something else. As an administrative assistant and as a clerk, she said you're covering your boss' back.

Most proud of in her career: "Everything." How she grew from a little Cajun girl who had been transplanted all over, to how she got a job with an oil company and went from nothing to what she saw as the highest she could get. She always wanted to be a senior administrative assistant, and that's what she did. The trust her bosses had in her, knowing she would do the best she could do. "It doesn't sound very interesting sometimes, but when I look back on it, I think, you know, I got married at 19. I accomplished quit a bit. I might not be a millionaire, but in accomplishments I feel like I am." She says she has to thank the oil industry because it helped her grow. She remarks it is all she knew; Her grandfather worked for Gulf Oil, her dad for Texaco, and she and her husband worked for Philips.

Daniel "Dan" Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 8, 2015
ML018

Ethnographic Preface

After the news piece on KATC-3 about the oral history project, I received many calls and emails from people wanting to be interviewed. One of those calls came from a man named Dan Hebert. We scheduled the interview for 9:00 AM at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. He brought his laptop to show me pictures he had from over the years.

Dan Hebert is originally from Franklin, Louisiana. Following in the footsteps of his father and uncles, Dan had begun working in the oilfield at the age of 17. He started working as a roustabout and went on to work in a wide variety of areas including roughnecking, rig support, diving, and salvage work. He has moved all around southern Louisiana while working in the oil and gas industry. Dan recently moved to the Lafayette area. Among other topics, Dan discusses safety, changes in technology, and memorable projects he's worked on.

Summary

Overview of work: Dan lives in Broussard, Louisiana. Worked in the oilfield as a roustabout when he was 17. Worked in drilling for a while. Worked in rig support, anchor crews, welding, pipeline fabrication, and salvage work after hurricanes. Now he does inspections on rigs, oilfield skid packages, down-hole tools; whatever he gets a call for.

Family: Dad worked in the oilfield; only way to make a decent living then and now; dad left farming to do roughnecking and drilling. Family followed the drilling. His uncles and cousins worked in the oilfield too.

Mid 1960s: People could find jobs easily at that time; just sitting in bars; jobs were only for a month. Offshore was going good at that time.

First time offshore: First time was on a salvage job. Worked for salvage and anchor mooring company at the time. Went out to a well that was blowing. Divers went down; Halliburton crew to pump cement and

kill well; then salvage and his people would make money from the junk metal. Went to collapsed platforms; never had to get any bodies. Did that for several years; good money.

Memorable times: First job as a roustabout got paid $1.85 an hour; people waiting at boat landing to go to work. While working on an inland barge, the motorman broke his leg and worked the next day with a cast on his leg; didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to lose his job. Dan also remembers the old rig builders.

Safety: It's a big thing today; the more they talk about it, the more people got hurt; didn't have anything back then. Dan shared some of the dangerous things they did back then like jumping on slippery raft wood. There was so much tension and continuous movement in the Gulf; something has to give. Seen people lose fingers and keep working.

Diving: Salvage work followed hurricanes; if there weren't hurricanes Dan would do other jobs like diving. Tried to get into the diving business but couldn't find the right company; couldn't wait for a job with wife and kid; floated back and forth where the work was.

Salvage: Interesting work; learned a lot from it and how things worked on platforms and rigs. Dan worked as a chief inspector at a gas company; he went to work on a salvage job after Hurricane Andrew; did it nine days. After the cleaning of the location was done had to set the skid in the same location as the platform setting and figure out how to reconnect the pipelines. Every job is a learning experience.

Changes in technology: Just finished building a rig that was built in Broussard and shipped to Singapore. The technology is changing as they go into deepwater. The rig is a prototype; rig floats to the side, cleans the oil, and still does production; saving $1million. In the 60s 200ft of water was really deep.

Diving pay: Divers are now way underpaid; used to make a lot more money. Had depth pay and an hourly wage; don't think they have that anymore. It is a high risk job; divers at the mercy of those above water.

Start in diving: Diving is a part of salvage work; when hired out you were hired to do whatever was needed. Wanted to get more into diving, but it was a big clique; couldn't get over the hump. No training; just go do it.

Challenges: "Every job is a challenge." Dan talked about the difficulty of setting that platform; largest underwater platform (sub-sea manifold) at the time. Also talked about a job he did with directional drilling in the Mississippi River; put in 30-inch steel pipe 4,200 ft long; largest well at the time for that diameter pipe. Also told about problem solving when laying pipe in Pennsylvania; there was a creek flowing through the cellar of a nearby house, but it went dry after laying the pipe; Dan figured out how to keep the creek flowing.

Salvage job strategy: When doing salvage jobs, Dan thinks the Gulf dry; what it looks like without water. When doing the salvage job after Hurricane Andrew, Dan had divers use rope and NEMO readings to figure out the topography of the bottom of ocean floor so he could figure out how to level the spot to reset the platform.

Job close to Christmas: During the Hurricane Andrew salvage job it was getting close to Christmas; saw flames over 12 miles away at another site; went and found the rupture. Shut down everything on barge and drifted through the fumes. They made the repair. Determined to be back for Christmas; went back to the previous job to finish the platform. Went back to shore; had to go back to fix the pipeline again on

December 22, the pipe hadn't made it without rupturing during the eight hour test. Made it home for Christmas.

Cycles: Cyclical nature of the industry is impacting him now. In 1982 Dan was "below broke;" there was nothing going on. "People were going broke." Got the land job in Pennsylvania in 1985 for 7–8 months; job in Pennsylvania saved him. Been going up gradually since 1985 but recently hit another snag.

Background: Dan is from the Franklin, Louisiana area. He moved to Broussard last year; get closer to doctors and away from the coast. Didn't want to run from storms anymore. Lived most of his life closer to the coast. Traveled to work.

Schedule: Wife is strong; traveled with him to jobs. She stayed in a motel for nine months; stuck with him—was on 95% of the jobs he went on; she even went out to a barge with him.

Women in the industry: There are now women in the industry. During the Hurricane Andrew salvage job there were two women divers; one was an underwater welder. Women have been out there for years. Women primarily worked in the galley.

Changes caused by technology: Workers have to be trained now that they are working with robotics; everything is done with the touch of a button now; no more chain pulling through the hands. Drilling work has changed; also in the pipeline part of it.

Transition from shallow to deepwater: The stuff below the rig is different; ROV machines and robotics; do it with a joystick. All of its done from the surface. "People starting to use their head instead of their back."

Proudest moment: Never got anybody killed. Every accident is not preventable.

Change in workforce: The craft jobs (welding, roughneck, mechanics, etc.) don't go away. There is new talent coming in with the robotics. He has seen women inspectors and engineers.

Lafayette and the oil and gas industry: Lafayette is the capitol of the Louisiana and Houston is the capitol of the world in terms of the oil and gas industry. People working in the industry in Lafayette know the people working in the industry in New Orleans.

Edmond Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
ML030

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala recommended we interview Edmond Hebert. She met him through the Society of Petroleum Engineers. Edmond was about to leave to Saudi Arabia for work, so I quickly contacted him and set up an interview before he left. We conducted the interview on July 21, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Edmond Hebert is from Carencro, Louisiana and has been in the industry since 1996. He started out in filtration and has worked in fluid engineering and fracking. Currently, Edmond works in completions.

This year Edmond got his own limited liability company and now works as a consultant. During his interview Edmond reflects on changes in the industry, working in deepwater, and the impact of technology in the oilfield.

Summary

Career overview: Edmond is from Carencro, Louisiana. He started working in the oilfield in 1996. He started in filtration and worked his way up to the frack department. Edmond had been working for OSYKA when it was bought out by BJ Services in 2002; Edmond left the company. He went back to OSYKA-BJ Services and worked as a fluids engineer for seven years. After Baker Hughes bought out the company, Edmond ran completion fluids for for them. Rig-Chem offered Edmond a better job; he worked there until May of this year. Edmond applied for a limited liability company license and works as a consultant. Edmond initially got into the oilfield because of the money; he could earn an honest wage doing a service. He was the first one in his family to work in the oilfield.

First time offshore: Edmond's first job offshore was a little scary, but it wasn't bad. He hid that it was his first time offshore and played it cool.

Bad jobs: Everyone has bad jobs; Edmond learned from them, but they can be disempowering if you don't learn from the experience. Edmond learned to "CYA." On one frustrating deepwater completion job, Edmond was waiting to do his job but the company man kept him from doing his work. There was a crew change and the new company man got upset at Edmond for not have done his work already. This kind of scenario has happened to Edmond other times. These scenarios are not beneficial for anyone; they set back the operator and are covered up by blaming others.

Schedule: Edmond was on call 24 hours. The average job lasted from six to 10 days. He worked about 70 days a year and also did sales. In his new schedule, Edmond will work for half the year, which leaves him less time at home. Edmond likes working for himself.

Positive changes: There have been changes in safety. The oilfield claims to have a no-blame policy if someone calls off a job because of safety; that is better implemented now. People are no longer working 30 to 40 hours straight; if necessary they will work only 15 to 16 hours straight. At the sacrifice of operators and money the oilfield has become a lot safer. The leadership has improved too. People are working together more.

Working in deepwater: Up until 2004 or 2005 Edmond worked mostly shelf water jobs. From 2005 up to now Edmond has worked in deepwater. Deepwater requires more work, safety, and for people to be in decent shape; it's busier. Everyone working in deepwater is a pro. It's a challenge, but Edmond likes it.

Change in technology and the workforce: Technology has made working a lot safer and easier. There has been more training since the *Deepwater Horizon* blowout and there is less of a good ol' boy system; the accident helped straighten out stuff and people. Edmond has seen more and more women working in deepwater as engineers and for service companies from 2005 and onwards.

Mobility: Edmond started in an entry-level position that did not have a great schedule. He made a lateral move to the frack department, which had a two-week on and two-week off schedule. Edmond was the only one who could do lab work. He was a cross between a blue-collar and white-collar worker and could communicate between the two. The company did not offer much training; Edmond had to learn on his own and be assertive. If someone is willing to help and work that helps with mobility.

Downturns: The downturns in the late 1990s and 2000 didn't affect Edmond but he saw it affect others. The current downturn was the first one that affected him when he had to find another job.

Lafayette: All of the companies Edmond has worked for have been based in Lafayette Parish. Lafayette is a hub for the oilfield.Lafayette is a good place for networking. While working for Rig-Chem he worked in sales and had to network for the first time. In Lafayette you have to be persistent to show that you'll be there long-term.

Impact of oil and gas on Lafayette and Edmond: The industry has brought money to Lafayette; it's like a gold rush town. Since people have more money it has raised the cost of living. The oilfield helps Edmond provide for his family. If it weren't for the oilfield in Lafayette Edmond wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn the skills he has learned. His career would've been different if he lived elsewhere; the opportunities and industry might have been different.

Edmond's new company: He is working through Deep South Chemical and Spacer Trek in Saudi Arabia. Deep South needed Edmond to help pump spacers in the Persian Gulf. He started a limited liability company; he would've worked with a corporation, but the oilfield is slow right now and there are hiring freezes. His job in Saudi Arabia won't be his first international work. He did some tours in Brazil with the frack department from 1998 to 2000. Most of his work in the past has been in the Gulf; in the past he didn't need to go international to make money.

Proudest moment: Edmond is proud of his jobs with Rig-Chem. He was able to use his skills on the deepwater jobs with people who listened to him.

Family and being gone from home: Edmond has a 22-year-old son who just graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He also has a 10-year-old daughter. The kids never like it when he leaves for work. Edmond has been with his wife for 23 years and she is used to his schedule. Now there is better communication; when he leaves for work he can communicate with his wife with things like Facebook, Whatsapp and Wi-Fi. In 1998 and 1999 there was only one computer on the frack boat. By 2002 everyone had their own computer station and internet. The internet has helped with how people interact with each other. It used to be like going to prison when people would go offshore. Now with the internet people are able to keep in contact with their familiesand are happier.

Less burnout: The oilfield is now less likely to wear someone out. People no longer work 30 to 40 hours straight. Two guys are now sent out to a job; one will be highly experienced, the other is new. If you work too many jobs or too many hours you get burned out. The longest Edmond has worked on a job was 55 days.

Jocelyn Hebert

Lafayette, LA
July 31, 2015
ML041

Ethnographic Preface

While working in Lafayette, Louisiana, Lillian Espinoza-Gala took me to two Desk and Derrick meetings as a way to meet people in the industry and find potential interviewees. At the second meeting I attended, Lillian and I sat at a table with women who used to work in administrative positions at different service companies. I got the contact information for two of the women to schedule interviews. One was Jocelyn

Hebert. I called Jocelyn to schedule an interview. We agreed to meet the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 31, 2015.

Jocelyn Hebert is from New Orleans in 1938. Her father worked in drilling for Humble Oil. Jocelyn remembers growing up in the oilfield environment. After moving to Lafayette in 1974 with her family, Jocelyn began her oilfield career working for Global Marine Drilling in 1978. In the following year, she joined Desk and Derrick. In 2004 Jocelyn retired from Schlumberger. Although Jocelyn is retired, she is still an active member of the Desk and Derrick Club in Lafayette.

Summary

Background: Jocelyn was born in New Orleans in 1938. She grew up around the oil industry in a Humble Camp in Parody, Louisiana. Her father worked for Humble Oil as a mechanical supervisor. She has two older brothers and two younger sisters; as kids they would work for a geologist bagging and labeling samples during the summer. Her brothers went to Louisiana State University for petroleum engineering. Jocelyn got married in 1957 and didn't work for a few years.

Career: Jocelyn's work in the oilfield started in 1978 or 1979 when she went to work for Global Marine Drilling. She started in personnel. She moved up to be the secretary for the Vice President of the Gulf Coast. The company had started out small; by 1980 it had several jack-ups and a couple of drill ships; it was a busy time. In 1986 the "bottom fell out" for Global Marine. Jocelyn took her severance and moved back to New Orleans to help her dad. A year later she was hired on with Schlumberger. She worked in drilling and measurements; the guys would bring her data and she would download it, send it for printing, and send it to distribution. She was working in the Scott office and then moved to the Youngsville office. Jocelyn worked with clients in Houston and Dallas, Texas; BP was one of her favorite clients. Jocelyn's job was to call the clients and see what kinds of distribution they wanted for logs. She had to keep the data organized and confidential. She worked at Schlumberger until 2004 when she was 66 years old; she has been retired for 11 years. Jocelyn is still a member of Desk and Derrick; she enjoys the meetings, seminars, and speakers.

Changes during career: When she first started, the guys would come into the office to deliver the data; it allowed her to get to know them on a personal level. As technology changed the guys didn't come into the office because they could upload their data; communication was more difficult with email; the personal touch was gone. There was more demand for information from the client; all of the data had to be combined. In Jocelyn's job she always had to check in with Minerals Management Service for well sites and other information. Towards the end of her career Jocelyn noticed that the clients became more demanding and wanted more data and perfection.

Safety and trainings: Schlumberger was very safety focused. There were so many safety meetings that Jocelyn felt it almost got in the way of her job. In her office they would have to look for "near misses," which are close calls or accidents; people would share their near misses at meetings to win $25 gift cards. The oil companies wanted to make sure they were hiring a company with a good safety record, thus Schlumberger, as a service company, required their employees to take different trainings and classes. It was the responsibility of the employee to make sure they were up to date on their trainings. Schlumberger also required their employees to have yearly physicals. Some of the trainings focused on dealing with different personalities and clients. Desk and Derrick also provided seminars. Jocelyn felt knowledgeable about the different aspects of the company.

Workforce: Schlumberger is a French company, so it employed people from all over the world. The guys would bring Jocelyn gifts from their countries. Jocelyn was like a mother figure to the young engineers and they would confide in her. The foreign guys were more helpful and would do whatever Jocelyn

asked. The field engineers, field managers, and district managers were transferred often. There were women in the office.

Path to Lafayette and Schlumberger: Jocelyn came to Lafayette from Houma in 1974. She started working for Global Marine in 1978; she was around 40 years old. Jocelyn got divorced in Lafayette. During the slowdown, she decided to find a civil service job. She took computer classes at the college. She worked in career placement at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The salary wasn't as high as what she was making in the oilfield. She got another job in the College of Nursing, merging files. Jocelyn left that job because of the low salary. She went to work for Sunbelt Energy, which was an independent land company; the job paid well but didn't provide benefits. She went back to work for Schlumberger.

Desk and Derrick and networking: Jocelyn joined Desk and Derrick in 1979. At the time she worked for Global Marine; one of the ladies working there invited her to a meeting. At Desk and Derrick there were guest speakers and learning opportunities. PHI also took the women on a helicopter ride around the Gulf. Desk and Derrick was her main networking group. Jocelyn had done some networking while at the college to get back into the oilfield. The classes at USL helped her find a job. Eventually Desk and Derrick opened up to men. Jocelyn has traveled nationally and internationally through Desk and Derrick.

Memorable time: Jocelyn remembers her childhood and growing up in the oilfield. Back then the companies wanted to benefit people. Humble would give trips to 4-H participants and they supported theBoy Scouts of America. Jocelyn has always seen the oilfield as very beneficial; people don't understand or appreciate the role and service of the industry.

Jocelyn's son and the industry: Jocelyn has a son who graduated from USL. While he was in school he worked as a gopher for Celeron Oil and Gas; the company gave him a car to use. The president of the company told her son what classes to take and told him he would send him to California when he graduated. Her son is still in California. Celeron is now Plains Marketing; her son helped with laying the All-American Pipeline. Recently a pipe broke in Santa Barbara in a culvert by the ocean; people in Santa Barbara don't want their beaches ruined, "but life's not perfect." People are ignorant about the oil industry.

Relationship between Lafayette and the industry: When Jocelyn moved to Lafayette in 1974 it was booming and it was an oil center. In 1986 it became a ghost town and the oil companies started leaving. The Oil Center has now become a medical center. Companies have moved to Houston. Chevron is closing its Lafayette office. There are still a lot of service companies in Lafayette, but it seems like the offices have moved.

Industry cycles: The oilfield is something that goes up and down, but it hurt a lot of people in Lafayette. Many people left. Jocelyn's other son and his wife had worked for Global Marine, but they moved to Florida and started working in a different field. People are looking for security and stability. Jocelyn doesn't recall industry ups and downs when her father worked in the oilfield; when she started working in the oilfield Jocelyn took notice of the cycles. It's hard when there are layoffs. Jocelyn understands companies have to look at their bottom line.

Benefits of the industry: The industry has benefitted southern Louisiana; it brings in restaurants, stores, jobs, and money. The major oil companies want to give back. At a Desk and Derrick meeting someone from Tenneco gave a presentation about how old, unused platforms are toppled into the ocean into the reefs to help fishermen; the industry is always looking for ways to help people.

Career: When Jocelyn moved to Lafayette she had four kids and got divorced. For the first time she had to work. The industry provided the best pay and benefits; she still has good benefits from her retirement

from Schlumberger. It was beneficial for Jocelyn to work in the oilfield; she never got a degree. She regrets marrying young and not getting a degree.

Family and the industry: Both of her brothers got their degrees in petroleum engineering. One brother ended up working in business and stocks. Her other brother was the president of Quintana and then started his own energy company. The industry has been a blessing for Jocelyn's family. One of Jocelyn's son works with Plains Marketing in California. The other son works in Florida. One of her daughters is a nurse in Houma and is married to a man who manages an oilfield company. The other daughter lives in Lafayette is married to a part owner in an oilfield company.

Steve Hebert

Lafayette, LA
June 25, 2015
ML014

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Hebert learned about the research project through the article in the *Daily Advertiser* on June 13, 2015. He called the team and they scheduled an interview to take place at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on June 25, 2015

Steve Hebert began working in the oil industry in 1972 for a navigation service company. In 1974 he started working for Tenneco in safety. During the 1989 Chevron-Tenneco company merger, Steve switched from working in safety to working in production. He stayed on with Chevron until 2007 when he retired. Steve lives with his wife of 39 years in Scott, Louisiana. In his interview, Steve discusses Tenneco's merger with Chevron, changes in the industry, and memorable events that happened throughout his career.

Summary

Career overview: Steve began by working for a service company specializing in navigation equipment (fog horns, etc.) right out of high school. He began working at Tenneco two years after his first job and stayed with Tenneco from 1974–1988. In January of 1989, Chevron bought out Tenneco. In his job at Tenneco, Steve worked mainly in navigation and safety. When Chevron took over, Steve's job was contracted out and he went into production. He developed blood clots in his legs and retired in 2007 due to health issues. "After 35 years offshore I guess it was time to let some of these other kids take over."

First day offshore: He worked for a service company out of Morgan City, Louisiana. He had never been offshore before and remarked he was shy and not sure what to expect. At 20 or 21 years old, he went out with four to five people on the boat and from that day forward he enjoyed his job. Their boat route would cover anywhere from south of New Orleans to Cameron, and then back to Morgan City. One challenge he noted was his 14-and-14 schedule; if someone did not show up for his or her shift, he had to work an additional 14-day shift. However, he notes while he was single it wasn't too bad. There was a good side; he paid cash for a new car.

Challenges balancing family and work schedule: He got married in 1976 while he was working for Tenneco. During a family celebration he got a call from his boss about a helicopter crash. His boss had offered Steve's department to help with the search and rescue operation. The crash happened in a helicopter he had ridden in the previous week. Though his wife didn't want him to go, he said, "Look, it's my job." He spent about 10–12 hours per week riding in helicopters from location to location, which

made his wife nervous. It took her a while but she got used to it. When his wife had their first son in 1980, she began staying with her parents when Steve went offshore. He would stay on one platform from Tuesday to the following Tuesday. After their daughter was born in 1985 his wife convinced herself to stay home with the two kids. Around that time, he began working seven-and-seven. This shift was more flexible. Weather was also an issue; his relief depended on good weather and helicopters being able to fly out.

Challenges at work and at home: Working with contract companies offshore gets rough. "It gets to a breaking point and you think this has got to get better." Communication in his marriage was hard. He gave his wife a lot of the decision making power at home. Responsibilities were hard to commit to, for example, he could never be the head coach of his children's sports teams, but he could help coach so that he could at least be a part of it in some ways. He noted that while he had these challenges, spending time with family was important to him and he made it a priority. "You've got some of these guys they talk about can't wait until I get home so I can get in my boat and do some fishing. Now man, we spend seven days on the water and they're talking about spending two, three days hunting. I say what about, you know, your family life?"

Family in the oilfield: Steve's grandfather worked in the Chacahoula swamps and got injured on the job. Huey P. Long's brother represented his grandfather in the legal case. Because his grandfather got a lawyer and a settlement, he was "blackballed" from working in the oil patch. A couple of his brothers worked in contracting work, but Steve is the only one in his family to work offshore.

Why he was interested in working in the oilfield: Steve graduated high school, and went on to pursue a degree at USL, but his grades weren't good. One professor pulled him aside and said he'd struggled early on in school, he went offshore, set things right, and came back to school. Steve's professor suggested he might benefit from time offshore. Steve went offshore and hasn't been back to school since. He worked for a food warehouse company and then went to work for a friend who owned a safety company even though he knew nothing about the job. He liked his job so much he thought wouldn't retire. Both with Tenneco and Chevron, colleagues joked with Steve that he'd never retire because, "I wouldn't know what to do with myself." But, he notes, "The oilfield changed so much personnel-wise once I left I never did look back."

Changes in the industry and workforce: Steve notes technology has been a major player in the oilfield. When he started, everything was done manually. For example, if a well shut off they had to go to each individual well. But now with automation you can monitor a well from far away. When he first started, there used to be two or three Chevron personnel at a facility. Everyone had a piece of the pie. They were working to make Chevron money, and if Chevron made money, they made money. When things began to get tight and jobs were spread out and folks were laid off, they'd have more contracted labor. He said contract people would just be out there to make a paycheck and the motivation just wasn't there for them to take care of business. He laughs as he mentions he was glad his mom taught him to cook and clean, because with only two or three people on a platform at a time, you had to do more jobs yourself. They used to take care of their safety equipment themselves. For example, fire extinguishers are now all pre-pressurized units, and so there's less maintenance required. It made the job easier, but cost more.

Stories from the job and offshore: One of Steve's favorite things about the job was helping with search and rescue. One time he was on a boat 80 miles south of Grand Isle, Louisiana. It got so rough the three-man crew called in to come into shallow water, an ordeal that took 13 hours. They ran aground and Steve remembers being awakened by a crewmember saying they were taking on water, but it would be ok. Steve didn't worry about it, but woke up the next morning to the stern of the boat under water. Another time leaving on a boat from Intracostal City, Louisiana a week before Christmas, the captain fell asleep and ran into a platform. They went to figure out what they hit and it was so foggy they couldn't see the

back of the boat from the front. They radioed in and were ok. Another time they were getting supplies onto a platform from a boat. When he checked everything was alright, but soon he heard a mayday call on the radio. The boat was taking on water. By the time he got up and called Intracostal City and the US Coast Guard, they had been in the water about eight hours. All four men on the boat were flown to Abbeville and the dad of one of the men ended up dying of a heart attack in the hospital waiting room. When the insurance people came out to see what had happened, Steve described the situation and said it was his third boating accident. The insurance company said Steve should come work for them.

Defining moments in his career: It was hard when Tenneco merged with Chevron. At Tenneco Steve was the top man in his six-person department, and when he went to Chevron he had to switch from working in safety to working in production. It was equipment he'd been surrounded by his whole career, and yet he knew little about it. He went from the "top dog" to the "lowest man." One boss teased Steve that he could work with high voltage electricity, but was scared of high pressure. Steve mentioned he was colorblind and that made some work scenarios difficult, but people would help.

Where he worked: Chevron was in deepwater but Steve never made it to more than about 15 feet. Steve worked out of Intracoastal City the whole time he was with Tenneco and Chevron. When he started Tenneco it was one division, but it got so big they divided it into three areas: Sabine, Intracoastal City, and Grand Isle-Fourchon. Because Steve had seniority he got to stay at Intracoastal City. Once Chevron took over, they divided Intracoastal City west as one division and Intracoastal to Mississippi was the other one.

Why the industry exists in Lafayette: When asked if he could do the same job elsewhere that he did out of Lafayette, Steve says the only difference would be the drive. He knew a schoolteacher who would fly down from Arkansas and work during the summers. He had his own plane and would fly to Abbeville and Steve would pick him up for crew change.

Career mobility: Steve notes when Chevron took over Tenneco, Chevron had a personfor just about every position whereas with Tenneco all the employees were trained in multiple areas. Once they started working together they'd train together.

Impacts on Lafayette: At one time Lafayette was very dependent on the industry. Steve notes he was able to go through many layoffs and keep his job, despite the "oil crunch." He says many smaller companies closed during the downturn. He says Lafayette has become diversified. Chevron has moved their operations to Houston and New Orleans. With computers this consolidation means they don't need a place in Lafayette. As far as the boss needing anything, any information is on a computer so the job can be handled "just as well in Houston as it can in Lafayette."

Diversification: In the late 1980s when the oil crunch hit people lost their jobs and homes. One guy he graduated from high school with lived in Houston and there was a joke around Houston that McDonald's only hired geologists with master's degrees. The medical field has helped diversify Lafayette. Chevron didn't need so many bases either and when they took over Tenneco they moved everything to Intracostal City.

Downturns and effect on job: Things changed after the downturn. It separated those who barely knew their jobs from those who cared about their jobs. He mentions a good relationship with his boss and that as long as you cared, even if you lacked knowledge, that meant a lot. It changed the mindset of companies to better train their people so they could do the job faster.

Proudest moments in career: Steve always had bumps and bruises, but went 30 years without any accidents. Operating cranes was a highlight. He recalls a 30,000 lb piece of equipment and dealing with that out in the water successfully. Another highlight was knowing he could help when boats sank. He was also proud to know that everyone was relying on him and the equipment he serviced to get the job done. He was fortunate to work with guys who were willing to work with him, especially when he switched from safety to production.

Learning process: The learning process was tough; Steve wasn't mechanically inclined at first. One of the biggest challenges was the engineers always asking for more in production. Cell phones also started to change the job, especially on deepwater platforms that were so far out. They had to stay on their toes, relying a lot on their safety devices and electronics.

Another memorable accident: As the interview concludes, Steve shares one incident out of Cameron where they lost a platform to an underwater sinkhole. No one was hurt, but the platform was lost. He laughs as he says he could share "war stories all afternoon."

Willie Hernandez

Lafayette, LA
June 18, 2015
ML003

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala called Willie Hernandez and told him about the oral history project. Willie was interested in participating, so he responded to a mass email that Cherie Hebert had sent out about the project. We scheduled an interview with Willie at his office for June 18, 2015.

Willie Hernandez is from south central Texas. Willie started working in the oilfield as a welder. He later worked for Chevron as a roustabout. Willie earned his associate and bachelor's degree through the Nicholls State University seven-and-seven program. Willie worked for Chevron as a quality improvement coordinator. In 2006 Willie started working as an operations manager for an operating company. He currently works as the operations manager for the Marine Well Containment Company at Wood Group PSN.

Summary

Background: Willie Hernandez lives in Youngsville, Louisiana and has been in south Louisianan for 31 years. He was born and raised in Junction, Texas. He graduated from high school in 1975, and started helping some welders in Junction. Eventually, he was working with a group of brothers who were welders. They moved to Amelia, Louisiana, and Willie went with them. In 1979, he passed his first welding test. He bought a truck and worked as a contract welder. In 1981, his work as a welder slowed down so he started working offshore as a maintenance welder in a Gulf Oil facility. During that time, he started building relationships with the foreman–he swept decks, mopped oil, ran the crane, and led a crew. The foreman offered to hire him, but he actually declined the first time because he wanted to do other things.

As a young man, Willie had Hodgkin's disease. Because of the treatments, he was in and out of work for over a year. Afterwards, as Chevron was buying Gulf Oil, he decided to start working for Chevron. He worked as a roustabout. He said he started at the bottom, started learning the operations part of the job. They started teaching him how to test wells, which helped him move up. Chevron sent them to training

and helped him pay for Nicholls State University's seven-and-seven program. He received an associate's degree in industrial safety, and bachelor's degree in petroleum technology.

During that time, he worked on different projects with Chevron, and started as a quality improvement coordinator. He then started working outside of the Gulf. Willie worked as a Gator Champ, which was a behavioral-based program. He also did evaluations for managers. He started getting involved with writing operations procedures. Willie was selected to be the team lead on that project; it was a team of 10. They did the project in 3.6 years when it was supposed to take 12. In fact, he said, he worked himself out of a job.

Eventually, he took a package with Chevron, and went to work with a contract company for about six or seven years. Then, he heard about a new company forming and came on board in 2006 as operations manager. He provided production operators for clients. They formed a specialty division to develop a competency program. He communicated with the international folks, and fit the existing programs to the Gulf. He helped start the Marine Well Containment Company project; he was on the management team for that project.

Major changes in the industry: Willie said communication with management and offshore guys was a big change in the industry. He explained that in the past they just threw fittings and other equipment overboard, or replaced valves and equipment that just needed a repair that cost less than a new piece. Willie said after communication improved, equipment was managed better. Also, in terms of safety, no one wore hard hats or steel-toed boots, and worked in shorts and t-shirts. That has changed dramatically.

Involvement with the BP spill: Willie won an integrity award in 2010 with his company because of the *Deepwater Horizon oil* spill. He explained they came in late, and formed a team. They started helping BP do management, inventory, and scanners. They had 220 people working after the spill.

Importance of communication: He said it is really important for communication to start from the management and go down. He said it is critical to the oil workers to hear things from the upper and middle management. He said they are there to support them. It is a team effort. He said the young folks nowadays are better about communicating with others. They use email and cell phones better.

First day offshore: Willie remembers his first day offshore, and specifically his first helicopter ride. He said he was scared. The blades were scary. He was listening to the safety film, but he was also listening to the guys in the helicopter telling stories. They were talking about the blades; they said do not walk next to the blades next to the helicopter. He landed on an offshore facility that had a wooden deck, so it was fairly old. Once he got hired out, he moved out further south to Chevron's farthest facility out. He said it was big, and had about 30 people on it.

Working offshore: He worked seven-and-seven while he was offshore, but he never worked a 14-and-14. Onshore, he was able to work five-and-two.

Household: He explained that back then he wasn't married, so he went offshore. He was single and he wanted to get hired on with a major oil company. On his mother's side of the family, no one had ever graduated from high school. Willie said that he had graduated and so did his siblings. Some of his siblings were incarcerated, but Willie chose his own path. Going to Nicholls State University helped get him out of offshore and into the office.

Education: Willie struggled at Nicholls State University. He explained that being from south central Texas, there wasn't a strong focus on academics. The first couple semesters, he struggled. He did the free tutoring that the college offered, and paid for math tutoring to get through. What he found out was that all

the people who did graduate with honors were not that much smarter than he was. All they did was five more minutes of studying and researching. So he spent the extra time studying. He got an award for the highest GPA of the seven-and-seven group. As for his work schedule, he got four days off at a time for class. Some days were all day classes. He studied while offshore. He had a manager that was big on education. So when there was recreation time he would get his books out and study. He said it took a lot of effort to get through that. He explained that a lot of the other guys ribbed him for all his studying. They said, "Why do you want to do that?" Willie explained he was in his 30s at the time, the other guys thought it was silly. But he wanted to get a degree. He wasn't married at the time, so he studied. Only some other guys were doing the same program.

Career highlights: He said one of them was when he got the call to know if he wanted to go to work for Chevron. He had had a couple interviews, but didn't think he was going to make it. One of Willie's goals was getting out of offshore long-term. Willie enjoyed time off with the seven-and-seven schedule; he played golf and such. The schedule was good, but in the long-term he wanted to get out of offshore and work five-and-two. It was a challenge. He was told right out of high school that he wasn't going to college, he was going to work. That day stuck in his mind. Those goals helped him get offshore. Some coworkers called when they heard he was taking a package from Chevron, and didn't want him to leave. He said that was hard. He also remembers the day he was selected to be an operations coordinator. That was a pretty big step for a guy from Junction, Texas.

Challenges: He said one challenge was not being from south Louisiana. When he started there were lots of cliques based on where people were from. Nowadays, that might be less of an issue. If someone is experienced and knows the business, it has more to do with your work ethic than anything else. Willie emphasized the importance of hard work, and says he is always willing to learn and change.

Industry cycles: He said there were some cycles. He remembers them, but he didn't think he got into the negativity of the cycle, he just dealt with it. He wasn't worried about getting laid off, because he did the best he possibly could. If he did get laid off, he couldn't have done any better. Steady, full steam ahead.

Risks: He said the industry is all about production, all about the dollar. He said that was a challenge. Once, he was put on the team for procurement. They were trying to get folks thinking about the hazards. It was very important to start writing down the hazards in black and white. He explained that there are a lot of policies and procedures for safety now, part of the team developed job safety analysis policies.

Safety: He said when he looks at the accidents that were happening back then, he sees that they were preventable. It was a challenge getting guys to follow the Job Safety Analysis (JSA). He said now everyone is on board. He said the industry is good on safety stuff; it is not an option anymore. He said as a manager, he has to promote safety. If the workers keep hearing from the managers that they want them to be safe, it instills it in them. It is a priority for his company; they begin every meeting with a safety moment. It is constant, and it has to be. He explained lately it hasn't been hard to get people on board. The young folks are pretty adaptive to the industry because they want to go to work. Someone can make twice the average annual salary going offshore. He thought the younger people are pretty smart nowadays. They pick it up quick. In addition, he pointed out following safety procedures is not an option. He said things can go bad quickly if there isn't a focus on safety. You have to be steady and talk about incentives and new policies.

Specialization: He said it is important to educate workers about everything you do. He said it is important to be the best employee you can be. Not only to the companies but also personally. He said people lose their jobs over complacency and doing the minimal amount of work. He said he doesn't want to get complacent; he wants to be able to adapt to specialization in the industry. He said he will be a part of another project soon, called Operation Excellence, that promotes excellence in the field.

Lafayette: He loves Lafayette; there is no other place better than Lafayette. The food, the culture, and the people are the best. He explains it is blue collar, middle class folks that love life. It is the heart of the oilfield out here. There is a lot to do for old and young folks. There is music, food, and festivals. It's a great place to raise a family and live.

Lafayette and the industry: He said it is the center of the oil industry because Lafayette has always been the hub for oil and gas. It is a hub for companies getting started. A couple of years ago, there was a shortage of people in the jobs. A lot of folks were raising their sons not to go offshore because of the cycles. To all the young folks, he told them that they were the up and coming managers. He told them that if they learn everything they can, they will be project managers. That is what he tries to instill into the people.

Lafayette has always been the hub. The companies started here. People knew that if they wanted work, they came to Lafayette. The opportunities elsewhere are not as good as in Lafayette. If someone wants to get in safety, operations, drilling, or start their own business they can. Willie's wife works for a small safety company that is thriving in Lafayette. However, he knows other businesses in Lafayette have failed, and it is harder today to start your own business because of the price of oil.

Merger: He explained mergers are not fun. He explained he didn't know the people he started working with, and he didn't know the management. He said there is apprehension and anxiety, and you lose a lot folks, both those who didn't want to stay and those who were laid off. He said it was hard to decide whether to stay or go. It is tough on the families. He had to be willing to change, because things are always changing. If someone is not willing to change, they will struggle. Mergers also affect some companies more than others. While supply companies and catering companies might be doing well because of mergers, mom and pop stores might be struggling. Some companies might not be in business anymore. It affects everybody.

Networking: When companies merge, they already have some relationships established. Other times, Willie had go out and look for bids. One of his company's core values is localization, meaning dealing with local companies and people. Personally, he tries to patronize all local restaurants and stores.

Relationship with university: He explained that they don't have much of a relationship with the university but he wishes it was more. He thinks that they should have people from the university help them develop a database, this would also train people from the university. He said they should partner a lot more. Chevron had a recruiting team that went to the universities and recruited engineers.

Cooperation and competition: He explained there have been shifts in terms of cooperation and competition. He said in the past there was competition. At Chevron, you would never speak to a Shell employee. But now, he said there might be three or four people from different companies on one project. Everyone needs that help. It started out with safety related focus group sessions. Another company gave Willie's company 40 operating procedures, from which they developed 700 more procedures. This other company gave the procedures to Chevron to help them get started. He explained that collaboration started becoming more of the focus in the late 1980s. He explained that many of these safety procedures were site specific, and built based on specific facilities. When the deepwater drill started getting more used, companies started collaborating because it is very expensive to operate a deepwater drill. Then, onshore started similar collaborations. Now, everyone wants to help each other out.

Downturn: Willie said there is no work right now and everyone is holding on to what they got. No one is spending any money. He said he knows this industry is going to change, and it could be any minute. The

companies run pretty lean with support staff. Discern necessity and want, even in good times. He says many people in the business today operate like that, but not everyone.

John and Claire Hollier

Lafayette, LA
July 8, 2015
LL003a, LL003b

Ethnographic Preface

Steve Hebert, a previous interview participant, referred John and Claire Hollier to the research team. Morgan Lundy set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Laura Loewer co-conducted the interview. John and Claire Hollier met for lunch with Laura and Morgan at the Petroleum Club before beginning the interview.

John Hollier is from Lafayette, and began in the industry in 1977. He earned his degree in geology in 1979 and moved to Houston, Texas as a geologist working for Tenneco. Claire Hollier is originally from England, and grew up in the oilfield in Iran, where her father worked. She spent two years in college. She worked for Gold King Oil Company and was transferred to support in a secretarial administrative position in Houston. She currently runs an office in Lafayette. John and Claire worked for the same oil company in Houston and that is how they met each other. John and Claire moved back to Lafayette from Houston in 1995.

Summary

Career backgrounds: John moved to Houston for his job because he wanted to be part of the decision-making. He never thought he would come back to Lafayette; however, he heard from his brother about a job opening in Lafayette and moved back to work in exploration geology. He stayed in Lafayette 20 years with a company that became Ocean Energy and then Devon Energy.

Changes: John remarks on the influence of the industry over time and the careers for women. There were few women geologists when he began; women offshore would be locked in the infirmary at night. There were not many women in the industry. Now, there are many female cooks and geologists. Claire agrees more women are on rigs and platforms, and hold a more professional capacity in the industry.

Changes in technology: Computers were a huge change. What they've done is create a huge pressure on the industry to do things faster. When John began, his work was all pencil and paper. He says people today would have no clue what to do without computers; in some ways this has taken the skill and art away from the industry. He also says so much competition between companies changes how they do business.

Specialized training: John says he was impressed by the meticulous skill set required by geologists at his time. Drawing a map, for example, had to be incredibly precise. There were rigorous rules for creating prospects, something John sees as a skillset that is disappearing in the current generation. "They're not taught the same way we were taught." Claire mentions changes in regulatory compliance.

Challenges: John mentions the influence of oil prices. He says in the 1980s, they suffered a big loss, with over 50% of the employees he worked with being let go. He estimates that 50% of those people who lost jobs within the industry returned and 50% went somewhere else. He can only think of two people not

affected. John himself has gone through two to three layoffs. He recalls a good friend, a geologist, who was laid off for a year and the significant negative impact it had on his life.

Cycles by gender: John and Claire agree that men and women are affected differently by cycles in the industry. There is pressure for diversity in an industry with so few women. They know of a foreign national company that had hired a Hispanic woman, and she went through 10 rounds of layoffs without losing her job. Today, they say it is a more equal playing field and it's more normalized to see women in the oil industry.

Schedules: John didn't spend a lot of time offshore, and didn't do much field work, so he was not very effected by drastic schedule changes. However, he says one lesser-known schedule is lease sales, which happen two to three times a year. He says these can cause 24–36 hour workdays and they work for months at an absolutely grueling pace. Before 1983, there was a completely different process for evaluating projects in lease sales, known as the nomination process. He further discusses lease sales and their changes. The log runs he used to go on aren't done much anymore as it is expensive and took lots of time.

Changes in safety: Safety has become a major issue. Federal regulations and insurance have increased because companies don't want to have incidents they'll get sued over. His company recently had an incident, didn't follow procedures, and was sued. The cost to the industry overall because of safety is high.

Networking: John says many of his colleagues and friends stayed in Lafayette or retired here because they were able to get things done in Lafayette, and the size of the city was a huge plus. John says it would not be possible in Houston to work the same way people work in Lafayette; the city is too big. However, he says Houston is the hub for international and deepwater. John also notes wherever you are, you have to actively work at keeping contacts up.

Desk & Derrick: Claire discusses Desk & Derrick; they are a good organization for networking, though it is mainly women and few men. John interjects that women are also taking more leadership roles and he sees more professional female landmen in the industry than ever before.

Expectations by gender: From personal experience, John notes that in the past women have felt they needed to prove more than they do today; now they are more confident. Claire says there is more equality in the industry today. John says women may have felt they were being watched or judged on the job. He sees more women occupying professional roles and says those women he has worked with are very meticulous and they get the job done and go home.

Industry impact on Lafayette: Because John was away from Lafayette for 20 years, he says, there is a gap in his perception of the story in Lafayette. When he left Lafayette in 1979, oil was THE industry in Lafayette. Since they moved back, changes have happened. He mentions how LAGCOE (Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition) used to be a major event, and while it is still big, is nothing compared to what it used to be.

Lafayette and Houston: John sees diversification as the change to Lafayette's economy. He says Lafayette is not so large; you can drive across it in 20 minutes, and that is a plus for networking. This kind of work, running to someone's office to discuss a well, does not happen often in Houston from his experience. He says people are friendly in Lafayette and there is a strong interaction among people in business. He says businesses had golf tournaments and fishing trips, and there was more socializing in Lafayette.

A changing industry: John shares a few stories. He goes on to say that the industry has changed in a way that is going to hurt them. He says he's seen the industry, over the past 30 years, go from a very rigorous application of rules of geology and geophysics to where no one is encouraged to take risks. He sees this having an effect on the exploration side of oil, keeping companies in safer areas like shale plays. He says investors like shale plays because they are safer. John says competition sparked this. You have to succeed and no one is willing to take a chance and risk it. Early days, the wildcatter mentality was to try something regardless, but people are safe today. Overall, John says the industry is more competitive. There is not a place in Louisiana where 100 plus geologists haven't already worked. However, you'll always find people willing to get a project done. He says there is fierce competition.

Family in the industry: Claire's dad was in the oil business in Houston. "The industry isn't just our lives, but our history," John remarks. John's dad worked for Cleco for 45 years. Claire says her parents met in the industry, and "so did we."

Claire in the workforce: Claire worked in administration for over three years before meeting John. They had a baby and she left the workforce for a while, coming back to work after 20 years. However, she still attended conventions. Coming back to work after 20 years was very different, especially with the technological advancements. She says her responsibilities changed. Her job now in administration is to keep records and production recording, along with a "little bit of everything." John says people in the business are more well-rounded now.

Proudest moments: John says his job was to find oil and gas and make money, for both himself and his employer. He's proud to have made money for all his employers and to know he had done that work and caused that well to flow. "You get lucky every once in a while." Claire says one of the things she is most proud of is that she wanted to start something, and she helped set up the company she currently works for.

Claude Huntsberry

Erath, LA
June 24, 2015
ML012

Ethnographic Preface

Claude Huntsberry emailed the research team, voicing interest in being interviewed. He became aware of the oral history project after reading about it in the Advertiser a few weeks prior. We scheduled his interview to take place at his home in Erath, Louisiana. Morgan and Laura conducted the interview together.

Claude Huntsberry is from Gueydan, Louisiana, but currently lives with his wife in Erath. Claude has been in the oil and gas industry for 25 years. He started his oilfield career rolling pipe, but switched into production, where he has stayed for the last 18 to 20 years. When he switched to production, he started out as a roustabout. Over his career, Claude has worked his way up to his current position as PIC-Lead Operator. In his interview, Claude discusses the changes in safety, regulations, and the types of workers who go offshore. He also describes the kind of racism he experienced offshore as an African American in the industry, and how the situation has improved over time. Overall, Claude has appreciation for the industry and his employer.

Summary

Background information: Claude is from Gueydan, Louisiana. He has lived in Erath for the last 17 to 18 years. Claude started in the oil and gas industry 25 years ago. He started rolling pipe, but changed to production, which is where he has worked for the last 20 years.

Start in the industry: Claude used to be a truck driver. One time when he was making a delivery of oilfield equipment to Intracostal City, Louisiana, he saw a sign advertising that Danos & Curole was hiring. He pulled his 18-wheel truck over to apply. He did not have any experience but was hired. His career has mostly been in production, which has had more job security.

Working offshore: Before working offshore, Claude had worked in the oilfield, the military, and in truck driving. He was used to being away from home. When he first went offshore he knew he could not leave because he was surrounded by a large body of water. The guys were nice and made him feel comfortable. He started his offshore career working as a contract operator for Shell.

Offshore schedule: The seven-and-seven schedule was different than what Claude was used to when he was truck driving, where he could be called away at any time. Claude knew with the offshore schedule that he had seven days off. He thinks the 14-and-14 schedule is even better. He misses some holidays and special occasions, but he and his family make up for it and celebrate together when they can.

Racism: Because he is African American, Claude faced a lot of racism when he first entered the oilfield. At the time he entered, companies were trying to make sure racism was not an issue, but there were still instances occurring. Claude shared a story of going to a new facility and having a racist roommate. These kinds of instances hardly happen anymore; the companies are becoming better at weeding out those people. In the past, Claude would ignore those moments of racism because he needed the job; that does not happen anymore.

Safety: According to Claude, working in this line of work is one of the most dangerous jobs. As a PIC-Lead Operator, Claude makes sure everyone under him adheres to the safety regulations released by the Department of the Interior. It is safer now to work offshore, if one abides by those regulations.

Training others: Claude likes his current superintendent that he works for; he is very intelligent and knows a lot about every aspect of the job. Claude's superintendent sends him a lot of new workers without experience to train them; Claude thinks his supervisors have faith in his ability to train the inexperienced workers.

BP spill: Claude was working for Black Elk when the *Deepwater Horizon* spill happened. Things happen sometimes that cannot be controlled. He talked about the importance of having an attitude of wanting to be safe and compliant when working.

Changes in safety: There have been a lot of changes in safety guidelines. Claude shared a story about how when he first started there was a man who would leave every night at 10:00 to let oil into the Gulf because the safety device would not shut off the platform. Now those kinds of things do not happen. The company Claude works for now will stop the job if it is unsafe. Things have changed; back then people did not care as much about safety. Now the government releases many regulations, but he knows these regulations result from someone's death or injury. People do not like these regulations because they are time consuming, but Claude does not mind them because he does not want to get hurt.

Changes in the workforce: There has been a change in the people who work in the industry. There is now a younger group of people who do not want to work as hard. They want to sit down after their rounds

and go on their computer. Claude used to be on his social media all of the time, but his current supervisor does not allow it. When someone is on social media, that person is not working and is not aware of what is happening. The new guys do not want to work as hard even though they only work half of the year.

People from new places: The newer people in the oilfield come from all over the country and all over the world. It used to be just people from the south who worked on the oilfield, but it is changing.

Changes in hiring: There still is the "good old boy" system when hiring people to work in the oilfield; people use their connections when times are slow. Now, hiring is based more on qualifications. Some companies like to hire people without experience so they can train them to work how the company wants.

Mobility: Claude started as a roustabout and worked his way up to PIC-Lead Operator. He has had his current position for the last 10 years. Claude works for a small independent contract company. In those kinds of companies the highest position someone can work up to is a production superintendent, aside from management positions. The major oil companies have more opportunities for quicker mobility.

Shallow water and deepwater: Claude started out in shallow water. His first time offshore was in 50 feet of water and he currently works in 600 feet of water. He has worked on a deepwater facility that was in 3,000 feet of water. At his current facility there are not many other facilities, aircrafts, or boats around. The deepwater facilities are even more isolated; there are fewer helicopters that come out because of the cost. The deepwater facility was nice and big, and had more people on it. He had to deal with more personalities.

Women in the industry: At the deepwater facility Claude worked at there were women engineers and women working in production. When Claude first started there were not a lot of women working in the industry. There recently has been an increase of women.

Downturns: Claude did not feel many impacts from the downturns in the industry. There are layoffs, but not many. He has actually seen a lot of hiring happening during downturns. Most of the layoffs happen on the drilling side. The production side is not affected as much.

Why this area: Claude could not have had the same success in his career if he had not been in the area by the oilfield and Gulf. Living in south Louisiana affords one the opportunities to work for oil and gas companies. Living in the south gave Claude the opportunity to do and enjoy what he does.

Relationship between the Lafayette area and the industry: According to Claude, about 80% of the people in the area are employed by the oil and gas industry. The industry has given people in the area a good life. If it were not for the oilfield there would only be rice farming and seasonal work. Anywhere south of Interstate-10 and along Interstate-49, most of the people are employed by oil and gas. The oilfields have kept the economy up.

Coworkers: Claude shared that he has met some amazing people working in this industry that have become family. Because he works for a small independent company, Claude has not become a number; his supervisors care for their workers. His supervisor calls and asks about his family. Claude enjoys what he does.

Benefits: Working in this industry has afforded Claude to have what he has. He was not making as much money when he was truck driving. Claude enjoys the people he works with. He likes being able to fly while getting paid. There are not many jobs that allow people to work half the year and get paid as much as he does.

Appreciation: When Claude's current company bought the properties of the previous company he had worked for, his supervisor told him he would not get a raise because he was paid more than other lead operators. They wanted to catch their lead operators up to Claude's pay rate. Claude said he understood and said he would stay with the company as long as he agreed with what they were doing. Eight or nine months later Claude got a call from the production superintendent to inform him that he would get a raise because of the quality of his work and his direct supervisors wanted to make sure they kept him. When the company shows appreciation, it makes Claude want to stay working where he is.

Sons in the industry: Claude's oldest son was going to Nicholls State University. He got a job over the summer working for the same company as Claude. He enjoyed the job so much he never returned to school. He's worked in the industry for 14 years. He just got a promotion working for BP. His youngest son worked for Claude six or seven years ago. He did not like flying and being offshore. Claude talked to his son and said he didn't have to work offshore; he was relieved.

Wife: It takes a certain kind of person to be married to somebody who works in the oilfield. Claude depends on his wife. She raised all of the kids and did a good job. She had to take them to sports and other events.

Retirement: Claude has had good and bad experiences and worked for good and bad companies. Claude is getting older and realizes what he has learned and what he still has to learn. He has 10 more years before he retires; he does not want to be one of those guys in their 70s still working. In 2010 he stopped working offshore and started working at O'Reilly's; his friends kept asking him when he would come back offshore. He only stayed away for six months.

Bob Ingram

Lafayette, LA
July 29, 2015
LL016

Ethnographic Preface

Bob Ingram's former employee, Dolores Hawkins, referred the team to Bob. As a favor to Dolores, Bob agreed to do the interview. Laura Loewer met Bob at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 29, 2015 to conduct the interview.

Bob Ingram is originally from Missouri. He attended Missouri School of Mines, graduating in chemical engineering. Out of the US Army in 1959 and with jobs hard to come by, he got two offers to work for Philips Petroleum and began his career in production around the Texas panhandle. He worked between Texas and Oklahoma for many years. In October of 1977, he transferred to Lafayette, but only stayed eight months. His second transfer in 1992 was permanent and in 1999 he retired from a career with Philips Petroleum as a regional manager overseeing southern Louisiana and offshore production.

Summary

Career overview: Bob Ingram attended Missouri school of mines, graduating in chemical engineering. He went to work for Philips Petroleum in the oilfield in the Texas panhandle at a plant. He worked in Texas for five years before getting a job in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma doing natural gas processing. In his first year in Oklahoma City he came on with a team working outside of Houston, Texas. He was transferred to Houston after a company restructuring deal and continued as an engineer with the plant start up. His next transfer was to Alvin, Texas, close to Houston, where he got involved in production. In

October of 1977, he transferred to Lafayette, Louisiana. Within his first month of moving to Lafayette, the main office called and said he wouldn't stay in Lafayette long. He worked eight months Lafayette as a senior engineer in production, then went back to Houston in 1978 to supervised the Houston and Lafayette region for production engineering. Bob transferred again to Oklahoma City as a regional manager over production, and transferred again back to Texas as a district manager, then back to Oklahoma again for five years. He says this was the time drilling went down and the industry took a downturn. He was transferred to Lafayette in 1992 as a regional manager, and stayed with the job in Lafayette until his retirement in 1999. During his last two years working with Philips Petroleum, they were reorganizing their systems, combining to one accounting process and reducing their office presence in Lafayette.

Office locations: In the 1970s the Philips Petroleum office was located in the Oil Center. In 1992 when Bob returned to Lafayette, they had moved to an office building on Kaliste Saloom Rd. In the 1970s, he recalls, the Oil Center was almost exclusively oil with a few medical buildings, a five-and-10-cent store, and an upscale clothing store.

Changes in the workforce: He doesn't recall many women working in the industry. Even later on in 2000 as he was retiring, he said, there were a few but not many. He said there weren't many women outside the office, but he does remember a woman safety supervisor in their production group.

Significant moments: His time in the processing plants he worked in early on, and helping build a small platform were memorable. There was a particularly large project he worked on called the Mahogany project, in which the main focus was sub-sea drilling (drilling through salt domes) and he explains the process. He said there was a lot of publicity from the project with the large platform they had built.

Networking: Bob recalled some networking in the 1990s in Lafayette, particularly at the Petroleum Club. Philips would also fly employees to Houston for meetings, so not all their work and networking was exclusively in Lafayette.

Comparing Lafayette to elsewhere: For Bob, Lafayette has a willingness to do things for you. The Oil Center made it more attractive for companies to come in. Transportation facilities here (the airport), and the university helped with the industry as well, providing testing facilities. A lot of training was required for the job, and he took classes in Lafayette on artificial respiration training. He mentions Chevron has a training center in Lafayette and when they started operating in the China Sea, they would bring employees to train there.

Cycles in the industry: Bob notes that when the industry "is booming, it's booming"; the oil industry quickly moves people, as he has personally experienced. In 1992, the oil industry was going well and was not a problem that Bob could see when he moved to Lafayette. He says the industry slowed around the time of his retirement in 1999; his company was closing offices and moving employees. Some of the larger companies at the time in Lafayette (Union Oil, Chevron) moved to bigger cities when the majors left. It was the general trend of the industry to move to bigger cities like Houston and Dallas. Chevron made their main office in New Orleans. Philips moved their geology department to Houston when things slowed down in the 1980s, and moved their production office from Morgan City to Lafayette as they consolidated offices in the 1980s as well.

Job mobility: There were a lot of opportunities, and you had to impress the right people to move up in the job. However, with all his transfers early on in his career, he did not want to leave Lafayette after they moved in 1992 because his wife likes living in Lafayette. He describes Lafayette as unique, and "very different from other parts of the country."

Proudest moments: He said he gained a lot when he transferred from the plant in Texas to the production department, and noted it was significant for him to be there. It was an opportunity he likely would not have had if he hadn't transferred. He goes on to share about starting up a project at Philips and how these transfer opportunities gave him a lot of exposure to different facets of the industry. He reflects on the job process, saying that to be seen as being able to do something you have to be able to make things change; you can't do it the same way over and over without looking at other ways of doing things. He said one integral part of this is a willingness to listen to other people and their ideas. Bob goes on to share some of his other learning moments in the company, mainly in Texas and Oklahoma working at production plants, and working on wellheads.

Competition and cooperation: Bob says in industries like this you have to work together. Wells might have oil or not, and if you don't get together you could be spending twice as much sometimes to get the job done, especially if the well ends up dry. Companies buying leases next to each other made for cooperation with getting production done in a profitable way.

ULL: He mentions one engineer that taught a class at UL in petroleum engineering at night, and how he came in as a guest speaker during one of the evening classes.

Family in the industry: In the 1930s when oil was discovered, Bob had an uncle who worked in the industry. His dad went there to work on oil as well, but ended up working in the dairy industry, because he felt he was "too small" to work on rigs and thought the oil industry wanted to hire "big" people.

Education: Bob concludes by discussing what courses he took in school, including petroleum refining, geology, and production. He says while it didn't fully prepare him, it gave him a terminology and a basis to communicate with people. The reason he went to school was that jobs were tough to get when he got out of the US Army in 1959. He got an offer from Philips Petroleum Company and Philips Chemical Company and didn't know which to go with, making up his mind about petroleum, which he made a long career from and learned a lot.

John Kelly

Houma, LA
July 23, 2009
JC323

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Kelly was referred by John Monteiro, who had hired Mr. Kelly to work for him briefly in the mid 1980s. He has wide ranging experience in construction, operations, and sales with numerous sectors of the oil industry. As a result, he knows many of the contractors and service companies that have arisen in Houma since the 1960s. Mr. Kelly provided insightful comments on the transitions in the industry throughout his career. His wife joined us for segments of the interview, and makes several comments. We met at their home in Houma, Louisiana.

Mr. Kelly was born in Ada, Oklahoma, in 1930. His father worked for Kerr-McGee and therefore John was familiar with the oil industry from a young age. He was married in 1950, and then went to Korea in the US Marines. Upon his return in 1952, he began working for Associated Rentals, which serviced the oilfield of the Louisiana coast. He then took a sales and operations job with Drilling Tools Co. based in Lafayette in 1957. He moved to Houma in 1959 to work for Delta Ironworks in fabrication and construction. In the early 1970s he took a job with Luke Construction, laying pipeline and constructing

offshore facilities. Luke went bankrupt in the early 1980s, and Mr. Kelly worked for John Monteiro and finally the Dupres Brothers in operations and sales before retiring.

Summary

Born in Ada, OK, 1930. Father worked for Kerr-McGee. Married in 1950; fought in Korea with Marines from '50-'52. Worked for Associated Rentals from '52 – '57, oilfield supply company on Gulf Coast. Did sales and operations for Drilling Tools Co., in Lafayette, from '57 – '59. Moved to Houma in 1959, took job with Delta Ironworks, fabrication and construction for oilfield. Early 70s started with Luke Construction, laying pipeline and construction offshore. Worked for John Monteiro and Dupres Brothers doing similar work until retirement in 1990s.

Noted massive influx of workers in 1970s to region; many "snowbirds" from the north, particularly Chrysler autoworkers seeking work as car industry crashed. Also many degreed workers entered industry, skills of workers paralleled technologies developed, as tools and services advanced. Many labor saving devices introduced in late 70s and 80s. Discussed rise in regulations and certifications – began scattershot, each company with its own, then standardized in 80s. Noted significance of Jones Act – made offshore limitless in terms of worker injury claims. Attorneys came on scene strong; overall skeptical of many claims offshore. Spoke about problem of keeping good hands after mid 70s; introduction of bonuses. Pipeline welders have no loyalty – loose canons. "Wobble" = hedging for more money. Noted the stress of being on 24-hour call; at the mercy of company men. Wives stuck together as if in the military. Spoke about a shift from hard drinking wild men in industry early on, to "better class" of people. Wild ones went overseas in 80s and 90s as tolerance by US companies dropped. Rise of consultant firms and contractors as major companies cut overhead, insurance. Host of mergers in early 80s cut out smaller oil companies, consolidated to few huge conglomerates.

Frank Knott

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015
ML038

Ethnographic Preface

Upon finishing his interview with me, Michael Castille suggested I interview some of the people he worked with and provided me with their contact information. Frank Knott was among them. Michael had called Frank and told him about the oral history project. I called Frank to see if he would be interested in doing an interview. Frank agreed to the interview; we decided to conduct it at his house on July 28, 2015.

Frank Knott started working in the industry in 1976 after graduating high school. He also studied petroleum engineering at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He has worked as a roustabout, in refining, mud logging, and in ML/WD tools (measurement/logging while drilling). Until recently, Frank worked at Pathfinder Schlumberger as the field operations manager.

Summary

Background: Frank started in the industry in 1976 after he graduated from Arnaudville High School. He went to the University of Southwestern Louisiana where he studied petroleum engineering; during semester breaks he worked in the industry.

Family background: Frank's family is from Arnaudville, Louisiana. His family worked on the dredge boats. Even though they weren't in the oilfield, his family was already used to the oilfield life. Frank's dad would be gone from home working and the family traveled around the Gulf Coast for work. During that time the oilfield wasn't big in the area.

Career overview: Frank started off working on the rigs as a roustabout in the 1970s. He worked his way to the rig floor. Frank also worked derricks. Towards the end of the 1970s Frank took a break from school and worked in a refinery in Duncan, Oklahoma for a couple of years. He moved back to Lafayette, Louisiana, but didn't get back in the oilfield for a few years until he ran a pipe yard. He got back in the service industry in 1984 and then the downturn hit. Because of its dependence on the industry, Lafayette closed down during the 1980s downturn. Frank decided to leave the oil industry; he worked construction and helped a friend with his restaurant, which Frank eventually bought. People kept asking Frank to come back to the oilfield but he didn't want to do it because he was burned by the downturn. He eventually returned to the industry, working at his friend's mud logging company. His position in the mud logging company prepared him for his work at Pathfinder. He spent a year as a mud logger before getting an entry position at Pathfinder where he got involved with ML/WD tools. Frank worked in the field for eight years.

Schedule: Frank spent long periods away from home. One time he got a call on December 10 for a job. He was promised the job would be only 10 days and that he would be home for Christmas. Instead of coming back after 10 days, Frank didn't come back until February. Frank usually had very little time off because he had a good work ethic and people wanted him on their jobs.

Offshore to onshore communication: Back then cell phones were just coming out and people didn't call from offshore. Frank bought calling cards so he could call back home once a week. He didn't use his cell phone offshore because it cost four times more. Some of the rigs had a debit card to pay for minutes on the marine call. If there was a tool problem or if someone needed advice from the office, that person had to use the company man's phone; you didn't want to make a call in front of the company man in fear of looking like you don't know what you're doing.

Challenges: The accommodations were not typically as glorious as they seem on TV. As a service hand, you were more transient and the best accommodations were already taken on the rig. The family aspect is different; you are getting compensated very well, but you're gone. Frank was lucky because when he started working for Pathfinder, his son was older. He didn't see his granddaughter very much during the first six years of her life.

Benefits of upward mobility: As you progress through the ranks you get more time off; Frank wanted to get as high as he could as quickly as he could so he could get more time off. He wanted to get to a level five position where he could run any tool and be on call for four weeks and off for one week. The more tools you could work, the more money you could make; Frank wanted to make as much money as he could while working offshore. Past experience in mud logging helped Frank better interpret MWD readings.

Transition from restaurant industry back to oil and gas: It wasn't difficult for Frank to transition back. While he was employed at the restaurant, he could be home every night, but he made five times more money in the oil and gas industry; his wife was ok with him going back in the oilfield.

Tool development: The tools kept improving. Back in the day, you could only drill straight down; now you can drill directionally and horizontally, thus increasing contact area. When Frank started, MWD had just begun and drilling was difficult. When Frank came back into the oilfield it improved. There was also minimal computer help when Frank started. Gamma tools developed to help figure out if you are in sand

or shale. Resistivity tools developed to determine if you hit saltwater or something else. Density tools developed to figure out if you hit gas or oil. Sonic tools tell the permeability of the formation. The more tools used, the higher the price for drilling. It's important not to specialize in just one tool; you have to have a good understanding of all of them. You have to watch the tools because everyone's lives depend on it; "we are the warning guys."

Change in political correctness: Back in the 1970s workers were treated badly. The company man was hardcore and could tell you anything he wanted; on that rig he was god. Lawsuits caused a change in the treatment. People need to be told when they aren't doing things correctly. Frank is not a politically correct person; he says things that aren't politically correct in order to get a certain response.

Change in the workforce: When Frank hired on with Pathfinder, you just needed a degree. Now people need specific technical degrees as the wells get more complex. Pathfinder wasn't big on hiring women and Frank didn't know why. Back in the day there were absolutely no women. Frank doesn't care about sex or race as long as person can do the job. There are some things women can't physically do, but they can get help. Schlumberger, Halliburton, and the majors were into gender equality. Specific changes had to made to the rig to accommodate women. The companies didn't want make those accommodations because of the cost, but it improved life on the rig for everyone because they had to update the living conditions.

First day on the rig: At the time Mike was 5'8'' and weighed 135lbs; he had to move 100lb bags of mud and restack them. There was a crane, but they didn't want to use it because they didn't want to wear the crane out. Guys got hurt moving the bags. The cook on the rig made soup every day that wasn't very filling, especially for guys working 12-hour shifts. Back then there weren't lunch breaks and the guys would have to cover each other for 10 minutes to go eat. On the rig there were no such things as day, night, weather, or holidays; you had to work the whole 12 hours without stopping for any reason. If there was down time because a tool wasn't working they would scrub down the rig; other than the derrick man, the guys didn't wear a safety belt.

Safety changes: Nowadays there is more comprehensive analysis of what's happening on the rig floor; that didn't happen in the earlier days. Now there is a focus on making sure people don't get hurt. Safety is big thing now. One time there was a waterspout while Frank was on the rig and the toolpusher had him keep working. Now the companies protect life and limb; it makes sense because they'll pay for it one way or another.

Where Frank worked: Frank worked mostly in shelf water. He did a few deepwater projects. The cost for the deepwater rigs was so high and it put more financial liability on the tool companies. The marsh rigs are in poor shape, the shelf rigs are a little bit better, and the deepwater rigs are luxurious. On the deepwater jobs he got to take a helicopter to the rig instead of taking a boat. Deepwater tool operation was basically the same as shelf water, there's just more risk involved and you have to pay attention; there could be an incident like *Deepwater Horizon* blowout

Relationship between the oil and gas industry and Lafayette: There's a symbiotic relationship. Even though people say Lafayette has diversified after the 1980s downturn it is still dependent on oil and gas; that industry spends the money. More of the service companies have come into the area; it's a hub. The trickle down is from the industry. If the current downturn continues, the effects of the industry on Lafayette will become more evident in housing prices and the tax base, which supports the town, parish, and schools. Lafayette would've been bigger if it weren't for its location away from the coast. Other places also catered more to the industry. In the late 1980s the majors closed their offices in Lafayette and moved to Houston. Everything is dependent on the oilfield and its money. When Frank was in school,

USL had the top petroleum engineering program in the nation. Lafayette has been accommodating to the oil and gas industry.

Downturns: After the 1980s downturn, Frank became prepared for future ones. Some people learned from the downturns; others didn't. Some kids don't realize the industry can turn at any point and spend their money unwisely; that's how some companies operate, too. Better companies learn from the downturns. In previous downturns, at the company Frank worked for, layoffs were the last thing to happen; the company used the slowdown as an opportunity to further educate and train employees so they were prepared for when things picked up. This downturn is a harsh one and people will get laid off; companies have already started filing bankruptcy because they were living too high on the hog. When Frank got laid off this downturn, he was ok because he had been preparing. The industry is cyclical; if people don't learn from past mistakes they will keep repeating them. The banks have learned from the downturns; now they don't invest completely in oil and gas. The city and the companies have started planning their budgets better.

Networking in Lafayette: Everybody in Lafayette knows each other; that's why people are so nice because you never know when you're going to need a friend. People who live here have been here for a long time, or have chosen to stay if they're from out of town. Lafayette is like a big family. People at the company he worked for didn't change jobs often; people did if there was a better opportunity.

Equality in networking: There is still an attitude from some people that women and people of other races have their place; Frank thinks people with this attitude need to catch up to the 21st century. There are some women in prominent positions but they are still way behind. The hierarchy is still tied to the good ol' boy network. If you prove yourself the word will spread.

Changes in technology and the support center: The advent of the satellite system enabled communication; if you had a problem you could avoid using the company man's phone. Then they started backing up the data from the job. With the internet they could also do remote operations. Later on they could remotely log into people's computers offshore; Frank could monitor people's work and operate the computer. They opened the support center, which ended up being a double-edged sword. Frank could work on projects anywhere in the world from the Lafayette office. The company pulled three of their best guys (including Michael Castille and Frank) from the field to start the support center. It was beneficial because they could be on 50 jobs and help the guys in the field. However, the company started hiring less knowledgeable people and placing the burden on Frank and the support center people. Frank made a point to explain how he solved a problem to the people he helped. The support center helped keep the company man from knowing the technical problems the guys were having; it built confidence from the company man. The satellite system made the support center possible and helped with communication.

Fiber optics in Lafayette: Pathfinder ran cable and fiber optics. The jobs are now being run from town. The office has instantaneous data because of the fiber optics; they can see everything going on the rigs from the camera systems. The company man and the people in town are watching the job through the camera systems. The camera systems allow the company man to manage four or five jobs, thus lowering the overhead cost.

Proudest moment in Frank's career: On one job there was a major tool problem. If Frank and the others couldn't fix the problem, the crew would be run off from that rig and the other rigs they were working on and wouldn't be able to work for that company for six months. Frank figured out a solution using a calculation; everyone told him it wouldn't work. While doing it Frank realized he had made a miscalculation and fixed it: it worked. Frank saved the three rigs and the client offered work for two more rigs.

Billy Richard: Frank had a reputation for purposefully breaking things to see if he could fix them. His mentor, Billy Richard, set up two systems in tandem and let Frank run one like he wanted; Billy told Frank, "There is nothing you can break that I can't fix." It was nice knowing Billy had his back. Frank got so good at what he does that Billy would call Frank for help; that was a good feeling and showed how much Frank had learned.

James "Phil" and Patricia "Patty" Lacasse

Lafayette, LA
July 13, 2015
LL004a, LL004b

Ethnographic Preface

Phil Lacasse heard about the oral history project from the KATC-3 News story and emailed the research team to set up an interview. His wife, Patty, accompanied Phil and participated in the interview.

Phil Lacasse has been working offshore for 39 years. He started in the oil industry in 1975 working in Lake Charles, Louisiana for Dresser Atlas. From there he went to work in production for Chevron USA in 1979. In 1981 he went to work for Mesa Petroleum and throughout the mergers he worked 28 years with them until they were sold. He worked for Pioneer, North Star, and Anchor, all on the same platform. Phil graduated high school in 1971 and he and his wife were married in 1973. In 2015, he still works offshore and he and his wife Patty have raised two daughters and one son out of their home in Iota, Louisiana, about 45 minutes west of Lafayette).

Summary

How Phil got to Lafayette: According to Phil, "That was the place. If you wanted a job offshore in the 1970s, Lafayette was ground central." Everyone had an office in Lafayette, and if you wanted a job, you got hired out of Lafayette. (Unless you went to Houston and worked out of their divisions.) The principle offshore divisions were all out of Lafayette, but now, "nobody is here no more."

Changes: Phil says things changed from the 1970s mentality of "get it done" regardless of cost or how the job was done, to where the companies started having less "cowboy" mentality and got more serious with the environment, personnel training, and safety training. Back in the day "you were hired for what you knew and when they didn't need you no more they got rid of you." He said there was not an expectation to retire from any company. Phil says he was lucky because he's never been laid off. He says in another way the industry has changed and consolidated, something he sees as both good and bad. He says the oilfield has "lost its character" from when we can get it done to "save the money let's be safe," but ultimately it still comes down to the bottom line.

Communication with home: When he was a service hand in the 1970s, talking to family was through a collect call via the ship-to-shore operator. The companies eventually had their own phone systems that allowed them to communicate with home much more easily, but back in the 1970s, he explains the process of calling home was a rare occurrence. You would only have three minutes to make your call, and the phone was locked the rest of the time. You had to be logged in, unlock the phone, make the collect call, and three minutes later you'd have to get out of line and let the next person go. Today, phones are allowed offshore and used in restricted areas, which people get fired for. Phil said the scariest thing he faces offshore is a phone call from family at one o'clock in the morning and not being able to do anything about it. Patty: "Oilfield wives don't ask permission. We do what we need to do." Phil agrees you have to have complete faith, and describes one man who said an offshore hand was a sociopath because you lead

one life onshore and one life offshore. Phil describes a defense mechanism people have and how that tender side is not possible to show offshore and the public's negative view of oil and the high amount of government regulation.

Transition from shelf to deepwater: Phil worked deepwater only briefly, and he says it is a completely different person who works the shelf than the person who works the deepwater. Your job duties were specific in deepwater, compared with on the shelf you were cross-trained to be able to do multiple jobs. Phil says there is not as much cross training today. He sees his two sons-in-law who are in drilling deepwater and on the shelf and the struggles they go through, and mentions how he thinks the Macondo-BP oil spill happened and who is responsible.

Changes in workforce: He said back in the day they worked really hard and would jump when the company said jump, but today people want offshore pay but still expect to lead normal lives at home. He speaks from personal experience about the type of person he sees working offshore today, something he attributes to education, class, and a "lack of common sense" where people don't want to learn, something that leads to compartmentalizing and not being able to thrive on the job.

Women in the workforce: Phil says there are a few, but you don't see women on the shelf because there are no accommodations for them. He also says it's harder, and notes a friend who worked for Exxon offshore for 30 years. "She went through hell—they treated her like dirt." He said she was a top employee. He remembers women helicopter pilots and boat skippers. He said while he isn't being chauvinistic, the women who would come offshore would use their gender to their advantage, either by not getting the job done, getting someone else to do the job, or calling out companies for discrimination. He says this is a perspective "everybody sees." However, he says women operators are fantastic because they see what's going on, and says women engineers he's worked with have all been top-notch. "I have this prejudice I guess built in that they never went through what we went through. Which I'm glad some of them never had to, but it's just a different world."

Cycles and schedules by gender: Patty says that when Phil began offshore he was working a seven-and-seven shift, and just recently his schedule changed to 14-and-14. When the kids were little, she said, it was difficult not to have that help. Now she sees her sons-in-law working offshore for two weeks at a time, which is hard for the kids. She says the women run the household all the time, even when the men are home. Phil agrees to keep a cohesive household you have to do that. Patty agrees it always falls back on the mom, even when they're home. She said you have other male figures to pick up that slack and she was lucky to have had her father-in-law nearby.

Home life and offshore life: Phil recalls when his daughters were first married and he apologized to his daughters for being gone so much from their lives. His daughters reminded him he was at plenty of field trips and sporting games, and argued he was there more than some dads who would work a regular business week, or five-and-two schedule. Patty and Phil share more personal stories of home life when Phil was home or working offshore. Phil said his schedule was always seven-and-seven, though sometimes he made crew changes on different days but it was pretty set in stone. Patty says they managed the schedule very well. Phil notes the differences between working offshore being almost a "demi-god," and the necessity of going through the perspective-shift of coming home and being part of the family unit again. They talk about community and helping each other out. Patty shares that they didn't often call when problems happened and did what they had to do.

Company socializing: There used to be company picnics in which corporate and office workers were actively involved with field personnel and their families. They were all encouraged to intermingle. Today, Phil says, it is a different mindset and office people don't want to mingle with the offshore hands. They

say the smaller companies would do that, but bigger companies don't care because it is all for the bottom dollar.

Mergers: Phil does not have a fond memory of the mergers. He said it was a get-it-done-as-quick-as-you-could mentality, and you were just a number to the company. Phil recalls the "Last one out of Lafayette turn off the lights" bumper sticker in 1985, and how it got so dangerous offshore because they weren't putting money into it taking care of it, and that they were reactive instead of proactive so when it was time to fix things they were often too far gone.

Being on the shelf: Phil describes the cramped and uncomfortable accommodations of offshore living. He also mentions some very nice places he's lived in. He says that the shelf people are the "skid row" of the oilfield because no one wants to put money into it anymore. He shares a story of how one employee didn't adhere to protocols on the shelf because he didn't think it was as important there.

Challenges: They share a personal story of vacationing in Pennsylvania and the negative perception people in Pennsylvania shared about the oil industry.Phil immediately mentions education. He says they are required by the government to have so many certifications, which often happen on your days off. Working seven-and-seven and having to do the three-day school throws you off. You have everything planned and then it changes. Wednesday you get home, you wake up Friday, and get depressed by Sunday. Patty says they get crabby the day before they leave to go offshore. Phil says even with 39 years offshore, every time he left it was still difficult. Patty says "it was better than farming. We had a set paycheck coming in."

Mobility in the workforce: Phil says mobility is there and if you want to go into a specialty you can do it. He says today you have to be ready to move, you can't say you'll do the same job the rest of your life. Right now, Phil thinks he will stay offshore for three more years. If you have good references and want to make a career change, it is possible in the oil industry. Phil says you stay friendly with people because that could be an opportunity for a job for yourself or for someone you know. He says in the oil industry your reputation is everything.

Networking: Phil says Lafayette is an excellent place for networking. Working for Chevron, he said, he was completely disgusted. He had a cousin working for Mesa, and went in with that reference (as well as his personal experience) and got the job. Back in the day, he said, out of high school many kids would be hired as roustabouts and then the companies would take the pick of the litter and put them in training to move up. He said you have to promote yourself and "treat yourself as a commodity." Today, he says, companies want employees with more experience. People who chose to be roustabouts for their whole careers ran into problems when they didn't have any further knowledge or training. No one gets a job without knowing somebody. He says in the Gulf Coast culture companies hire people who can vouch for them. You have to worry about everybody and not just look out for yourself.

How Phil got into the oil industry: Phil came from a farming family. He went to trade school for a while, and then got on with a service company who wanted country people. He rose up to being a mechanic and ran an offshore maintenance crew, and a good friend of the family suggested that with Chevron hiring he needed to go. He describes it as just like a family; you're always trying to help someone.

First day offshore: He went to the offshore division because he would make more money, only to find he was seasick. He describes the boat he went out on that was similar to the boats in the movie "Saving Private Ryan." But he chose to stick with it, despite the difficulties. He refers to that time as "the dirty '70s" and it was "nothing to see someone crushed, burnt, cut up" and nobody cared. He recounts a story of an injured colleague and other difficult moments of offshore life.

Lafayette aspects that make the oil industry possible: Phil says they have tried to make the industry work other places, with it being semi-successful. In the 1970s you had to get things out of Houston, and now there is a joke—Houston calls Lafayette and Broussard, Louisiana for services and parts. Service companies here are innovative and will build anything. He calls it the "can-do" attitude. Patty agrees that is the culture—if you needed something, you did it, and that attitude carried over to the workplace. Phil and Patty elaborate on the cultural aspects of their community.

Lafayette expertise: Lafayette has a reputation, according to Phil. Every time there's an oil boom, there's a Louisiana truck at that site. You will see Lafayette or Broussard on the truck door. Phil says they've established themselves so well that no one wants to build anything anywhere else because you won't find the talent you'll find in the Acadiana area. He likens the work they are doing to NASA, and if you can draw it, they can build it. He says you won't find that expertise elsewhere.

Changes in technology: Phil says technology is fantastic and has grown by leaps and bounds, with tools for education, reporting, and communication. They text photos now when there are issues to fix, with a much faster turn-around time. Phil and Patty talk about technology changes: computers have changed by replacing the 11 clipboards you had to use to handwrite all the information on, saving them time and money. However, there is more immediacy with computer technology and people expect you to be more prompt with reporting.

Lafayette and it's relationship to the oil industry: If there was no oilfield here, Lafayette wouldn't be here; it would be a sugarcane field and nothing but a bump in the road on the way to Texas. Patty says a lot of places have closed recently but it is better in than in 1985. The Interstate-10 corridor would just be west Texas without oil in Lafayette. One little dip in the oilfield and people lose their jobs and it affects everybody, according to Patty. Phil says "I had heard on TV one time where Lafayette is in a place now where if the oilfield collapses, we are still going to thrive. This man was an idiot. He didn't realize the big dollars that are coming in are energy money." He talks about the cyclical effect of a down industry in Lafayette and how other businesses suffer in these downturns.

Companies learning from industry cycles: Phil shares strongly, "They'll never learn" because those veterans in the field are retired or have died. He shares a story about how what they do today will affect them next year. A lot of companies don't think about letting hands go, then 6–10 years later they can't expand because they don't have experienced hands. With a financial focus, the industry will constantly be in a crisis. Patty interjects that some companies are trying to keep their hands by cutting back hours instead of firing employees.

Lafayette culture and geography: Phil mentions a book written by several companies called "The History of Louisiana Oil." Lafayette, according to Phil, was a centrally located, flat, easy-to-get-to place. Highway 90 and 190 were close, and you had room for expansion. Patty says she can't see people in the northern states creating a place similar to Lafayette because of a difference in work ethic. In Louisiana, people work hard with their hands. They talk about the culture here and how it contributes to a successful industry here.

Patty's family in the oilfield: Patty had family in the oilfield and shared some of her family history of brothers working in the oil industry. Patty and Phil elaborated on the lifestyle that the oil industry could afford them, to where they could vacation, and how great insurance was on the job compared to people who don't work in the oilfield.

Proudest moments: Phil jokes that he "didn't get killed." He says, "Being able to adapt—so many people can't adapt." Doing his job, doing it well, and going beyond what is expected of him, including

staying more days offshore when someone else couldn't make crew change. The companies would reward him by letting him go home early if a helicopter came in. Patty said she knew if she needed her husband they would send him home. Phil shares being able to attend funerals of loved ones and how the companies made it possible: it was old school,when you were in a bind they would help you. You adapt and the key is putting family first, because if you don't have family behind you, you won't do as well. The hardest thing was coming home and catching himself trying to discipline his kids too hard as if they were employees, and he learned to keep that in check.

Albert J. Landry

Lafayette, LA
July 6, 2015
LL001

Ethnographic Preface

Albert Landry's wife, Carolyn, contacted the research team after seeing Morgan Lundy on KATC-3 News. They set up an interview with Albert at his home. Half way through his wife joins us, but does not say much until the recorder is off.

Albert Landry is from Lafayette, Louisiana. He is a helicopter mechanic, employed at PHI for 38 years. He began in the oilfield right out of high school in 1975. Albert's first 20 years at PHI were in the overhaul shop, inspecting parts and putting them together and sending back out to the field. Now, as a mechanic, he says, his main focus is to keep the helicopters flying.

Summary

Career background: Albert says he's always been into mechanics since he was 11 or 12 years old. So when a friend he went to school with suggested he try getting a job at PHI, he applied at PHI and they hired him. After 20 years working in Lafayette for PHI, the company transferred him to Thailand where he worked for one year. He also worked in Angola, Africa for one year, but both bases there are now closed. He currently (2015) works out of Cameron, Louisiana even though there is a PHI base in Lafayette and he lives in Lafayette. All the helicopters he works on service the oil industry, even though he mentions PHI also has a medical presence as well.

First day on the job: He remembers being nervous, but he was always into mechanics and enjoyed the work.

Schedule: Albert says his schedule allowed him to be home almost every night. In Thailand he never came home; his wife came out four months after he moved there. After moving back to Lafayette, he stayed in Lafayette about a year, was able to be home every night, and then went to Africa. His schedule in Africa was 28-and-28—he said it was hard but worth it. Today, he works a seven-and-seven shift out of Cameron, Louisiana. He says, "When I go to work I go on vacation." He says home projects can be a lot to keep up with, but he also notes that when he comes back home he's always looking forward to it.

Significant moments: A strong part of working in the oilfield and helicopter industry is you are able to come home and be with your family. PHI also laid off employees at times, but he was lucky he got to keep his job. He notes he enjoys his job.

Industry cycles: When the industry was going down, he saw customers at PHI moved. They may potentially move PHI, but have not moved yet.

Lafayette: Lafayette has always been a growing city, even with the hurricanes. He says it is a good place to be. He says Cajun culture makes it home. He wouldn't want to live in Houston and wouldn't want to have to deal with the traffic there. Albert says the industry is here to stay, and that it is good in Lafayette.

Challenges: Albert talks about hanging on to customs that are in Lafayette. He says he would go with PHI if they would ever close the Lafayette office and move elsewhere, however, because the home base is in Lafayette he says that PHI will stay here. He doesn't see the downturn and cycles of the industry having a particularly strong effect, though he admits it has been tough a few times.

Shift to deepwater: Albert says the industry is going more into deeper water with longer flight times and more work. He says some of the companies PHI serves are going overseas, which will have an impact because people will be moving out of Lafayette.

Competition and cooperation: He says companies have learned to be more competitive with other companies. However, he says it hasn't been as much of an issue with PHI. If a company leaves them and tries another flight company, they usually are unhappy with their new contract and will return to PHI. It is competition and cooperation, and this keeps balance of the oil industry moving forward.

Most proud of in career: Albert says he is most proud of being able to support his family, being able to come home and enjoy time with his family, and enjoying the work he does. He enjoys being able to do something and say he could fix it. He says he has always thought of the customers as the number one priority, and getting the customers to their jobs, which helps PHI do their work. He has pride in keeping the customer happy and getting the aircrafts up.

PHI, Inc: PHI began in 1949, and still exists today. He says as they move to deeper water the aircrafts get larger. They are moving to more of a presence in deepwater and PHI is developing a bigger presence overseas. Still, Albert says, the Lafayette office is the heart of PHI. His wife Carolyn interjects that PHI has been a good company and has been good for the family, and Albert agrees.

Lori Landry

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015
LL018

Ethnographic Preface

Morgan Lundy met Lori Landry at the monthly Desk and Derrick meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana. Interested in the research project, Lori set up an interview at the Petroleum Club with Laura Loewer. Lori was on lunch break and didn't have as much time to talk as she had hoped.

Lori Landry, a Lafayette native, began her career in the oil industry in December of 1980 working for a small independent exploration and production company. She has worked for two companies in her career. Lori is enjoying her 34th year in the industry at Bean Resources, a small company located in the Oil Center. She has also been involved with Desk and Derrick since 1997 and became the National President of Desk and Derrick in 2015. In her interview, Lori discusses changes in the industry's technology, workforce, and presence in Lafayette. She also talks about Desk and Derrick's role in the industry and community.

Summary

Background information: Lori Landry is from Lafayette, Louisiana. She currently works for Bean Resources in the Oil Center as the accounting-land manager. She has worked in the oil industry for 34 years, working for two small exploration oil companies where she handles all of the accounting, insurance, and land work. A member of Desk and Derrick since 1997, she became the Association President in 2015. Lori is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, a volunteer wedding coordinator and Eucharistic minister at her church, and a member of two Mardi Gras krewes in Lafayette.

How Lori got into the oil industry: Lori attended college for one year as a secretarial science major in 1980 when the oil industry was booming. She decided she'd rather work and make money instead of going to school, a choice she says, in hindsight, she regrets. She found a job through one of her professors and immediately went to work in the industry. She didn't know "one thing" about the industry.

First day of work: In December 1980 Lori went to work for a small independent production and exploration company. She didn't know what she was going in to do that day, and at 19 or 20 years old she had had no oil and gas experience. She notes as time passed, she learned through trial and error; something she says she continues to learn by.

Changes in industry: In the 1980s, Lori says, faxes and telephones were big, and then in the 1990s came beepers. Today, she says, they communicate in the business through social media and electronic communication—a change she says is "amazing." Drilling completion technologies have really evolved over last 30 or so years, and you can literally watch a rig being drilled from your desk, whereas in the past you had to be on the rig floor to watch it happen. Technology has evolved tremendously, including seismic technology, which decreases the number of dry holes that are drilled.

Changes in the workforce: Lori remarks she hasn't seen much change from a male-female standpoint in the workforce over her career. She assumes that in larger companies you would see this change, but, she says, working for a small company these changes aren't as evident. Today, she says, a college degree is paramount for getting a job with a company for any position in the industry.

Cycles by gender: Lori believes men and women are affected the same way by the industry cycles. The industry is so cyclical and has major ups and downs. When it is up, everyone is happy and has a good job. When it's down, it's not segregated by sex. Lori says everyone has to cut hours and take pay cuts, and there is no segregation in that regard.

Expectations by gender: Lori says this depends on where you work. She speculates in larger companies there would be an expectation that would be fairly lateral. In her experience, the expectations as probably lateral, but from the female perspective she finds the males are more reliant on the females in their roles, whether in accounting, or as an administrative assistant. She gives an example of gentlemen in the office always checking with her, and, while it makes her feel good, at the same time she finds she's still seen as a female and not an equal partner. She speaks to her personal experiences and says it may be different with another company.

Office in Oil Center: More companies have expanded outside of the Oil Center at this point, however in the 1950s–1980s the Oil Center was the place to be. When larger corporations moved out of the Oil Center it was unthinkable. Now, today, you have smaller entities in the Oil Center, smaller exploration and production companies. All service companies have moved to Broussard, Louisiana. She says this gives them an advantage to get offshore or get to the interstate much easier, logistically. Today she doesn't see much advantage to having an office in Lafayette, other than to come have lunch at the Petroleum Club.

Overcoming challenges in the industry: From Lori's perspective, that's where Desk and Derrick really helped her. One of the first days she started working, the company was drilling a well and the drill report came in with lots of abbreviations (e.g., BOP) and she wondered what that was. For herself, to help her understand this better, she joined Desk and Derrick. Desk and Derrick is an international organization in the US and Canada and was formed in the 1950s. This was a way to network with fellow professionals going through the same thing, trying to understand the oil companies they worked for. Being part of this organization helped her to better understand what she was doing and put a face to what was happening on the rig. Women were the executive assistants and bookkeepers and needed to understand what was going on at the derrick. When it was first formed, it was strictly for women, but as time went on men were encouraged to join. Lori describes Desk and Derrick in this current day as a group of energy professionals. She notes also that women are no longer confined to desks and the stigma of just being the secretaries is gone. She says it helps their employers for her to be involved with the Desk and Derrick organization. She spoke of a learning experience at the national convention where they toured an oil tank farm, and, she says, she learned from being involved. Desk and Derrick allows their members to see firsthand how things on the derrick work, and then enables them to bring that information back to the work place. By being involved at Desk and Derrick, Lori says, she learns things she can otherwise not get on the job, and can then take back to apply at the office.

Lori's involvement with Desk and Derrick: A member for 23 years, Lori has served at various capacities. The regional level encompasses three states: Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. In 2011 she served as the region's director, and from there she was elected to serve on the national board, and this year (2015) she has served as the national president. She describes this experience as extremely fulfilling, and knew she was driven to do this since she became a regional director for this organization. She says she's passionate about the industry and this organization and "wanted to be able to have a voice to educate not only myself and people I work with and our members, but to also educate the general public." She notes misconceptions about fracking and the oil industry as a whole. She says people don't fully understand what products are made from petroleum. Colors [crayons], combs, toothbrushes, balls—so many things are derived from petroleum products. She thinks people are misguided if they think wind power will provide these products. She says Desk and Derrick is a good place to be educated and to educate. The membership in 2015 in Lafayette is 60 members. They have monthly speakers who come in and educate at the meetings. They also volunteer at LAGCOE, and share a booth. They have a coloring book they created for children in fifth and sixth grade called the "Energy Activity Book" that teaches children how oil is formed and produced. They want to educate kids at Desk and Derrick because with the age group of energy professionals right now, Lori doesn't see as many coming into the industry as there are going out. She says she sees education as important in letting the next generation know oil and gas is a viable industry and they should get involved in it.

Member profile at Desk and Derrick: Unfortunately, Lori says, there are only women within the Lafayette chapter. She says larger cities like Dallas have men. The age group ranges between women in their 20s through 1970s and 1980s. The younger ones are the ones who are bringing the organization forward. She mentions the adage of "that's how it's done so that's how it will always be" and the younger members are challenging that adage. She says they are seeing their membership increase among younger members because they are excited and want to show passion for their industry. In 2013 her club hosted the regional meeting, and she gives an example of involving the younger people and the success it was. In 2014 the Lafayette club hosted the national convention in Lafayette with close to 400 people in attendance, again successfully engaging young people.

Networking: Lori says there are organizations like Desk and Derrick, but most educational organizations are specific to a given profession or job description, such as the Association for Drilling Engineers. Desk and Derrick is less technical and geared towards a more general audience. She describes Desk and

Derrick as more broad-based, to where they cover all parts of the industry and how things work from onshore to offshore. She mentions an amazing guest speaker who came and talked about the impact on families regarding the *Deepwater Horizon* blowout. She says from a networking standpoint they even help older members with posting to social media. In regard to opportunities for networking in the industry by gender, she says, there are the same opportunities for men and women in the oil industry.

Lafayette and industry: She says her company could exist anywhere. The companies she worked for and currently works for, none of the actual wells they work on are located in Lafayette; they are all out of town and out of state. Because they all love Lafayette and because it's a great city to live in and raise your family, there is really no need to move the office to where the wells are located, especially with current technologies. Lafayette is a growing city but still holds its small town values. Again, Lori says it is a good place to raise a family (Lori has one son). She notes it is a good crossroads between Houston, New Orleans, and down to the Gulf of Mexico. There are a lot of blue-collar workers in Lafayette who work offshore and for the service companies. She says one other quality of Lafayette is that you don't just become a number like in a big city.

Diversification: Lafayette has diversified itself and the companies have learned from what happened back in the 1980s. There is a strong medical community, a very strong fiber optics network, and movie industry. Having this diversification helps the energy industry, because if one struggles it helps to keep the city diverse and keep the city strong.

Lafayette identity, no longer an oil town: Lori agrees she no longer sees Lafayette as an oil town. She says Lafayette was always known as hub city because they were the hub in Louisiana between north, south, east, and west. In the 1950s–1980s Lafayette was dominant in oil and gas. She notes there is still a strong presence, but she says it is not strictly an oil town, and that "you can't be dominant in one industry." She gives an example of the Pennsylvania coal industry and the Detroit auto industry, and says the cities die because they're not diverse. Even through the current downturn, she says, Lafayette has remained strong and vibrant. As an example, she notes visiting any restaurant on any given day of the week and seeing they are full. She also says high traffic is an indication of the town doing well. She describes people in Lafayette as strong willed and optimistic; even though Lafayette is currently in tough times they will continue to thrive.

Impact in Lafayette: Lori knows of friends in the industry who have been impacted and only a few laid off. Some were impacted by pay cuts, and Lori remarks that those companies that cut pay are noble because they can keep their good employees. She says when you lay people off, because its so cyclical, people are very inclined not to go back into the industry. "You burn me once, ok, but don't burn me twice." Lafayette has been impacted but not too severely. Looking at the housing market, prices have not gone down in Lafayette and surrounding areas.

Technology: She can remember in the 1980s being linked into huge servers and now computers are so small. She cannot imagine doing accounting with columnar pads or having to calculate by hand how to pay a royalty. To have accounting and seismic software is helpful. She speaks of the mapping that has come from the computer age as phenomenal.

Most proud of: Number one, Lori says, she's proud to still be in the oil industry after 34 years, and loves the fact that she has learned many aspects of the industry because her job is so diverse. She has camaraderie with people and can help solve problems. Ultimately, she says, she is broad-based in what she's learned and is not limited to one particular job description.

Last remarks: Lori says she really does enjoying working in the industry, and remarks she is going through the third industry cycle in her career. At the end of the day, people need the energy industry, and

we will come back. She hopes to continue her career until they tell her it's time to go home. "Because it is so unique and it changes every day. I really feel like the energy industry is a wonderful industry to be involved in."

Jill Laroussini

Lafayette, LA
July 10, 2015
ML020

Ethnographic Preface

Diane Austin and I met Jill Laroussini at the Blue Moon in Lafayette, Louisiana during the Blueberry Festival. Through chatting with Jill, Diane learned that Jill is a nurse and that she had worked as an emergency room nurse from the late 1970s to the early 1980s in Lafayette. During her time working in the ER, Jill saw and treated offshore workers. Diane got Jill's contact information and passed it along to me so I could schedule an interview with her. We met on July 10, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana to do the interview.

Jill Laroussini is from New Orleans. She has been living in Lafayette since 1974. From 1978 to1982 she worked in the emergency room. She shared some of the most memorable injuries she had seen offshore workers suffer. She recalls how the oil and gas companies had company doctors that could treat only workers injured offshore. Jill has seen improvements in safety and health promotion practices from the oil and gas industry.

Summary

Background: Jill is from New Orleans and has lived in Lafayette since 1974. She learned about the oil and gas industry through her time working in the ER. Her father was a pilot on the Mississippi River.

Work in the ER: Jill started working in ERs in 1976 and then moved to the "pay" hospital in 1978. She would see mostly offshore workers with hand injuries; they had grease all over their hands and would use Go Joe Soap to remove it. Through these experiences, Jill learned about the tools and the risk in the industry. During her time in the ER (1978–1982) Jill saw an improvement in safety; there was an effort to reduce injuries in the industry.

Memorable accident: There were five people on a rig. They were doing a drill and they had to get in a lifeboat and be lowered 40–50ft down to the water. The boat was directly released, not lowered. An older man had a compound fracture in his leg and had to go to surgery. Back then oilfield companies had their own doctors. The ER tried to contact the company doctor, but couldn't get a hold of him. The ER doctor would not wait on the company doctor, so he called up the orthopedist on call to do the surgery. One of the other men in the accident had been working off shore to raise money for college; he had a broken back. That young man was from a small town outside of New Orleans. Most of the injuries from that accident were broken backs. Attorneys for the oilfield company showed up and so did the company doctor. The company doctor was upset that the ER doctors had worked on his case; it was a company policy nightmare. It was a disservice to those young guys to have this negligent accident. Jill visited the young man from the small town outside of New Orleans. That young man had been pressured into letting the company doctor care for him; she was hoping he would be transferred closer to his hometown. Jill saw fewer offshore injuries as time went by.

Jill's brother: Before she had worked as a nurse in the emergency room, Jill's brother had taken a summer job on a rig. A pipe blew up in the face of his supervisor. Jill's brother decided this work was not for him.

Injuries: The majority of injuries Jill saw involved hands and limbs; they got caught in the machines. The ER became connected to the hand surgeons in town.

Changes: The company doctor situation doesn't really happen anymore (Jill doesn't know for sure). Jill recalls the black binder with the names of company doctors. They always had to notify that doctor before treating the patient. Health care and illness care have changed. There are now contracts with walk-in clinics for pre-employment physicals. The oilfield has changed a lot; people from all parts of the country are working in the industry; not just south of Interstate-10. It was a way to make lots of money because the risk was high and the risk was injury.

Why fewer injuries in the industry: The oilfield companies got the safetyman position. Jill's brother-in-law was in charge of safety for many textile and food plants in North and South America. Jill and her brother-in-law would talk about safety and safety engineering; when you can identify the problem you can sometimes put in safety controls to fix it. There is more of a focus on root cause analysis.

Safety measures: Newbies on the rigs wear green hard hats to indicate they are new and that others have to look after them.

Training: Maybe some of the injuries offshore were caused by a lack of qualifications for the position they are in.

Medics offshore: Acadian Ambulance has offshore medics. Rigs operate 24-7; they have to focus on sleeping, eating, and everything else. They have to focus on being as productive as possible and reducing risks. There are medics on the rig.

Dad: Jill's dad's job was to climb ships. When transferring on different boats on the water he didn't feel secure or in control. Her dad knew he relinquished control when transferring ships. Her dad didn't trust those people pulling him up in the personnel basket.

Men on the river: Jill did not get to go out with her dad to his work until she graduated high school; there was a culture of men on the river. Her brothers got to go on the ship. The Pilots Association just recently accepted a woman and black apprentice. Sex is a bigger issue than race. Living quarters are less of an issue in regard to women because everyone now has their separate rooms. Jill worked home health and met a lot of oilfield people. The pilots are higher in the social hierarchy; all of them vote in Plaquemines Parish, which helped keep racist or sexist politicians in place. Louisiana has been a good ol' boy network for a long time.

Growth of medical industry in Lafayette: Jill doesn't know why it has grown. We need to celebrate wellness and healthiness and not needing new hospitals. Not only the injuries, but also the wellness side of health in other industries has fed into growth of the medical industry. Jill works one day a week with the brain injured and she also works with soldiers to settle the autonomic nervous system; there hasn't been a big growth in that area. "The university is a big draw." The medical industry across the country has grown. The pharmaceutical industries create new syndromes.

Proactive health: The oilfield has been proactive in the last 40 years to reduce injuries. A helicopter transportation company invited Jill to their R U Ok? Day. This started in Australia as a way to ask people about their mind, body, and spiritual health; they wanted to prevent suicides. The R U OK? Day was

meant to help figure out ways to reduce stress. Jill was invited to speak and present at the Ready for the Return Initiative. There is a billboard on University Avenue and the Throughway about injury free days; it's a promise. This indicates a paradigm shift in the industry to looking at wellness. Some of the hospitals in Lafayette have wellness programs; there's a slow paradigm shift to wellness.

Healthcare industry: The healthcare industry is all about business. Nurses don't go to school to learn business; they are there for the caring. There is a lot of lobbying from the pharmaceutical industry to push pills as the answer.

Personalities in the medical industry: Certain people are drawn to these kinds of medical jobs; Jill was drawn to the ER because of the excitement of trauma. Have to honor people who do that kind of work [oilfield?].

Edward "Ted" Latch

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
ML029

Ethnographic Preface

Ted Latch heard about the oral history project from the news. Interested in participating, Ted emailed the research team. We set up an interview at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisianafor July 21.

Originally from Philadelphia,Pennsylvania, as a child Ted Latch moved to Lafayette when his father got a job as a pilot for PHI. After graduating college, Ted began his 35-year oilfield career. He worked primarily for service companies. Ted stayed with his last employer, Schlumberger, for 25 years. Ted has worked in various parts of the industry including well completion and sales. He also worked internationally for six years. He recently retired from Schlumberger.

Summary

Career overview: During the summers, Ted would work for PHI where his father was a pilot. When he graduated college he started working for Sperry Son in directional surveying and stayed there for almost two years. It took a toll on his family life so he quit and moved to Shreveport. While living in Shreveport he got divorced and remarried. He moved to Sulphur, Louisiana and started working in the oilfield again in 1982 as an equipment operator. He was in an oilfield fast-track program until his mentor quit. Ted became an offshore cementer; he wasn't very good at that so he started working in the downhole tool department. He went to work for Vans Systems as a salesman. In 1984 and 1985 the oil industry was in decline so he went back into the field running downhole equipment. He then went into the perforating department and did that for several years; Halliburton bought them out. The oilfield went into another slump and Ted started selling oil well screens. In 1990-1991 there was another downturn and he was laid off. Ted went back to school so he could be a hazardous supervisor for hazardous waste disposal. In 1992 Ted went back to work for Dowell Schlumberger in the tool department; he had to work his way back up to being an offshore supervisor. He worked in the office preparing and designing jobs with oil companies and salesmen. He was then a technical engineer; he would assist salesmen in putting together their jobs. He moved to Rosharon, Texas and worked in the product center in rapid response tools. He then worked as a desk engineer and would help clients design jobs. While working as a technical engineer, Ted would go to different countries to check on jobs and work with the people there; he went to Pakistan, India, and Venezuela. For two years he was the offshore coordinator for a major project in Angola, Africa. Ted came back and worked on the Mad Dog project for BP for three years; it was a 30,000ft well. He worked in the

Gulf for three years and then started working for Murphy in the Congo. He also worked in Malaysia as an onshore coordinator. He then worked as a project engineer for Murphy oil in the Congo. He also worked in Nigeria as an onshore coordinator; he would fill in for sales engineers going on vacation. He was transferred to Cote d'Ivoire. He retired after 26 years because of the downturn.

Where Ted lived: Ted was based in Houston for a lot of his work. When he started working internationally he could live wherever he wanted, so he moved to Lafayette because that's where his family lived. He also lived in Houma while working out of Lafayette.

First day offshore: Ted's first day working offshore was in the 1970s; it was hell. He went out on a workboat. On the boat he fell asleep for eight hours and woke up at another port; the boat hadn't left yet because it needed to fuel up. He was on the boat for 12 hours and got seasick. Once he was on the rig, a fire alarm went off at 4:00AM; there had been a blowout. They evacuated the rig and got on a crew boat; it was a nasty boat ride.

Challenges: When Ted first started working in the industry he had longer hair and got harassed about it by the other guys. Languages were another problem for Ted. A lot of people spoke French on the land rigs and, when he worked internationally, people spoke other languages. Ted knew only English. Mobility was also difficult for Ted; it was hard to get promoted in service companies unless you were someone special. Ted was transferred from his job in Angola so another man could get promoted; Ted had to come back to the US.

Schedule: When he first started working, he would do the job until it was done. Ted would have some notice before being sent to work on a job. Ted did not have a lot of time off; there was no time off between jobs because he would go work in the office. While working in sales and in Rosharon, Ted had more of a normal schedule. As a desk engineer Ted would work until the job was done. When working internationally, Ted would work six weeks on and three weeks off. He would sometimes stay on a job for nine to 12 weeks. Ted also worked seven weeks on and three weeks off schedule. Service companies had harder schedules.

Downturns: Ted has been laid off and moved around because of the downturns. He weathered through quite a few. During the late 1990s and early 2000s a lot of people left the industry; there was an experience and knowledge gap as the experienced people left. Schlumberger told Ted to retire during this last downturn. If he had transferred to Cote d'Ivoire he might still be working.

Technological changes: The equipment Ted used to work with was so antiquated; now the equipment is so technical you almost need an engineering degree to read the blueprints. The way to do the job is the same, but now it requires more thought and sophisticated equipment. Ted worked on a well that was 9,500ft deep, which was the deepest well at the time; technology like semi-submersible rigs and remotely-operated vehicles have been developed and improved for deepwater work.

Change to individualized work: It used to be that one person could do two to three things, but now the work has become more individualized and more people go out on a job. Ted used to do a job all by himself. Part of the reason Ted was kept on so long with Schlumberger was because he could do lots of different things.

Transition from shelf to deepwater: Ted worked on land, shelf water, and deepwater. The equipment has become much more advanced. Land jobs were cheap and the equipment wasn't as sophisticated. The deeper the water, the more intense the work became.

Changes in the workforce: Schlumberger hired more engineers and people in fast-track jobs. People without engineering degrees wouldn't move up as quickly. The workforce became more intelligent. When Ted first started in the industry he got a lot of resentment from the people without college degrees. The company started transitioning guys who worked offshore into the office.

Computers: The computer was a technological boom for the industry. They were able to do things they couldn't have ever imagined and could do things they used to have to do by hand.

Women in the industry: For a long time the industry consisted of mostly men. In the late 1990s he saw more women; they worked mostly as engineers. There were a couple of women who worked offshore. It was difficult to put women offshore because there weren't separate living quarters and bathrooms. There are a lot of women in the industry now. Women work mostly as engineers. Sometimes they are worse than the men maybe because they feel like they have to prove themselves.

Lafayette and the oil and gas industry: Lafayette used to be extremely oil-related, but it's no longer an oil center. There used to be a lot of oil companies and service companies in Lafayette. As things got worse, major oil companies pulled out of Lafayette and consolidated and would go to New Orleans and Houston. Lafayette became a service company city. When the housing industry crashed, people moved out of their houses. Lafayette has become more of a medical city now. It made a big impact when the oil companies started leaving Lafayette; the city recovered through medical and other industries. Ted also explained problems with the infrastructure in Lafayette.

Memorable times: Ted recalls working on jobs for Schlumberger that got gold, silver, and bronze ratings. Ted won gold on the Canyon Express project and the 9,500ft deep well. Ted made friends and good money working in this industry.

Networking: Ted doesn't network [online?]. It's hard to put in a general resume; you have to go online to submit resumes. Ted has difficulties with the online applications. Ted's son works for a service company in Lafayette. Ted tried to get a job working for his son, but couldn't get one because they aren't hiring anyone in the downturn. His son got the job because family friends owned the company and they hired him.

What about Lafayette made Ted's career possible: Ted moved to Lafayette from Rhode Island. Lafayette was all about oil. Ted grew up in Lafayette. Both Ted and his brother ended up working in the oilfield. The money is good and so were the benefits. People no longer come down to Lafayette to work in the oilfield; people come down here to work in the medical industry or as lawyers (there are a lot of offshore lawyers). Lafayette is just a nice place to live.

Family: Ted is from Philadelphia. His dad was in the military so the family moved around a lot. When his dad retired from the military they lived in Rhode Island. His dad went to work for PHI as a helicopter pilot. Ted has two children and two stepchildren; his son is the only one in the industry. His stepdaughter is an artist. Ted's other stepdaughter works in advertising. Ted's other son is in retail. His first wife didn't like the oilfield and Ted being gone for work. Ted's second wife sometimes gets upset when Ted is gone for a long time.

College: Ted started at UL and then transferred to Louisiana Tech.

Schedule: With the three-week off schedule it would take Ted one week to get used to being back home, one week to do the honey dos, and one week to get ready to go back to work. Retirement was an adjustment. Ted's wife had to take care of everything by herself when he was working. The schedule

takes more of a toll on the wife than on the husband. While he was away from home Ted wouldn't have any responsibility, but that changed when he would come back home.

Change in gifts for clients: The oil industry was more of game for the salesmen. Graft used to run rampant in the industry. Policy in accepting gifts changed; clients can't accept gifts or meals from the companies.

Drugs in the industry: There used to be a lot of drug use; Ted didn't do drugs. Salesmen would get busted for drugs. He had been on rigs where people were doing drugs. There would be random drug tests. People aren't bringing as much drugs and alcohol on rigs. Some companies might do hair follicle tests.

International work: While working in Angola, Ted saw huge areas of cardboard and wood houses. Every street had an open-air market. The traffic in some of the places he worked was different. While traveling internationally to do work, he would work mostly in oilfield areas, which are desolate. There weren't a lot of places and religions that liked westerners. Ted also discussed difficulties of working with people in other countries.

Michael "Mike" LeBlanc

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
ML034

Ethnographic Preface

William Thibodeaux referred Mike LeBlanc to the research team. William had introduced Mike to us through an email. Interested in his perspective, we emailed Mike to learn more about him and see if he would want to do an interview. Mike agreed to participate in an interview on July 23, 2015 at his home in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Mike LeBlanc was born in 1951 in Abbeville, Louisiana. He worked in the oil and gas industry from 1980 to 1989 in drilling. Mike's father worked for Texaco and had been heavily involved with union organizing. Before working in the oilfield, Mike earned his bachelor'sdegree in history at the University of Southwestern Louisiana and his master's degree in anthropology at the University of Kentucky. He moved to Lafayette in 2003 and currently works in city planning. Having an anthropology background, Mike offers interesting insight on the oilfield's impact on the culture of southern Louisiana.

Summary

Background: Mike LeBlanc was born August 1951 in Abbeville, Louisiana. His father was an oilfield worker and part of a union for oilfield workers; that was rare. After receiving his master's in anthropology, Mike was done with academia and moved back to his hometown and started a family. Then he started working in the oilfield. First he worked as roustabout, and then he worked for three to four months as a frack engineer. Mike then got a job working with his father-in-law in mud logging at a company called Petrolog. He had tried to get a job with Texaco where his father worked, but didn't because his father's connections to the company weren't as strong after he had died. He worked 10 years in the industry from 1980 to late 1989 and was unemployed for a year. After his time in the industry, Mike worked odd jobs. He worked for Condensed Vapor Deposition, which was a part of Martin Salt, a company that made nose cones for maverick missiles. Michael was hired there to do interviews and do analysis of the manufacturing process. While working there, Mike learned AutoCAD and later became a

draftsman for a civil engineering firm. He worked for two firms for 10 years and then worked as a city planner for 16 years.

Master's thesis work: For his master's thesis, Mike tracked people leaving rural areas in Louisiana during the 1930s and 1940s. Mike conducted his thesis interviews in French; people in this culture [Cajun] speak French. Mike is a native anthropologist; he knows the culture and is from the area. Mike speaks Cajun French and is very proud to speak the language of his parents.

Father in the union: Mike's dad was part of a union called the International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers. The Congress of Industrial Organizations organized this union. Leftists founded the CIO during the Great Depression. Mike's father couldn't read or write, but at the union meetings they would read aloud the newsletter to members to raise political consciousness. Mike's father would share that information with Mike and they would watch the news together. The men in that union were some of the most radical men in Louisiana. When Texaco tried to bust the union Mike's father blew up a car but he wasn't convicted.

Academic viewpoint while working in the oilfield: Having been in academia, Mike saw his experience working offshore through the prism of labor. He wants to convey the degree to which Louisiana has been exploited and colonized by the major oil companies. The industry has exploited the people, culture, and environment. Mike worked on a lot of rigs and had experiences similar to what happened with the BP disaster.

Change in oil company operations and safety: There are four areas of the industry: drilling (where Mike worked), production, refining, and distribution. Oil companies like Texaco used to employ the people working in all parts of the industry; it was vertically integrated. In the 1980s oil companies decided to break the power of the smaller companies and started paying the service companies less; they created competition to drive down prices. Mike remembers that when he was working for Chevron they used to hire four guys to do mud logging; it changed and they only sent in two sample catchers. Chevron would drill in balance. When drilling in pressure there would almost always be situations when the well would almost come in and there could have been a BP disaster; this was even more dangerous because they were open holes. Mike worked in the Mobile Field for Exxon and Texaco; that was very dangerous work, too. Mike recalls seeing a blowout. He knew some of the guys on that rig and they lived. The companies tried to drill the Mobile Field like they did in Louisiana, but it was very different. There was poison gas that would release when it was drilled; they would wear backpacks with air tanks for emergencies. It was really dangerous. Mike wouldn't have done this work except he wanted to live in Abbeville and there were no other jobs; everything was drying up during that time. People were risking their lives so there could be cheap oil and gas; that's the oilfield. The companies don't care much about the environment.

Ethnic component: There was an ethnic component to the oilfield. Almost everyone in drilling was not Cajun. Cajuns worked in production, refining or distribution. Mike didn't have that many connections to working in those areas. He started like the other guys from outside of Louisiana, but he had a pretty good job; he worked in an air-conditioned mud logging unit and could sleep. Mike suffered intellectual fright because he knew how dangerous the work was.

Differences in companies: Mike would make suggestions to Chevron on how to drill, but they would not follow those recommendations in order to make the bit go faster. Exxon, on the other hand, drilled more conservatively. He also worked for some independent companies that were the worst.

Crew structure and challenges: In Mike's opinion, the crew organization was interesting. There were only two company men on the rig and everyone else was contract workers. There's a day and night

drilling crew. Each driller selects his men who he trusts from the town he's from; the driller worked his way up and hired people he trusted. A lot of the people he worked with were from north Louisiana and were Protestants. Most of the guys Mike worked with were from all over, but all of them went to college. The other guys were working class guys. There was etiquette in which Mike had to be hard with the other guys not part of drilling crew; saying please and thank you was a sign of weakness. That was hard for Mike to get used to. A lot of the guys were rough working class people. It was important to trust them because if something went wrong the whole crew could be run off and people could lose their houses and cars. "The history of a well being drilled is a history of blunders." There was a lot of time to sit around and talk; there was a lot of storytelling. Mike worked with all kinds of people and he had to get along with these different personalities. People don't grow up wanting to work in the oilfield, thus you work with marginal, but interesting people. He also had to work with people who didn't have your best interest in mind at all. There were clients who would request to work with Mike.

Mentoring and learning: Mentoring was a weeding out process. A person was paired with someone with a like mind. You would learn on the job. Kids right out of high school who started working in oilfield were trained and taught all sorts of skills. Mike's mentor was an alcoholic; Mike learned his job by doing his mentor's work for the first three days of the 14-day shift and if the company man walked in he would pretend to be training Mike. If Mike didn't know what he was doing he would ask his mentor. Mike didn't teach people like that. In the oilfield you judge people by who broke them out in the industry.

Women in the industry: Mike only saw one woman working as a roustabout for a drilling company. Schlumberger was a very progressive company they didn't care about gender or race as long as that person had an engineering degree and worked hard. There were women on the Schlumberger crews who worked as riggers. Mike didn't see any women engineers for Schlumberger. However it was a male working class environment and Mike couldn't imagine a woman working out there.

Computers: The company Mike worked for, Petrolog, was one of the first small companies to embrace computers. They had sensors that would do molecular analyses in addition to the old analog units. Mike learned that if he could run a computer he could do a job; he embraced computers. After five years working with computers, Mike could do the job of a 20-year man; that would frustrate the guys who had been in the industry longer.

Geopolitics: There is an increasing number of people out of business; the major oil companies did that on purpose so they could drive down the price of oil and gas in the US. The US bought oil from the Middle East to hurt the Soviet Union and break their geopolitical power. It kept the people in the industry of southern Louisiana hungry and thankful for a job. When Mike first started in the industry people could make good money not doing much, but towards the end it got rough. Mike's father grew up in a time where Cajuns were isolated. World War I and World War II opened up the area.

Abbeville and family: Mike and his wife lived in Abbeville until 2003, when he moved to Lafayette; Mike's son had graduated from UL. Mike's parents died, but his wife's family still lives in Abbeville.

Impacts of the downturn and working in oil and gas: The 1980s downturn kept Mike from making long-term financial plans; it was the reason he could only have one child. Some years Mike would make $60,000 to $70,000 a year and others he would make $15,000. People working in the oilfield needed a small job to keep them going. Mike couldn't go too far from his phone just in case someone would call him for a job. It also disrupted Mike's relationship with his wife and son and this was the reason he stopped working in the industry. Mike's son got to spend time with his grandfather during that time. Working in the oilfield changed his relationships because Mike was spending time with marginal people. Mike still curses a lot; the oilfield changed the way he talks and made him rough with people. He learned in the oilfield that no one will stand up for you. The companies don't have long-term plans; Chevron and

Texaco only care about money and don't care about family structures. Mike gave up an academic career to work in the oilfield; he could have done a lot of things.

Oil and gas impact on Louisiana: According to Mike, the industry has been a negative for Louisiana. It has also brought modernity and global economics to Louisiana. The culture and language still remain in southern Louisiana.

Mike's parents: Mike's father didn't have any formal education but valued education. Mike's mother could read and write in French, which was rare.

Education and how it formed his perception: The University of Kentucky was small and there were only 10 people in his anthropology program; it was very political. It was an odd place for a Cajun boy. During school Mike developed close ties with people and had to shed part of himself. After three years he had left Kentucky as an anthropologist. Being an anthropologist helped him analyze social relationships, people and their backgrounds. Mike was an anthropologist that went native when he went back to Louisiana and worked in the oilfield.

Oil and gas impact on the Lafayette area: The industry impacted the settlement patterns in the area and the ethnicity of people who lived here. It caused blended cultures, which impacted the Cajun language; the language is the essence of being Cajun. What didn't change in the area was the pattern of talking, creating social relationships, and family relationships. The oil and gas industry stripped us down to the base of who we are. There is a low out-migration rate for the area.

Networking: Mike could talk about networking only for the time he was in the oil and gas industry. It was hard back then, but now it's easier. There are a lot of people who come to the area looking for jobs; the good jobs go to people from elsewhere. Historically and currently, the Masons are particularly powerful in the oil and gas industry. That's how networking happens even if it sounds preposterous. Mike isn't sure how his dad got a job in the oil and gas industry.

Mike's dad in the union: Texaco broke up the union in the 1960s when the companies were not vertically integrated. Mike thinks his dad might have joined the union during World War II. His father had gotten a deferment because he worked in an industry that supported the war. During that time he worked in New Orleans and Lake Charles; he could've run into guys doing union organizing.

Mike's family: Mike's father got out of sharecropping by working as a driver for a crooked politician. He also made money keeping up with Madison Square during the Great Depression. Mike's family was a rarefied group of people. His grandfather was the first man in town to own a clock in his house. Mike's dad was the first one in town to own a radio and a TV. Mike's older brother was one of the first mechanic and air pilots. His aunt also became a nun to become a nurse; it was a big deal that she was registered nurse. Mike's parents were 40 when he was born and gave him a full dose of Cajun culture.

Funny stories: Mike recalled working with three brothers in the oilfield; one of the brothers, Bob, wasn't very smart. On an inland job, Bob tried to jump from the boat to the barge and fell in the water; it could've ended badly for Bob. In another instance, Mike was working with a man named Carlton. Carlton and Mike were driving through Golden Meadow, Louisiana and got stopped in a speed trap by the police. Carlton didn't have a license and wanted Mike to cover him; Mike wouldn't do it. The police told Mike to drive Carlton to Lafayette. Carlton drove back through town.

Differences in jobs and companies: There are big differences between the drilling, production, refining, and distribution sects of the oil and gas industry. Drilling is very dangerous, but production is more relaxed. The different companies also have their own culture.

Work environment: Mike worked as far west as Rockford, Texas and as far east as Mobile, Alabama. He also worked in the Eugene Isle 300 blocks. He was on some of the first very deepwater jobs. Mike worked in marsh areas on inland jobs; he worked a few land jobs as well.

Joseph "Joe" Leimkuhler

Covington, LA
June 12, 2015
ML002

Ethnographic Preface

Joe Leimkuhler learned about the oral history project in Lafayette from an email sent out by Cherie Hebert. Her email explained the project and put a call out for interviews of people tied to the oil and gas industry in Lafayette, Louisiana. Even though Joe is based in Covington, Louisiana, he emailed the research team and expressed interest in being interviewed. The team arranged to meet him at his office for an interview.

Joe Leimkuhler is currently the vice president of drilling at LLOG Exploration, a privately-owned deepwater exploration company. He is from Pennsylvania and went to college in Montana and Wyoming. He started as a mud engineer working in the Wyoming Overthrustbelt in the 1980s. In 1987 Joe transitioned to deepwater drilling when he accepted a job with Shell. Upon accepting the job, Joe moved his family to Mandeville, Louisiana. After 25 years at Shell, Joe started working for LLOG Exploration in 2012.

Summary

Background: Joe is from New Jersey. He went to college at the University of Montana. He got his degree in forestry and geology in 1981. He worked as a mud engineer in the Wyoming Overthrust Belt. He was laid off after 18 months of work. He got another job in Wyoming as a mud engineer. A professor brought his drilling fluids class to a site Joe was working. The professor convinced Joe to go to graduate school for petroleum engineering. Joe and his family moved to Laramie, Wyoming where he got his Master's degree.

Career: Shell hired Joe after he graduated in 1987, and he moved to Mandeville. He worked as a drilling engineer in deepwater. Joe stayed with Shell for 25 years. He started as a junior engineer and worked his way up to being the Offshore Delivery Manager for North and South America. He saw the development of deepwater with one of the largest deepwater drilling companies in the world. He left Shell to slow down. He joined LLOG, which is the largest private deepwater drilling company.

Family: Joe's son dropped out of college, joined the military, and served in Iraq. He went to the University of New Orleans and became an engineer. He eventually started working in the same company (LLOG) as Joe. Joe's daughter is a high school English teacher.

First day offshore: He told us about some of the pranks that were played on him during his first times offshore. They were drilling and came across a zone with woodchips that were bits of fossilized wood. A large piece came across that Joe thought was a huge fossil, but it ended up just being a wood board that the other guys had thrown in. He also mentioned his early schedule; for his first year, he was gone 20 days out of a 30-day month. As a new engineer he worked with others in running evaluation tools. He was in a quality control position. He jumped from one platform to another.

Onshore to offshore: The biggest difference is that people are extremely close offshore. Offshore has only two crews instead of three. Joe stated that when a person works onshore he can drive back home at the end of his shift. Onshore also had a more transient workforce. Offshore workers spend their off time on the rig together and become closer. That closeness allows for better safety statistics offshore than onshore. They spend more time with their coworkers than with their families. The actual drilling process is generally the same onshore and offshore.

Shallow water and deepwater drilling: Joe discussed that water depth is not the critical factor when it comes to risk. After the *Deepwater Horizon* spill, the Secretary of the Interior had a meeting to brainstorm about safety. People wanted to know which of these wells were safer. It is dependent on the well characteristics and not the depth of the water. Some shallow water wells are at extremely high pressure. Some deepwater wells would have a blow-in instead of a blowout because of low-pressure levels.

Safety: Joe explained that a healthy tension is important for safety offshore. While he worked with Shell his son worked on one of the rigs he was responsible for. His son said that people were too comfortable on the rig and with the safety record; they thought nothing could happen to them. People need to be worried and not be too comfortable that everything is safe. LLOG is one of the largest consumers of liability of insurance; they have enough to cover another *Deepwater Horizon* situation, but if it did happen, they could not operate the same afterwards because their insurance rates would go up. The company makes sure the employees know that.

Mobility: A lot of the people coming into the industry at the entry level are extremely intelligent even though they may not be formally educated. Many of those without secondary degrees can work their way up and earn a good salary. Many of them can and will go back to school. The schedules may be difficult though. There are programs, like Nicholls Stae University's seven-and-seven program for offshore workers. Joe used to be the president of the American Association of Drilling Engineers, which supplied one of the Nicholls' computer labs. The funds they raised help support Nicholls' remote leaning IT capability.

Starting during the 1980s downturn: Joe explained that he was able to get his start during the downturn because he was doing what he liked and was willing to ride the lows and highs of the industry. He had the mindset that he was just going to do the best job he could do. He took the offer from Shell even though it was the lowest pay because he knew it was one of the most stable companies. Joe explained his realization that in this industry one must always seek to improve in order to continue.

Motivation: Joe stated that he finds motivation in keeping people employed. He tries to keep rigs and his team going. It is important to keep "hot rigs" even if the job does not pay as much. It provides good motivation for the workers.

Keeping connections between families and workers: According to Joe, workers can Skype at night with their families. There is also Wi-Fi to keep them looped in through social media. They also will fly workers in if there is a family emergency.

Living conditions offshore: Joe talked about life on the rig; they used to have expensive satellite phones and mail delivery. Nowadays everyone on the rig has a TV in his or her room. Previously, there used to be only one big screen TV and everyone would have to decide together what to watch. There has also been a change in the foods served in galley; there are fewer fried foods and more healthy choices. There are nice gyms on the rigs; some even have personal trainers. Some of these amenities are being cut back due to budget cuts.

Changes looking back: Joe expressed that if he could have changed anything in his career he would have worried less. He also discusses his family; his children told him that he was there for the big events, but not there for enough of the day-to-day activities. Joe explained that it is a trade off between salary and time spent with family.

Women offshore: Joe explained that there are women offshore. More women work as engineers and in skilled positions. Men do not resist women working on rigs; actually they are very protective of the women. Most women who work on rigs are either in their early 20s or their 40s. There are not a lot of women in between those two age ranges because that is when many people start families. There has been a push since the 1980s to hire more women and minorities.

The future: Joe stated that there will be a surplus of workers for entry positions who come from southern Louisiana. The industry has always attracted workers from the area. The Energy Corridor is now in St. Tammany Parish and is continuing to grow. Oil companies will still find qualified workers from the universities. One of the biggest problems that the drilling contractors face is drug use. People need to pass a drug test to work offshore.

Defining moment: The *Deepwater Horizon* spill is a defining moment. The approach the US government took in handling the investigation did not work. People lawyered up and did not want to talk. Criminal proceedings shut it down; they lost the human element of it. Some of the regulations that resulted from the investigation have not been beneficial. Regulators are now just abiding by blind compliance instead of using critical thinking.

Robert D. "Bob" Lowe

Lafayette, LA
June 19, 2015
ML007

Ethnographic Preface

John O'Maera, the general manager of the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana, introduced Diane and me to Bob Lowe while we were eating at the Petroleum Club. John insisted that we interview Bob because he is a prominent figure in the Lafayette oil and gas community. Bob is in his 90s and is still active in his company and community. Upon our introduction to Bob, we arranged a time to conduct an interview with him. Because he is a very busy man, he agreed to do only a 30-minute interview. We met Bob at the Petroleum Club on June 19, 2015 for the interview.

Bob Lowe is from Hutton, Louisiana. He started working in the oil and gas industry while he was in high school. After being in the US Marine Corps for four years, he moved to Lafayette in 1952 to pursue opportunities in the oil and gas industry. He started his own oilfield construction company, which became one of the biggest companies of its kind. During his interview, Bob discusses the development of the Oil Center in Lafayette, the Petroleum Club, the relationships between banks and the industry, and the relationship between the industry and ULL.

Summary

Background: Bob was born in Hutton, Louisiana in 1922. His father worked in the sawmill and timber industry. When Bob was young, his father saw an opportunity to go to west Texas for a job as supervisor in the oil industry. His father was killed in a rig accident, then his family moved back to south Louisiana. Bob graduated high school in 1939, and he was the only person that he knew of that worked all the way

through high school. He worked on a steam rig. The shifts were six hours, so they could hire more people. He would work from 6:00pm until midnight, sleep "as fast as [he] could" and then went to school at 7:00am. That's how he finished high school. He once got hurt on the job; a piece of steel flew off and hit him in the arm. This job in high school was how Bob got started in the oil industry.

Military, move to Lafayette, and Bob's company: Bob had a friend who joined US Marine Corps, and when he would come back and visit, everyone shook his hand, was excited to see him, and according to Bob "the girls fell all over him." So Bob decided he wanted to join the US Marine Corps, too. At 17, he walked away from the oil industry. He went to Pearl Harbor and spent four years in the military. Afterwards, he came back and joined up with a mud company. Then, in 1952 he moved to Lafayette because he saw opportunities were there. He started working as a field manager for a construction company. He explained that is when the oil companies starting to move to Lafayette. Bob eventually started his own company. There was a run down construction company in the area and the owner wanted out. Bob acquired that company and began to work the oilfields. They became one of the largest oilfield construction companies. As the oil industry began to perk up, offshore began to wake up.

Industry moving into Lafayette: In the mid-1950s, oil companies were moving into the area. They had the desire to establish a booming oil industry, but lacked personnel who knew how to do the job. Those companies had to come to those who were already in the business. Bob was one of those people. His company handled a bunch of jobs for other oil companies.

Companies going international: Bob explained that he knew someone who started an oilfield service company. The company started in Texas, went to Dubai, and then all over the world. Those guys were fanatics about what they did. He said they excelled because no one else doing it. He said it was the same case for his company; he didn't know anybody else doing what he was doing.

Sometimes, his company would get called out to hook up a well, and there would be nothing out there but a platform. His crew would bring a bunch of wood, tools, and supplies. They would have to build a living quarter. They were 12ft square wooden structures and very primitive. He said they took plastic with them to put over their living quarters in case in rained. That was the way the oil industry was. He said Lafayette entrepreneurs who had to do those things, and managed to educate themselves as well as educate the oil companies.

Major oil companies and Lafayette companies: He reiterated that large oil companies had to depend on Lafayette companies, such as Bob's, to go out there hook up the well and make it work. He explained that is what the entrepreneurs of Lafayette did well: they invented methods and tools to make it work. He said they saw the need, the problem, and wanted to be able to be recognized as the people who could do the job and made it work. Bob wanted to be the best contractor in the south. The competitive sprit was alive in Lafayette.

Competition and cooperation: Bob explained that many of the local companies realized that if they could all focus on getting the oil companies to accept Lafayette as a center of the industry, they could have direct contact with leaders in oil industry, they wouldn't have to travel anywhere else; it could all be local. When Tenneco moved to Lafayette, Bob met the crew. They became his biggest customers, and he worked with them for years and years. He did lots of things Tenneco needed done, and that work helped Bob's company become a major construction company.

Oil Center: Bob talked about how the Oil Center developed in Lafayette. He explained that there was land available, and the place where the Oil Center is now used to be a plant nursery years ago. He said there was land available in Lafayette, and people worked to establish plans for the Oil Center, the streets, and the building. Somebody took plans to various oil companies to see what space was available and

where they could build it. He said New Iberia had space, but didn't have the coordination and organization that the individuals and companies in Lafayette had.

Petroleum Club: He described the Petroleum Club in Lafayette as a gathering place of various oil companies. There were some joint operations with other companies in area at the time the Petroleum Club started. Bob said the original idea was that there would be one gathering place for all the different oil and service company guys. He said it was a place to get a lot of business worked out well. He said that there was a bricked-in fire at the club, and you could come in the afternoon, have adult beverages, pick out a steak, and cook it on the grill yourself. For many years, you could get a drink for $1. He described the fellowship of club members, and said many deals were consummated in the club. He described it as a brotherhood. He said they didn't go to each other's offices, but in that informal way, they exchanged the information that established the direction that the oilfields were going. He said that when they walked in the door of Petroleum Club, the competitive spirit in the industry evaporated. They felt that they shared something. They exchanged privileged information that was not in Houston, Dallas, or New Orleans. The sprit of fellowship prevailed. Bob said everyone developed a sense of pride in that area. Lafayette was a natural gathering place and a center for business. Everyone in an oil industry here became a member of the Petroleum Club.

Gender: Bob explained that about 15 years ago, several professional women felt that the club should accept women. They made a formal claim, got an attorney, and claimed the right to become member of Petroleum Club. Their claim was rejected at first. He said at the time, women were not accepted into business as stock market brokers, or as manufacturers. They were sometimes heads of committees, but never the heads of companies. He said at the time, the policy hadn't been established to accept women.

Banks: Bob served on the board of the Bank of Lafayette. He spent 10 years as the chairman of the board of First National Bank of Lafayette. He currently serves on the advisory board of the New Iberia Bank. Members of the bank boards are also in the oil industry. In the old days, he said, the banks were leery of the oil industry, because they had no history or experience with them. He said the banks might be a little bit slow to make a loan. He said the smaller oil companies didn't have assets to pledge for their loan. He said the relationship between the oil companies and the banks grew to be positive.

Employment: He said the oil companies were major players in communities in the area because of employment. Bob said people in the Lafayette area had ambition, and the oil companies recognized that ambition and knew they had people here who would be busy trying to help them solve their problems. He said the industry has not unionized. He said that the lack of unions contributed to the boom in Lafayette. He explained that the unions perpetuated violence in the area, and were chased out of the area by oil companies.

University: He said once the oil industry began to have a visible body in Lafayette, then the heads of the oil companies started making donations to the university, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. They established an identity with the university. The oil industry made it possible for Lafayette to improve its fire department, police department, streets, and also made it possible for the university to improve its activities because of all the things the industry donated. The oil companies could then have an identity on the campus. This relationship grew, and has been a good marriage.

Frank Millet

Houma, LA
July 22, 2009
JC321

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Millet is a family friend of the interviewer's friend, David Davis, who grew up in Houma, Louisiana. After a dinner at the Millet's house, Mr. Millet agreed to be interviewed about his career in the oilfield service industry. Georgette, Mr. Millett's wife, was also supportive of this project, and offered to help get statistics and historical documents from the study period, through her position with the City of Houma. Mr. Millet and I met at his office on Venture Boulevard. Afterwards, over lunch, he introduced me to other service industry managers.

Mr. Millet was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1951. His father was a career postal employee. When he was still young, the family moved to Houma, where Frank has lived ever since. He first began working in the oil industry in 1973, taking a job with Wilson Supply. The company provided daily shipments to rigs and platforms, supplying basic necessities and light equipment rentals. In 1975, he took a position with TBW Industries, which manufactured and distributed tanks and winches to be used offshore. This company went bust in 1982, and he went to work for Alfa Laval, a company based in Sweden with an office in Houma, which built and sold centrifuges designed to separate drilling muds. In 1994, he started his own company, FM Equipment, which distributes Alfa parts and services these machines on drilling operations in the Gulf.

Summary

Born in New Orleans, 1951. Father with post office. Lived in Houma for entire life. After high school, began with Wilson Supply in 1973, daily shipments to rigs and platforms with basic goods. In 1975, started with TBW Industries, manufacturing and distributing heavy tanks and winches for oilfield. In 1982, started working for Alfa Laval, a centrifuge and distiller manufacturer; he sold and serviced this equipment for oil industry. Began his own company, FM Equipment, in 1994; distributing Alfa products to oil companies working out of Houma, in Gulf. Recently sold company, and is serving as general manager until retirement.

Noted the strong push in oil industry to "go green;" companies have become environmentally sensitive since mid-90s, responding to EPA pressures and public relations. Believes response is largely voluntary, companies wanting to be better corporate citizens. Shareholders and workers voicing desire to be conscious. Noted that in 70s mud pits for refuse were open in the marsh, left after a job; then liners added; now barges for everything – all shipped back to shore. Yet being environmentally safe costs money, passed on to consumer. Creates entirely new industries and jobs; has stimulated new ideas, focus on recycling. Spoke about Houma's dependence on oil industry; nearly 100% of manufacturing tied to oil, as is vast number of jobs, and tax revenue. Politicians and businesses logically supportive; whole community suffers when industry slumping. Noted the significance of communications improving; increased efficiency and time/money saving throughout oil industry in his career. Now emails from rigs with supply orders, photos of what is needed. Spoke on important transition post-80s bust, pull back of major companies – "no longer do much but pay the bills;" development of thick network of contractors. Majors only employ white collar; blue collar and laborers employed by contractors and service companies. Industry still requires grunt workers, but now better trained, must operate automated machinery.

John Monteiro

Houma, LA
July 14, 2009
JC313

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Monteiro was referred by Bill Ellzey, who described him as a major contractor and businessman in the region for the past 40 years. We met at his house on Bayou Black west of Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Monteiro is a dynamic and mercurial person, having tried many different oil-related ventures through his long career in the area, some of which succeeded and others went bankrupt. He was very active in the community during the 1970s and 1980s, serving on the Chamber of Commerce, numerous boards, and running a Boy Scouts of America troop. He continues to work despite failing health, mostly on small engineering contracts.

Mr. Monteiro was born 1927 in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father was a civil engineer, and John also got an engineering degree from Louisiana State University in 1952. Before going to college he was in the Army during the final years of World War II. During college, he worked summers for McDermott on pilings barges on the Gulf Coast, and for the California Co., now Chevron. He met his wife during one of these summers; she was a Houma native, and they moved to Houma permanently in 1953. Shortly afterwards, he took an engineering job with Schlumberger, which he held until 1962, mostly working in shallow water offshore. He then worked for Houma Valves in sales, later for Lane Wells as logging manager, before starting his own companies. Mr. Monteiro, with his sons, operated companies ranging from construction, to boat building, to air transport, to measurement, to engineering consulting. In 1985 he went bankrupt and has never fully recovered.

Summary

Born in New Orleans, 1927. Army in WWII, then LSU for engineering. Moved to Houma in 1953 to work for Schlumberger; wife from old Houma family. Worked for Houma Valve Services in sales in mid 60s, then Lane Wells as logging engineer for two years. Began his own construction contracting business, servicing oilfield with transport, salvage, construction and measurement. Ran small plane service on the side; involved with Houma airport commission. In mid 80s, an aluminum boat building company failed and went bankrupt. Had to start later companies in children's names. Currently he does contract engineering jobs out of office in his house.

Noted that in early career, company men called engineers "boys," bottom rung of the ladder, worse pay than mess workers. As technology improved, engineering expertise became essential to jobs; they became toolpushers in early 70s, rather than assistants. During this transition period, lot of jokes and jabs between engineers and older hands. Noted that lawyers became increasingly visible; "straightened up" the oilfield; this crushed morale of the hands, and put companies on edge. Suits every week for Monteiro's companies; he claims fabricated stories mostly. Lawyers would bait workers and plant claims. Younger workers don't work like early days; no loyalty to companies, jump jobs in heartbeat. Spoke about the "wheeling and dealing" atmosphere of Houma in 60s and 70s – parties all the time, bank loans easy, social networks and favors, expense accounts. But after bust of '82, oil companies "matured;" people fired over expense accounts and favors; audits became common. Belt was tightened, changed for good. Described how Texaco ruled Houma, but then left in a puff of smoke when inland and shallow water wells dried up. Noted that when on chamber board, attempts at drawing other industry to Houma failed because no rail line, and labor spoiled on oil pay.

William Hugh "Billy" Mouton and Arthur D. "Art" Mouton

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
LL012a, LL012b

Ethnographic Preface

Art Mouton initially contacted the research team by email after reading the news story in the paper. He and his brother, Billy, were interested in an interview together. Laura Loewer and Morgan Lundy interviewed them at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Billy had to leave about half way through the interview.

Billy and Art Mouton describe themselves as fifth-generation lawyers as well as having ancestors here since 1763. Art is Billy's younger brother and started working with Billy and their father in 1972. He served in the Army, and transferred to the industry after graduating from law school at Louisiana State University. Billy began working in 1966 and retired in 2013. He began working in the industry doing title abstracting in the late 1950s, running indexes. In 1966, he took the bar exam and started practicing law. Billy retired in 2013.

Summary

Background: Art and Billy start the first part of the interview explaining the process of obtaining and running titles and leases, and give a thorough background of their jobs as abstractors. They also talk about being on the job and share memories of what it was like to work as abstractors hunting down information in libraries and meeting with locals.

Importance of abstractors: As title abstractors, they had to follow titles back sometimes 150 years or more to make sure they had done a complete examination of the previous landowners. Because the title abstractors are the ones tracking down the lineage of a particular piece of property, it is up to Art and Billy to make sure that the company knows the correct history of the tract of land on which they are staking millions of dollars.

Oilfield jobs in Lafayette: According to Art and Billy, Lafayette has the biggest number of practitioners, or abstractors, in the state by far. They say the expertise for their industry is located in Lafayette. They say Lafayette, in its uniqueness, had more independent landmen, geologists, and drillers. These professions would come from out of state, but get transferred and not stay. They say there are a lot of small entrepreneurs in Lafayette.

Location: Their father opened his business doing title law and abstracting in the Oil Center in the 1940s or 1950s, and they still practice there today.

The Oil Center: Art and Billy talk about the background of the Oil Center. The land for the Oil Center was owned by Mr. Heymann, who used the property for a plant nursery. Mr. Heymann had taken his idea of the Oil Center to several towns across the area, and in each community, the few families who controlled land did not want the Oil Center. They talk about how the interior walls of the Oil Center offices were originally designed to be moved and change sizes to accommodate different offices.

Advantage of working in the Oil Center: The best part of working in the Oil Center was the concentration of companies. They go on to describe how many small time entrepreneurs and companies started in Lafayette and would suddenly be worth millions.

Women in the industry: Art recalls a federal lawsuit that was filed by women to allow them access to work opportunities in the oilfield. Art and Billy have two sisters who are lawyers, one who worked in the abstractor office they own. They say they see quite a few women in their LAPL (Lafayette Association of Professional Landmen) meetings now. They go on to discuss LAPL and how they got into it. LAPL

supports work with ULL (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) and Billy has given lectures there through their association.

Practicing title law in Louisiana: Louisiana has unique mineral laws because they are based on French and Spanish laws. There are certain levels of land ownership (e.g., one person could own the property, but not the mineral rights of the same property.) They discuss in further detail the process of obtaining minerals through these laws.

Cycles in the industry: Billy recalls in 1983 when natural gas was down to $2.25/BCF. He says they did not recover from the downturn in Lafayette until around 1991. Art says in the 1980s businesses were shutting down and in the 1990s, they started coming back. He recalls a prolific and expensive well dug in Acadia Parish at 30,000ft. Art says they were not prepared for the kinds of losses they had.

Networking: Art says networking was very important, especially when he began in 1972. The Petroleum Club was a place to see people and do business. “Everybody knows everybody.”

Impact of the oil industry in Lafayette: Art says the impact of the oil industry in Lafayette is enormous, both financially and socially. The number of people who came to Lafayette, and then chose to retire and have families, while different than the original group, benefited the city immensely.

Unique elements of Lafayette: According to Art, his ancestors formed Lafayette when two brothers bought land from the Indians. He says in other cities, the control was always centralized, but in Lafayette, no one had complete control over the city, and it was always shared. He says people in Lafayette fought for the university to be in their town just like they fought for the railroad and the oil industry. Power was always shared and no one ever controlled Lafayette, but welcomed in new industry and businesses. Even through the slumps of the business, Art says his family is from here and he never thought of moving away completely.

Diversification: Lafayette has diversified, partially from through medical and manufacturing. Sales and traffic are still high, a good indication to Art that Lafayette is doing well.

Further observations of the 1980s downturn: Art recalls the bumper sticker of the 1980s that said, “Last one to leave Lafayette, turn out the lights.” In the 1980s when they faced the downturn, the discussion was if they would become a little Houston or a big Abbeville. Art recalls his eye doctor told him he did not know he was in the oil industry until it all crashed. Gas prices went down fast with the downturn and drilling quit completely.

What allows the industry to exist in Lafayette: Art says it is partially the people and partially the politics. No matter what your background is, you are welcomed in Lafayette. From the start, there has always been a mixing of people groups in the area. He recalls a man from India who said Lafayette is one of his favorite places.

Changes in technology: He remarks on the addition of computers and spreadsheets, and how this technology changed their job. He recalls they had some of the first computers in 1978 or 1979.

Proudest moments: Art says his work has always been interesting and he enjoyed working on title opinions that result in a good well, and providing a service.

Charles “Chuck” and Hallie Myers

Lafayette, LA
July 24, 2015
ML035a, ML035b

Ethnographic Preface

Hallie Myers heard about the oral history project from the news. She thought her husband, Chuck Myers, would be a good person for the research team to interview. She called the team and set up a time to interview Chuck. We agreed to meet on July 24, 2015 at the Petroleum Club, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Chuck Myers is 67 years old and is from west Texas. He has been in the industry since he was 15. He currently works as a field supervisor for Schlumberger; he works in the drilling side of the industry. The oilfield has moved Chuck and Hallie to many different states. They moved to Louisiana in 1994 and to the Lafayette area in 1999.

Summary

Background: Chuck got out of the military service in 1968 and started working in the oil and gas industry in west Texas; he is from west Texas. He then went to Colorado, met his wife and moved to Louisiana. Chuck worked on well service rigs and on drilling rigs. Working in the oilfield, Chuck has been in places from North Dakota to the Gulf. He has also worked in Africa. He has met all sorts of people in this industry; it’s like a tight family.

Schedule and family challenges: Being away from the family is a challenge; it is hard for the wife. Chuck was never there to watch the kids grow up. Chuck is always on call and they never know when he’s leaving. He has been gone for six months and then when he returned home he would get a call to leave again. Chuck was gone for over half of the holidays. It’s hard on marriages. Hallie and Chuck have raised five kids and two grandkids. They have an agreement that when the work is there Chuck earns all the money he can. Chuck earns the money and Hallie saves it in case of a downturn; you never know when a downturn will hit. When Chuck comes home from being offshore, there is a power struggle. Hallie has been the boss of the house while Chuck is away and when he comes home he wants to be in charge. They recognized the conflict; they agreed when he comes home to have a 24-hour period of “sniffing noses.” Hallie waits 24 hours after Chuck comes home to give him his ‘honey-do’ list; she jumps on Chuck for time, attention, and help. Hallie can’t rely on Chuck being there when she needs him because of the work. They have moved around a lot because of the oilfield.

Misconceptions about people working in the oilfield: When they moved to Oklahoma it was a boom time in the 1980s, but there was no housing for people in the oilfield. People already living there would look at oilfield workers as “transient, no-count bums.” Oilfield people got a bad rap. The people working in the oilfield are decent people trying to raise families. People outside of the industry don’t realize the psychological and physical stresses that the oilfield workers and families go through to get the gas into the tank. When gas prices are low and good for the rest of the population, there are layoffs in the oilfield.

Worrying about infidelity: Some of the young guys on the rigs worry all the time about their girlfriends and wives cheating on them while they are gone. That impacts them psychologically and causes them to be a safety hazard. Some of those guys quit and leave.

Danger working in the industry: A guy had started working for Diamond and he was excited that he was going to be a roustabout. Chuck told him to be careful, but the man got his hand cut off during the

first six hours of the job. It's dangerous and people don't realize that. One time Chuck had accidently cut his leg while on a rig. He dropped a large knife and it cut him from his knee to his ankle; there was a large blister that he couldn't pop or else he would have lost his leg. It is also very dangerous to fly out. Before he leaves, Chuck tells Hallie what helicopter he is on and where he's going in case she sees a crash on the news. A lot of his friends and people he knew died that way. Chuck had also been on the rig three weeks before the *Deepwater Horizon* spill happened; he knew all 11 people who died. It is difficult and drains you emotionally.

Career overview: At age 15 Chuck was too young to go on the rig so he cleaned trucks and kept the yard clean. From 1965 to 1968 Chuck served in Vietnam. He came back and worked on a work-over rig. They would work from daylight to dark—sometimes into the night. He worked for Smith International, which was bought by Schlumberger four years ago. He has worked in tools for about 20 years. Chuck was offered an office job in Houston but he turned it down because it would have been a pay cut and he enjoys working with the kids. Chuck is the oldest guy on the rig right now. He enjoys the work and has had some super bosses. When Chuck started working he had to decide if he wanted to work in the field or in the office; he chose the field. The young people who work with Chuck tell him they want his job but Chuck tells them they don't because he never knows when he'll be home. When he met Hallie, Chuck told her he would probably never get out of the oilfield and "once the oil flows down the crack of your ass you're in there for life."

Knowing people everywhere: One of Chuck's sons was in jail in Oklahoma and met three men there who worked with Chuck; there's a joke that Chuck is known in every jail from here to Tucson, Arizona. There are small family units in the oilfield and they know each other. Chuck can call a job in Wyoming and Colorado and know the driller. Their other son was at a coffee shop in Colorado and heard someone talk about his dad.

Hiring: When Chuck moved to Colorado he moved with a friend; Chuck worked on the rig and his friend ran the yard. Chuck was picky about the people he hired for jobs. His friend would keep an extra hand on the yard until noon in case one of the people didn't make it through the day. He had people weeded out by noon. He even took a friend off a job because he ran off when there were some kicks while drilling.

Changes: Work-over rigs are the same. In drilling there are cyber chairs and people who can play video games are good at that. Drilling is a lot slower and safer. Now on the rigs you don't have to touch much, but you still have to look out. Now there are a lot of guys working a 28-and 28 schedule; that gives them a lot of time to be with their families.

Learning: Chuck has an eighth-grade education and earns more than a lot of doctors. Chuck struggled with technical advancements and learning math, formulas, and computers. Hallie saw Chuck struggle but he stuck with it. According to Chuck, the younger people who know computers will teach you anything you want to know if you're willing to listen to them.

Hallie bringing coffee to the job: While living in Oklahoma, Chuck was on a job and it was really cold out. Hallie felt bad for Chuck and the crew so she decided to bring them coffee and donuts. She drove way out there and didn't see anyone on the rig; they were playing quarters in the "dog house" and were warm. That was the last time she brought him coffee. Hallie could tell if Chuck was on a good rig or a bad rig based on if he had gained weight; if it was a good rig he would come back heavier because of the food.

Marriage and the oilfield: Chuck and Hallie have to laugh sometimes because it's stressful. Hallie doesn't call the rig because that's business. If there's a disaster, she will call or now she will text him 911 and he'll call her back. They have kept the marriage together by having the same goals and not getting

carried away with money. In the past Hallie couldn't call Chuck offshore because there weren't cell phones. Hallie joked that she had gone to church so many times without Chuck that they would start calling her the Widow Myers. She also joked that Chuck knows he has been gone for too long when the dog bites him when he comes home.

Layoffs and new guys: During a slow down, the experienced people are usually laid off. When things pick up new guys are hired and they aren't given time to learn. Chuck recalls a time when a company man got hostile with a new guy; Chuck told the company man he needed to remember he didn't start out knowing everything. Things have changed so much that now the driller and toolpusher need to watch the tone of their voice; someone could call an 800 number and get the boss run off the job. There isn't any more degradation of the men anymore.

Women in the industry: In the last five years Chuck has seen more women in the industry. Schlumberger has hired quite a few women in MWD and directional drilling. Halliburton and Baker have some women, too, in mud logging and engineering. Deepwater rigs have always been set up for women. On the old shelf rigs, they don't have accommodations for women. On barge rigs in inland waters, women work as cooks. On these rigs women, have to use the same bathrooms as the men, but someone looks out for them when they have to use it.

Shelf water to deepwater: Chuck has worked everything from land to deepwater jobs. Shelf water is anywhere from 50 to 700 feet of water. Deepwater can be anywhere from 1200 to 6500 feet of water. Chuck's work is basically the same regardless if it is in shallow water or deepwater. Some people running the shelf rigs can transition to deepwater but most can't. On his first deepwater job, in 1996, Chuck had to fly in a helicopter to the rig; he hadn't been in a helicopter since he was in the service. Chuck still works on land and in shelf water.

International work: Chuck doesn't go oversees anymore because he is getting too old for it. After Chuck worked in Africa, Hallie made him promise he wouldn't do it again. Chuck was told if he could work in the Gulf he could work anywhere in the world because the Gulf is the most difficult. Chuck worked internationally once, in Africa from 2010 to 2011. While in Africa, he worked at the shop and had five jobs. Being in Africa changed his outlook on things going on there. He was gone for so long because the managers switched out and the new one wanted him to train some people. Once the manager found out how much money Chuck made he sent him back home. The arrangement was that Chuck was paid from the second he left home to the second he returned.

Impacts of downturns: When it's busy, it is important to save money for when a downturn hits. When there has been a downturn he has seen guys lose their houses and everything; Chuck tells the younger guys to save their money. It is difficult because the current government is anti-oil. Chuck knew a man who had worked for Frank's for 30 years and lost his job during a downturn. Downturns are devastating, especially for the younger people; they don't prepare. People think companies are making millions and millions of dollars; they don't know how much it costs to bring in a well. In the recent downturn Chuck had to get a truck because the company got rid of the company trucks. There was also a 30% pay cut too, but Chuck couldn't leave his job because there were no other jobs. Before the company got rid of the trucks, the company gave people the option to give up the truck and get a $1,000 stipend or keep the company truck. A lot of the guys took the stipend option and then went out and bought $80,000 trucks; the stipend stopped and then the pay was cut. You never know what will happen with a downturn. In downturns, companies have the opportunity to cut their overhead.

What people think about the industry: Everything has oil in it. If you were to ask people what they think about the oil and gas industry they would want to shut it down. They don't realize the impact of oil. There is a tension between oil and gas and the administration.

Lafayette: Chuck and Hallie moved to Louisiana in 1994 and to Lafayette in 1999. Lafayette is the best place they have lived in Louisiana. In Lafayette, there are people from all over the world. The oil and gas industry is vital to Lafayette; if it goes so does Lafayette. The downturns had really impacted the city. Lafayette has diversified and tried to bring tech companies in, but oil and gas is the main industry. Hallie once read that Lafayette has the highest concentration of millionaires. In Lafayette, a person can start a company and then a company like Schlumberger will buy it out and that person will make millions. When Schlumberger bought out Smith, some of the people went off with drillers and started their own company; Chuck did not and stayed on with Schlumberger.

Networking in Lafayette: People from all over come to Lafayette and do well. There is the "good ol boy" system. It's important to have a good name and keep your word.

Proudest moment: Chuck has lived an extremely good life. He has met some great people. Chuck has his best friend [Hallie] and they have good kids. They are still raising grandkids; two of their grandkids are going to college.

Company man story: Chuck had been on a rig and went to go meet the company man. The company man told Chuck he didn't want to meet him and that he would call Chuck when he needed him to work. The company man never called Chuck, so he just watched TV, worked on the computer, and did paperwork. The company man forgot Chuck was on the rig and called the company and said he needed a hand.

Questionable activity: In the 1970s and 1980s there was a lot of stuff going on that wasn't good. In Oklahoma on a job Chuck was getting ready to go to another site and a guy instructed Chuck to give two boxes to the company man; they were two shot guns. Sometimes the supervisor would be asked to use a valve on the rig that wasn't necessary; the supervisor agreed if they got a 25% kickback. Chuck lost a pushing job because he wouldn't go on a hunting trip.

The downturn: In the early 1980s everything was going great in Oklahoma. In 1983 the slump came and everyone lost everything; it was the worst slump he had seen.

A frightening time: Chuck was working in Clinton, Oklahoma. The crew thought there was a dead well; it had 10,000 to 15,000 pounds of pressure. They used illegal zinc bromide to break the pressure. The zinc bromide got blown all over the crew. The zinc went into cuts and burned the skin. They worked with a lot of toxic equipment.

Chuck and Hallie's wedding: Hallie and Chuck met at a bowling alley in in 1981. They went on two dates and on the third one Chuck proposed to Hallie. They got married on Hallie's day off and Chuck took a sick day. The next day he went back to work.

Missing work: When he's off work and at home, Chuck gets a little stir crazy. Hallie says the industry owns half of Chuck and the family gets the rest of him.

Joseph "Sonny" Navarre

Houma, LA
July 8, 2009
JC306

Ethnographic Preface

Sonny Navarre was first contacted during the History II study, referred by Pauline Moniet, but was not interviewed. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. His wife, Judy, served us coffee and made several comments. He worked for Pure Drilling, which later merged with Union Oil, and retired in 1989. Currently, he spends most of his time carving decorative fowls, showing his products at conventions, and teaching soap carving to youth around the region.

Mr. Navarre was born in 1929 in Gueydan, Louisiana. In 1946, he entered the US Navy for two years. Afterwards he worked several jobs around St. Louis, Missouri before returning to Louisiana to begin working for Pure Oil Company. He roustabouted on inland gas field jobs He was transferred to Houma and took up residence here in 1965 after Pure merged with Union. He worked in production until 1970 when he moved to the drilling department, and did jobs both inland and offshore from Alabama to Texas.

Summary

Born in 1929, father owned a dry cleaning company. Navy for two years in California, then worked in munitions factory in St. Louis. Returned to Louisiana for job with Pure Oil; started as roustabout and gauger on inland jobs. Went offshore in ’54, working production. Worked on wide range of inland and offshore jobs, oil and gas, all through Gulf Coast. Worked on South Pass 49 and Mr. Sam, one of the first jack-up rigs. Started as drilling foreman in ’70, until near retirement in 1990 when Union disbanded the drilling department.

Spoke about significant changes in oil industry during 70s. Transportation a key factor – more air transport, much faster and more comfortable for workers. Highlighted by hurricanes – workers could be pulled from offshore quicker. Also key was evolution of equipment; logging machines and drilling tools. Made work safer and more productive. Noted increading reliance on contractors; particularly offshore, major companies hired contractors for nearly every component of a job. Majors no longer owned equipment; increasing specialization. Even with plenty of work, was fierce competition among contractors – evaluated mainly on experience (80%) and tools (20%). Also rise of training during 70s; schools for mud, coils, well control, water survival, fire fighting, etc. Certification and annual renewal. Resulted in a safer work place, cut learning curve for younger hands. By 80s, pride in work waned – new hires not working hard. Bust of 80s hard on service companies and investors; many had been buying equipment at high interest rates, lost everything.

Edward “Peanut” Neil

Houma, LA
July 29, 2009
JC328

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Neil was referred by David Smith. Mr. Neil spent much of his career with Texaco, and provided valuable information on Nicholls State University’s seven-and-seven petroleum engineering program, which he completed while working. He agreed to meet me at his office in the Tetra Applied Technologies’ main building south of Houma, Louisiana.

Mr. Neil was born in Chauvin, Louisiana in 1947. His father worked for Texaco. In 1968, he started working for the company, as well, in the kitchen. Over the next several years he was a roustabout and a driller, but realized that, without education, he would not progress in the company like he wanted. With

an advance from Texaco, he started the Nicholls State University's seven-and-seven petroleum engineering program, eventually graduating with a focus on mud engineering. In this capacity, he worked for the next 15 years, throughout the Gulf Coast, California, and Virginia. He retired from Texaco in 2001, having spent his final eight years in the office. Not ready to be retired, he took a position with Tetra Applied Technologies, a salvage and recovery company based in Houma. Mr. Neil is in charge of the division that plugs old wells and cleans them up for abandonment.

Summary

Born in Chauvin in 1947. Father worked for Texaco. He started with company in 1968, in kitchen. Roustabout and driller, before beginning Nicholls seven and seven petroleum engineering program. Worked as mud engineer and toolpusher for 15 years, through Gulf, California and Virginia. Spent last eight years in office, retired from Texaco in 2001. Took position with Tetra Applied Technologies, a salvage and recovery company based in Houma. Focuses on environmental issues on old abandoned rigs; plugs and cleans up well areas.

Noted that before directional drilling, necessary to cut canals for every well; with new technologies, set one platform and drill in multiple directions. Less damage to the marsh, no need to cut as many slips for wellheads. Also key for offshore development was satellite-anchoring systems, stabilizing the platforms with thrusters. Also advances in blow out prevention; now dealing with 20,000 pounds of pressure. These developments allow deepwater production to occur. Noted that for years no way to use the gas, all burned off as waste; Texaco lost law suit to Houma over revenue lost because of gas flaring. Discussed the rise of the "Nintendo generation," his kids and younger; if jobs got tough or a few cents more on another job, they quit. Contrasted with his generation – satisfied with a good job, never looked around, rarely quit anything. Technologies making jobs easier, softer hands. Noted that after 1986, it was better to work for a big service company (Parker, Hercules, Halliburton, Dowell) than a major oil company; better opportunities for advancement, retirement packages. Majors sold all equipment, rent everything, so departments are thin. Only hire engineering grads; streamlined payroll, trimmed off low caliber people. Massive switch – service companies began to hire common laborers. Change also in who controlled bid price; pre-bust, service companies could name any price; post-bust, more competition for contracts, bids.

Tim Osborne

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
LL010

Ethnographic Preface

Tim Osborne was referred to the oral history project by Marti Thomas. Tim is a retired geologist who has worked in Lafayette, Louisiana since 1984. He was interested in the project and set up an interview with Laura Loewer at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. Throughout the interview, he gives a lot of background information about how wells are drilled, independents compared to major companies, and the unique aspects afforded by living life and doing business in Lafayette.

Tim Osborne is originally from New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his master's in petroleum engineering from Tulane University in New Orleans. He started his career in the late 1970s with Gulf Oil for three years. In 1981 he went to work for the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company and worked another four years in New Orleans as a geologist. He got to Lafayette in 1984 when he was transferred from the company he was working for in New Orleans. He quit sometime in the early 2000s, after 21

years in the industry, to do mission work ministry with a local church. He lives in Lafayette with his family.

Summary

Career background: Tim recalls that in December of 1981 there were more rigs running than "have ever run before or since." In 1981 he was being recruited for another position, though at 24 years old he wasn't that interested in switching from his job at LL&E as he was heading up 13 oilrigs. However, he ended up taking a job for a very small company in New Orleans called World Producers. He says he was mainly interested in the position because it offered overriding royalties, which is additional royalty, or working on commission. Though December 1981 was the peak of the oil industry and seemed like a good time to transfer jobs, only a year later, in December of 1982, the rig count in the Gulf dropped from 4,500 rigs to 2,500 rigs. The price of oil plummeted and tax codes became more restrictive.

Moving to Lafayette: Tim describes the 1980s as a very tough time for the oil business. In 1983, while working in New Orleans, he had a friend who asked him to come to work for the company, Lender, as a geologist. Tim wanted to move jobs because World Producers wasn't doing anything, due to the slump. A few months later, his boss suggested he move to Lafayette to open an office. "Lafayette is a very significant city for the oil business because there were so many independent geologists and small company geologists that were generating oil and gas deals."

Career beginnings in Lafayette: In Lafayette, Tim had a large staff of independent geologists, and he became friends with many through professional associations. Tim describes a big gap in employment. People had been in the business for 25 years or three years, and not many in between. When Tim moved to Lafayette, there were a lot of people who had worked for the major oil companies and were now moving out on their own. He describes how they would move forward with generating deals and gives background information about the process of completing the job. In addition to working for his company, he generated his own deals. By the late 1980s there were two geologists working in the Lafayette office for Lender. He notes that at that time, drilling and seismic technology was changing, and their company was growing.

Opportunities and the downturn: In 1982 the industry was on the decline. Many geologists had taken jobs as teachers, insurance salesman, or other professions outside of oil and gas. At the same time, a lot of opportunities for small companies surfaced. Tim says small companies thrived because large companies would lose depletion points on wells and try to exit, and smaller companies could come in and take over wells. The 1980s created tremendous opportunities for small companies, and the majors leaving Lafayette created opportunities, which Tim refers to as "Dumpster diving." He describes how they would do the deals.

Tim says the best places for smaller companies to find oil was where oil had already been found, looking for what was left over. Passed over zones provided a good prospect for oil. He describes the royalty process with larger companies and landowners. The advantage for larger companies in selling off these wells was that letting a lease go inactive required them to cap wells. Capping a well, or "plug and abandon," as it is known, was expensive and time consuming. He says there is pressure to keep leases active, and they wouldn't want to lose the leases so they'd try to find others to take over the wells. Sometimes larger companies would even give away wells because of the plug and abandon liability.

Advantages of being a start-up geologist in the 1970s and 1980s: In the 1980s the oilfield was active for young geologists. Working independently, a geologist needed few tools and could access a log library for free. The start up cost was not high for a new geologist. Geologists would ask for a 3% royalty on

prospects they brought to other companies. Tim speaks further on the technical process, both about how to drill a well and the costs of a well and the royalties he would receive as a geologist.

Significant moments: He recalls a story of investing $6,000 in a well that he thought would make him rich. He talks about being on the well and watching it being drilled in real time. The hole was dry and the crew was disappointed. Tim got back to the office and was called about a bill to pay for the dry hole they'd drilled. He says the business is volume, and you have to "do a lot to get a lot."

Changes in technology: One thing that changed during the 1980s was the movement from directional drilling to measurement while drilling, or MWD. He says this technology created greater accuracy and evolved into the horizontal drilling of today.

Transition from shelf to deepwater: In the early 1990s, major companies were moving further offshore and moving off of the shelf into deeper waters. The majors would put these leased areas up for sale. He shares a story of a field for sale, which he found out about from a friend working for a major company. Tim evaluated the field and found good prospects for oil. His company did not have a lot of money to spend on it, and low-ball bids were unlikely to get them in. "The junk bids became junk companies." He says a good bid protected your reputation. After sharing their bid, they were encouraged to take a chance anyway, and were able to secure the bid for a low price. Tim says this is an example of the "movement of the major oil companies out of areas they didn't want to be stuck in created opportunities." He remarks they sold it later for 10 times what they had paid for it. He shares a story of working for Chevron and making a great discovery. "These were prospects the majors were throwing away and turned out to be some of the best things we did."

Changes in seismic exploration: When Tim began, everything in geology was done by hand on a drafting table. Seismic exploration was the biggest change, and completely revolutionized the industry and created great accuracy. However, it is expensive to run and display the data of 3-D seismic, pricing people out. Tim says the small operator was affected, because early on you could set up your office for $450–$500 dollars with low overhead. Tim also describes changes in drilling and the geology of the earth. There was a time independent geologists could do well, but now this highly sophisticated equipment requires greater expenditures.

Seismic technology: In the 1970s and most of the 1980s seismic data were large pieces of paper with squiggly lines. Seismic used sound waves to map the sub-surface of the earth. Going from 2-D seismic to 3-D seismic in the early 1990s changed the processing of data immensely. Tim expands on this and describes this as a great innovation for geologists.

A changing oil business: Tim says that today, oil companies are driven more by their legal staff than their accounting staff and won't take the risks, leading them to plug and abandon wells even if there is still oil available. He also mentions the environmental damages and liability incurred. Today, he says, there are not as many opportunities for independent geologists. It is more difficult for a younger person to get into the oil industry as an independent today. The 1980s and early 1990s were the "sweet spot" for the independent geologist. He speaks of the generational changes and the gap in the workforce, with not many behind or in front of Tim's coworkers. He says most people he did business with were his age, and the change in the demographics of geologists would be interesting to study.

Changes in the workforce: Tim began his career working for three years with Gulf Oil; something he says was considered "your advanced education." He says lots of people initially worked for large companies and then went to work for a smaller company, and then became an independent or worked in consulting. The majors were buying each other out in the 1980s, and now there are only a handful of major oil companies. As they bought one company, they would streamline who they wanted to keep and

let go, and many people re-entered the workforce. From truck drivers to restaurant owners to engineers, everyone was affected. He recalls a neighbor who was a doctor, and Tim said, "at least you're not in the oil business." His neighbor argued he was indeed in the oil businesses; he was seeing fewer clients and saw himself as affected by the oil business everyday.

The bust of the 1980s: It was a difficult time. Lafayette suffered from a declining real estate market and an exodus from the oilfield businesses. Things began to stabilize and people found their niches as the industry began growing again. There was a window of time when the independent geologist could do well because he could afford the tools to do business and the major companies were releasing properties that still had prospects for oil.

Networking: Tim absolutely agrees Lafayette is a good place for networking. He references the Petroleum Club, and the monthly meetings of 100+ geologists he would meet with (in the large ballroom, where the interview was taking place). He says they would show each other deals and you couldn't have done it any other way. Thinking of moving from New Orleans to Lafayette, he said a friend told him "Every time you walk into a restaurant there will be someone you know." And Tim says as soon as he got to Lafayette, he found that to be true. He says deals being done have to have a lot of trust, and because of the network of contacts and relationships, "you knew who to trust and who not to trust." Because the network was so important, and Lafayette was a small town, you didn't want to get a black eye in the industry. Tim says the network may not be as important today. He described the transition in Lafayette from lots of majors, to lots of independents, to today mainly oilfield service companies.

Women in the workforce: Tim recalls a few women in the industry. He never was a member of the Petroleum Club, and at $55 monthly membership fees, he didn't see why he should come pay to eat at a restaurant when there were other good options in Lafayette. However, he was at the Petroleum Club several times a month for meetings. When he moved in 1983, he thought the club was entirely male members. He recalls women geologists working in the oil business, and the older mentality of the Petroleum Club. As time went on, more and more women would be seen in jobs as exploration geologists, though Tim never had any working for him. He recalls logging a well one time and seeing a female engineer in a supervisory position working on an offshore rig. In geology at Louisiana State University, as an undergraduate, he saw 10 or 20 men to one woman, but says he saw many undergraduate colleagues go work for oil companies, and says opportunities for women were similar.

Lafayette creating opportunities for oil companies: Tim says he could have never done in Lafayette what he did in New Orleans. The close proximity provided by the Oil Center was a huge advantage. People in New Orleans were more isolated and spread out. Lafayette was more team-oriented and you expected to work together. "It's a much more family oriented community . . . and small town community-feel about it." Tim describes how the businesses were friends and family. He describes a very small community of geologists in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a more government-focused town. Lafayette is unique; a community of tight-knit relationships and trust built around doing business together. Tim says this was not special to the independents and could be found in major companies. He recalls the socializing of going to lunch daily, fishing trips, and other networking opportunities. "I think it's very unique" something he attributes to more the 1980s and 1990s. He describes further how these relationships played out.

Cooperation and competition: Tim describes Lafayette as a community where people wanted to help each other succeed, instead of having a competitive or cutthroat mentality. He says the attitude was, "We'll do better if we can work together." The oil business relationships were heavily dependent on trust and mutual benefit in Lafayette. He describes the industry as "light-hearted." The competition was such that people in the industry knew if you were doing well or not, because everyone kept up with the wells

being drilled and the success rates of those wells. The competition wasn't to beat the other person out, but to be successful.

Impact of the oil industry in Lafayette: He says the oil business was everything to Lafayette in the early 1980s, so all industries were affected by the downturn. During the 1980s they were way too dependent on the oilfield. When the price dropped to $9/barrel, he says, it was devastating. When Tim moved to Lafayette in 1983, he was able to purchase his house "on the cheap." By the time 1986 came along, he says he couldn't give the house away. In 1987 when he sold his house, he broke even.

Diversification: Tim says the economy has diversified, and the oil industry is no longer as important as it used to be. He says there is a larger presence of service companies today in 2015. He thinks the medical industry is a big part of the diversification. He says Lafayette also serves a much larger community, catering to the surrounding cities and towns. He speaks to the population growth in Lafayette since he moved there in 1984. He also talks about the effect of Hurricane Katrina on the Lafayette population in 2005. Cajun culture, and cooking, and zydeco music, are well known in Lafayette. Tim says the cultural aspects of Lafayette are more marketed now and nationally known, bringing in tourism. However, Tim says Lafayette is "still a family town."

Avoiding challenges: Tim describes the economic risk as devastating to many in the business. For himself, he was fortunate. Working for a small company where his boss operated out of his own checkbook, if there was little business they just didn't do much. Tim quit after 21 years, and describes how the "oil industry was great to me" and the family-oriented nature of the company he worked for. He describes the excitement of going onto the rigs.

Lafayette "mentality" and unique aspects of the network in Lafayette: He says one thing he found unique to Lafayette, in his experience, was that it didn't matter if you had $30 million dollars or $30: everyone saw each other as friends. Lafayette was not pretentious, in the way they would act, dress, and socialize. He thinks this is partly because a lot of people in the oil business were out of high school, and may have created a patent or pursued an entrepreneurial endeavor, which made them rich, but never changed who they were. He says there were no "price labels" in who you were in the network. Swapping stories, he says you would hear more about the times people had lost than when they had gained. This mentality is something he hasn't seen change today; there may be less players and fewer stories, but "I don't think that attitude has changed."

Companies learning from industry cycles: Tim says no, companies have not learned from these cycles in the industry. He says companies are always "leaning hard into the wind" and the "oil business is a tough business." He says as a high-risk industry it takes "certain optimism." He says the nature of the beast is that you "can't be cautious in the oil business." When business was good, you'd see bumper stickers that said: "If you don't have an oil well, get one!" and when business was bad, you'd see stickers that said: "If you don't have an oil well, take mine!" He also refers to a bumper sticker people had that said "oilfield trash," which was something to be proud of. Tim concludes with: "I think we'd make all the same mistakes we did the first time."

Proudest moments: Tim says the people he respects the most have been those in the business who were honest, looked out for others, and wanted you to do well. He is most proud of the generous attitude held by his colleagues around him. He says you don't expect or see that, and he was able to find that attitude in the oil business. Tim says there were enough things that worked and enough that didn't that it all worked out. Failures would wash away, and success would come down the road. Tim concludes, saying: "Staying in the oil business long enough, you'd have your share of all of that."

F. Daniel “Dan” Peirce

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015
LL015

Ethnographic Preface

Marti Thomas is friends with Dan Peirce and recommended the research team interview him. Laura Loewer called Dan and set up an interview at the Petroleum Club.

Dan Peirce lived in Algiers, Louisiana as a young teenager. He graduated from Louisiana State University in 1979 with a degree in geology. He worked on barges during summers in college hauling supplies to the rigs, and after graduation began work in the oilfield with Exxon in New Orleans as a scout. He later worked for ARCO as a combination scout and geologist and then moved into full-time geology, which he did for 20 to 25 years on and offshore in south Louisiana.

Summary

Career background: Dan began with the majors (Exxon and ARCO) before moving into working with the independents; something he notes is not unusual in his career field. In 1981, he said, the oil industry had begun the “huge crash.” “In December 1981 the rig count started to go down.” Twelve years into the cycle, in 1993 Dan found himself laid off from ARCO for two weeks with a family depending on him. Within two weeks he got a phone call from Petroleum Securities of Australia, a small two-man independent company in Lafayette. He worked for them six months before he was hired on full-time. Dan was with Petroleum Securities for seven years. They were strictly offshore in federal waters and relied on the spring Louisiana lease sale as their main asset base. After seven successful years, the company had to shut down their office. Dan notes that the small independent companies are often conglomeration of different companies. In 2000 they opened Aurora Exploration and Dan came on as a small interest partner. As a stakeholder he was taking a risk, but if they were successful he would do well. Around 2011 or 2012, they decided to keep the company going but no longer invest in it. Dan is now retired from the oil industry.

How he got to Lafayette: He was an understudy to a scout from Lafayette. After a year and a half of mentoring, he was given the option to move to Denver, Colorado or Lafayette for the job. He’d grown up in Louisiana since he was 13 years old, and wanted to live and have a career in the state.

First day offshore: In college, Dan worked for Tidewater Marine as a deck hand on workboats hauling supplies to an offshore rig. He worked for three summers and “loved it.” Though he wasn’t paid much at $31 a day, one perk was fishing and bringing home fish.

How Dan got into scouting: He started at Louisiana State University working for Campbell and Associates. He thought geology would be too hard. Working for Exxon as a scout, he saw friends doing geology and decided he could do it after all. He found an opportunity with ARCO to combine his skills in geology and as a scout. They made a deal with him to do scouting and geology with the option to move into geology. For two years he worked in this position until he got into geology full-time.

Scouting: Dan describes scouting as the “espionage of the industry.” He says it was a fascinating job. Scouting was strictly an onshore job mainly at the office, though occasionally Dan would sit at wells and track logs. The idea was to find out what your competitors were doing, to find, and then not give up,

critical information. At one point Dan decided because there was too much of a gray area, he didn't want to pursue scouting as a fulltime career.

Changes: The main change Dan has seen in his field is technology. Dan has seen changes in the acquisition and understanding of data, especially with the changes in 3-D seismic data. In the mid-80s seismic became more available. Using this technology offshore was easier, because the permitting was easier and you didn't have to navigate through towns. He says this development was a boost for all the companies, especially offshore in the early days. He compares the pre-seismic days to the after-seismic technology days. 3-D data also became more available for people who weren't as specialized. Dan also notes technology changes in fracking, deep drilling, and measurement while drilling. He mentions the cost of drilling has not decreased.

Changes in the work environment: Work environments have changed, even in the physicality of the workspace. When Dan first started in the late 1970s, the geologist and geophysicist worked as a team, and then sold the ideas to the management. Today, Dan says they are trying to build more of a team-mentality.

Difference between majors and independents: Because independent companies are smaller, they can offer more creative packages when hiring. He says the majors have to be careful in what they offer employees because "the little guy will snatch him up," meaning independents will take from the major companies workforce. The little companies have to be more focused, whereas larger companies like Exxon can be more far-reaching. Dan says one thing about the oil industry is that it is very, very, competitive. He gives an example of lease bids and how everyone can have similar bids. He also says the smaller companies are more of a family than the bigger companies. However, the big companies are what spawned the smaller companies, setting up the infrastructure that exists in Lafayette today.

Competition and cooperation: Dan gives an example of different projects covering more than one lease block. He says it is in company's best interest to be as efficient as possible, and companies will often get together if they have blocks near each other. He gives a personal example of a project he got involved in where they weren't able to come to an agreement, and both parties lost when they got too competitive with each other. He talks about handling risk as companies together, spreading risk and reward. He talks more about the transfer of information amongst companies involved, describing: "A lot of clandestine meetings."

Women in the workforce: "Back in the '60s and '70s it was a man's world." However, Dan began to see women geologists and engineers in the 1980s. Dan says the oil rig is a kingdom, where the company man is the dictator. He says it is "tougher and rougher" and doesn't know of women holding jobs on the drilling floor. He describes working offshore as a rough place. He says women are in the office but not in the field.

Cycles by gender: Dan says they are affected the same way. From the secretary to the vice president, he says they are all subject to the cycles of the industry.

Companies learning from the cycles: Dan says yes, companies have learned. More than anything, he says they have learned that the cyclical nature of the industry is how it will always be. Dan describes oil as a commodity, similar to agriculture.

Challenges: Keeping the ideas fresh can be a challenge, especially when an area has been pursued for oil more than once. Another challenge is being fair in the project evaluations. It is easy to fall in love with a project, and you have to have objective partners that will give you an honest evaluation of your prospect. Staying optimistic and keeping a "glass half full" mentality is important, especially when you drill a dry hole. Dan says you have to have faith in yourself and keep going; he says this is an old industry and

you're looking for a "needle in a haystack" every day. Another challenge is to understand what is required for the other employees, such as the landman and drilling engineer, to do their jobs. Dan says it is important and conducive to team building to think about others' jobs and not just your own.

Significant moments: Dan describes a small well he had during the downturn. He said it took clever mapping, and they found oil, but the well collapsed almost immediately. He recalls a well drilled with 20 miles of dry hole. He remembers one time during Christmas getting an oil well drilled and mislabeled information that put them off-target.

Learning in the industry: Dan says today he tells younger guys to "hang with the guys who know what they are doing." He says that is what worked for him and helped him do well as a geologist.

Changes in technology: Dan says with computer data you can work from anywhere. Dan had a colleague move to Colorado and do prospecting on data they would send him. During the 1970s and 1980s, Dan says that would not have been possible. "You needed to be where you could walk into somebody's office with a map and say here's where we need to lease, here's where we need to drill." Dan says the current technology and Wi-Fi has changed everything.

Impact of the oil industry in Lafayette: Dan says back in the day, oil was the economic lifeblood of Lafayette. It's not as much now, but he says it is still a big component. He says there is more medical and the university (ULL) has grown. "If you take the oil industry out of Lafayette it's a ghost town. Even now." He says specifically that schools have been supported and everything done in Lafayette Parish has a significant dollar contributed. He says the oil industry has been huge in its economic impact on Lafayette.

Environmental impacts: Dan talks about the canals and coastal degradation, and thinks the coastal erosion would still be just as big of a problem even if the oil industry didn't exist.

Networking: Dan says when he got laid off from ARCO, they gave him an office in the basement. Because he had worked in the industry 14 years, he started looking at his contacts. Dan says Lafayette is a good place to be set up if you want good connections in the oil industry. He talks about the six degrees of separation in the industry, and how everyone knew everyone. "It's very connected."

Where networking is done: Dan says he used to go to the Petroleum Club for networking. He says there would be guys playing dominoes and smoking cigars, and back in the day the Petroleum Club was the place to be. Today, Dan says, you can network through mutual projects and meeting others at the oil trade shows or at church.

Networking by gender: Dan says women should have the same opportunity as men with networking, especially with the professional organizations.

Proudest moments: Dan says he is proud of working in the industry for 34 years, and making a life for his family. He's proud of his dad for working for and retiring with Exxon. Dan remarks, "I have a real allegiance to the oil industry" and, "I'm proud of what the industry has done globally for the world." He acknowledges there would be people who disagree and think of him as evil, but he says the world "doesn't go" without the oil industry. Dan says they try to be as environmentally friendly as they can be, and says they go through incredible hoops, from regulations to certifications. He's proud of bringing the ideas to fruition, and bringing warmth to someone's home.

Larry “Moon” Porche

Houma, LA
July 17, 2009
JC320

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Porche was referred by Peanut Crochet during the History II study, but had declined to be interviewed at that time. With some persistence, he was persuaded to meet at his house in east Houma, where his wife served me coffee. She also made several comments during the interview. Mr. Porche spent his entire career with Texaco and continues to keep up with his friends from the company, such as Burleigh Ruiz, who he insisted I talk to. Otherwise, since his retirement, he fishes and volunteers with the church.

Mr. Porche was born in 1931, on Bourg Lane in Houma, Louisiana. His father worked with Texaco, based in Montegut, for his whole career. In the US Army, Mr. Porche fought in Korea, then spent four years in the National Guard. In 1955, he started working for Texaco as a laborer, rolling pipe. By 1959, he was the lead man on a pile driving and construction crew, which he did until retiring in 1990. Notably, he mentioned that because of the creosote on the pilings his crew handled, which was toxic and contained carcinogens, they “were like snakes, shedding their skin every seven days.” A man from Morgan City, Louisiana developed a lotion that helped somewhat, but his job always involved damage to the skin. Many people couldn’t handle it and quit, but he never did.

Summary

Born in 1931, in Houma; lived in Houma his whole life. His was a Texaco family – father, brothers, himself. Fought in Korea, then National Guard until 1954. In ’55, started with Texaco, pipe roustabout. By ’59, lead man on pile driving crew. Worked in this division until retirement in 1990.

Noted that in early 60s, restrictions on pollutants and sewage became strict. Less and less could go overboard into water through career. Discussed Texaco as being family oriented, with family hires; but relatives couldn’t work on same job, fighting favoritism. Texaco loved by people in Houma; but had to work hard for them. Noted that higher pressure offshore required better equipment, new technologies. As inshore began to deplete in 80s, big push offshore by all companies. Texaco hit hard by Pennzoil lawsuit in 80s, then merger with Chevron. People left Houma in droves. In 90s, Falcon Drilling had “roustabout school” on dry rig in Houma to train basic hands – all good hands gone, only “dregs” left. Noted service industry strong after 80s, but majors are out of area. Discussed improved wages for oilfield work over his career.

Joseph “Joe” and Nelda Powell

Lafayette, LA
July 27, 2015
ML036 a and ML036b

Ethnographic Preface

After the story about the oil and gas oral history project was on the news, I received an email from Joe Powell. He informed me that he had worked in the oilfield and wanted to share his perspective. We set up

an interview for July 27, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Before the interview, Joe asked if he could bring his wife, Nelda, so I could get her perspective. Interested to hear about Nelda's experiences, I told Joe to bring her to the interview.

Joe Powell has been in the industry for 45 years. He is from New Orleans but moved to Lafayette when he was 17. After moving to Lafayette, he met Nelda and married her; they have been married for 46 years. He started working in the industry as a roustabout and eventually became a platform manager for BP. Joe retired from BP in 2014.

Summary

Background and career overview: Joe worked in the industry for 45 years and retired last year. He was in the US Navy for two years during the Vietnam War. He came back after the war and wanted to be a carpenter. That career path didn't work out, so he went to an employment agency and got a job with a company that went offshore. He started working a seven-and-seven schedule; he didn't know that schedule existed. In the beginning he made $2.25/hour and could work as many hours as he wanted; he and his family weren't lacking for anything. Joe realized if he worked hard and did what he was told he could work his way to the top of the group. Joe knew this was the kind of work he had to stay in; he only had a high school education. He started as a roustabout and made his way up to manager of one of the biggest platforms in the Gulf. He worked for Pennzoil for seven years before starting his own service company with a friend. During the 1980s downturn the business was struggling, so Joe left the company. He started working offshore again for Standard Oil of Ohio (SOHIO); they had just started their first offshore oil platform. A man he knew from Pennzoil called Joe and asked him to interview for the job with SOHIO; he worked there for five years. SOHIO merged back to Standard Oil, which then went to BP Oil. For the last 30 years Joe has worked for BP Oil. BP is a British company with American workers. BP was a good company; they decided they wanted the company to be family-oriented and open to people from all walks.

Joe's job: Joe helped design, build, set, and start 11 platforms. He spent a lot of time in Morgan City in McDermott's yard where the facilities were built. He started with shelf water facilities and transitioned to deepwater floating facilities He started in SOHIO as a production supervisor; over the years that job evolved to production supervisor, production foreman, and finally offshore installation manager [OIM]. Joe's OIM position was a US Coast Guard license position. This job required a lot of responsibility; Joe was like the captain of a ship; there are a lot of different groups reporting to him. In 2005 Joe worked on the Thunder Horse, which was the largest floating production and drilling facility in the world at the time. Hurricane Dennis damaged the facility and it took an additional six months to repair it. He was one of the deputies on scene at that project. After working with this platform, Joe had a roving OIM position for a couple of years; he worked at all of the facilities to fill in for the other OIMs. He was then offered the Atlantis project. Atlantis was the largest floating production facility in the world. He worked at this facility for the last eight years of his career before retiring last year. He also worked in Venezuela from 1998 to 2000 to start up some facilities.

Schedule: After Joe worked in Venezuela, the companies switched to a two-week on and two-week off schedule. They did it to save on helicopter costs and to get more quality workdays from workers. The switch to the two-week schedule got a lot of criticism because it is hard for people to leave their families for that long.

Safety and the BP Spill: When Joe was in charge, he made sure no one got hurt and he is proud that no one got seriously hurt on his watch. BP is one of the safest companies Joe worked for; people don't understand that because of the [*Deepwater Horizon*] oil spill. He spent five years of his career dealing with the spill and it was difficult. The loss of life was horrible. Joe knew two of the drilling supervisors

on that facility and they were two of the safest guys. The spill affected the morale of everyone working at BP; they couldn't believe it happened to them. The spill was a lesson for the entire industry.

Family: It takes a special kind of woman to be married to someone working offshore. Nelda raised their kids and did the majority of the work. Nelda had to be mama and daddy. When Joe returned home it would be playtime; they would go hunting, fishing, and camping. His son would have the boat ready when Joe came home. In the early days everyone in town worked in the industry and everyone you socialized with was in the industry. If Nelda was in a bind, friends or neighbors, who also were connected to the industry, would help her out when Joe was gone.

Background of Joe and Nelda: During his entire career, Joe and Nelda lived in Lafayette. Nelda is from Lafayette. Joe was born and raised in New Orleans. When he was 17 years old he moved to Lafayette where he met and became engaged to Nelda. He joined the US Navy and was gone for a year. When he returned Joe and Nelda married. They left again for a year and then came back to Lafayette where they started their family. When Joe traveled abroad for work in the industry, Nelda went with him and BP paid her way most of the time.

Getting to know the workers: Joe and Nelda made life long friends in the industry. Joe has worked seven-and-seven, 14-and-14, and 21-and-21 schedules. Living and working with people for that long caused coworkers to become a second family. In his position, Joe got to know everything and everyone. There was always a line out his door of people wanting to talk to him about their problems. Joe knew all of the kids and wives of his coworkers. Every year BP had family picnics where Joe got to see the human side of the guys and get to see their families. Joe knew he was responsible for the guys and their families.

Women in the industry: Women in the industry were spotty in the beginning of Joe's career. He first saw women working in engineering. The University of Southwestern Louisiana had a lot of women petroleum engineers that went offshore. In the beginning there weren't living quarters set up for women. It took several years for men to except women working in the industry; it was difficult for the wives of the workers, too. Women also started working in operations, production, and catering. At the last facility [*Atlantis*] there were 125 people living on it; it was like living in a hotel. There were five female engineers working on *Atlantis*. He also had a personal assistant named Janelle; she worked out there for 15 years. The guys tease the women because they get territorial and possessive of their crew; they make sure the crew is taken care of.

Shallow to deepwater: The first platform Joe went on was in 400 ft of water and the last one was in 7,500 ft of water. It was completely different in operations and in construction.

Changes in safety: The biggest changes have been in safety. In the past if you got hurt, someone else would take your job. People also didn't wear earplugs, hard hats or steel-toed boots. Safety evolved because people were getting hurt. This evolution created the safety industry. It was hardest to sell the workers on safety; at first they refused to follow the safety rules. It was Joe's job to convince them to follow the safety regulations.

Transportation changes: When Joe first went offshore, he took boats to get to the facility. There were numerous accidents with the boats. Later he started taking helicopters; they were time efficient. The helicopter industry evolved because they had to go further and carry more people and fuel.

Hurricanes: They used to use boats to evacuate for hurricanes; Nelda worried if Joe would make it back before the hurricane. They would be kept out until the last minute in named storms. Sometimes it would be too late to evacuate on boat or helicopter; Joe road out two hurricanes offshore. The major oil companies have evacuation plans. Now when there's a tropical depression there are daily conference calls

with people in Houston to plan the evacuation. In the old days, it was up to the production superintendent when the facility would be evacuated.

Medics offshore: In the old days if you got hurt offshore you were on your own and had to take a boat back to land. They started having required CPR and first responder training, but that wasn't enough. Joe was one of the first people to put a medic offshore for BP. Now there are full medics with up-to-date equipment. There are also medical cameras with which doctors onshore can figure out what is happening with a patient. There are also medevac helicopters now. On one of his platforms Joe's medic was also the helicopter-landing officer. One time after the medic had helped land a helicopter he had a major heart attack. The first responders and crew did CPR on the medic for two hours while waiting for a medic to fly in from another rig. He died on the platform. There was the realization that there needs to be more first responders on offshore facilities.

Offshore health: Some of the larger facilities have more money to spend then small shallow water facilities. In the early days, there were lots of fried foods with lots of fat served offshore; there were no healthy choices. Fifteen years ago a new generation started working that was more health conscious. Joe brought an exercise physiologist offshore; they converted rec rooms into gyms and spent money on workout equipment. He also talked to catering to get them to offer healthy eating choices. Some of the guys would workout during their lunch hour. The big boss gave some resistance to these changes and thought if the workers had enough energy to work out, they weren't working hard enough. They had triathlons and competitions between platforms. Some of the crew did the training program P90X in the helicopter waiting room and invited the managers to do it with them. Joe tried to get the offshore environment to be more like the onshore environment to help with stress. If they met a milestone as a crew they would celebrate with lobster or T-bone dinners. There were also yearly crawfish boils until open fire was banned offshore.

Technology changes: First there were public address systems for communication on the facility. Then they started to integrate radios to communicate on jobs. The *Atlantis* control room was like the Starship Enterprise; it had 26 screens monitoring the facility and operations. The subsea wells for the *Atlantis* facility could be controlled from seven miles away. There was also the ability to videoconference with engineers and other people in Houston, Texas and London, England. The radar on *Atlantis* could provide the name, location, and communication channel for close by ships. There were also satellite phones that allowed for emergency communication to anywhere in the world. When Joe first started working offshore, Nelda had no communication with him until he came back. Then they started allowing one call a week, and the higher ups could make a call every day or every other day. On Joe's five-minute breaks he would call Nelda and they would have coffee together.

Safety drills and training: On the facility there were two fire teams and weekly safety drills for different scenarios. As the OIM and on-scene commander, Joe had an incident command center with all the information about everything on the facility. They would write out scenarios and run them out in the drills. The US Coast Guard had a rule that there had to be weekly realistic drills. They would run those drills and report them to the Coast Guard. Once a year the Coast Guard would come to the facility to evaluate a drill of their choice. Every three years BP offshore workers have to do water survival school. They also have to do a one-time intensive fire school.

Living and working with different personalities: Managers have to have technical trainings, such as how to have difficult conversations and manage people better. Working in a closed environment with different personalities creates issues. There was a diverse workforce; there were females, African Americans, Indians, and people from overseas; it was like an international airport. People have different likes and dislikes, but they have to take care of each other; this is why they didn't have some of the problems people experience onshore. We had to get along.

First day offshore: For his first day offshore Joe remembers leaving out of Intercostal City, Louisiana. He was in awe of everything but apprehensive about flying out on a Bell 212, which were the same helicopters they had flown in Vietnam. Joe didn't know what to expect. Because he had been in the US Navy, being offshore wasn't new. On his second or third hitch Joe stayed offshore for five weeks; it was an opportunity to catch up on bills. His nickname was Joe-T because he always volunteered to work overtime. He would work 20-hour shifts and stay up for a couple of days without sleep; nowadays you can't work 16 hours without permission. Joe remembers being comfortable in his offshore surroundings and missing his family. Christmas wasn't always on Christmas day. He missed a lot of baseball games and dance recitals. Nelda thought the family spent more time together than they would have if Joe worked a normal schedule. When Joe would come home, he would spend a full six days with his family.

Impact of the oil and gas industry on Lafayette: The oil industry built Lafayette; before oil and gas, farming was the biggest industry. Joe's dad worked in Lafayette as an engineer on the Southern Pacific Railroad; the railroad employed quite a few people back in the day. At one point Joe didn't know anyone unaffiliated with the oil industry. Down Highway 90, it's now called "the energy quarter" because of the service companies; those companies employ thousands of people. Frank's, one of the largest casing companies, started in Lafayette. Baker Hughes employs thousands of people. The industry played a big part in the development of the community and the camaraderie in Lafayette. The Cajun culture is strong in Lafayette. Nelda imagines that Lafayette is called Hub City because when the oil business first started up Lafayette was the closest city to offshore. A lot of the companies had their home base in the Oil Center in Lafayette. The major oil companies have spread to New Orleans and Houston. The oil show [LAGCOE] used to be in Lafayette every year, but now it alternates between Lafayette and Houston. There is oil history on land, but production on land doesn't compare to the offshore oil. There are a lot schools and trainings here in Lafayette.

Networking: In this community [Lafayette], when people came back from working offshore they would spend time with their friends from offshore; that's how connections are made. There was a change in the industry: family members couldn't be on the same platform; that was a hard hit because a lot of families worked offshore. It got to the point where if you socialized with someone in the business you couldn't take them to lunch and you had to do the "red face" test. Companies were worried about favoritism and brother-in-law deals; it took a toll on a lot of relationships. Joe had a friend in the industry that he would go fishing with; the company investigated Joe for favoritism towards his friend.

Retirement: Joe retired because of the physical aspects of the job and the stress from the BP [*Deepwater Horizon*] spill; the government started doing a lot of audits. He had planned to retire at 65 but Nelda was diagnosed with breast cancer before then. He stayed with her in Houston while she got her treatment. During the last six months of his career, Joe was home more than he was at work; BP was really good about the situation. BP told Joe to be with his wife and that they would continue to pay him. His boss asked Joe if he wanted to retire and he did. Joe misses the people more than the work itself; he doesn't miss the stress from the rules and regulations of his job. Since he's retired, he's gotten calls about doing consulting work but he doesn't do it.

Big Crew Change: 2014 was the Big Crew Change. Joe's generation is retiring and it's leaving a gap. Joe's job didn't require an engineering degree but now it's preferred, but engineers don't want to work offshore. The "grey-haired guys" are leaving.

Venezuela: Joe worked in Venezuela for three years doing a three-week on three-week off schedule. He would fly back and forth from Louisiana to Venezuela. He worked in an old oilfield that Shell had drilled in the 1930s and that was abandoned after Venezuela nationalized oil. BP wanted to revive the oilfield. Nineteen people from around the world applied for that OIM job, but Joe and another guy were the only

two who got it. The first day Joe and Nelda were in Venezuela they stayed at a five-star hotel; Nelda was scared to leave because there were riots. He worked in the Oronoco Delta; the wellheads had rusted over and the trees leaked oil. Joe helped put together the production equipment. There were two small villages of indigenous people across the river from where he worked; they would canoe up to the barges and sell things. There was cultural learning; there were Scottish, British, American, and South American people working on this job. Joe and the others took Spanish lessons; Joe had learned a different dialect of Spanish and had to relearn it. The Scottish and British didn't want to learn Spanish. There was no infrastructure where they worked so they had to build it. All of the Venezuelan workers were in a union so there were certain rules they worked by; there was a lot of turnover. Most of the Venezuelan workers were fisherman without formal education; they were used as common laborers. BP had to recruit workers with high school educations from the cities. The Venezuelan National Guard would walk around the facility with machine guns; it was scary. Joe had a three-year contract for this job; he was going to stay longer but Hugo Chavez had his coup; Joe and other Americans had to leave the country. The oilfield went down; Joe would get emails from people back in Venezuela asking for jobs. Joe also shared stories about the wildlife in Venezuela.

Different accidents: There was a blowout on the Snapper platform, which was the third platform Joe helped build. A giant crane was used to move the facility onto the jacket; the crane dropped the facility back on the barge and everything shifted by half an inch; it took a year to do the repairs. That facility had two drilling rigs; they were running tubing down the well and it started coming in. They evacuated the facility and the well blew out and spit out the heavy tubing. On that job a company called Boots and Coots (firefighters), some company men, and Joe went to see if the damage could be rectified; they had to wait two weeks for the gas to stop blowing. Joe also experienced a fire while working for Pennzoil; it went out on its own. On the *Atlantis* platform, a line broke and 150 barrels of oil spilt onto the platform; none went into the water but everything was covered in oil. The accident resulted from a young man not putting tubing together like he was supposed to. As the offshore installation manager, Joe was responsible for anything that happened in his facility. The US Coast Guard could take criminal action against Joe if something went wrong. Two drilling supervisors got charged with 11 counts of homicide after the BP spill.

Helicopter accident: On December 8, 1978 or 1979 when Joe worked for Pennzoil, there was a helicopter crash at one of the Pennzoil platforms Joe had been working at. It happened during a crew change that Joe was supposed to be on, but he wasn't at that main platform. The crane boom hadn't been moved away from the heliport like it should have and the tail rotor came in contact with it and broke off. There were 19 people on the helicopter and 17 of them died. Of the people who died, there were twin brothers and an uncle and his nephews; incidents like this are why families aren't allowed to work together.

Proudest moment: Joe is self-educated and graduated with a GED; he has come a long way in his career. He grew up in New Orleans and had a tough time. Meeting Nelda changed his life and gave him purpose. They started their family. Joe would study at night to get his GED. Nelda and Joe's work ethic rubbed off on their kids. After their daughter graduated, Nelda went to nursing school. They have successful kids; they were the first in the family to graduate from college. Joe has been invited to conferences. He has managed a $100 million budget and run a $500 million facility; his career culminated in *Atlantis*. Now that he is retired he just wants to play.

Werlien "Moose" Prosperie

Houma, LA

June 30, 2009
JC301

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Prosperie was referred by his friend, Leland Crochet, who sat in on the interview and makes several comments through the course of it. We met at the Jolly Inn, a Cajun restaurant and dance hall owned by Mr. Prosperie. The dance hall is decorated with photos and artifacts from Houma's early days–oil rigs and crews, hunting and fishing in the bayou, and the town itself. Retired from work in the oilfield, he now runs the Jolly Inn and plays accordion in a local band. He spoke proudly of his career with Texaco and later in the "fish and tool" support industry.

Mr. Prosperie was born June 19, 1935 in a houseboat on the bayou south of Montague, Louisiana. When he was seven years old, he and his mother moved to Houma after his parents divorced. He shined shoes and did street performances, and his mother worked in a sugar refinery. At the age of 18, he began working in the oilfield, which continued for 45 years, until his retirement in 2000.

Summary

Early life: Born in 1935, midwife delivery on a houseboat near Montague, LA. Father and all male family "Texaco men," mostly drillers. Hard, poor youth with mother in Houma after parents' divorce. Worked in oilfield summer of junior year of high school (illegally – needed to be 21 to be hired by big companies). Started with Texaco as flunky, moved from roughneck to derrick man, to driller, to production. In 1970s began doing "fishing and tool" on the side, and by '78 left Texaco and took position in this service industry fulltime until retirement. Killed blown wells, then recovered (fished) equipment for the big oil companies.

Described the evolution of deepwater drilling: importance of jacking up work barges on inland lakes for stability, this started the idea, which could be expanded into deeper water. Companies gave cash bonuses to workers who invented solutions to problems. Innovations came "piecemeal." Cajuns were happy to open the door – let the engineers take it from there. Move offshore marks a transition to technical, scientific problem solving, contrasted against earlier on the fly trial and error methods used onshore. Also with move offshore in 70s came regulations, "bean counters," and the end of the "lets just get it" mentality. Quote: "lets do something, even if it's wrong."

Richard "Fuzzy" Redmond

Houma, LA
July 22, 2009
JC322

Ethnographic Preface

Burleigh Ruiz referred Mr. Redmond; both men are Texaco retirees and friends. Mr. Redmond meets with this Texaco group for coffee semi-regularly. Mr. Redmond lives on Presque Isle, Louisiana, near the Houma airport, which is where the interview took place. His son, Richard, Jr., lives in Montegut and currently works for Chevron on deepwater platforms. Mr. Redmond said his son would be able to speak about the industry after his retirement in the early 90s. Mr. Redmond was proud of his work overseas and provided valuable information about this experience.

Mr. Redmond was born in Montegut, Louisiana in 1937; during his youth the town was dominated by Texaco. As a young man, he worked with his father in a machine shop, then started working for Texaco in 1956. He began in the kitchen, and then worked as "extra board," filling in for hands that were out all over the region. After two years, he started as roughneck on a rig that used and tested experimental equipment. After drilling for one year, he moved to toolpusher, working on rigs throughout Terrebonne Parish. In 1972, he went to Nigeria for seven months on a job. In 1976, he worked on land rigs in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Through the rest of his career, until 1994 when he retired as a drilling superintendent, he worked a 21-and-21 schedule, travelling to Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela and Tunisia.

Summary

Born in Montegut in 1937. Worked as youth with father in machine shop, servicing oilfield. Started with Texaco in 1956, kitchen aid. Moved up as roughneck, then driller and toolpusher, working on Texaco rigs throughout Gulf. First trip overseas in 1972, to Nigeria. Then in Ecuador in 1976, and throughout South America as drilling superintendent for next 20 years. Worked 21 and 21 schedule. Retired in 1994, turned down multiple offers to consult.

Noted that early in career more than later, many men only wanted to roughneck; scared of responsibility of higher positions, created opportunities for those with some education and book smarts. Spoke about Texaco job in Nigeria in 1972; airport full of con artists. Rigs were fully segregated, called it 'senior staff' and 'worker staff', but it was black/white. Problem of theft, and challenges with training local workforce. Workers in Latin America and Africa "don't have the urgency" of Americans. In Ecuador starting in 1976, described worker strikes, government takeovers, flying into remote jungle via helicopter to start oil production. Noted FARC's demands for local employment, roadblocks, and negotiations. Yet majority of people very kind, bad hype was unfounded. Made lasting friendships with local people on many jobs overseas. Many friends from Houma called him crazy, but best decision he ever made to work abroad; better money, more responsibility and greater freedom. Preferred not having to answer to anyone, easier to do this overseas.

Ronnie Rhodes

Houma, LA
July 8, 2009
JC307

Ethnographic Preface

Ronnie Rhodes was first contacted during the History II study, referred by Richard Goodroe, but was not interviewed. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. He worked for Unocal and retired in 2003. The following year he took a position as a salesman with Measurement Technologies, an oilfield service company, and still holds that position. He maintains ties with many of his former Unocal coworkers and provided me with numerous contacts.

Mr. Rhodes was born in 1950 in Houma and has spent almost his entire life there. He was drafted to go to Vietnam, but was released due to a shoulder injury. In 1971 he was married and that same year started as a roustabout for Unocal Oil Company. Ronnie moved up the ranks until becoming a production foreman by the late 1970s, in charge of three offshore fields. In the mid-1990s he was moved to construction foreman, a position he held until being forced into retirement in 2003 when Unocal was bought out and management positions were liquidated.

Summary

Born in 1950; short time at Nicholls but left without a degree. Went through basic training in Army, but discharged. Started with Unocal Oil Co. in 1971; moved from roustabout/pumper trainee to utility man, operator 2, operator 1, to production foreman. Oversaw 2-3 fields offshore. Then 12 years as construction foreman, overseeing fabrication of jackets, rigs and pipelines. Forced into retirement as Unocal was bought out in 2003. Returned to oil industry after several years, as salesman of meters to measure oil and gas, for Measurement Technologies Co.

Noted the major impact evolving communications had on oilfield through 70s and 80s. A move from 2-way radio, to telephones using microwaves, walkie-talkies, and finally computers and email. Increasing ease of communication had wide ranging effects on productivity and safety. Safety moved from the back to center of attention on rigs. Environmental regulations stopped all by-products from going overboard; agencies such as MMS and OSHA established strong working relationships with companies. Increased focus on training built value of the companies and employees. Generational shifts made more acute by rise of new technologies; older hands intimidated by computers; resistant to automation. Frustration over company's move from people-focused to money-focused decision making. Companies changed philosophies; lost touch with workers and lost their loyalty. Today, workers lack the urgency and seriousness of earlier hands. Larger leadership team in place now – engineers, safety managers, drill superintendents; engineers have taken the weight off shoulders of the foremen over the years.

Wilson "Tut" Rhodes

Houma, LA
July 16, 2009
JC317

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Rhodes contacted me after seeing the *Courier* article, and stated that he would like to participate in the study. He said that he wanted to be sure I was getting people to "tell it to me straight" about the role of the oil industry in the area. He had spent his entire career working in the industry, and wanted to share his perspective. We met at his house in Houma, Louisiana. Mr. Rhodes was considerably more critical of the oil companies than most of his peers in the area. In addition to speaking about his experience working for an oilfield service company, he commented at length on the corruption at all levels of the industry in south Louisiana, and the mixed impact it has had on the people of the region.

Mr. Rhodes was born in Houma in 1933. His father was a fisherman and oysterman. Mr. Rhodes trawled for shrimp when he was younger. His two older brothers worked for McDermott on derrick barges. Mr. Rhodes studied for two years at Nicholls State, and from 1957 to 1959 went to Korea with the 101st Airborne Division. Upon his return to Houma, he was married, and began working for Dresser (later bought out by Halliburton). He began with the company as a rigger, running wire line and logging. The second half of his career was spent in sales and service, finally as an operations superintendent. He retired in 1991.

Summary

Born in Houma, 1933. Father a commercial fisherman. Brothers worked for McDermott. Studied at Nicholls for two years; fought in Korea from '57-59. Returned to Houma, got job as rigger and logger for Dresser Inc. College years helped him get management job; was trained on production and safety. In 70s

moved to sales and service; operations superintendent, troubleshooting on service jobs. Retired in 1991; has been active in community since, volunteering.

Noted the significance of advances in prognoses, aka "prigs," and record keeping, in 70s and 80s; improved technology made directions for workers and data for supervisors more detailed, user-friendly. Spoke about the hard life of the contractor, on 24 hour call; required a "special kind of man," and strong woman at home to hold down the family. Service schedule much different from operator's seven and seven schedule. Toolpusher was king, always getting payoffs for contracts. Noted there was no support for workers; no unions, and bosses would often sell you out to save themselves. Main reason workers here got pay raises was union workers in other areas got them and trickled down. Push for safety was compromised by long hours – workers tired and dangerous all the time. Spoke about the rise of engineers in industry; many couldn't change their mind, if in a book, it was truth; best was a partnership between engineer and experienced hand. Stated that oil companies could have made area "fly like a bird," but they tricked people into selling land and labor for cheap. "We sold our soul to the companies." Noted local people always have said "whatever," and allowed themselves to be taken advantage of.

George A. Savoy

Houma, LA
July 24, 2009
JC326

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Savoy was referred by Emory Beltaine. He has a wide network of contacts in the oil industry in the region due to his decision to work only for himself throughout his career; he ran a welding and construction business, working for many different companies. He spoke about working through the challenge of not being from Houma, Louisiana, and competing for contracts in the tight-knit community. Since he retired, Mr. Savoy has bred and raised beagles for rabbit hunting.

Mr. Savoy was born in Cameron, Louisiana, in 1928. His father was a farmer and served as a French interpreter in World War I. In 1948, Mr. Savoy started with McDermott as a roustabout, working in Louisiana between Sulphur and Cameron. He joined the military, serving in Guam and California from 1950 to 1954. In 1955, he returned to the region and began working for McDermott again, laying pipeline and driving piling. He quit in 1972 due to problems with new management, and that year started a welding and pipe fabrication yard. He capitalized on contacts with major companies accrued through his time with McDermott, and had work right away, mainly with Conoco. He built a reputation for good work and got contracts this way rather than through payoffs, which he said were common. Mr. Savoy sold his company in 1982, just before the bust hit, and says he saw the writing on the wall.

Summary

Born in Cameron, LA, in 1928. Father a farmer, WWI veteran. Started with McDermott in 1948 as roustabout, in Sulphur and Cameron region. Served from '50 – '54 in Navy, Guam and California. Upon return, continued with McDermott as pile driver and pipeline. Quit in 1972, started welding and fabrication yard. Used prior contacts to secure contracts; built reputation through hard work and quality. Sold company just prior to 1982 bust; one of few of his friends who didn't lose everything.

Noted that the push for safety in 70s and 80s was valuable, but overkill. Said accidents were uncommon in early days of oilfield because skilled hands knew what they were doing. Said OSHA was "pain in the ass." Spoke at length about how contracts were made between companies – payoffs and favors rampant in

industry. All about who you know, still today. Described stigma on outsiders, locals looking after each other. Noted that many engineers were too smart to listen; those that succeeded were able to learn from hands, able to speak on same level as workers. Described unique oilfield slang of region – French mixed in, new words; language all its own, bosses needed to be able to speak it. Noted quality of work slipped by 80s; jobs took more time, more money. "Security all in the payday now;" no job security left; compared to old days when company would have you cut grass to keep you on payroll.

Herb Scheuermann

Lafayette, LA
July 20, 2015
LL008

Ethnographic Preface

Herb Scheuermann expressed interest in participating in the oral history project after he saw Morgan Lundy on KATC-3 channel news. He contacted the research team via email and set up an interview. Laura Loewer met Herb at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 20, 2015 to conduct the interview.

Herb Scheuermann is from New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Nicholls State University with a degree in teaching. He taught science for four years. In 1968, he got his first job with Dresser-Magcobar, making twice the salary he did as a teacher. He created a career doing work from mud engineering to sales engineering, working offshore and inland from 1968 to 1987. In 1977 he moved from Houma to Lafayette with his wife and son. His career in the oil industry concluded in 1987 as a sales engineer with Smith Tool. In 1987, he went back to school and pursued a degree in computer accounting. He sold electronics and beepers for a number of years, and later in life opened a furniture store, from which he is now retired. He and his wife of 51 years reside in Lafayette.

Summary

Career overview: Herb Scheuermann worked offshore and inland for 20 years, from 1969–1987. He attended and graduated form Nicholls State University with a degree in teaching. He taught school for four years before getting a job in the oilfield, where he was able to make twice as much as he did at his teaching job. Herb started in the oilfield as a mud engineer for Dresser-Magcobar, working for them from 1968–1977. He moved to Lafayette in 1977, and went to work for a specialty chemical company called PAL Mix for four or five years. In the 1980s, he went to work for Smith Tool manufacturing and selling drill bits. Then he went to work for a company called Alpine Mud for three or four years. After Alpine Mud disbanded, Herb went to work as a consultant as a mud engineer for three or four years. His career ended with Smith Tool as a sales engineer working on MWD tools in 1987.

First day offshore: Herb recalls his first day in inland waters. The first time he went offshore his supervisor at the time brought him out on a c-plane and they flew out together to the rig site, 30 or 40 miles from Houma, in the marshes of south Louisiana. His supervisor left him and took off. Herb laughed, saying he had had no instruction; the idea was to throw him in the water and see if he could swim. Two or three days later his supervisor came and picked him up.

Significant moments: Herb recalls being on a crew boat or helicopter going out of Cameron, Louisiana to his first offshore location. He mentions working for Marlin Drilling on a company rig, and explains that he got offshore on an old US Navy ship called a tender. He lived on the tender working a seven-and-seven schedule, and recalls riding the waves next to the platform where he did mud engineering (though a

lot of his work he was able to do from the boat). He explains how he would prepare drilling muds and the chemical properties.

One summer he was working offshore and got word from shore that there was a tropical storm coming, but it was still a few days away. The company man running the rig wanted to get farther along in the drilling process and did not want to leave. The tugs couldn't get to the rig in time to pull them into shallow water. He rode out the tropical storm on the tender boat, and remembers it was rough. He says it was both terrifying and exciting, and they continued working once the storm passed. He said nowadays they would be more likely to evacuate quickly if there was an impending storm.

Changes in the environment: Herb gives the US Environmental Protection Agency credit for doing a good job. In the 15 years Herb was actively offshore, he saw more care in disposing of chemicals, such as the drilling mud. When they first went out there, they "used to dump mud all the time." By the time he was finishing up working offshore, they very rarely dumped mud over, and would often put it in containers and send it back to shore to be reused. He recalls the sheen on the water from oil products spilling and saw that diminish. "I saw a significant change. We got more careful and took better care of the site."

Changes in safety: Herb recalls safety was a big thing. One specific example was a worker never used to wear a hardhat or life jacket or safety vest, which became mandatory by the end of Herb's career in the late 1980s. He said helicopter service to the rigs also increased, making it easier to get to the job. Many people going out on crew boats quit due to seasickness and long voyages, so the helicopters provided an alternative.

Offshore mindset: Herb says some people would get out on the rig, wouldn't last more than a half hour, and have to be sent back to shore via helicopter. "It takes a certain mindset, a certain personality, to work offshore." He says you walk out of the crew quarters and walk to the railing and you see nothing but water for miles. He says it takes a certain psyche to realize you are safe on the rig. He reinforces the idea of safety offshore, knowing you're ok, and that psychology being prepared is critical.

Women offshore: The first female he ever saw offshore was a galley hand. Her main duties were to clean. Right before he left offshore he saw a female roustabout working to load and unload the supply ships and the rig, cleaning, chipping, and painting. He described them as "hefty gals" who could carry their weight offshore. He never saw a drilling crew female but heard there were some after he left. Herb says he never witnessed any females doing the mud engineer job he had.

Expectations at work by gender: From Herb's observation of the galley hands, he said, the transition to having women on a rig was "pretty good." The only thing they worried about at the time was the sexual part of it. Getting guys and girls offshore on a ship for a week, he said that could potentially turn into the biggest problem, though he doesn't know of any liaisons or promiscuity between male and female workers offshore. He says as long as women could perform the job it worked out.

Choosing companies: Whoever offered you the biggest and best car, biggest account, and biggest salary was the company you worked for. Herb says a couple of his transitions to different companies were for these reasons.

How Herb got to Lafayette: With his son getting older, and getting involved in sports, Herb decided he needed more quality time with his son. He started looking around for a related oilfield job, and found the company PAL Mix. They found and trained mud engineers to create the chemicals, a process Herb was already familiar with. He interviewed for the job because a buddy of his in Houma suggested he apply. He worked out of Houma for almost a year, and he was promoted and moved to Lafayette because of his

experience. He became an assistant sales manager, or sales engineer. His family moved to Lafayette in 1977 and he worked out of a Broussard, Louisiana location for 3 or 4 years, going offshore for the job occasionally, so he was able to spend more time with family.

Competition and expertise: He said PAL Mix's chemicals started being copied by the competition, and they ran into problems. The company began downsizing and Herb looked for a new job, finding employment as a sales engineer with Smith Tool making drilling bit programs for the oil companies. "If you build an expertise in an area, it becomes important to another company who needs somebody to fill the slot with those types of engineers." He was a degreed elementary school teacher, and never held an engineering degree, but said he was initially hired as a mud engineer because, "If you want to train someone to do the technical jobs, get someone who is bright or has a degree because they are trainable." As a science teacher, he found some overlap in his first job.

Changing jobs: A few years after Smith Tool, he'd made connections with a new mud company in town, and they started urging Herb to work for them, offering a bigger car and better expense account. He was hired as a vice president in charge of engineering, with 12 or so people working below him. The owner of the company got older and decided to retire, and the company disbanded. Herb was not unemployed, but became a consultant supplying expertise to companies. He did that for the next 3 or 4 years before returning to finish his career with Smith Tool.

Lafayette in 1977: He compares Houma to Lafayette, likening Houma to a small Lafayette. When he moved to Lafayette in 1977 he observed the industry mainly in the Oil Center, and said it was more consolidated in Lafayette than in Houma. Lafayette was the Hub City, and he said he ran into more white-collar people than he had in Houma, which he described as blue-collar. At the time, Lafayette had a lot of oil, but, as Herb understands, Houston is now the hub for white-collar work. Lafayette had more things to do, and was good for his family. His wife got a job as a teacher and his son was in a good school.

Networking: Herb gives an example of working for PAL Mix and after a few months in Lafayette he joined Red Lerille's Health Club and started playing tennis. He'd been a player all his life and said there were more courts and people playing at better levels. Tennis was instrumental in two of the jobs he got, because there was a lot of hand shaking made on the tennis court, or even golf course. He says is an important place to meet people and make a connection. Talking to someone after a game, he'd set up meeting times. "It was a tremendous help for me in a couple of jobs I had here in Lafayette." He also got the opportunity to play in some of the big oil tennis tournaments, winning several trophies, and he "really got the chance to meet the right people." After he's lived in Lafayette only a few months, Herb was encouraged by one tennis player friend to make a change in his career. As PAL Mix started to go down, his friend said, "Come on by and I'll introduce you to the right person." He's had two connections come out of playing tennis at Red's health club.

Networking by gender: Women were around, but other than offshore transitions, he could not speak to seeing any significant change in the white-collar area for women in any of the jobs. He said women were essential for clerical and office management positions. Working for Smith Tool he recalls one woman holding a more white-collar job. Her boyfriend had encouraged her to work for the oil industry, and she applied and got a job with Smith Tool. She had a technical background in math and science at the University of Southwestrn Louisiana and Herb attributes that knowledge to why she was able to get the job after a preliminary trial period. Herb ended up training her, and saw her transition over the years, becoming better and better at her job.

Transition from shelf to deepwater: Herb's first job was inland water, then shelf, then deepwater. He says the only big difference between inland, shelf, and deepwater is the location. He said there could be

minor chemical changes but often did not have to do with the location. He talks about the process of doing mud engineering, the process of reporting, and testing.

Herb says inland waters were the roughest of the three. Very little care was taken for accommodations for inland waters. The land locations were easy to drive up to with a trailer for you to stay at the rig. Offshore was self-contained so cooks were 24 hours a day and most rigs were in good conditions. Inland waters were different because the locations were not built to accommodate people overnight. Two crews working 12-hour shifts, you don't really need accommodations for anyone but the toolpusher and company man. However, this was not always the case. He recalls many times when he built his own bed for himself on pallets in the mudroom to get some sleep. The heat and humidity inland was also tough, and the cold elements were a challenge as well.

Schedules: Most of Herb's work was seven-and-seven. He did several 30-and-30 schedules while doing consulting work, because they ran fewer people out at a time. He recalls that in 1985 or 1986 he never touched land once. He went out in January and came back in March. The schedule time drastically effects home life, and Herb reiterates you have to have the right mindset and "not a lot of people can manage that." He celebrated to 50 years of marriage in 2014.

Challenges of industry cycles: The last job Herb had was with an MWD company and the same company as he had worked for earlier (Smith Tool). He explains the MWD process (Measurement While Drilling). He was one of the first engineers to ever carry a computer or PC offshore in the mid-1980s. In 1987, he says, the oil industry was going through a very slow time. It had fought in the early 1980s, but in 1986–1988 many companies went out of business and moved from Lafayette to Houston or downsized. He said he would never forget when he came back in—he was the last crew to come in from a job, and they had stopped the service he was doing at the time. They told him he was best they had and the last they had. They tried to keep Herb, but had to lay him off in 1987, ending Herb's career in the oil industry.

Difficulties transitioning to a new career: He said one difficult part of the oil industry was he held the job title of sales engineer for many years, but really wasn't an engineer so he didn't have a degree in engineering to network or put on a resume because he was "never an engineer." Technically speaking, he knew a lot about engineering but did not have the educational credentials. "I had 20 years experience in an industry that had basically died." Personally, he said, he had to rethink his whole life. He used his savings to go back to school. He knew computers were up and coming and went to a junior college technical school to get his degree in computer accounting and got a job immediately after he finished school. He found a new sector to get into selling cell phones, beepers, and electronics.

Diversification: Ultimately in Lafayette the two major areas Herb went to work in were selling computers and computer software. The diversification of Lafayette changing afforded him to do the computer jobs he did and sell other electronic equipment. Then Herb went into the furniture business, in his 60s, where he said the customers would have to come to him. Lafayette Utilities System and the fiber optics network have brought a lot of industries into Lafayette. He said a good university has helped a lot for the economy with people not only matriculating but also graduating and settling in Lafayette. Except for the blue-collar jobs, he doesn't see a huge presence of the oil industry as much anymore.

Impact of oil industry in Lafayette: The oil industry was instrumental in keeping Lafayette on the map through the 1970s and 1980s—it was one of the biggest hubs in the world at the time. Herb recalls moving to Lafayette and hearing "there are more millionaires per capita living in Lafayette than anywhere else in the world." Herb thinks the reason for this was the oil-related company owners and people who owned the land and oil rights were those that "really made the money." He also references entrepreneurs in Lafayette. He has seen the oil presence diminish over the years, and has seen service companies go out of business. He knows for a fact Lafayette has stayed strong in the blue-collar support of the industry. He

says what made his electronics and furniture sales possible were the day-to-day and blue-collar customers that supported him.

Impact of the oil industry on other businesses: He draws the comparison that no one needs new furniture unless they have the money to upgrade. He said in the furniture business he could always see how the blue-collar working class was doing. With white-collar he said it didn't matter because they always had enough money to make those purchases. He has a friend in the furniture business who says the current trend is "as bad as he has seen" in the oil industry.

Lafayette: Lafayette itself is considered to be one of the greatest and nicest places to live. The festivals, the culture, and the friendly people create this atmosphere. He says Cajun culture is part of it, and while not all people are Cajun, they are part of the culture. Herb has had offers to move out of Lafayette but has always turned them down. Because of the cultural standpoint, it is "easy to keep people here and they don't want to leave." He says Lafayette has grown quickly over the years. He thinks people coming to Lafayette are happy to be here and want to stay here. "That culture begat the technology, and I think that is why we are progressive in that sense."

Proudest moments: Herb came to a crossroads in his life and is proud of the decision he made to work in the oil industry. He realized to help his family he needed to provide them with better opportunities, not something he could do on his teacher's pay. By joining the oil industry he doubled his monthly pay, affording them the opportunity to put their son through school and college, and for his wife to return to school. He is proud to be one of the first people to use a PC offshore, working himself up to vice president of a company, and pioneering MWD development. "Even though I was vice president and had many people working for me, the oilfield took it away from me in the downsize." Herb concludes, saying the industry "Giveth and taketh away."

Gregory "Greg" Simoneaux

Lafayette, LA
July 10, 2015
ML021

Ethnographic Preface

After KATC-3 aired the news story about the oral history project, I received an email from Greg Simoneaux expressing his interest in providing an interview. After emailing each other back and forth, we agreed to meet the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana on July 10, 2015 to conduct an interview.

Greg has been working in the oil and gas industry since 1980. Greg works on the production side of the industry as a mechanic; he works on natural gas engines and compressors. He is from Rayne, Louisiana and currently lives there, but he has worked in other places like California, Texas, and Broussard, Louisiana. Greg has gone offshore a few times, but most of his work has been on land or inland water. He has worked contract work and for independent companies. Greg also ran a consulting business for 12 years.

Summary

Career overview: Greg started working in the industry in 1980. He used to work road construction in Texas. He has worked in the production side of the industry with natural gas engines, pumps, and compressors as a mechanic. Greg went to trade school in Crowley, Louisiana while in high school. Then

he went to Nashville Diesel Auto College. He worked in road construction for a year before working in the oilfield. He has worked as a mechanic ever since.

Bust and boom: Greg started in the late boom days of the early 1980s; it was fun. Then the bust came; there were layoffs and many people in Lafayette left town. It's either "feast or famine."

Employers: Throughout his career, Greg has worked for three companies. He got laid off from the first company during the bust of the 1980s. Then he went to work for an older man for 10 years; the man didn't want his company to grow. Greg then worked in Broussard, Louisiana where he did contract work for 12 years. He currently works for JP Oil and has been there for eight years; it's a small independent oil company.

Contract and independent work: Greg has done contract work for small independents and large oil companies. Now he just works on the JP Oil equipment. In his current work there isn't as much competition as when he worked contract work. Greg went on location to fix the equipment. He didn't work much offshore because he and his wife didn't want him to go. Greg worked mostly in inland waters and on land. Sometimes equipment would be brought to him in the shop.

Challenges: Competition was a challenge while working contract; people were looking for cheaper prices and better work. Companies hire the cheaper person; if the work is done well, the prices are usually the same.

Changes: The technology has changed in regard to the engine components. The emissions have also changed, especially in California; his company does a lot of work in California. He also does work in Wyoming. Communication has changed too; he's gone from having a beeper to having a cell phone. The engines and compressors have gone from slow speed to high speed, which is cheaper and doesn't last as long.

Change in the workforce: People nowadays don't work as hard. In the boom days, if someone didn't want to do a job the companies could find someone else to do it. Mechanics now have more respect. Most people in this line of work are from the region; "People who are here stay here and like to work." When Greg flies out for work, there are always people from the area flying out to work somewhere else. A lot of people from here have a lot of knowledge and skills and work throughout the country. There are some women working offshore, but no mechanics.

Inland water: Most of Greg's work has been in inland waters. He has been all through the bayous. He misses doing that; currently his work is primarily on land.

Career in Lafayette: Hard working people in Lafayette helped make his career possible; there's not a lot of outside people working in the area because it's hard to take a job from a Cajun.

Relationship between Lafayette and the industry: The area has a lot of oilfield background. Everyone in the area has somebody or knows somebody who works in the industry or in farming.

Networking: The biggest places for networking are Lafayette; Odessa, Houston, Midland, Texas; and Oklahoma City for machinists. It's hard doing business in California.

Schedule: Greg worked a lot of hours; he would work weeks without days off. His schedule was not good for his family. He was never really off from work; his goal is to work 40 hours a week instead of 50 to 60.

Running a company: Greg ran a company for a while; it was tough. People would call him at all hours and he would have to get people to go on the job.

Reasons for firing a mechanic: There are two reasons mechanics would get fired: drugs and not going to a job. Now there is a lot of drug testing, which is a good thing. There was not as much drug testing in the past.

Current company: At the company Greg currently works for, JP Oil, everything is done in house, which is rare today. Chevron and Exxon used to do that, but not anymore. When Greg first entered the industry his goal was to work for a major company on land; he couldn't do that. He worked contract for 27 years.

Proudest moment in career: Greg's proudest moment was running a company for 12 years; it had been one of his goals. Greg wishes he could have stayed.

Representation: Greg's role in the industry isn't as well seen. He has gotten to work with engineers and design production facilities.

David "Smitty" Smith

Houma, LA
July 9, 2009
JC308

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Smith was first contacted during the History II study, referred by DJ Chauvin, but declined to interview at that time. Though he was suspicious and unwelcoming at first, due to our persistence, he agreed to speak with me. We met at his home in north Houma, Louisiana. His wife continued to be very skeptical of the project and read the consent forms several times before finally allowing Mr. Smith to participate. As the interview progressed, he became more comfortable and shared a wealth of information, demonstrating an uncanny memory of places, dates, and names. He was an astute observer of evolving trends in equipment and technology in the oilfield, and named many people responsible for these innovations. Mr. Smith should be interviewed again.

Smitty Smith was born in 1936 in Brookhaven, Mississippi; his father was a roughneck for Marshall R. Young Co., Delta Drilling, and Southeastern Oil. He came to Larose, Louisiana in 1954, to work for Southern Production, now called the Offshore Drilling Company. He started as a roughneck on inland barges, spinning chain on the floor, because his father was known as the best chain spinner ever born. He moved to Houma in 1962. He was promoted to driller at 26 years old, and six years later became a toolpusher. He also worked on steam rigs for Standard Oil until this was phased out in 1967. Mr. Smith then worked for Bay Drilling Company (owned by Texaco) as an assistant drilling superintendent, in an office on Bayou Blue in Houma, Louisiana. In 1987, after the downturn, he was moved back to the rigs as a toolpusher. Three years later, Bay Drilling was bought out and Smitty became the drilling foreman, or "company man," for Texaco, and retired in 1999. He has been offered consulting jobs but has refused them.

Summary

Born in 1936; grew up working in paper sawmills in MS, not afraid of hard work. Moved to Larose in November of 1954, took roughneck job with Southern Production Co., based in Baton Rouge. Spun chain on inland barges for nine years, worked on steam rigs, before replaced by diesel-electric engines.

Advanced to driller at early age of 26, then to toolpusher at 32; rewarded for his hard work ethic and quick learning. Became well known for problem solving and knowledge of tools, equipment, formations. Moved to office as assistant drilling superintendent for Bay Drilling through 80s; returned to field as toolpusher in 1990; then became company man for Texaco until retirement in 1999.

Noted that after the 1960s, most significant innovation in the oilfield was the drill bit; specifically the introduction of PDC drag bit in the early 80s – allowed for extended drilling through hard formations. Also introduction of Kelly Spinner in late 60s, invented by Ruben Golden, Smitty's old boss at Bay Drilling (Houma resident); allowed for fast pipe connections. Mud pumps got bigger and faster also. In 70s training and certification came on strong; Mr. Smith asked difficult questions, picked up by companies and later developed into practical innovations. Rise of the engineer in the 80s; previously only person on a rig with a degree was the one engineer. Smitty had good relations with engineers, not as stubborn as most of older foremen; noted that engineers and old hands could be good partners. Engineers experimented in 80s; developments in directional drilling, new techniques offshore. Yet same time period, many companies turned backs on hands, lost their loyalty. Workers responded with many lawsuits against companies; previously very uncommon. Starting in 80s, study teams and committees made all decisions for Texaco. Texaco ran Bay Drilling as a contractor; did not provide workers with benefits and perks of working for big major.

Alden Sonnier, Jr.

Lafayette, LA
July 21, 2015
LL009

Ethnographic Preface

Alden Sonnier heard about the oral history project from the KATC-3 news special with Morgan Lundy. Through email, he set up an interview with Laura Loewer at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Alden Sonnier is from Crowley, Louisiana. He graduated high school and immediately went to work in the oil industry in 1973. Since then, he has worked for several companies in mud engineering, drilling, field sales, and corporate and executive sales, all out of Lafayette. He currently works for MI SWACO (part of Schlumberger) in executive sales. He is also the current Lafayette Chapter President for the American Association of Drilling Engineers.

Summary

Career overview: Alden started in the oilfield in 1973, at the age of 18, as a roustabout on drilling rigs. With starting pay around $1,000 a month, he knew money was good and the oilfield was a good alternative to going to college. However, Alden says, "Everyone knew you had to work hard, and it was dangerous." He worked on an offshore platform rig for six months, and decided to go back to college at Louisiana Statue University in Eunice for one semester. He worked for Amoco in Oklahoma for a year and a half before moving back to Louisiana and getting back into the oil industry mud logging for Stratograph Co. for one year. In 1977 he went to work for MI SWACO doing mud logging. For MI SWACO he worked offshore in Texas and Louisiana, as well as two years in Colorado and Wyoming. Alden describes mud logging. In 1981, MI SWACO sent him to mud school to become a mud engineer in 1981. In 1986 after an extremely bad time, they merged with Magcobar. Halliburton owned MI SWACO, and Dresser owned Magcobar, two companies that Alden notes were big in the industry. Business was bad, so the companies merged to stay in the industry. The industry picked back up, and Alden stayed with MI Drilling Fluids until 1994. In 1994, Alden accepted a job in field sales and quality control over three

mud plants in Louisiana at Intracoastal City, Berwick, and Port Allen. In 2000 he was given a promotion and moved to New Orleans. In 2011 he quit after 34 years working for others, and went to work with a friend hauling liquid mud. Alden worked for his friend two years, until his friends at MI SWACO invited him back in 2013 doing city sales. Alden's office was in Lafayette, but he lived in Crowley.

First day offshore: Alden describes his experience as an 18-year old going offshore for the first time as "scary." He'd never been around a rig before and knew he was with a tough group of guys. As the youngest man on the rig, he tried to "not piss anybody off." He says he had to prove himself, and there was "very little tolerance for play." He says they would tell you right away how well you'd do, and the one thing you don't want to be known as is a slacker. He says his bosses hated downtime and did not allow anything that was "stupid" or stopped the flow. He describes high seas and transferring equipment. In 1973, Alden says, there was not a strong sense of safety, and they "did things they wouldn't do now."

Changes in safety: Safety is more important and they take time out to work with employees now. The quality of people offshore has also changed. Alden got his first job because he was athletic and could handle the job physically, which he says is the reason they initially hired him. Now he says there is more consideration for getting the job done. Wearing a hard hat and a belt became mandatory. In the early 1970s, he says, athletic hands kept accidents to a minimum because they were more physically capable. He says the oil industry can adapt. At one time it was required to be a "hard ass" and people expected you got more out of your employees by being rough to them. Then they began sending employees to "charm school," as Alden refers to it, where they learned political correctness.

Changes in the workforce by cycles: Every few years, Alden says, there was a purge of people who work in the industry, often coinciding with the industry cycles. Offshore, Alden says, you were a "hat or a hand." A hand was someone who would work hard and get the job done, and a hat was someone who couldn't get it done. Alden talks about the hiring and layoff cycles of the industry, which, he notes, would happen every few years. He says people would try to come into the industry just to make money. Either you adapted to the pressures and challenges of being on a rig, or you found another job.

Advantage to working onshore: Alden says many people chose to work on land rigs over working offshore because they could stay accessible and keep consistent communication with their family at home.

Women in the workforce: The problem with women working offshore was access to private quarters on the rigs. He says most people showered in a large room together, and some toilets didn't even have walls. He remembers galley crews had women, but it would be a completely female crew so they could house them together. He says companies wanted to hire women but ran into problems with the room availability. Alden stopped working offshore in 1994, and started to see more changes in accommodations around this time. As bigger rigs came out, there were more accommodations. When Alden did see women offshore, he says the men were on their best behavior.

Expectations by gender: He remembers female geologists and that they were as competent as the males. As it wasn't a highly physical job, he says it was easier. He says offshore wasn't a place a lot of women felt comfortable going, and those not easily intimidated got along extremely well. He remembers some "company women" on rigs. He says it was unusual but it wasn't a problem. He says seeing a woman offshore was a rarity.

Cycles by gender: In sales, Alden ran into more women in the business. Alden notes that he currently sees more women working for Chevron in Lafayette. He says the jobs held by women in the past were predominantly secretaries, techs, or other office jobs.

Socializing in Lafayette: Alden says that, in Lafayette, especially in the 1970s through 2000, the people in the oil industry worked very hard and played very hard. He says there was a "hell of a social life." The Petroleum Club would be full at noon, and was a popular place to do business, especially for a salesman meeting customers. Alden says the Petroleum Club is slowly going down, with non-oilfield people now allowed into the club, as the oil community gets smaller in Lafayette.

Networking: In the 1970s, Alden says, almost every company had a representative office in Lafayette. He names big companies such as Gulf Oil, Chevron, and Unocal that existed. From a sales perspective, Alden says, there was an advantage to getting to know his customers. The first thing he had to do was to protect his liver because you could be drinking every night, and he says the companies would not discourage social drinking. "You could find out a lot of good intelligence over a couple of bottles of wine." He mentions how stricter DWI laws are now. As far as networking, Lafayette was the place to be. "Still to this day LaFonda's [sic] is a big oilfield hang out on Fridays." People who moved to Lafayette didn't want to leave; the schools were good and crime was low. Career opportunities might be better in New Orleans or Houston, but the lifestyle in Lafayette was good.

The beginning of the Oil Center in Lafayette: He says Crowley was offered the Oil Center, but did not accept it. He says the story of Crowley's rejection of the Oil Center can be traced to a conservative man named Freeman, who owned most of the businesses and the banks did not want people working on Sundays, something he saw as inevitable with the Oil Center. The infrastructure moved to Lafayette with the Oil Center. The advantage was business could be done close to each other, and he says the Oil Center was the hub.

Cycles in the oil industry: Alden remarks, "Lafayette was a town full of opportunity in the 1970s and the 1980s." He remembers in the fall of 1981 oil prices were very high at $30–$40/barrel. He says the companies he worked for couldn't find enough employees. Companies were building up, and Alden recalls the names of many companies in Lafayette. He says people were hired who clearly were not qualified, and they'd end up working as consultants making $500/day. The industry began dropping. In 1986 the price of oil was $10/barrel. He says some people moved away, especially people not cut out for the industry. Houses were being sold for half of what they would have. Bumper sticker: "The last person to leave Lafayette, turn out the lights." He says there was still activity and people held on. Businesses pulled in and waited out the difficult period. If people had college degrees they went on to do something else. There was still money in Lafayette, even though it gradually became smaller and smaller.

Companies learning from industry cycles: Companies have learned by getting involved in shale plays in north Louisiana and Texas. It is all about survival with companies, and when business returned those who stuck it out were even stronger. Lafayette is diversified. The economy is not based on the oil companies like it used to be. There are fewer young people getting involved in the oil industry. Alden gives an example of selling out events and tournaments before 2000, and he says currently (2015) that has changed to where people want to spend more time with family. He says parties, DWIs, and drinking have taken a toll, with fewer staff doing more things. Every company has figured out how to do more with less, something Alden attributes partially to the advances in technology, which leads to smaller staffs.

Future of the oil industry workforce: Five years ago there were 200 students enrolled at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in their petroleum-engineering curriculum. In 2014, they had 800 people. Alden suspects the numbers will dwindle significantly because they will be graduating without jobs. He thinks students will diversify and do more mechanical engineering that would give them the option to work in many other industries.

Training: It was common for companies to provide education. He says they were mud technicians rather than actual mud engineers, but in 8–12 weeks the companies could train an employee to be a mud

engineer. Alden says when they sent him to school in Houston, his past experience helped him. He says the process he went through was commonly how major companies would train mud engineers. It was hard working offshore, and those who were more highly educated might choose a less strenuous path. Alden notes recruiters working for oil companies would come by (not considered ethical behavior), and offer them higher salaries while they were in training.

Challenges with schedule and family: Alden immediately mentions the schedule. Offshore or on land was seven-and-seven, and missing holidays and special occasions was hard. For Alden, the worst part was crew change days. He describes the process of flying out and how service personnel were the first to arrive and the last to leave. The accommodations, or "bullpens," were where service hands stayed offshore, and it was difficult and often uncomfortable. "If you were lucky you could be invited into the family, but you had to earn that right." On a new rig, Alden says, he had to start over every time gaining respect and working his way to better accommodations. Family had to be supportive and your wife had to be trustworthy. He says they were lucky to use the phone once a week.

Further challenges: Flexibility on the job was key. "If you don't like change, you're in the wrong industry." From a sale staff perspective, it used to be important to be a good golfer or a good hunter; today something that is now seen as a liability. He says they prefer using experience instead of relationships. If they are depending on relationships, Alden says, he could be a liability to the company because he could leave and take those relationships with him, something he sees happening more in big companies.

Working in sales: As a salesperson, Alden marketed to drilling rigs. Alden takes several minutes to talk about the drilling process and the fluids, or liquid mud, which are vital the process.

Significant moments: He recommends keeping expectations low on the job, and not to be disappointed if you don't get promoted. He never asked for or politicked for promotions, and was recognized as someone who could take care of business. He talks about being constantly available for the job and organizing the job to get it done. He describes the oil business as either full or empty.

Impact of oil industry on Lafayette: Alden says it has brought a lot of money to the area and provided a lot of opportunities for unskilled laborers. This provided people with good benefits and good money, though the work was hard. He says there was no attitude of "can't"—only "can." Even if his company wanted him to do something outrageous or even unsafe, they would do it anyway and get it done.

Associations: Alden is the president of American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE). He talks about associations and clubs across Lafayette. He thinks these organizations began to disseminate practical drilling information, or oilfield engineering. He gives examples of charitable contributions the societies provide. Businesses and companies pay their employees to connect to what is going on in the industry through these memberships. He elaborates more on the social functions, financial giving and scholarships, and the fluctuations of the associations throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Proudest moments: Alden says it was a great ride working in the oil industry. He was able to go offshore, could do the job, and hew was never laid off. He notes that he is the exception and not the norm, and surviving and not giving up was key in his career. Alden says he worked as a commercial fisherman on his days off, and says he could afford to do it but wouldn't have had those opportunities otherwise. He wasn't a fan of the schedule and often found himself sleep-deprived. Creating and building a mud business is another thing he is particularly proud of. He says the oil industry is fun, and it is not unusual to see people working in the oil industry into their 70s.

John St. Julien

Lafayette, LA
July 23, 2015
ML033

Ethnographic Preface

John St. Julien was instrumental in building support for fiber optics internet in Lafayette, Louisiana. After reading an article in the local paper, the *Independent*, about the history of fiber optics internet in the city, Lillian Espinoza-Gala thought it would be a good idea for the research team to interview John St. Julien. Lillian got his contact information and helped put the team in contact with him. I called John and arranged an interview with him on July 23, 3015 at his home.

John St. Julien is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and had been a professor at the University of Delaware. He moved to Lafayette to be closer to his grandchildren. Around the time John moved to Lafayette, talk of a fiber optics network had just begun. With a background in education and technology, John became involved in the movement to bring fiber optics to Lafayette. He became an organizer for Lafayette Coming Together, a grassroots coalition for fiber optics. In his interview John discusses the history of fiber optics in Lafayette, the politics involved, the context of Lafayette, and the impacts of fiber optics internet on the city.

Summary

Background: John St. Julien is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was an organizer of the grassroots coalition for fiber optics internet. He also wrote on the website Lafayette Pro Fiber. They did traditional campaigning, including yard signs, walking the streets, town hall meetings, fliers, and political strategy. The organization did the political strategy because the political sub-division couldn't legally promote a law or referendum; they could only provide information.

Early talk of fiber optics in Lafayette: There is a fiber optics ring around the city that Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) had before the question arose to bring it to businesses and homes. The municipal utilities were trying to find a more reliable way to control the grid locally; fiber optics was more reliable than microwaves. LUS found opposition from AT&T (Bell South), which withdrew from the Chamber of Commerce. A citizen group had researched the benefits of fiber optics; this group recommended that the fiber optics be dramatically oversupplied. AT&T saw it as a threat and wanted to provide the service itself. The citizen group found that it would be expensive to put the fiber network together and that they might as well expand the capacity. Mike Stag advocated for expanding the network to every home and business; that wasn't enthusiastically received but it was on the table. When Joey Durel (associated with Chamber of Commerce) was running for office for the first time he beat the man associated with incumbency. Terry Huval, the head of the utilities system in Lafayette, had supported Joey Durel's opponent. Terry was a major player in the Cajun culture in Lafayette and had influence in town. When Joey won the election he called Terry into his office; Terry thought he was going to lose his job. Joey Durel asked what it would take to keep Terry. Terry wanted a water project and fiber optics internet and Joey Durel agreed to see if it was possible.

John's background in technology: When talks of fiber optics had just started, John moved to Lafayette to be closer to his six grandchildren. He had been teaching at the University of Delaware in the School of Education. He is a curriculum theorist with an interest in the internet and information delivery. The University of Delaware had signed on to Internet Two; it cost a lot of money and the university wanted to make sure it was used. They learned there wasn't enough bandwidth to do some of the projects they

wanted. Recognizing the educational potential with technology and having his six grandkids in Lafayette, John found it easy to jump onto the fiber optics movement; he wanted to be involved.

Local support: John and Mike Stag tried to get people interested; there were some abortive efforts. The community as the whole had no idea. Local tech guru groups were used to help build support groups with academics and small businesses. Support took off and snowballed. They started a listserv, a website, and a blog to build support.

Legal opposition: Fiber optics passed in the City Parish Council and the city started taking measures to set it up. Bell South intervened at the state legislature and the matter went to the capitol. Lafayette City Parish Council thought they could keep the deal quiet until the network was built. However, Bell South found a man who had a bill about bandwidth in rural areas in the telecommunications committee and got him to rewrite it to help them stop fiber optics in Lafayette. The governor of Louisiana at that time, Kathleen Blanco, was from Lafayette and said she would veto the bill unless Bell South and Lafayette could come to a compromise. It was "a knife to the throat of Bell South." They put together a bill that was tolerable, even though John had problems with it. The bill was called the Municipal Fair Competition Act; it allowed fiber optics to go forth, but imposed a lot of conditions. Because the Lafayette City Parish Council had already passed an ordinance in support of fiber optics, it was exempt from some of those conditions, such as a referendum. There were a lot of lawsuits. People weren't sure if fiber optics could win in the local southwest Louisiana court because those courts were very conservative.

Referendum: The City of Lafayette decided to do a referendum to avoid some of the legal questions. It was a yearlong process during which Bell South and Cox brought in people to convince Lafayette they didn't need fiber optics. They were very condescending to Lafayette and that was a mistake. Lafayette is insular, thus that kind of tactic didn't work. There were outsiders coming into Lafayette and misrepresenting themselves; there were people who pretended to be Cajuns in commercials but they didn't fool anyone. Those companies also had push polls asking ridiculous questions. When there was something to be contested, Joey Durel and Terry Huval would hold press conferences and explain that those companies were lying; they went right to the edge of saying fiber optics was a good idea [legally they couldn't], that support was influential. To promote the referendum there was a video contest. Through the contest a man who had a company in Finland learned about the fiber in Lafayette and wanted to make a donation to support the cause. They used the money to do radio and T.V. ads. In John's view, people had discomfort with John and Mike because they were "weird radical crazy types;" there was a hesitation to share things like local money. Some of the councilmen were going to collect money from big business guys to pay for the big decisive T.V. battle at the end. Mike and John were left to do the "little guy" stuff like yard signs. The big T.V. battle didn't happen. These same people had also done a survey about fiber optic, but they wouldn't share it with John. John could've used that information to improve his strategy. The council people were supposed to provide the money and the strategy for John's grassroots group, Lafayette Coming Together (LCT), but never did. LCT ended up doing most of the campaigning. The telecommunications companies used the FUD (fear of uncertainty and doubt) strategy to unsway people from fiber. They countered FUD through inoculation; whenever the companies told a lie or were disrespectful they would publically counter that. There was mysterious funding for the three or four local guys who tried to petition fiber; no one signed the petition so Bell South started having their service guys gather signatures. The petition stopped after people made fun of it. Fiber passed the referendum with more than 60% support from the people of Lafayette. This was the first head-on battle where the city won. It's been 10 years since the referendum passed.

Digital Divide Committee: There was concern at the time that working/lower class and black communities wouldn't have equal access to fiber. They didn't want it to be something just for geeks, college professors, and rich people. It would be a win for the community if the fiber optic internet was run by the local municipal utility as a basic utility and not a profit center. They wanted to make sure it served

the community. They charged one price everywhere for the fiber service, but it cut out people in those working/lower class neighborhoods that didn't want to pay that price. LUS started the digital divide committee with people from different parts of the community including John. They produced a study that advocated for governance, pricing regimes, and what areas to explore for more inclusion. John wanted LUS to have citywide Wi-Fi; there was already infrastructure for it. The Wi-Fi would be included in part of the fiber package. The Wi-Fi conversation has recently resurfaced. Kids and students need Wi-Fi. There could be packages with Wi-Fi for cheaper.

ILOT (in lieu of taxes): In an article John read, LUS won't have to pay ILOT (in lieu of taxes). ILOT was an issue during the fiber fight. LUS was making a lot of revenue. ILOT allows the government to spend money without going in front of voters. The Fair Competition Law has a clause that puts the state in a position to regulate LUS; you can't charge less than the going rate. John was not happy about that because they couldn't offer discount packages for people like parents with kids in public school or with kids on free school lunch. The competition has a say in how much services cost. Lafayette will never have to pay the taxes because ILOT costs more than taxes and won't affect the bottom line. LUS will start paying the imputed taxes instead of ILOT; the council won't be able to change ILOT to pay for projects they don't want to put in front of voters. There will be more money in the system to things John wants to do, such as improving services and adding Wi-Fi.

Culture of the community: The politics are impacted by the insular culture of the community; it is an advantage. The community here is used to outsiders being wrong. Lafayette has history of going its own way; in 1890 it voted to get electricity with an overwhelming majority. Many towns sold off their utilities, but Lafayette never did. ULL had electricity when it first came to Lafayette, which was key to Lafayette taking up at the time.

Lafayette's biggest employer: The school system and the university are the biggest employers in Lafayette. John expressed that the medical and oil and gas industries get the most credit for being the biggest employers in Lafayette, but that private education is a bigger employer. During the 1980s downturn, everything crashed, but before that the oil industry was already moving to Houston. Now the service industry remains. It's easy to get people riled up over oil and gas. Now there is a loss in oil and gas jobs in Lafayette because of what's happening in the Middle East, not because of Obama and post-Macondo regulations.

Who supported fiber optics: The oil and gas industry itself didn't provide disproportionate support for fiber in Lafayette. Small business people and businesses tied to oil and gas supported the fiber. Some of the people in oil and gas related companies were supposed to provide monetary support for fiber; some did. A big autoplex, mapping companies, and printing companies supported fiber. There was a man who ran a small landman business that worked against fiber. There was some support from real estate and a lot of support from public relations companies. Service companies didn't see the need for fiber. The LCT citizen group was vital for getting fiber to Lafayette; there was a wide range of people in that group. Terry and Joey were also crucial. Painting Bell South and Cox as greedy out of state monopolies was another crucial part. The insularity in Lafayette was important; Lafayette didn't want to play by other people's rules; "We will go our own way."

Impact of fiber optics: Fiber is cheaper, better, and faster. It has improved the quality of life. The other companies like Cox have lowered their prices to stay competitive with LUS; Cox launched a new national 50 mg package in Lafayette. A trans communication company from Canada opened a call center in Lafayette that employs a lot of people. Some tech companies have moved to Lafayette; it's hard to tell if they came here for the fiber or for the state subsidies. The medical industry also loves the fiber. Some of the impacts are subtler. There are small efficiencies that no one mentions but everyone likes. Every school got 100 mg bandwidth, which increased to one gigabyte. It's hard to put a price on pride; those attitudinal

things are important. The fiber also helped Joey Durel secure his second term. The oil and gas industry will benefit from it too. Fiber is an advantage to the dominant businesses and to anyone handling big data.

Greg Stutes

Lafayette, LA
July 24, 2015
LL013

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala referred us to Greg Stutes. Morgan contacted Greg and set up an interview at his office for July 24, 2015. Laura conducted the interview.

Greg Stutes is from Houston Texas, but in 1976 moved to Lafayette, while he was in the sixth grade, because of his father's job with the railroad. He started college at LSU in mechanical engineering, and completed his degree at ULL in industrial technology. His first job was offshore with Conoco in 1988. Greg worked offshore for five years and then seven onshore in the office before they moved to Houston. He worked for Drilling Services of America for almost a year, then Halliburton for four years. He worked for Chevron for a short time, but got into consulting in 2005 with Completion Specialists. Greg currently works for Completion Specialists as an engineering advisor. Greg has been married for 27 years.

Summary

Career background: Greg says he got into the oil industry by default; he went to LSU in mechanical engineering, and then finished at ULL in industrial technology. His neighbor worked for Conoco as an HR manager. They were looking for operators to work offshore. Greg went to a production platform offshore, shipping out of Cameron, Louisiana. After five years offshore with Conoco, Greg worked his way into the office working with the well operations crew. His job mainly focused on well completions, assisting production engineers, etc. He worked his way up to engineering and well operations for the next seven years with Conoco. When Conoco faced relocation to Houston, Greg and his wife didn't want to move to Houston so he resigned. He got a job working for Drilling Services of America until he got a call from Halliburton. They asked him to come on, ironically working on projects to complete things for Conoco before they finished their big move to Houston. He worked in house for Halliburton until Conoco left. He stayed with Halliburton another two years and continued to stay in well operations. He tried working at Chevron thinking it would similar to Conoco, but he said the dynamic and work group was different so he returned to consulting for the "little guys" in Lafayette. He finally came on with Completion Specialists as an engineer in 2005. Over his 27-year career, he says his first time with Conoco was the best and most challenging job he had and remembers it well.

First day offshore: Greg describes his first day offshore as exciting. Everything was new and exciting, and he was never afraid of working offshore. He began working a seven-and-seven rotation. He said they would fly out of Cameron or take a boat if the weather was rough. His first day he got sea sick, but acclimated quickly and could get on boats in any kind of seas soon after, while others had difficulty. He said the weather didn't matter; they would go out in high seas and fog to take care of the platforms.

Differences between working for majors and independents: Working for Conoco and Chevron, there are a lot of processes, policies, and procedures. At Conoco they were good at standardization and best practices. The regulatory part early on was not a burden, whereas later in his career it was constant checking and with Chevron he felt he was committing more than half of his job to regulatory work. He says the rules and regulations since Macondo have made it more challenging to get work done. The

majors have a lot more flexibility with cost and overhead, whereas the independents are leaner and have to do more with a smaller budget. Some independents can do it better than the majors; depends on whom you work for and where you work. At the end of the day the ultimate goal is safety and environment, with profit as a second priority.

Transition from shelf to deepwater: Greg went offshore initially onto the shelf. Conoco had the first tension leg platform in 1989, and he remembers the first big facility in 1800 ft. of water. He talks more about the rigs and projects he's worked on, up into 5000 ft. of water.

Companies leaving Lafayette: Greg says all that was left were Chevron and the independents. Deepwater is mainly focused now in New Orleans or Houston. Because of this, Greg says the work shifted to more inland and shelf work out of Lafayette.

Changes and BP: Greg says the biggest changes are the economics of their projects. The independents have gotten out of the Gulf because of the abandonment liability and new regulations from MMS/BOEM. He says they don't have the resources to work in the Gulf of Mexico anymore. Macondo was the responsibility of BP and many people were wrapped up in the blame of the situation. Greg says, "BP didn't do our industry any favors." He did not feel it was a failure on any part more than the leadership of BP. He says it dramatically shifted what they do for their clients and unfairly challenges them. "People can't afford to work in the Gulf of Mexico anymore." He says it burdened operators on a financial side. The volatility affects where they develop oil and gas fields. "One job lost offshore affects three other jobs onshore." Greg calls it a rewarding field to be in, but that it is a very demanding field. "It is 24/7" and it never stops. He'll get calls in the middle of the night and he talks about preparing his wife for the phone ringing if he's involved in a project.

Changes in the workforce: The work ethic is the biggest change with the younger generation coming in. "They tend to want to move up the ladder with less experience." Greg says earlier in the industry you worked long hours and didn't ask questions. With the change in work ethic, Greg says people want more vacation and higher salaries, but don't want to put in the hours. He sees this as not strictly related to the oil industry. The oil industry has looked to the military as an employment source because they have the mindset and training to meet the challenges without any question.

Women in the workforce: Greg has seen women in the workforce since day one. Working for Conoco, from a diversity standpoint, he never saw a more diverse workforce than what Conoco had. In 1988 they had women offshore working as operators, including one woman who worked and stayed on the rig with them.

Expectations by gender: Conoco saw people as equals. Conoco's culture engrained that in their workforce, with a lot of husband and wife teams. Greg recalls five couples that worked for Conoco. He remembers working at Halliburton and Chevron and working with women. Today, Greg sees women go to rig locations and there are women involved "They are just as capable and knowledgeable as the men with the right training." He does note challenges for women physically, but that they are welcomed offshore.

Opportunities by gender: In Greg's career he says the businesses and companies he has been in, the opportunities are there for women as much as they are for men, though the ratio of men to women is higher. He talks about Conoco's diversity goals to get minority people in their industry. Not to meet a quota, but to offer the opportunity to more people. Women and men are affected by cycles the same way.

Current oil cycle: Greg says that the current downturn in the industry is bad, and "this is the worst I hope I ever see it." People are losing jobs, and that companies are letting go of highly skilled employees. He is

afraid they will have very qualified people leaving the workforce. When this happens, Greg says the less qualified people will take their places and move up more quickly than they would have otherwise, and with less experience. There is less time to mentor these days because you have to do more with less. When the industry picks back up there's a large talent pool to draw from, and there are more people going after those openings, making it harder to get a job. This can actually end up making it more competitive. He talks about the strain on dual-income families. He says there may be more opportunities for women in the technical fields.

Challenges: Again, Greg refers to mentors and training, which was more prevalent in his early days. There is less money available for in-house training and it is more up to the individual to maintain the skillset they need to be qualified on the job. "You have to personally be in charge of your career path." Greg mentions volunteer work that people in the industry do and a major amount of philanthropic work, which is cut when the industry is down. There are more people negatively affected than just the oil industry when it is down.

Training: Greg says there are a lot of training facilities. He mentions the Society of Petroleum Engineers, American Petroleum Institute, and the American Association of Drilling Engineers in addition to independent training services. "The oil industry is the tightest network I can think of," and, "everybody knows somebody in the industry." Operators have converged to Houston, but how Louisiana is still a prominent operations hub. Chevron is looking to leave Lafayette soon, something he says is unfortunate. He says it's easy to find trainings at conferences and staying skilled by attending conferences and joining organizations.

Impact of oil industry on Lafayette: Greg says Lafayette is a popular city to live in, and that the oil industry here is dominant in many sectors of Layette culture. You'll often find support from the industry within the cultural and art events in Lafayette. Sponsorships from majors like Chevron to the independents is very important to Lafayette. They also provide scholarships to those in need. Greg is the only one in his family in the industry, and he says they have never seen an industry as generous and kind as the oil industry. He mentions another example of Knight Oil Tools benefiting the community.

Entering the oil industry after the downturn: In 1988 Greg came in after the last big dip in the 1980s. As his father was in the railroad business, he didn't see these negative impacts. During his career in high school he knew people going through difficult times in Lafayette with job loss, foreclosures, and bankruptcies. He avoided the crash in the oilfield and came into the industry when it was on the upswing. "When it's good, it's rewarding, and when it's bad, it's tough and challenging."

Companies learning: Most people operate as lean as possible. When wells are successful and you have cash flow, the business can grow. They have become more efficient at what they do, but the world is changing. He notes the current government leadership is making things more challenging and notes the current deal made with Iran.

Diversification: Greg says Lafayette has certainly diversified, but the oilfield pumps a lot of money back into Lafayette that is far reaching to many other industries. He references the impact he sees through the example of not having to wait at restaurants. The oilfield provides a lot of work for other businesses in Lafayette, and Greg can't see how Lafayette could survive without the industry.

Benefits of Lafayette: Greg says people love raising their families in Lafayette. He describes it as a city that "works very hard and plays very hard." He says it is easier to get around and do more. Greg says Lafayette will always be an operational oilfield hub; they are losing their operators in Lafayette but the independents are hanging on. "The one thing that is unique about Lafayette is the people." Greg describes them as fun loving and hard working. He jokes about a friend in the industry who knows everyone. "It's a

very tight knit group." People are cordial, and, "We have one of the biggest extended families in the oilfield." He reiterates again the geographical scope of the industry, mentioning friends from Dallas to California and knowing someone wherever you go.

Significant moments: The Jolliet project at Halliburton while he was doing work for Conoco was a big project, and one of the most memorable he's been on. He remembers a well he did for Marlin Energy, and completing one of their best wells off the shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. It's exciting to drill good wells, and bring in others with their successful results. Greg notes he is excited to come to work, though that has become more challenging and it's "not as fun as it used to be" since Macondo and the BP oil spill.

Proudest moments: Greg says he's never been laid off and never burnt any bridges. He's done the best he can each day and doesn't worry about tomorrow. "I'm really not interested in getting ahead of anyone else, and it takes me where it takes me." He says people call him "the nicest man in the oilfield" and "smiley." He's proud to help others and have good relationships.

Family time: He says his wife of 27 years has always been supportive, but is always asking when he will have more time. He said the oil industry is time consuming, but hope it pays off in retirement when they can enjoy more free time.

Networking: Greg says Lafayette is a good place for networking. He lists companies where he knows people, and says they've all worked together before and disbanded, or he knows someone who works there. He says the network is very tight in Lafayette. "You can't go to restaurants without knowing someone you see in the oilfield." He describes the industry as a small world.

Macondo and BP: Macondo is a pivotal point in the industry according to Greg. "I consider those 11 men that died offshore my brothers." Greg says they all work offshore and deal with those difficult environments. He says they weren't negligent offshore because the people they worked with were family—brothers and sisters. He mentions MMS early on, and says the people he has worked with got a bad name. He thinks it was wrong MMS got a bad name, and changing their name to remove the stigma was also bad. He says they always welcomed MMS to their platforms; he wanted them to find what they'd miss and what wasn't working because it was to his benefit to know. Today he says there are egos and agendas, and it has become more difficult to execute safely with "common sense going out the window." Rules, policies, and procedures are weighing them down as he sees the industry moving away from mentoring, hands-on training, and productive support. He says people spend too much time trying not to break rules even if it's not beneficial in the time of an emergency.

Merlin "Mert" Talbot

Schriever, LA
July 7, 2009
JC305

Ethnographic Preface

Merlin Talbot was first contacted during the History II study, after a Halliburton retirees' breakfast, but was not interviewed. We met at his home just north of Houma, on land where his father used to farm cane and dairy. He worked for Halliburton for 31 years; retiring in 1997 because he no longer wanted to deal with the terrible seasickness he experienced traveling offshore. He continues to meet regularly with other Halliburton retirees for coffee at a local donut shop every other Tuesday.

Merlin Talbot was born in 1941 in Houma, Louisiana. His father was from Napoleonville, and, after the Depression, had received a land grant in Houma to farm cane. In 1966, pressured by his mother to get a "real job," Merlin started with Halliburton as a bulk hand. He climbed steadily up the ranks, moving from supervisor of a marine unit to the Halliburton Clean Gulf environmental department. When this division was sold to the Marine Spill Response Corporation in 1997, he retired. His son Ricky presently works for Halliburton offshore.

Summary

Born in 1941, Mert worked on family's cane and dairy farm when young, then a milk plant in Houma. He started with Halliburton in 1966; moved from bulk hand to pump truck driver, cementer, tool runner, marine unit supervisor, then Clean Gulf environmental manager. He received training in Halliburton headquarters, in Duncan Oklahoma. The company ran on profit sharing early in his career; the worker was motivated because you made money as Halliburton did. It was a closer-knit organization then – by the 1980s, leadership changed and Halliburton began taking over companies, and the relation of worker to organization distanced.

Mert spoke about changes that took place in industry in the late 1970s and 1980s. Regulations enforced environmental cleanup on spills every time and safety meetings were required for every shift rather than once per month as in the 1960s. The computer was main axis of transition – older hands were scared of it, younger workers' familiarity helped them get ahead quick. It signaled the rise of the engineer in the oilfield; the "rule of thumb" was replaced by exact calculations, constant monitoring and logging info. Seniority was replaced by education as means of advancement. Language and operational philosophy switched after the bust – the rise of buzz words and technical jargon, brainpower over muscle power, the "bottom line" over loyalty to workers. Older workers were shocked in the 1980s – they were not familiar with oil bust, or the computer/engineer shift that took place.

James R. "Rusty" Thibodeaux

Lafayette, LA
July 28, 2015
ML037

Ethnographic Preface

Rusty Thibodeaux emailed the team after reading about our oral history project in the *Daily Advertiser*. He told us he would be interested in doing an interview. We scheduled an interview with Rusty for July 28, 2015 at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Originally from Lafayette, Rusty Thibodeaux graduated from the University of Southern Louisiana with a degree in chemical engineering. Throughout his 34 years in the industry, Rusty has worked for ARCO, Vastar, BP, and Frank's International. He has held a variety of positions, including engineer, environment advisor, safety coordinator, and safety director. After retiring from BP, Rusty moved back to Lafayette from Houston, Texas, where he had lived for the past five years. In the last few months he started working at Frank's International as the safety director. He has worked in the office and offshore.

Summary

Background: Rusty is from Lafayette. He and his wife recently moved back to Lafayette after living in Houston for five years. Rusty went to USL and got his degree in Chemical engineering in 1981. He started with ARCO Oil and Gas as an engineer. He worked with them for a year in east Texas and then

moved back to Lafayette in 1982. Most of his work was in the offshore industry. Before Rusty started working in the industry, his grandpa had worked as a roughneck and cook offshore. In 1977 Rusty worked one summer offshore as a galley hand for his grandpa. On his first day offshore Rusty wasn't sure what to expect; it wasn't a bad experience and he earned some money to start college.

Career overview: Rusty started with ARCO as a facilities engineer; he stayed at that position for years. He worked a seven and seven schedule from 1989 to 1992 as a field facility engineer. This position was a new concept; engineers used to only go offshore as needed. He came back to work in the office when his second child was born. He applied and got an environmental coordinator position; he stayed in that position for four or five years. He then worked in a safety position; he did that for a few years. A part of ARCO spun off and created Valstar; BP bought out both ARCO and Valstar in 2000. At that point Rusty took an environmental position with BP for a year. He then went back offshore working a seven and seven schedule as an engineer and in a safety position.

Why work in safety and environment: He initially took a safety position so he could come back to work in the office; the environmental position was open and seemed interesting. He also did regulatory work as well as getting permits for drilling. The safety position became available and his supervisor suggested he do it; Rusty learned that he really liked safety.

How Rusty came to Frank's: Frank's has been around for 75 years. Being from Lafayette, Rusty had always heard about Frank's; Frank's was an industry icon in the area. Earlier in 2015 during the downturn, BP offered retirement packages and Rusty took one. He felt he was too young to retire for good so he interviewed for a position at Frank's and started working there in June.

Advances in deepwater: In the last 10 to 15 years all of the development in the Gulf of Mexico has been in deepwater. For the last eight to 10 years Rusty has worked in deepwater. People don't realize the technology that goes into drilling and especially drilling in deepwater.

Regulatory environmental and safety changes: Safety procedures have evolved since he started his career in the early 1980s. The regulator, MMS, is no longer around; now it's BSEE. New regulations develop as technology changes. In the late 1990s MMS encouraged oil companies to develop a safety and environmental management plan (SEMP). In the 1990s Vastar developed their SEMP and implemented it offshore; it was different in regards to safety systems and equipment; they would make sure safety systems for equipment worked, and they would test and check them. After the Macondo incident BSEE came out with Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS) regulations; this was mandatory unlike the SEMPs. SEMS 2 are additional requirements that require operators to have SEMS. The regulator puts the burden on the oil companies, not the service companies. The service companies have to follow those regulations if they want to work for oil companies.

Challenges: Getting used to the offshore working environment and schedule is a challenge; integrating that into family is challenging too. Rusty's wife wasn't always happy with the offshore schedule; when something would go wrong it would happen while he was away. Keeping up with the changing regulations and technology is a challenge too.

Downturns: A big challenge recently has been the downturn in the industry. Rusty has been through several cycles in the industry. Downturns are challenging for the workers. Some people Rusty knows have gotten better positions through the cycles and layoffs. Since Lafayette has diversified more since the downturns of the 1980s and 1990s, the current downturns haven't affected Lafayette as much. After the downturns of the 1980s, the big operators left Lafayette and consolidated in Houston. Now there are just service companies in Lafayette. That migration of the major oil companies was another factor that brought down the Lafayette economy in the 1980s. Now when there's a downturn, there is still an impact

on Lafayette, but the service companies aren't leaving. There may be layoffs, but the infrastructure and service companies remain. Lafayette has diversified and become a medical hub, thus the impact from the downturns aren't as great.

Lafayette growth: Lafayette is growing. Some of that growth might be related to the service companies, but the university and other industries are contributing to that growth. Lafayette is a retail hub for southern Louisiana.

Company cultures and mergers: BP bought ARCO, Amoco, and Valstar in the early 2000s. Rusty could tell the company heritage of the guys he worked with offshore. Amoco had been very top driven, which made the workers from Amoco afraid to make decisions. People from Valstar didn't have that problem because Valstar would give decision-making authority to people working in the field. It took several years to merge and get people in the same company culture.

Changes in the workforce: When Rusty started working in the 1980s there were some women working offshore and in engineering positions; today there are more women working in technical engineering, managerial positions, and offshore. BP hired people from around the world; there were people from the U.K., Latin America, and Africa. A lot of these people were coming to Texas and south Louisiana to work in the field. It used to be just men from the Gulf Coast area working in the industry, but it has diversified a lot.

Living offshore: The people you work with become a second family because you are with them for half of your life. It's like living two lives; you live with the second family offshore and then your family back home. Before he came back to work in the office in 1992 the guys offshore threw Rusty a going away party; even though they worked for the same company they wouldn't see each other as often since Rusty worked in a different position.

Impacts of the industry on Lafayette: The landscape of Lafayette is impacted by the industry; you see companies down Highway 90 and the Oil Center. The schedules impact lifestyles. Having two weeks off allows people to travel, have a different job or business, and pursue different hobbies they couldn't otherwise do with a regular work schedule.

Networking in Lafayette: There's a difference between the networking cultures in Lafayette and Houston. Houston is so big and all of the big companies are there; there are people in Houston from all over the world. The people who live in Lafayette want to be in Lafayette. A lot of people in Lafayette are from the area or decide to stay after being moved there through the industry. The culture in Lafayette is more close-knit, which lends itself to networking. Since people come here because of the oil industry and end up staying here, it isn't as transient as Houston, which allows people to get to know each other's families. Lafayette is not a small town, but it has that feel. There is a certain amount of the good ol' boy syndrome, but everyone knows each other.

Equality in networking in Lafayette: Up until the 1980s or 1990s the Petroleum Club only had men. Early in Rusty's career there was a distinct difference. One of his first bosses had difficulty being politically correct; it was during the dawn of feminism and women having equal opportunities in the workplace. Today there are much better opportunities for women; it's not totally where it should be. When he worked in Houston for BP there was networking group for women in the industry. This group included women in managerial and higher up positions. The purpose of the group was to help develop women. BP encouraged promotion of women and minorities. There is a lot more of that in larger companies; the small independent companies may not be as progressive. It's getting closer to being equal based on the available opportunities.

Job at Frank's: Rusty has been at Frank's for little over a month. His title is Safety Director for the Western Hemisphere. His job is challenging because there is already a structure in place, but his position is new; he is trying to figure out his part. The safety organization supports the operations group. The safety guys deal with the operators like Shell and Chevron to show them how they comply with the SEMS regulations. They also make sure the operations folk follow the safety programs. SEMS regulations make it easier to work in safety because the regulators and operators expect the service companies to comply with safety regulations and then the management of the service companies comes to the safety group for help. Safety has to be an integrated effort.

Changes in safety: When Rusty first started working there was a safetyman; once the safetyman left, they did what they needed to do. The culture has changed.

Birth of son: Rusty's youngest son was born in 1991. Rusty and his wife planned it out so Rusty would be home when their son was due. His wife went into labor while Rusty was offshore. Rusty arranged with the field supervisor to fly back home. On his way back he learned from the helicopter pilot that his son was born. He made it back to the hospital to see his wife and child.

Tragic memory: In 1989 there was a fire and explosion on one of the platforms Rusty had been working on. Seven people were killed in the fire. He had been coming back to Lafayette when the tragedy happened and heard about in the office the next day. It impacted the company and the people involved. Rusty started working seven and seven to redevelop that platform. This tragedy was one of the first things to shape Rusty's view on safety. After that incident happened Rusty saw a change in the safety culture; people did what ever they could do to avoid welding and hot work offshore.

Macondo spill: At the time of the Macondo incident, Rusty worked for BP. He didn't support that particular rig that blew up, but was in the group that supported offshore operations. He went down to Houma and was a safety officer at the command center for three months during the response. It was a blessing to see the technology and people working as a team. The tragedy, loss of life, and the environment was terrible. People worked in the command center for 15 or 16 hours a day. There was nothing on T.V. about the positive things done in the response; it was all negative. Rusty stopped watching T.V. It was a big learning experience and shaped the whole industry. MMS also reorganized in response to Macondo. People in the industry didn't think there could be an incident like Macondo. The loss of life was tragic, but those numbers pale in comparison to deaths caused by driving, but we still drive; Rusty equates it to the same thing in the industry. It's not practical to stop drilling; we have to work to make it safer.

Proudest moment: The response to Macondo was an incredible experience. He wouldn't want to relive it, but being involved with all the experts in the response effort was incredible. In the aftermath, BP was the black sheep company in the black sheep industry; motivating the team to get back to work safely was challenging, but it was successfully done. That was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences.

Lafayette and Rusty: Rusty feels fortunate to have grown up in Lafayette. He didn't know what he wanted to do when he was young. He was fortunate to have USL in Lafayette with a good engineering program.

Marti Thomas

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015

LL017

Ethnographic Preface

I met Marti Thomas through our church, where she works as the executive pastor. She practiced oil and gas litigation throughout the 1980s and 1990s and had read about our research project in the *Daily Advertiser*. She was interested in an interview, and we agreed to meet at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Marti Thomas is originally from Baton Rouge. She went to law school at LSU. Upon graduation in 1981, she was hired by Liskow and Lewis, a law firm with an office in Lafayette. Marti and her husband moved to Lafayette. While working for Liskow and Lewis, Marti became one of the first women to get a membership to the Petroleum Club. In her interview she talks about the discrimination she experienced as one of the first women in the club in those early days. After practicing at Liskow and Lewis and eventually becoming a partner in the firm, she took a break from law to raise her children. After being gone from law for four years, Marti got a faculty position at the LSU Law School. In 1998 she opened her own practice, specializing in securities. In 2009, Marti left law all together and became the executive pastor at Trinity Bible Church.

Summary

Background information: Marti is a native of Baton Rouge, LA. She graduated from LSU Law School in 1981 and moved with her husband to Lafayette shortly after to join the Liskow and Lewis law firm. The firm she worked for practiced in the Oil Center and they primarily focused on oil and gas litigation. She worked as an associate and later became partner at the firm. After a four-year hiatus raising her children, she joined the faculty at LSU Law School. In 1998 she opened a security law practice and didn't get back into oilfield clientele. In 2009 she left law practice all together and joined Trinity Bible Church as their executive pastor.

Overview of oil and gas law: Marti worked on oil and gas litigation including trial work, courtroom work, and lawsuits. Most cases involved contract disputes between oil companies and service companies. She also did royalty litigation cases, which involve disputes with royalty owners and land owners. She also did land damage cases defending oil companies in clean ups—what she notes was some of the first instances of environmental law.

Relationship between oil industry and law firm work: Law firms that represented oil and gas industry were essentially "kissing cousins." The law firm depended on them financially for revenues and had a great relationship with their clients. Her firm had a broad practice so they weren't fully dependent on oil and gas, but she notes it was more oil-focused in the 1980s and 1990s, and before the 1980s as well. Oil companies depended on their firm to get their business done so they could drill wells. She considers most clients to be friends. She notes a lot of clients were no longer located in Lafayette when she was practicing; they were still represented by Liskow and Lewis, but many corporate offices had been moved to Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, and Oklahoma. Liskow and Lewis chose to keep an office in the Oil Center, but also had multiple offices including in New Orleans.

Advantages and disadvantages of being located in the Oil Center: Prior to the 1980s and 1990s everybody was in the Oil Center. In the early 1880s the locus was still there, despite some companies moving out or building along Ambassador Caffery and other parts of Lafayette. She frequented the Petroleum Club for lunch, running into people she knew and it was a good place to network.

Petroleum Club: The Liskow and Lewis law firm paid for all employees' club memberships. The Petroleum Club was the "social hub for the oil industry in Lafayette." Since the Petroleum Club did not

permit women members at the time, her law firm gave her a membership to the Townhouse Club, which was located on the edge of the Oil Center and not a hub of the industry. Two or three women sued the club for discrimination. Marti speculates they worked for Chevron or were being funded by Chevron. She said her firm was in support of the lawsuit but did not make a formal stance. Marti was one of the first three women to be admitted at the Petroleum Club as members, which she remembers as sometime around 1982 or 1983. Marti notes it was "not entirely comfortable at first" coming into the Petroleum Club as one of the first women members, and it was odd to walk in. Plenty of men were fine with the new women's presence, but some men were uncomfortable and very offended by it. Even when women were allowed memberships, there was still a significant portion of the club that was off-limits to women, known as the Men's Grill. The Petroleum Club became more crowded; partially because of more women and partially because of the new renovation the club had done, and they found themselves waiting for a table for a long time at lunch. As a firm, they wrote a letter to the president of the Petroleum Club at the time and urged the club's board to open the entire downstairs to women to alleviate crowds, or at the very least to require groups of all men to fill the Men's Grill first. She notes: "We got back a blistering response" and a kind of how-dare-you-even-ask attitude. Ultimately it felt comfortable after some time had passed to be at the club, but it was an adjustment.

Changes in the workforce: Marti saw "huge changes in the workforce." By the time she began in 1981 there was already a "significant amount of women engineers working for some of the major oil companies and there were beginning to be more women as landmen doing title work." She recalls a group of women she was a part of that met for lunch on a monthly basis. Marti also led a bible study one night a week for women specifically in the oil industry. It was a small minority but the numbers of women in the workforce were becoming more prominent.

Oil industry cycle effects by gender: When there were layoffs they seemed to be the same across the board, though Marti notes men may have been hit harder because those laid off tended to be more experienced and expensive employees, and women were in the generation of the younger employees. Business owners such as service companies and title companies were run mostly by men and mainly hired men, so men in those instances would be more likely to feel the effects of a downturn.

Expectations for genders at work: At her firm, Marti felt they were treated exactly the same. She knew her coming was a social adjustment for the firm, but said they went out of their way to make her feel like "one of the boys." She notes she never felt different. As a woman in a primarily male dominated field, she and a lot of the women she knew in the oil industry put a lot of pressure on themselves to be "as good as they could be." The entire time she practiced for Liskow and Lewis she was the only woman lawyer in the Lafayette office. For some reason the Lafayette office never hired another woman, though not for lack of trying or wanting to. She said women tended to want to go to a bigger city, and the firm only hired from the top 10%, which limited their employment pool.

Networking in Lafayette: Yes and no it's a good place for networking. Lafayette is a very relational city with an active social life. Marti said it was important for her law practice to have relationships with people in the industry, not just clients. Knowing people through social clubs, Mardi Gras krewes, and volunteering. She notes an insider/outsider mentality in Lafayette, and as someone not originally from the town she came in as a little bit of an outsider. The network bonds are stronger between people who grew up here and in many cases those who are Cajun. She says they are stronger between men and it's harder for women to "break into the strong, deep, long lasting networks." She gives an example of the affinities that bind people. In Lafayette as a predominantly Catholic community they have shared experiences within the church, which builds strong relationships between people.

Oil industry cycles: Marti went through only two significant downturns. When she first joined the law firm they were at the top of the cycle and the firm was "making scads" of money. Oil clients paid top

dollar for quality legal services. They spent a lot of money on social occasions such as private hunting camps. She'd fly to Dallas and take a client and his wife to the most expensive restaurant. No one ever questioned expenses. She recalls stories of people taking planes to New York and Houston on a whim to have dinner. As a young lawyer and a new professional, she and her husband invested in their house and didn't have much money to invest. Her associates and partners at the time who had only started a few years prior were investing in office buildings, apartments, and other real estate. When the crash came a few years later she said they took some real hits. Because she was "late to the party" she didn't take as much of a hit, which she was grateful for.

Downturn: The downturn of the 1980s didn't affect their personal incomes, but it made them more careful. There were budgets. Clients were more careful about legal fees. They advised clients more on costs and cut way back on lavish client entertainment and social expenses. She began to feel the downturn effects around 1984.

Diversification in Lafayette: Marti said she would slightly disagree that Lafayette is no longer an oil and gas town. She says great diversification has led to subsequent downturns not hitting Lafayette nearly as hard. However, she notes, "We are still hugely affected by the oil industry." She says in her current job she sees very indirect effects, but is absolutely certain the effects she sees reflect a drop in revenues from the oil industry (she is referring to charitable giving at church.) She recalls a big drop in 1983-1984 and then they survived until another drop around 1986. She talks about the recent drop in oil prices and how Shell is going through another round of big layoffs. Marti says, "Without the oil industry, Lafayette would be a small little Cajun community very much dominated by the particularities of the Cajun Culture." Lafayette would look more like Eunice or Ville Platte, and be a much more insular community. Outsiders have brought significant wealth and a significant professional class to Lafayette. With the oil industry moving people around the outsiders' presence is a good thing because Louisiana can only produce a certain number of engineers, landmen, and support service. She saw lots of Texans, Oklahomans, and folks who have lived overseas bringing diversity to Lafayette.

Geography of Lafayette: It doesn't have the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico of a Morgan City, yet Lafayette is close enough to offshore ports. Lafayette is far enough away so they are not subject to the same ravages of a hurricane. I-10 also plays a role with easy access to New Orleans and Houston. She thinks the airport has developed in Lafayette to serve the industry as opposed to the other way around. There was a significant amount of onshore production in southwest Louisiana, and she notes this is another geographical factor in why the industry was able to succeed in this region. Marti says, "Maurice Heymann and his vision for building the Oil Center had to have been huge in establishing Lafayette as the Louisiana hub of the oil industry."

Qualities of Lafayette: When Marti graduated law school, she had many opportunities in huge cities with lots of firms. As her husband is not a big city guy, they talked long and hard about the life they wanted to create. Lafayette offered them the opportunity to have a small town life but to still allow Marti to work for a firm doing quality work for high level clients, and make an income that would rival any south regional law firm. The quality of life was good in Lafayette and those aspects were important to her. Lafayette has always been family friendly, and was a causal and flexible place for the workforce. When her now-grown children come home to Lafayette they remark, "Does no one ever work in this town? Why is everyone out at two o'clock in the afternoon? Why aren't people in their offices?" She notes people work, but the rhythm is different than Atlanta or other big cities. She notes the difference between working in Lafayette and the New Orleans office. New Orleans had a very corporate feel and corporate dress code. She said their firm in Lafayette was the renegade and the "mischievous younger sibling" counterpart to the New Orleans office.

Significant moments: An interesting moment as a young lawyer was handling a really big royalty dispute with the biggest landowner in Cameron Parish. She was taking depositions in Cameron, LA—a place she describes as very isolated. She and her partner stopped to get a burger and a beer at a local dive, and after one look could tell they were not welcomed. She said this really contrasted to her idea of being a big-lawyer. She also recalls a significant client dispute for ARCO where one company alleged they had destroyed a string of drill pipe. As a million dollar case, it was big then, and she had to try it while seven months pregnant. In federal court it was a unique experience to try a case before a jury as a pregnant woman. She used her pregnancy to her advantage to distract the jury and they watched her the entire time. If you're a lawyer and can keep the jury focused on you it's to your advantage. She notes they won and did well.

Proudest moment: "That I practiced law with integrity and put my clients first." The firm she worked for practiced law with integrity, whereas some lawyers practiced "Gentlemen's Law." If they practiced well they'd come out fine. In her first year as a lawyer on an offshore injury case she had a client ask her to lie or leave out information important to the case, and she said she couldn't because it wasn't the truth. As her client was adamant she keep out the company man's name, she went to the senior partner in the firm who was big in the industry and someone who'd represented the client for a long time. She shared the unethical aspects of the issue and he called and backed Marti up for a company that made their firm millions, telling them they'd have to find another firm to represent them if they didn't want to be ethical.

Last remarks: Today Marti says she still has lots of friends in the industry, but that it is hugely diversified, with almost no one making their living from the oil industry to the extent that they did when Marti first came to Lafayette.

Ronald J. "Ronnie" Trahan

Houma, LA
July 27, 2009
JC327

Ethnographic Preface

Mr. Trahan was referred by his wife, Carline, who works at Songy's Sporting Goods store in Houma, Louisiana. Ronnie knows many of the contract companies working in the Houma area; as operations manager for a major welding company, he negotiates contracts with major oil companies as well as small shops. He agreed to be interviewed in his office at Marine Fabrication Company in Houma.

Mr. Trahan was born in 1955 in New Orleans, but his family moved to Houma when he was one year old. His father worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Ronnie took welding in high school, and after graduation he started his first job with Delta Iron Works. A year later he began working for a family-owned business, repairing rigs, boats, barges, and pipes along the coast. He drove a welding truck, doing "dockside" work, making welding repairs that kept rigs in operation. In the late 1970s he began going offshore on repair jobs. He also worked in shipyards during this period. In 1992 he started Marine Fabrication and Repair with other partners. He is currently operations manager for the company, after his brother bought him and the other partners out six years ago.

Summary

Born in 1955 in New Orleans, family moved to Houma one year later. Father worked for Southern Pacific Railroad. Trained as welder in high school, started with Delta Ironworks five days after graduation. Worked for various companies over next 20 years, doing dockside repair work on rigs, boats, risers,

barges and pipes. Worked offshore briefly and in a shipyard. Experience with most forms of welding, all aspects of the oilfield. In 1992 he and other partners started Marine Fabrication and Repair Co. in Houma, servicing oilfield. Currently operations manager, with 25 welders on staff.

Noted that in the 1970s, Houma was a central location for the Gulf oilfield industry; many companies had major offices, and smaller companies sprang up. Workers streamed in from all over country, as well as Brazil, India, etc. LOOP on coast was significant advance. Spoke about unions – people in the region never supported unions because "don't want to be told not to work." Also, strikes shut down production, which destroys economy and endangers infrastructure. Noted that welders are the quickest to switch jobs for a pay raise. Loyalty to company and coworkers gone; early on they were like "band of brothers," pride in work. He blames parents; wanted to make life easier for kids, spoil them, mentality of getting by with less work. Said that safety has gone "overboard;" takes 10x more time. For welders, regulations often get in the way, hurt more than help. Noted that welders forced to keep up with technologies on offshore jobs; many companies training for specific types of welds. Since 80s, deeper operations require more attention to detail; major companies require special certifications. Noted that smaller companies took over in 80s and 90s; too much overhead in big companies, corporate executives not pulling their weight. In Houma, people pride on self-sufficiency. May be fewer handouts from major companies, but citizens tax themselves to maintain parks, community events.

Craig Turner

Lafayette, LA
June 25, 2015
ML013

Ethnographic Preface

After the oral history project was written about in the *Daily Advertiser*, many people contacted the paper and the research team, voicing their interest in being interviewed. One of those people was Craig Turner. He contacted Ken Stickney, who passed along Craig's contact information to the team. I called Craig and scheduled an interview with him that took place at his house. We conducted the interview in his workshop; his wife, Denise, joined us for the interview.

Craig Turner went to Nicholls State and got two degrees: one in business administration and the other in petroleum technology. He was one of the first graduating classes of Nicholls' seven-and-seven program. He started working offshore in 1974. He has worked in many places all over the world and for several companies including Union Oil of California, Diamond Shamrock, and Conoco Phillips. He retired in 2014.

Summary

Background: Craig grew up in Morgan City, LA. He worked in the oilfield from when he was 15 to 64. His dad was an oilfield worker that worked for United Gas Pipeline. His mother worked for an insurance company that sold insurance to people working for the oil and gas industry. His first job was as a roustabout. Craig worked onshore, offshore, and internationally.

Overview of career: Craig's first official job after college was with Union Oil of California as a roustabout; he was promoted to technician and worked his way up to a foreman. He was hired by Diamond Shamrock Oil and Gas and stayed there until they sold offshore assets and became Maxus Energy. He stayed with Maxus for five years. He worked for Burlington Resources; they offered him a job in Algeria based out of London. Conoco Phillips bought the international division he was a part of.

After he retired in 2011 he worked for one and a half years as a consultant. He worked in northern Iraq as a production consultant for two and a half years for Ross Perot.

Early days offshore: On his first day offshore he was stuck in a helicopter and told to keep the platform clean and make sure it does not shut in. Craig started working offshore in 1974. MMS started regulating activities, especially pollution; offshore activity was tightening up. He remembers being told to clean the platform by one of his supervisors; the supervisor just pushed the trash overboard. This incident happened within the first month of working offshore. He had gone offshore plenty of times before officially working; back then "safety regulations were a thing of the future."

Attitudes about safety: People's desire to be safer has changed; they have started looking at their jobs from a safety aspect. Government regulations made everyone look at the environment and personal practices, which lead to improvement and team building. Those rules and regulations were needed. Safety was big part of his life; Craig grew up in safety culture.

Differences between onshore, shallow water, and deepwater: Land is laid back; Craig could make his own schedule. Once you depart from land you can't control the transportation; you worked on someone else's timetable. Shallow water was more of a team effort. On land he just had to report when the job was done. Offshore Craig was dependent on boats and helicopters. Craig was able to get more done onshore because he could work as long as he needed.

Offshore schedule: One year he worked 285 days offshore. Craig worked a seven and seven schedule for four years. Then Craig was promoted and worked the time that was required for the job. He went international in 2001 and was gone for half of the year and did a 28 and 28 schedule. His wife did not mind the set 28 and 28 schedule because they could plan around it. Craig missed half of his children's events.

Family challenges with schedule: As his parents get older, Craig had to do more for them. He did as much as he could do to help. Preparing for hurricanes and cleaning up afterwards for his parents was a concern. In off time he struggled finding the balance between disciplining and enjoying time with his children.

Children: Craig has four children, one of whom works for a production vessel manufacturing company. His son has been at that job for almost eight years. His son is also going through college.

Downturns: "Closer you are to the producing well head, the safer your job is." Craig went through three downturns before going international. He was never concerned about the security of his job. He just had to get good at balancing the budget.

Work in Algeria: When Conoco Phillips bought Burlington Resources they did not plan to keep the Algerian division. They could not sell it because of the restrictions of the Algerian government. Three years later Conoco Phillips realized the Algerian division was a "cash cow;" it was producing 30,000 barrels a day. Eventually Conoco Phillips sold the division a year after Craig retired.

Manager: Downturns made Craig a smarter, more organized manager. Downturns made people become more efficient. Since he worked close enough with his subordinates Craig took ownership of their abilities; you become friends and protect that friendship and ability. Craig became a better supervisor. He would tell his employees that one day he wanted them to take his job. They listened to Craig.

Mobility: People would tell Craig they were tired of working in the oilfield; he was too. However in this industry they only work half a year and make twice as much as people who work the whole year. Craig

got international bonuses and uplift in pay. In the position he had, a person only needed a degree and work ethic. To go higher he would've needed a degree in engineering.

Nicholls' seven-and-seven program: Craig and wife went to Nicholls; both of them have degrees in business administration. He was in one of the first classes to graduate from the seven-and-seven program with a degree in petroleum technology. "Best thing I ever did." The first company that hired him wanted people with degrees to take supervisory positions; he was one of five guys that took a job offshore and got promoted. He graduated the first time in 1973 and then from the seven and seven in 1976.

How he came to Lafayette area: Craig left Union Oil California. At that time Diamond Shamrock started going into offshore work. A friend had Craig call a guy for a specialty foreman position with Diamond Shamrock; Craig got the job. Craig married in 1982 and moved to Jeanerette where the office was. He knew eventually the business would move to Lafayette so Craig and Denise moved their family to Broussard; there were better schools for their kids. The company he was working for was bought by Burlington Resources and moved to Lafayette.

Start of international work: Craig knew Burlington was going to sell a lot of divisions. He was laid off over lunch. Craig got the opportunity to go back to do a follow up audit based out of London for Burlington Resources International. While on that job, he was hired to become a production superintendent in Algeria in 2001. He worked internationally since then.

Success in the Lafayette area: Being in the hub of oil and gas opened opportunities in the industry and increased income. If he weren't in Lafayette he would've had to commute more. He was able to work longer hours. Staying at work longer was required for him to do a better job; Craig needed more time to figure things out. A benefit of being in Lafayette was being surrounded by people who could get the job done.

Technological advances: Craig spent most of his offshore career on self-elevating platforms doing different jobs. The lift barge technology developed in the Gulf of Mexico; that technology evolved over his career. Some of those advances during his career were directional drilling and single well satellites with just a well cover operated from a jack-up boat.

Proudest moment in career: Conoco Phillips was safer than the average oil and gas company; they started with safety no matter what they did. The safety supervisor realized a lot of the guys weren't safety conscious, so he had a three-day safety seminar. On the second day of the seminar Craig shook the safety supervisor's hand and said he was committed to be the safest person that he could possibly be. Three years later Conoco Phillips recognized his division to be one of the safest in the company. Craig received the Conoco Safety Ambassador Award; it's awarded to one or two people a year; Conoco has 39,000 employees. He received a letter from the CEO of the company recognizing him. His division went three years without a recordable instance of lost time; the third year they got the Spirit Award.

Jodee Ware

Lafayette, LA
July 30, 2015
ML040

Ethnographic Preface

While being interviewed, Penny Young discussed the oil and gas industry's philanthropy in the local community. She mentioned a nonprofit called Rebuilding Together Acadiana (RTA) that helps repair and rebuild homes in low-income communities. Halliburton and other oil and gas companies support RTA. According to Penny, Halliburton provides RTA with supplies and an office space in their building free of charge. In the past, Halliburton also had a company workday in which employees could do community service for RTA and still get paid their wages. After seeing my interest in this organization, Penny offered to put me in contact with RTA's director, Jodee Ware. After an introductory email from Penny to Jodee, I called Jodee to see if she would be interested in being interviewed. She agreed and we met at her office in the Halliburton offices.

Jodee Ware has been involved with Rebuilding Together Acadiana since 1999 when she was an AmeriCorps volunteer. She currently is the director of the organization.

Summary

RTA background: Jodee started with RTA when she was an AmeriCorps volunteer; she's been involved with the program since 1999. The organization was started by oilfield by people who came to the area from Midland, TX. It was originally called Christmas in April.

Mission of RTA: RTA works with elderly, disabled, and low-income homeowners to do housing rehab and modification. They do things like replacing roofs and floors and making modifications for disabled homeowners. The work done is mainly from volunteer labor. Not only does the organization improve the homes, it also allows for people in the community to meet each other and learn skills from one another. RTA works on 65 houses a year. RTA is a part of a greater national affiliate. RTA helps people stay in their homes and communities.

Lafayette support for RTA: RTA gets funding from grant writing and donations from companies and individuals. For every dollar donated, RTA puts four dollars of market value back into the community. RTA gets discounts for materials and donated skilled labor. RTA also receives federal grant money through the city.

Support from oil and gas industry: The industry gives RTA a substantial amount of their corporate funding. Teams of talented people from the industry come out to volunteer. Halliburton provides RTA with office space, phone lines, and office supplies. RTA has been in the Halliburton offices since 2002. The more money they save on not having to pay for office space etc. goes to helping homeowners. Chevron is RTA's biggest cash donor and does two projects a year; one project is a house renovation and the second is an energy efficiency project. Halliburton used to have a team to do projects, but there hasn't been one in a while. Some Halliburton and Chevron employees also help through payroll deductions.

Changes in the relationship between RTA and the oil and gas industry: The relationship has changed mainly because of the reduction of oilfield people working in the area. Jodee hopes what is happening now doesn't drastically impact RTA like it has in the past. When there was a downturn in the early 2000s, RTA lost its biggest donor because the company moved to Houston; that was a struggle for RTA and meant that they needed to diversify where they get their support. Now the industry is not the sole supporter of RTA, but it is still a big part. The industry directly affects everyone in the community and other industries that make up RTA's support structure.

Challenges of Jodee's work: There's never enough money or time to do the work. There is a significant waiting list of people needing RTA's services. RTA tries to focus on critical needs when working on homes. RTA is pleased to have community support, but it's amazing how tired people get. Hurricanes and

natural disasters really impact the area. The storms of 2005 lead to a significant dip in volunteers because people were focused on helping their families or repairing their own homes. A lot of people from other places came in 2005, but it was difficult to recapture local volunteers. It is also difficult for people to volunteer when they are worried about keeping their job.

Volunteers: RTA has a wonderful volunteer base. Younger volunteers get to learn skills from more experienced volunteers. One young veteran had her house worked on and actively learned skills to do home improvements on her own; those skills are invaluable and she can teach them to her daughter.

Women in RTA: RTA has an office full of ladies. Jodee shared that could be scary for older women homeowners because there is a notion that women don't do that kind of work. Jodee and her coworkers break down that notion and show people that they are capable of doing home repairs.

AmeriCorps and RTA: RTA has two fulltime AmeriCorps positions, and eight part-time AmeriCorps volunteers that work with RTA through ULL. They have also started a Summer Corps program where two AmeriCorps volunteers work with RTA for two months in the summer. They had a Martin Luther King Jr. service day in which 100 AmeriCorps volunteers came to work with RTA; they worked on eight homes and a community center on two streets in a single neighborhood in one week. This project fostered community support and recognition of RTA. This kind of project is called a block build; RTA mostly does scattered builds, which focus on homes with the most critical needs that are scattered all over town. RTA focuses on owner-occupied homes, not rentals.

Why being in Lafayette makes RTA possible: Lafayette is a community that cares for one another; it's like a family. Lafayette started as the little engine that could. The general community spirit helps; people are kind and generous. The elderly, disabled population is important to neighborhoods; keeping them in their homes allows for pride of ownership. Life knowledge is kept in those neighborhoods when RTA helps keep people in their homes. It impacts the community financially when people are able to stay in their houses because they don't need to go into homes or subsidized housing. RTA focuses on making houses safe, especially with fall prevention. Most of their clients live on less than $1000/month, which can be difficult with medical bills.

Significant moments: When Jodee was an AmeriCorps volunteer she remembers building a water heater closet for a woman; at that point it was the best day of her life. That experience changed the direction of her life. Going on her first home visit was another significant moment; Jodee was appalled at the poor conditions the 80+ year-old woman was living in. This moment made Jodee aware of the poor living conditions of some of the people in Lafayette. Seeing the generosity, love, and passion of volunteers in the community has also had an impact. The amount of volunteers that came in from across the country during the 2005 hurricanes was another significant moment.

Best story: They built a wheelchair ramp for a woman; it was getting dark and the volunteers stayed late to finish it. The woman they built the ramp for came out and said it was the first time in five years she had left her home; it showed the significance of giving people access in and out of their home.

Proudest moments: They have worked on 800 homes since Jodee has been working with RTA. Giving people access to their home, plumbing etc. is impactful. RTA couldn't do its work without volunteers.

Oil and gas industry reputation: People have negative perceptions of people in the oil and gas industry, but people in this industry are hardworking and generous. RTA wouldn't be in Lafayette if it weren't for the industry.

Impact of oil and gas industry on Lafayette: The industry is involved in the whole nonprofit community. It supports the families that live in Lafayette, which in turn impacts other industries in town.

Shell: Shell has also supported some RTA projects through funding.

Oil companies moving: Chevron still has an office in Lafayette, but it will be closing next year. Chevron closing its Lafayette office is worrisome for RTA.

RTA has been in Lafayette since 1998.

Charles "Mike" Webre

Lafayette, LA
June 18, 2015
ML004

Ethnographic Preface

Joan Craft, the executive assistant at Frank's International, referred Mike Webre to us. Joan learned about the study through Cherie Hebert who had been helping advertise the oral history project and facilitate interviews at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette, Louisiana. Joan scheduled the interview for Mike. We met him at the Petroleum Club to conduct the interview.

Mike Webre is the Vice President of Engineering at Frank's International. He received his degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. His work in the oil and gas industry started in 1975. The majority of his career has been spent working for Frank's International.

Summary

Family connection to the industry: Mike's father had worked in the oil and gas industry; his career spanned from the 1950s to 1983. He had a familiarity with the offshore industry as a child because he had family and friends he who worked in it. Mike started working in the industry in 1975 as an intern at a local oilfield service company while he went to school at USL.

Start at Frank's: Mike had opportunities to work in other industries like auto, planes, and shipbuilding, but he stayed with oil and gas; he wasn't ready to leave south Louisiana. He started working at Lamb Enterprises, which was where he had interned. The company was not going where Mike had hoped it would go. He then started working for Frank's and has been there for the last 34 years.

What Mike has done at Frank's: Mike started at Frank's as a mechanical engineer; he did a lot of everything including designing and improving equipment. He worked a lot with customers to figure out what they needed. From mechanical engineer, Mike worked his way up to senior engineer and then to engineer manager when the department had gotten big enough to need one. There was a feedback loop between Frank's and their customers in how to improve their tools. This was a successful process for the company.

Expansion at Frank's: The company went international in the 1980s; they went into the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Frank's is now in 60 countries. Mike's career has grown as the company has grown.

Changes in the industry: When Mike had joined the industry, it was primarily land-based and shallow water, the depths have been increasing thanks to technology. There is now new technology to develop

deeper wells such as floating facilities and tension-leg platforms (TLPs). Frank's helped develop the first TLP in the Gulf of Mexico in 1993 or 1994 with the Shell Auger platform. Frank's worked with Shell in developing TLPs up until last year. Frank's developed technology that was not available in other places. They developed technologies to solve problems that were arising in the industry.

Engineer hiring and development: Most of the engineers at Frank's are hired from around the local area. Many of them are inexperienced when they first join the company, but Mike explained that Frank's provides those engineers with the opportunity for development and gaining experience. Many of the engineers come from ULL; the school produces well-skilled engineers.

Retaining engineers: There are periods where it is difficult to find enough engineers. Bigger oil companies pay more, in addition to companies like Halliburton and Schlumberger. Frank's has built a culture of staying at the company.

Significant times: It was significant when the industry started going into deepwater from the 1990s-2010. Frank's was involved with the first rigs that started going into deepwater.

Challenges with company going international: Frank's had to meet other countries' regulatory requirements as they began expanding internationally. The company has expanded from the Gulf of Mexico to many places around the area such as Africa, the Middle East, South America, Canada, and Europe.

Shallow and deepwater: As the industry transitioned to deepwater, the rigs have changed and the technology has continually evolved. As the industry moves into deeper water, the risks increase and so does the necessity for safety systems. The general public does not understand the work and cost that goes into drilling.

Computers: The introduction of computers caused more complexity, allowed for more communication and has changed data management and what can be done with data. Computers facilitated what they had wanted to do since the 1970s when they did not have the same processing power.

Why Lafayette: The oil industry centralized in Lafayette. It was a big enough place to provide quality of life. People from the University of Oklahoma and University of Texas were convinced to move here and set up offices. Many companies were housed out of Lafayette. The Oil Center was housed here and offered support. Transportation also made Lafayette a good location. The east/west roads, the highway transportation, the airport, and the train transportation were benefits of Lafayette's location. ULL also had something to do with Lafayette's success; there was an access to labor with an education. ULL has a petroleum engineering department; there were not many of those in the early days elsewhere.

Challenges and negative image: The cyclical nature of the industry is a challenge; it was especially a challenge in the 1980s. The industry lost a lot of talented people and had difficulty attracting them back. The industry also has a negative image, particularly in relation to the environmental issues and big business. The image is worse when gas prices are high, which is something they do not have control over. People do not realize that a lot is put on the line to find, explore for, and produce oil. The industry may have skeletons like any other industry, but it is not evil. People in Lafayette have a better-informed view of the industry.

Memorable time offshore: One evening, Mike received a call from the dispatcher. One of the mechanics had jury duty and something needed to be fixed on a rig offshore. He was flown out to the rig and dropped off at 10:00PM. Mike fixed the problem in half an hour, but had to stay on the rig overnight until the next day when the helicopter came back. He also remembers being on the Discovery Enterprise; it was

a ship with a lot of new technology. Mike was there touring it to see how to adapt their equipment to the rig.

Schedule: Mike would only go offshore as needed, about three to seven days. Other engineers might work the rig schedule. Most worked offshore on an as-needed basis.

Remote locations: One of the other challenges that Mike has noticed is supporting people working in remote locations, especially where there is a lack of infrastructure and facilities. The climates of these remote places also pose a challenge in testing equipment. Some conditions cannot be replicated in a test environment.

Managing risk: Mike talked about building a culture of realizing the hazards of the industry. Try to mitigate and control the risk ahead of time. He went on to talk about the importance of talking about safety everyday and planning ahead for things that could go wrong. Safety has evolved over his time in the industry.

Change in workers: Mike explained that there is now a wider spectrum of workers. It used to be a lot of blue-collared workers. Now there are a lot of workers who are either educated and expect to move up quickly, or inexperienced people who need constant supervision. Although it is still there, there is a diminished pride from blue-collar workers. There is also a lack of loyalty for their company from workers.

Competition and collaboration: There is competition between companies and pride of ownership. When it comes to safety, collaboration is very important and is almost a moral obligation.

Pride and patents: Mike expressed pride in finishing projects on time and building equipment quickly. Frank's has 168 patents; it is important to protect company technology. He was a part in making the company go public in 2013. Patents help determine value for a company.

Learning from downturns: Companies learn a little during each downturn, but greed kicks in and patterns emerge. It's a commodities industry and directly tied to supply and demand. There are a lot of outside factors that impact the industry that companies have no control over. Some of those factors are business related or geopolitical. Business is not tolerant that the supply and demand will eventually fix itself.

Has Lafayette learned: The community has learned and diversified into the medical industry and with the university. However, it is still dependent on the oil and gas industry. Lafayette is becoming more globalized as people living here are working in other places in the world; people are not as constrained. Some are working a 28 and 28 schedule and leave to work in other places.

Relationship between Lafayette and the oil and gas industry: The industry engages in philanthropy and does a lot of charitable giving. It sponsors many festivals, which in turn bring tourism to Lafayette. It is clear in town when there is a downturn because fewer people eat out; the discretionary income is reduced. The industry has also lead to the decline of the public school system. People can afford to put their kids into private schools, which in turn causes even more of a difference in the quality between private and public schools with more support is flowing to private schools.

Small family business to big business: As Mike discussed, Frank's started as a small family business and was ran as a family business for three generations. In the fourth generation the company went public. It will be interesting to see how the company will change after going public. There are still a few family owned businesses, and those grew to be pretty big. Nowadays it is harder to start a family owned business

because there are issues with insurance and liability, amongst other things. As Frank's gets bigger, the identity is changing. Shareholder insurance is a new looming influence in the business. A lot of the shareholders do not understand the business. They are more interested in things like two-day returns. They do not look as much at the long-term payoffs.

Retirement: Mike will spend more time with his family in retirement and do some consulting work.

Growth in downturn: Frank's has grown more in the down-cycles than the up-cycles. It is cheaper to grow in the downturns. The company has had very little debt over its history. It has been fiscally conservative, which has been beneficial to Frank's when weathering the cycles.

Luther R. Windham

Lafayette, LA
July 16, 2015
ML025

Ethnographic Preface

Luther Windham called the research team after learning about the oral history project through the news. He currently lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana, but Luther agreed to do the interview in Lafayette on July 16, 2015. Roxanne Barros was also present for the interview; it was unclear what her relation is to Luther.

Luther Windham is from Jonesville, Louisiana and has been in the oil and gas industry for 42 years. He started off working land jobs with his dad. Luther has worked in different parts of the industry including offshore, deepwater, fracking, drilling, and production. Luther currently owns his own oilfield consulting company, Redneck Consulting, Inc.

Summary

Career overview: Luther started in the oilfield in 1979 drilling with his dad; they worked for Justiss Meers out of Gina, LA. Luther grew up going to work with his dad and learned how to do a lot of different things; he learned how to work a spinning chain when he was 13. Luther worked for his dad for four years before working offshore for Broughton. Luther than worked for Dolphin Offshore, Dual Drilling, and Global Marine; he stayed with Global Marine until the end of his drilling career when he was 35 years old. He worked derricks, but was never a driller. Instead of being promoted to a driller, Luther took a pay cut and started working in production as a roustabout. He switched to production because the money was not stable in drilling. His cousin offered him a job as a roustabout in production; he got four promotions within a year and was quickly making the equivalent of driller's pay. When he started working as an A operator he changed companies often for pay raises. He then started working for Island Operating for six or seven years. He has worked in independent consulting for the last 10 years.

How he got to Lafayette: In the early days 90% of drilling companies were based out of Lafayette.

Early days in the industry: He lived in Jonesville but a lot of his friends worked offshore while he was working on land. Luther preferred working offshore because he didn't have to worry about groceries or having a place to live. He couldn't have made as much money in another industry with only a high school education. Luther had to put up with a lot more back then; you had to have a thick skin. He remembers when people didn't care about safety. There weren't lawsuits back then. If people didn't want to do a job there was always someone else who would do it. Drillers hired most of the hands. On land rigs people would drive up and ask for jobs and would get hired.

Breaking a leg: Luther broke his leg in 1980 while tripping pipe using a compound rig. The clutches went out on the hydromatic break, the elevators hit, and he jumped off the boat 25 feet down. He snapped both bones in his leg. He was out of work for seven months and didn't get any money from the company, just workman's comp, which was less than unemployment. The boss only gave him his job back. Luther was going to sue, but his dad convinced him not to because he would have never worked in the oilfield again.

Quitting: About nine months into the industry, Luther quit while working a job in Joaquin, Texas. They were drilling in high pressure; the ground was shaking. Luther quit because he was scared of the whole location blowing. Luther's dad pulled up and Luther told him he was going home. His dad wanted Luther to stay and not quit. Luther was gone for a month before being hired again. Working for family didn't work for Luther, so he quit and worked offshore for over 30 years. It was a difficult transition from onshore to offshore.

First trip offshore: The first time he went offshore was the first time Luther had ever seen the Gulf of Mexico. On the way to the rig the boat ran out of diesel. Luther didn't know what was going to happen. A workboat came out and filled up the boat.

Refusing to work: Luther started working for Hercules offshore. They flew him out to the rig on a helicopter. Luther refused to stay on the rig because it was in poor condition. He refused to work on junk; the work was already dangerous enough.

Changes in rules and regulations: There weren't as many rules and regulations in the 1970s and 1980s. The rules were ignored; production was the main concern. They didn't care about the environment, even on land. That changed in the 1990s. Everything changed because of technology. The suing in the 1970s and 1980s lead to safety changes; Luther used to not have to wear a hardhat.

Change in the workforce: The more they drilled the more people they started to hire. Back in the 1970s there weren't many black people, there were only poor white people working in drilling. Company people used to do production; now that work is subcontracted out so the oil company doesn't have to pay for benefits and so it is easier to fire someone. Luther didn't see women in the oilfield until the mid to late 1980s. In the beginning he saw women working as engineers with Schlumberger and with MWD and LWD tools; that was about it. There are a lot more women in the industry now then there used to be.

Challenges: Democrats in office made the work fall. The change from drilling to production was a big change; leaving drilling was like throwing his career away in a way. Going to consulting was a big change because he wasn't sure what he was doing.

Production and drilling: The way they handled hands was different. Production was laid back and required "more grey matter between the ears than roughnecking." Mechanical ability is necessary to work as production operator.

Downturns: The downturns hurt Luther financially. He would make a lot of money and then would be out of work for two to three months and fall behind with money; that's why Luther left drilling. There wasn't stability in drilling work during a downturn unless you were a toolpusher or a driller. If one was a good production operator that person was not out of work. In production there is a certain amount of oil that has to be produced every month, thus the work is constant. Having experience in both production and drilling has been beneficial for Luther. He has been a consultant for 10 years and hasn't been out of work in that time.

Schedule: Luther has worked all kinds of schedules, including seven-and-seven, fourteen-and-fourteen, 21-and-21, and 28-and-28. When he first started drilling the only way he could get days off were to cover people's eight-hour shifts. Fourteen-and-fourteen is the best schedule. Luther once went out for eight weeks. He was told he could get a week off. The next day they called him back and he left for five and a half more weeks. Luther doesn't tell the company no because it is bad practice and could impact his work. Luther is never retiring because he has good work and loves what he does.

Memorable moments: Luther has seen two deaths while working offshore. The first death happened while offloading a boat in rough conditions. A wave came up on the boat and floated a large box and smashed a man's head in his hard hat. The second death Luther witnessed happened while he was working with Global Marine. They were washing up a mud line hanger with one-inch pipe. There was a jam, a new hire had his head over the hole, another man tried to push the new hire out of the way and was hit in the head by the one-inch pipe.

Doping: When a guy was out on a rig for the first time he was initiated by being doped. Doping is when the crew tackles the new guy, yanks his pants down, and smears greasy pipe dope from his butt to his stomach. Luther recalls a time when a new guy doped himself so the other guys wouldn't do it to him. Nowadays, doping doesn't happen anymore because you can't put your hands on anyone.

Where Luther worked: Luther worked in state waters, shelf water, and in deepwater. When the administration shut down work in the Gulf of Mexico after the BP spill Luther started working in state water in New Iberia. He also researched fracking. He was invited to the second annual Shale Conference in Houston; he paid for and attended it. He went to a workshop in order to meet people in the shale industry since he didn't know anyone in it. After the workshop, Frank Fowler from BHP offered Luther a job in Arkansas working in horizontal shale plates. That put Luther's foot in the door; he can work anywhere in the world doing anything from shale to deepwater. BHP is based out of Australia and has an office in Houston and Lafayette.

Networking in Lafayette: Most of Luther's work was based out of Lafayette; he didn't work in Lafayette but was hired out of Lafayette. When he was out of work Luther went to Lafayette, which was a long drive from where he was living before I-49 was built. He would keep calling offices until he would get a job. Lafayette is still the place to go, but it almost lost that when it started putting taxes on the companies and they started moving to Houston; that was 10 years ago. Lafayette straightened that out, but the damage was already done and companies moved to Houston and some went out of business.

Majors and independents: It is difficult to keep up with the mergers and who is buying whom. It'll end up being just two or three major companies in the end. Luther hates working for the majors because he does not like people straight out of college telling him what to do and spending money on pointless things. Independents are focused on safety and letting the consultants make decisions; there aren't as many employees. The trend of having people straight out of college telling him what do is more recent. The best petroleum engineers are the ones who worked in the oilfield while in college. Most of the engineers without practical experience are in the majors. Luther is old school; he came up from the ground up and his location is his location—everything must go through him. The majors don't operate that way. While working for BHP Luther was more of a secretary than a consultant. A consultant Luther knew was working for BP on a semi submersible; there was a kick while drilling. The consultant took the kick and addressed the problem and then called the office afterwards. Later that night he was taken off the rig. It used be difficult to contact the office if there was a problem; it had to be handled on the spot.

Changes and technology: Hands aren't what they used to be because of technology. They didn't use computers until the last three or four years that Luther was in production. Luther does his measurements by hands; if the computers went down a lot of people couldn't do their work. Technology has helped in

some ways and hindered in others. Engineers and technology are to blame for the loss of mechanical ability. Kids fresh out of high school don't have the mechanical ability. The work used to be more labor intensive; now there are more machines.

Learning to use a computer: Luther had to learn how to use a computer or it would have passed him up. Luther helped set up a platform that was completely automated; he had to learn how to write code in order to get to part of the platform. When Luther switched to working production Luther did not want to use computers because he was afraid of messing it up and didn't want to get fired. The field foreman insisted Luther learn how to use the computer and had one set up for Luther to learn on.

Downturns continued: In 1984 and 1985 the oilfield shut down. Luther ended up in Atlanta laying brick. He ran into a lot of people from Louisiana while working in Atlanta. He would see bumper stickers that said, "Would the last person to leave Lafayette, LA please turn out the lights?" The downturn crippled Lafayette in the 1980s; Luther is afraid it will happen again. The downturn affected everyone in central Louisiana. He had to go to Atlanta in 1984 for work. He came back in 1985 and went to a funeral. At the funeral he ran into a man that his father broke out in the industry and he helped Luther get a job from the vice president of Western Oceanic. He stayed with that company for six or seven years. Luther was supposed to go overseas to Africa as an AD for that company; they lied to him and it didn't happen so he quit.

Penny Young

Lafayette, LA
July 14, 2015
ML023

Ethnographic Preface

Lillian Espinoza-Gala referred Penny Young to the research team to participate in the oral history project. Diane was initially going to interview Penny; however, Penny's granddaughter was born and the interview was rescheduled for a later date. Through email, Penny and I agreed to conduct the interview at her office on July 14, 2015.

Penny Young has been in the oil and gas industry for 27 years. She started in administration and worked her way into sales. Penny started her career with Axelson, but as companies merged, she came to work for Halliburton and currently with NOV. During the interview, Penny reflected on the challenges of being a woman in the industry and the changes she has seen during her career.

Summary

Career overview: Penny has been in the industry for 27 years. She started with Axelson in administration, inventory, and paperwork. Penny didn't know much about the industry when she started. Penny's sister, who worked in the oilfield, helped her get that job. The manager started her working with paperwork and wanted her to learn the equipment. After three months working there, Penny found out she was pregnant; they had Penny continue working in the office until she had her baby and could learn the equipment. Axelson wanted to eventually put her in sales, which was unheard of for a woman in 1988. Penny was trained for two years and worked with a service hand named Bobby Utz. She went with him to all of his land jobs but never went offshore. After five years the company was sold to Dresser Industries. At that point Penny started working as a salesperson. Three years later Halliburton bought the company and didn't know anything about Penny's product. She was put into a field coordinator position to teach their people about Dresser's products. She worked with Bobby Utz again and was the supervisor of three other service men. The other guys did not like having a woman as a supervisor. Halliburton put Penny

through training to learn how to handle working with people like that. She learned she couldn't be their friend, but she could respect their wishes and wants. Penny started working in sales in addition to her supervisory role. The industry is harsh on women. Penny has been stereotyped a lot. The company men for the major companies would test her knowledge. For 10 years she ran the operations department for surface safety; the actuator she sells is a safety device. Her device was required by MMS, which made it an easy sell.

Bobby: Bobby Utz was her best friend and taught her everything she knew. He found out he had cancer and he died four months later. Penny didn't want to work in the same office where she used to work with Bobby. She started working fulltime sales. Penny was the only female salesperson at Halliburton; it was tough. She prayed about it, held her head high, and did her job. Penny loves her job.

Family in the industry: Penny's son is a landman, her daughter is a marketing director for a vessel manufacturing company, and her youngest son is in college for industrial technology. All of Penny's sisters have been in the oilfield. Penny and her sisters fed off each other to see how high they could get in the industry. Penny's older sister was over the wellhead department at FMC Wellhead. Penny's little sister opened a company hiring cooks, riggers, and roustabouts for offshore. Penny's parents had not been in the industry; her dad was a sugarcane farmer. Penny's husband is the operations manager at Weatherford. Her son-in-law is part owner of Rock Oil. They couldn't lose the industry because it would devastate her family and other families.

Changes in safety: When Penny started in the industry she could drive a forklift without taking a class. Now there's training in all aspects. Penny has had training in everything but water survival because she does not go offshore.

Women in the industry: The acceptance of women has changed a lot; there's more of it. Back in the day there was a lot more profanity in the office, but that doesn't happen anymore. Penny is thankful for HR.

Safety mandates: Offshore safety mandates are being done well. Her guys will go on jobs and have stop-work authority if something on a job makes them uncomfortable. Penny has gotten calls from guys offshore saying the company man wanted them to run a tool, but they were uncomfortable with it. Penny advised them to call in a helicopter and leave; she reassured them they wouldn't get fired. Some company men are arrogant and bossy. It's a problem in the industry because the younger guys are afraid to say no to the company men; that's how incidents happen. At NOV there is a standard of not doing anything you're uncomfortable with. They also have the ability to write up someone else if that person is doing something unsafe.

Coping as a woman in the industry: Penny had good supporters. Her supervisor told her to do what she was taught and if there were any issues, to be professional and walk out. Penny has done that in her career and it has helped her. She has received phone calls from guys apologizing for their behavior. Penny hated men for a long time; guys wouldn't listen to her and would check her out. Penny thought she would've been fired for walking out, but she didn't. Walking out earned her respect.

Increase of numbers of women in the industry: Penny's sale area consists of Lafayette, Houston, Covington and New Orleans. When she would go into those offices it would just be men, but in the last 10 years she has started to see more women. Other women tell her they have heard her name brought up as an example of women working in the industry; it feels good. More women are working in the industry as petroleum engineers, salespeople, and mechanical engineers. Penny's friends who are petroleum engineers have told her stories about working offshore; it was tough being on the rig with men. The guys were rough around the edges, but that has changed because the women wouldn't participate in that rough behavior and stood their ground. Penny stands up for women who have been stereotyped; she has nothing

to lose. Penny has a lot of involvement in organizations, such as Desk and Derrick and the Society for Petroleum Engineers; she does a lot of presentations.

Downturns and women: Back when Penny started in the industry, women lost their jobs first during downturns; the misconception was one man could replace three women. Penny made it though the downturn because she was willing to take a pay cut and reduce her expenses. When they saw the industry declining, the people she worked with figured out what they could do to save the company and themselves; that was different from a lot of the companies.

Men's pay and women's pay: When Penny started in the industry she was making $800 a month. At that time she had three small children to take care of; most of her paycheck went to childcare. When Dresser was sold to Halliburton Penny was promoted to service coordinator. Her pay increased from almost $2000 a month to $4000 a month. Men still make more than women in the industry. When Penny got that pay raise, the men doing the same job were already making $4000 a month. It was rewarding be paid the same amount as the men in the same position.

Halliburton: Penny is partial to Halliburton because they supported her. When they sold Penny's department the vice president called her to explain why she had to go to NOV. They told her if she wanted a job with Halliburton after six months, they would find her one. Halliburton is really good to its employees.

Learning from downturns: The businesses haven't figured it out yet. During downturns they let go the key people with knowledge because they are more expensive to pay. Instead of letting those people go, the companies need to cut things instead of people. With the massive layoffs in the 1980s a lot of people came back to the industry; Penny doesn't think that will happen this time. People have been burned and they left. With this knowledge leaving, there are going to be problems with safety. There needs to be leaders, but they are gone and the younger kids do not have someone to look up to. The industry needs to rethink how they handle and regroup during downturns. The companies need to keep the key employees and to start the younger people at a salary that makes sense. Nowadays, the younger people are getting high salaries, a phone, a company car, and an expense account when they start. Penny didn't get that, but they are getting it because they have degrees. If companies cut some of those perks for the younger people, they could save the jobs of the older employees with the knowledge.

Younger people in the industry: Penny's kids have good jobs with high salaries, but she doesn't agree with it. Her daughter got hired as a marketing director straight out of college and is almost making the same amount as Penny does now. The industry is foolish about the money they are throwing at the kids; they need to manage money better.

Company loyalty: Some of the bigger corporations need to be loyal to their employees. The industry needs to set aside money so people can have medical retirement, that way if they are forced to retire they will have money to pay for some of their medical costs.

Lafayette and the industry: Lafayette has been supportive. There are a lot of festivals in Lafayette that are centered around the oil and gas industry. After the BP spill there were a lot of benefits and festivals for fishermen and other people who lost their jobs because of the spill. Lafayette has to support the industry because it is one of the two major industries in town; the other is the medical industry. "The community lives and dies by oil and gas." If the oil and gas industry is down, everyone suffers from the lumber companies to the grocery stores. There are programs to help people who are struggling in the industry. During downturns there are programs for families that have lost jobs. They will relocate them to help them find employment; relocation is the worst-case scenario. There are also a lot of incentives for oil and gas companies to stay in Lafayette. There was rumor that everything was going to move to Houston,

and Houma would be the base of transportation, thus finishing Lafayette. It was decided that the industry would be maintained in Lafayette with the support from Houston. If parishes provide good incentives for oil and gas companies, that determines where a lot of companies are located; Iberia Parish has been good about providing those incentives. Companies in Houma are now shutting down and moving to New Iberia. Now New Iberia, Lafayette, and Houston are the main hubs.

Networking: There are a lot of groups here like the Society for Petroleum Engineers, AADE, and Desk and Derrick. A lot of groups put on events for networking such as golf, tennis, and skeet shoot tournaments; these events are widely advertised. These tournaments are where the best networking happens. Lafayette is a great place to network. The companies encourage people to come; the companies share lists of networking events at college career days.

Equality in networking: Networking for men and women is more equal than it use to be. Now hiring is based more on qualifications.

Proudest moment: Halliburton decided Penny's product line was not pulling in as much revenue as it should. They asked Penny and her supervisor why the product wasn't selling as well. The problem was that Penny and her supervisor couldn't run business like it should because they were held back by things like paperwork. Penny and her supervisor were allowed to run the business like they wanted for a year. In that time they increased revenues by 40%. One product went up from 5% to 40% sales; it hasn't gone down since. Halliburton was very proud of them; before that year they were considering shutting down their department. Penny's customers stay with her even though the competitor might have lower prices because she maintains good relationships with them.

Chapter 4. Tables Listing Interview Information

4.1. Interview Information: History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Abshire, Adriel	July 20, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML028	UA
Anderson, Anna	June 13, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP108	UA
Anderson, Edward James	July 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL011	UA
Anderson, Steve	November 10, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE412	UA
Arnold, Sam	January 15, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP666	UA
Aucoin, J. Emile (EJ)	July 17, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC319	UA
Bacque, William - Bill-	February 28, 2011, July 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek, Morgan Lundy	LE460, ML032	UA
Baker, Larry	August 19, 2009	Ingleside Point, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT001	UH
Barker, Frank	July 17, 2015	Arnaudville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML026	UA
Barton Jr, James	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP969	UA
Barton, Willie	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP927	UA
Battle, Julia	March 3, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE464	UA
Baugh, Benton	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP002	UH
Begneaud, Becca	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433b	UA
Begneaud, Don	November 8, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE410	UA
Begneaud, Paul	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433a	UA
Bellaire, Alvin Jr.	June 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML008	UA
Benjamin, Darren	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL005	UA
Benoit, George	February 25, 2010	Kingwood, TX	Jason Theriot	JT047	UH
Berden, David	April 23, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP304	UA
Bergeron, David	July 13, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC310	UA
Blanchard, John	December 7, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE428	UA
Blanchard, Melvin	July 3, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC303	UA
Boles, Robert	April 24, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP305	UA
Bosarge, Louis "Bubba"	January 18, 2011	Bayou La Batre, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP646b	UA
Bosarge,	January 18, 2011	Bayou La Batre,	Preetam Prakash	PP646a	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Stephanie		AL			
Boudreau, Michael	July 16, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL007	UA
Brandt, Ivar	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP004	UH
Briggs, Don	December 6, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE425	UA
Broussard, Martial	June 30, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML016	UA
Broussard, Matthew	February 17, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP670	UA
Broussard, Wayne	July 2, 2015	Abbeville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML017	UA
Brown, John Jr.	January 7, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP664	UA
Brown, John Sr.	January 4, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP661a	UA
Brown, R.J.	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP005	UH
Brown, Warren	December 1, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE423	UA
Bundy, Billy Ray	July 2, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC302	UA
Burney, Luther	November 10, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE414	UA
Burton, Curtis	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP006	UH
Byrd, Gary	June 6, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP044	UA
Byrd, Norma Sue	June 6, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP045	UA
Camos, Walter	July 15, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL006	UA
Caraway, Newsom	June 25, 2009	Rowlett, TX	Jason Theriot	JT048	UH
Carlos, Aubrey	July 13, 2009	Gray, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC311	UA
Cart, Sarah	July 18, 2015	Iota, LA	Laura Loewer	LL019	UA
Carter, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP007	UH
Castille, Michael	July 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML031	UA
Chance, Glenn	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP008	UH
Chapman, James	January 5, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP663	UA
Charles, Leroy	July 30, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC329	UA
Cheramie, Depp	July 22, 2008	Chauvin, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT009	UH
Christ, Rob	August 21, 2008	Robert, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT010	UH
Clanton, Duane	May 22, 2010, May 27, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP317	UA
Cloutier, Rusty	March 1, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE461	UA
Cloyd, Marshall	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP011	UH
Comeaux, Andre	July 31, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML042	UA
Conner, Joel	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC315	UA
Corbin, Robert	March 3, 2011	Long Beach, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP760	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Cornay, Howard Jr.	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML010	UA
Cornay, Steve	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML009	UA
Cornell, Phyllis	July 13, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML022	UA
Cornell, Robert "Bob" Kirk	June 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML015	UA
Crawford, Carl	June 2, 2008, June 10, 2008	Gautier, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP116	UA
Crawford, Jim Bob	July 27, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL014	UA
Crowell III, James	October 5, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM412	UA
Curole, Windell	July 22, 2009	Galliano, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT050	UH
Curtis, Lawrence "Buck"	March 4, 2010	Lake Conroe, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT012	UH
Daly, Tyrelle	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML024	UA
Danenberger, Elmer	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP013	UH
Datel, Louis	December 6, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE424	UA
David, Aaron Matthew	July 9, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML019	UA
Davis, Ovide	April 30, 2008, May 7, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP060	UA
Dempster, Robert "Joe"	April 12, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP052	UA
Dickey, Ruby	October 18, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM429	UA
Doré, Sam	November 9, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE411	UA
Dorman, Charles	April 29, 2010	Union, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP306	UA
Douglas, Allen	January 28, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP676	UA
Duhart, Dennis	February 27, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE458	UA
Dungan, Brett	May 29, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP080	UA
Durel, L.J. "Joey" Jr.	July 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML039	UA
Ellzey, Orvis (Bill)	July 9, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC309	UA
Enze, Chuck	June 26, 2009	Dallas, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT014	UH
Eschete, Louis	July 24, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC325	UA
Fisher, James	April 22, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP302	UA
Flechas, Mike	May 16, 2008, May 20, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP070	UA
Fondren, Tobe	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC314	UA
Ford, Liz	June 18, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP040	UA
Ford, Reena	June 18, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP121	UA
Foreman, R.J. Bronc	June 19, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy	ML005	UA
Fortune, Johnny	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove,	Preetam Prakash	PP926	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
		MS			
Frankhouser, Frank	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP015	UH
Freire, Wagner	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP016	UH
Frisbie, Richard "Dick"	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP017	UH
Gates, Otis Sr.	October 13, 2011	Pass Christian, MS	Kelly McClain	KM420	UA
Gazzier, Richard	June 18, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP104	UA
Gerard, Robert	July 20, 2015	Scott, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML027	UA
Glover, John	July 6, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC304	UA
Godfrey, Dan	June 9, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT018	UH
Golden, Ruben Lee	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC316	UA
Goodell, Kim	December 13, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE435a	UA
Goodell, William (Bill)	December 13, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE435b	UA
Hagan, William	February 25, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE455	UA
Harrison, Frank	December 1, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE422	UA
Harrison, Robert "Bobby"	April 20, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP301	UA
Hawkins, Dolores	July 7, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL002	UA
Heathcock, Walter	May 5, 2010	Quitman, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP308	UA
Heathcock, Walter Sr.	January 8, 2011	Quitman, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP678	UA
Hebert, Daniel	July 8, 2015	Broussard, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML018	UA
Hebert, Edmond	July 21, 2015	Carencro, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML030	UA
Hebert, Jocelyn	July 31, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML041	UA
Hebert, Steve	June 25, 2015	Scott, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML014	UA
Hernandez, Claire	November 7, 2010	Carencro, LA	Laura Ek	LE409	UA
Hernandez, Gari	December 11, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE432	UA
Hernandez, Randy	February 14, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE449	UA
Hernandez, Willie	June 18, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML003	UA
Hilliard, Paul	December 14, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE436a	UA
Holland, William "Bill"	July 26, 2007	Biloxi, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP027	UA
Hollier, John and Claire	July 8, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer, Morgan Lundy	LL003a, LL003b	UA
Hubble, Elmo	July 2, 2009	Lafayette, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT019	UH

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Huff, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP020	UH
Huntsberry, Claude	June 24, 2015	Erath, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML012	UA
Ingram, Bobby Joe	July 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL016	UA
Johnson, Johnny	January 17, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP544a	UA
Johnson, Paul	January 17, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP544b	UA
Johnston, Dwight	September 9, 2009	Robert, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT021	UH
Jones, Bobby	January 6, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP706	UA
Jones, Jeremy	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP074	UA
Jones, Jerry	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP073	UA
Jones, Ollie Otis "O.O."	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT049	UH
Jordan, Jill Chiasson	November 12, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE418	UA
Keene, Patrick William	February 27, 2008, April 1, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP038	UA
Kelly, John	July 23, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC323	UA
Kennedy, Sean	May 16, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP069	UA
Knott, Francis L. "Frank"	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML038	UA
LaCasse, Phil "James" and Patricia	July 13, 2015	Iota, LA	Laura Loewer	LL004a, LL004b	UA
Lagers, George	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP022	UH
Landry, Albert J.	July 6, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL001	UA
Landry, Drew	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE434	UA
Landry, Glenn and Meloney	November 6, 2015	Abbeville, LA	Diane Austin	DA654	UA
Landry, Lori	July 6, 2015	Broussard, LA	Laura Loewer	LL018	UA
Laroussini, Jill	July 10, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML020	UA
Latch, Edward "Ted"	July 21, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML029	UA
LeBlanc, Michael James	July 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML034	UA
Legrom, Wayne	May 7, 2010	Toomsuba, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP310	UA
Leimkuhler, Joseph	June 12, 2015	Mandeville, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Julie Luchetta	ML002	UA
Lerrille, Red	September 23, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE408	UA
Lochridge, Joe	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP023	UH
Lowe, Robert "Bob" D.	June 19, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Diane Austin, Ben Luton	ML007	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Luke, Stanley "David"	March 17, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP719	UA
Lynn, Robert Jr.	June 13, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP117	UA
Maillet, Bonnie Blue	November 6, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA655	UA
Maley, Steve	December 14, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE436b	UA
Martini, Allan	September 15, 2007	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP049	UH
McGoffin, Gary	November 11, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE415	UA
McIlwain, Thomas	May 13, 2008	Ocean Springs, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP114	UA
McKinsey, Johnny	May 13, 2010	Sandy Hook, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP312	UA
McRoy, Arthur	June 9, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP118	UA
McRoy, Juanita	June 9, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP119	UA
Michel, Drew	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP024	UH
Miller, Lillian (also Lillian Espinoza-Gala)	September 19, 24, 2010, March 7, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE407, LE409, LE474	UA
Millet, Frank	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC321	UA
Montague, Dave	August 25, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT025	UH
Monteiro, John	July 14, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC313	UA
Mouton, Arthur "Art" D. and Wiliam Hugh	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer, Morgan Lundy	LL012a, LL012b	UA
Munson, King	December 8, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE430	UA
Myers, Charles "Chuck" and Hallie	July 24, 2015	Opelousas, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML035a, ML035b	UA
Navarre, Joe "Sonny"	July 8, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC306	UA
Neil, Edward "Peanut"	July 29, 2009	Chauvin, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC328	UA
Nelson, Ken	August 21, 2008	New Orleans, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT026	UH
Nelson, Sheila	November 12, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE417	UA
Nolan, Herman Ray	February 2, 2011	Bayou La Batre, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP668	UA
Odom, Charles	May 26, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP316	UA
Osborne, Tim	July 21, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL010	UA
Owen, Thomas	May 17, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP115	UA
Patterson, Robert	August 28, 2009	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT027	UH
Peart, Doug	March 4, 2009	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT028	UH
Peatross, Bob	February 22, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE451	UA
Pickens, Larry	May 29, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP318	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Pierce, F. Daniel	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL015	UA
Porche, Larry "Moon"	July 17, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC320	UA
Powell, Joseph and Nelda	July 27, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML036a, ML036b	UA
Prosperie, Werlien "Moose"	June 30, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC301	UA
Rabinowitz, Philip	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP030	UH
Ransonet, Abigail	March 3, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE463	UA
Redmond, Richard "Fuzzy"	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC322	UA
Regan, Bobby	May 24, 2010	Sandy Hook, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP315	UA
Reggio, Villiere	March 5, 2009	Baton Rouge, LA	Dolly Jorgensen	DJ031	UH
Rel, Gabriel	June 9, 2008	Grand Bay, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP120	UA
Rhodes, Ronnie	July 8, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC307	UA
Rhodes, Wilson	July 16, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC317	UA
Rike, Jim	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP032	UH
Robinson, Delmer	September 27, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	PP970	UA
Rodrigue, Myron	August 13, 2009, September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot, Tyler Priest	JT033, TP034	UH
Rodriguez, Joseph	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP075	UA
Sanzin. Michael	January 31, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP669	UA
Savoy, George Allen	July 24, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC326	UA
Scarce, Stacey	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433c	UA
Scheuermann, Herb	July 20, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL008	UA
Schnoor, Ron	May 30, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP083	UA
Schoeffler, Harold	November 15, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE420a	UA
Schoeffler, Sarah	November 15, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE420b	UA
Schultz, Thomas	October 14, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP441	UA
Sekul, Morris	February 7, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP609	UA
Sevel, Michael	January 10, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP665	UA
Sevin, John	March 25, 2010	Amelia, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT035	UH
Shannon, Mark	August 25, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT036	UH
Shelley, Matthew	May 6, 2010	Forest, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP309	UA
Shirley, Steve	September 8, 2010	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA405	UA
Simoneaux, Gregory "Greg"	July 10, 2015	Rayne, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML021	UA

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Smith, David "Smitty"	July 9, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC308	UA
Sonnier, Alden Jr.	July 21, 2015	Sunset, LA	Laura Loewer	LL009	UA
Spencer, Robert	May 21, 2008	Moss Point, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP037	UA
St. Julien, John	July 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML033	UA
Stallworth, Bill	January 9, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP037	UH
Sterling, Gordon	June 8, 2009	The Woodlands, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT038	UH
Stutes, Greg	July 24, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL013	UA
Sullivan, Dennis	February 27, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE457	UA
Swoboda, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP039	UH
Talbot, Merlin	July 7, 2009	Schniever, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC305	UA
Taylor, Allen	February 8, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP598	UA
Teu, Billy Joe	May 4, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP307	UA
Thibodeaux, James R. "Rusty"	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML037	UA
Thomas, Inez	October 10, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM416b	UA
Thomas, Marti	July 30, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL017	UA
Thompson, Diana	January 18, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP675a	UA
Thompson, Rodney	January 18, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP675b	UA
Trahan, Ronnie	July 27, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC327	UA
Turner, Craig	June 25, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML013	UA
Van Calcar, Hank	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP040	UH
Vance, George	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP041	UH
Vincken, Leon	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP042	UH
Waller, James	January 5, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP673	UA
Waller, James Jr.	May 30, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP319	UA
Ware, Jodee	July 30, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML040	UA
Ware, Sally	March 9, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE468	UA
Webb, Cathy	April 22, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP303	UA
Weber, Denis	March 25, 2010	Morgan City, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT043	UH
Webre, Charles Mike	June 18, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML004	UA
West, Benny	May 23, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP314	UA
Wheeler, Steven	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP044	UH
Wilbourn, Phil	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP045	UH

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation
Wilkerson, Lou	June 26, 2009	Prosper, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT046	UH
Williams, Dale	June 17, 2008	Coden, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP103	UA
Williams, James	May 21, 2010	Clara, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP313	UA
Windham, Luther R.	July 16, 2015	Natchitoches, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML025	UA
Wooten, William -Bill-	January 18, 2009, January 7, 2011	Union and Lake, MS	Diane Austin, Preetam Prakash	DA301, PP677	UA
Young, Penny	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML023	UA
Zirlott, Jeremy	February 13, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP674	UA
Zirlott, Patricia	December 10, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP564a	UA
Zirlott, Robert -Chris-	December 13, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP566	UA
Zirlott, Simon	February 9, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP649	UA
Zirlott, Victor	December 10, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP564b	UA
Anonymous	June 24, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML011	UA

4.2. Interview Information: Offshore Oil and Gas History Project and History of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Oil and Gas Industry during the Deepwater Era

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Aalund, Niels	August 9, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS066	UH/HI	OOGHP
Abshire, Adriel	July 20, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML028	UA	Deepwater
Acosta, Robert	February 7, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS016	UA	OOGHP
Adams, B.A. "Red"	January 17, 2002, July 14, 2004	Amelia, LA; Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner, Jamie Christy	AG055, MMS032	UA, UH/HI	OOGHP
Adkins, Gerald	January 14, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM021	UA	OOGHP
Ainger, Ralph	November 22, 2002	Herndon, VA	Tyler Priest	MMS015	UH/HI	OOGHP
Albert, Vernon	November 7, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW027	ULL	OOGHP
Anderson, Anna	June 13, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP108	UA	Deepwater
Anderson, Edward James	July 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL011	UA	Deepwater
Anderson, Steve	November 10, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE412	UA	Deepwater
Andrus, Nedra	June 11, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW055*	ULL	OOGHP
Angel, Tom	November 11, 2002, November 21, 2002	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA067, DA078p*	UA	OOGHP
Anonymous	June 24, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML011	UA	Deepwater
Applebaum, Bruce S	November 12, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS005	UH/HI	OOGHP
Arcenaux, Cleejus "Click" and Betty	March 26, 2002	Bourg, LA.	Emily Bernier	EB048	UA	OOGHP
Armstrong, Earl	July 19, 2002	Boothville, LA	Tom McGuire	TM050	UA	OOGHP
Arnold, Ken E.	May 10, 2004	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS030	UH/HI	OOGHP
Arnold, Sam	January 15, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP666	UA	Deepwater
Aucoin, J. Emile (EJ)	July 17, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC319	UA	Deepwater
Aucoin, Leonard	June 2, 2004	Morgan City, La.	Jamie Christy	MMS033	UH/HI	OOGHP
Ayers, Buddy	March 2, 2002, July 27, 2003	New Orleans, LA	Diane Austin	DA034, DA114	UA	OOGHP
Babin, Eddie and Marie	January 21, 2002, January 28, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB026, EB034p	UA	OOGHP
Babin, Martial	July 18, 2001	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM002	UA	OOGHP

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Backus, Milo M.	June 12, 2002	Dallas, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS001	UH/HI	OOGHP
Bacque, Oden "Donnie"	February 18, 2003	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD012	ULL	OOGHP
Bacque, William -Bill-	February 28, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE460	UA	Deepwater
Bailey, Bill	June 26, 2001	New Orleans, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH001	UA	OOGHP
Bailey, P.T.	September 27, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Emily Bernier	EB021	UA	OOGHP
Baker, Jim	June 6, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS067	UH/HI	OOGHP
Baker, Larry	August 19, 2009	Ingleside Point, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT001	UH	Deepwater
Bankston, Gene	December 3, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC001	UH/HI	OOGHP
Barker, Frank	July 17, 2015	Arnaudville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML026	UA	Deepwater
Barrett, Herb	January 22, 2002, January 28, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB028, EB055p	UA	OOGHP
Barrilleaux, Julie	July 29, 2003	Amelia, LA	Diane Austin	DA118	UA	OOGHP
Barrow, Thomas D.	October 30, 2001, November 7, 2001	Houston, TX	Joe Pratt	OEC006, OEC007	UH/HI	OOGHP
Barry, Arthur	June 19, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW001*	ULL	OOGHP
Barton Jr, James	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP969	UA	Deepwater
Barton, Willie	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP927	UA	Deepwater
Bassett, Aubrey	January 16, 2003	Metairie, LA	Tyler Priest	MMS022	UH/HI	OOGHP
Battle, Julia	March 3, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE464	UA	Deepwater
Baugh, Benton	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP002	UH	Deepwater
Begneaud, Becca	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433b	UA	Deepwater
Begneaud, Don	November 8, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE410	UA	Deepwater
Begneaud, Paul	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433a	UA	Deepwater
Belanger, Roland	November 20, 2002	Montegut, LA	James Sell	JS003	UA	OOGHP
Bellaire, Alvin Jr.	June 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML008	UA	Deepwater
Bellanger, Arthur	January 21, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM056	UA	OOGHP
Benjamin, Darren	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL005	UA	Deepwater
Benoit, George	February 25, 2010	Kingwood, TX	Jason Theriot	JT047	UH	Deepwater

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Benton, Jerry	April 8, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB052	UA	OOGHP
Berden, David	April 23, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP304	UA	Deepwater
Bergeron, David	July 13, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC310	UA	Deepwater
Bergeron, Robert "Bobby"	January 24, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS008	UA	OOGHP
Bernard, Lewis	July 30, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW013*	ULL	OOGHP
Bernard, Melvin	July 22, 2001, July 21, 2003	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire, Diane Austin	TM006, DA107	UA	OOGHP
Besson, Frank "Peco"	March 19, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM061	UA	OOGHP
Bibee, James	May 27, 2003	Weimar, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS034	UH/HI	OOGHP
Billiot, Wenceslaus "Win"	January 19, 2005	Dulac, LA	Scott Kennedy	JLS03	UA	OOGHP
Billiot, Wilbert	July 24, 2003	Dulac, LA	Betsy Plumb and Joanna Stone	SK003	UA	OOGHP
Billodeau, Luke	June 17, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW002*	ULL	OOGHP
Blackburn, Charlie	September 23, 1999	Dallas, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC002	UH/HI	OOGHP
Blanchard, Acklin	February 3, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS012	UA	OOGHP
Blanchard, John	December 7, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE428	UA	Deepwater
Blanchard, Melvin	March 25, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB046	UA	OOGHP
Blanchard, Melvin	July 3, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC303	UA	Deepwater
Blum, Rosalie	March 1, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA097	UA	OOGHP
Boles, Robert	April 24, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP305	UA	Deepwater
Bollinger, Charlotte	July 28, 2003	Lockport, LA	Diane Austin	DA116	UA	OOGHP
Bonnette, Adrian	January 29, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS009	UA	OOGHP
Bookout, John	July 16, 1998, September 24 and October 1, 1998, December 18, 1998	Houston, TX	Tom Stewart	SOC003, SOC004, SOC005	UH/HI	OOGHP
Bosarge, Louis "Bubba"	January 18, 2011	Bayou La Batre, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP646b	UA	Deepwater
Bosarge, Stephanie	January 18, 2011	Bayou La Batre, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP646a	UA	Deepwater
Boudreau, Michael	July 16, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL007	UA	Deepwater

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Boudreaux, Moye	October 2, 2001, January 13, 2002, January 15, 2002	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA014, DA023, AG050p	UA	OOGHP
Bougeois, Bob	August 9, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci and Steven Wiltz	DD009	ULL	OOGHP
Bourg, George	February 5, 2003	Montegut, LA	James Sell	JS014	UA	OOGHP
Boykin, Ray	June 28, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH003	UA	OOGHP
Bradshaw, Jim	May 7, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW050	ULL	OOGHP
Brandt, Ivar	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP004	UH	Deepwater
Brasted, Lee	December 19, 1997	Houston, TX	Bruce Beauboeuf and Joseph Pratt	SOC006	UH/HI	OOGHP
Breaux, Minos	April 12, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG001	UA	OOGHP
Breaux, Numa	October 3, 2001, July 21, 2003	Larose, LA	Diane Austin	DA016, DA108p	UA	OOGHP
Briggs, Don	December 6, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE425	UA	Deepwater
Broman, Bill	December 15, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC008	UH/HI	OOGHP
Brooks, Ron	April 2, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS021	UA	OOGHP
Broussard, James "Cecil"	October 2002, December 12, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Norma Cormier, Diane Austin	NC001, DA079p	UA	OOGHP
Broussard, Martial	June 30, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML016	UA	Deepwater
Broussard, Matthew	February 17, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP670	UA	Deepwater
Broussard, Sammy	November 15, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA072	UA	OOGHP
Broussard, Wayne	July 2, 2015	Abbeville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML017	UA	Deepwater
Brown, John Jr.	January 7, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP664	UA	Deepwater
Brown, John Sr.	January 4, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP661a	UA	Deepwater
Brown, R.J.	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP005	UH	Deepwater
Brown, Warren	December 1, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE423	UA	Deepwater
Brown, William	July 25, 2002	Lake Charles, LA	Diane Austin	DA055	UA	OOGHP
Bundy, Billy	July 23, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA011	UA	OOGHP
Bundy, Billy Ray	July 2, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC302	UA	Deepwater

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Burcalow, Leon	January 21, 2005	Thibodaux, LA	Christina Leza and Colleen O'Donnell	CL003	UA	OOGHP
Burgess, Jim	July 27, 2003	River Ridge, LA	Diane Austin	DA115*	UA	OOGHP
Burgess, Leroy	September 19, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA	Emily Bernier	EB019	UA	OOGHP
Burney, Luther	November 10, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE414	UA	Deepwater
Burton, Curtis	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP006	UH	Deepwater
Burton, Harold	March 22, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS018	UA	OOGHP
Byler, Pat	May 7, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG012	UA	OOGHP
Byrd, Gary	June 6, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP044	UA	Deepwater
Byrd, Norma Sue	June 6, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP045	UA	Deepwater
Cake, Ed	March 29, 2003	Ocean Springs, MS	Tom McGuire	TM067	UA	OOGHP
Callais, Ronald	June 6, 2002	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM036	UA	OOGHP
Callais, Weber	June 4, 2002	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM034	UA	OOGHP
Camos, Walter	July 15, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL006	UA	Deepwater
Camp, Ruth	July 11, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS030p	UA	OOGHP
Cantrelle, A.J.	July 17, 2001	Larose, LA	Ari Anand	AA006	UA	OOGHP
Cantrelle, Buddy	July 13, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Ari Anand	AA004	UA	OOGHP
Caraway, Newsom	June 25, 2009	Rowlett, TX	Newsom Caraway	JT048	UH	Deepwater
Carline, Richard	January 6, 2003	Amelia, LA	Diane Austin	DA086	UA	OOGHP
Carline, Wallace	January 9, 2003	Amelia, LA	Diane Austin	DA089	UA	OOGHP
Carlos, Aubrey	July 13, 2009	Gray, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC311	UA	Deepwater
Cart, Sarah	July 18, 2015	Iota, LA	Laura Loewer	LL019	UA	Deepwater
Carter, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP007	UH	Deepwater
Castille, Michael	July 22, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML031	UA	Deepwater
Chabert, Elvis "Al"	September 20, 2001	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM012	UA	OOGHP
Champagne, Roy	September 20, 2001	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM012	UA	OOGHP
Chance, Glenn	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP008	UH	Deepwater
Chapman, James	January 5, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP663	UA	Deepwater
Chargois, J.C.	May 2, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW049	ULL	OOGHP
Charles, Leroy	July 30, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob	JC329	UA	Deepwater

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
			Campbell			
Charpentier, Lloyd	January 14, 2003	Amelia, LA	Diane Austin	DA091	UA	OOGHP
Charpentier, Steven	July 12, 2002	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM044	UA	OOGHP
Chauvin, D.J. and Lucy	July 9, 2001	Chauvin, LA	Ari Anand	AA001	UA	OOGHP
Chauvin, Ferrel and Grace	July 13, 2001, July 18, 2001	Chauvin, LA	Ari Anand	AA003a&b	UA	OOGHP
Chauvin, Kerry	February 4, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS013	UA	OOGHP
Cheramie, "MJ" and Cheramie, Tony	September 19, 2001	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM010	UA	OOGHP
Cheramie, Chester	March 4, 2002	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM028	UA	OOGHP
Cheramie, Depp	July 22, 2008	Chauvin, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT009	UH	Deepwater
Cheramie, Linwood "Boz"	October 3, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin	DA015	UA	OOGHP
Cheramie, Mark	July 24, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA012	UA	OOGHP
Cheramie, R.J.	July 19, 2001, September 26, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Emily Bernier	EB008, EB020	UA	OOGHP
Chesson, Hubert	May 11, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG018	UA	OOGHP
Christ, Charles	March 18, 2003, January 19, 2005	Houma, LA	James Sell, Diane Austin	JS020, DA132p	UA	OOGHP
Christ, Rob	August 21, 2008	Robert, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT010	UH	Deepwater
Clanton, Duane	May 22, 2010, May 27, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP317	UA	Deepwater
Clark, Joe	July 23, 2003	Boothville, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP010	UA	OOGHP
Clark, Robey	June 25, 2003	Amarillo, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS035	UH/HI	OOGHP
Cloutier, Rusty	March 1, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE461	UA	Deepwater
Cloyd, Marshall	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP011	UH	Deepwater
Cochennic, Jay	March 18, 2002	Cut Off, LA	Emily Bernier	EB039	UA	OOGHP
Cockerham, Frances and Justillien, Buddy	July 29, 2003 and July 30, 2003	Berwick, LA	Diane Austin	DA119	UA	OOGHP
Cockerham, Joyce	July 29, 2003 and July 30, 2003	Berwick, LA	Diane Austin	DA119	UA	OOGHP

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Cockerham, Robert "Bob"	December 13, 2000	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA000	UA	OOGHP
Collins, Ed	April 8, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC006	ULL	OOGHP
Collins, Wilbert	July 18, 2001	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM003	UA	OOGHP
Collipp, Bruce	September 21, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC012	UH/HI	OOGHP
Comeaux, Andre	July 31, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML042	UA	Deepwater
Comeaux, Johnny	February 11, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC002	ULL	OOGHP
Comeaux, Leon	August 15, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW024	ULL	OOGHP
Comeaux, Lorimer	March 22, 2002	Larose, LA.	Emily Bernier	EB043	UA	OOGHP
Conner, Joel	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC315	UA	Deepwater
Conrad, Parker	May 10, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG017p	UA	OOGHP
Constant, Nelson	July 23, 2001, July 18, 2002, January 13, 2005	Thibodaux, LA	Diane Austin, Diane Austin and Betsy Plumb	DA004, DA050p, DA131	UA	OOGHP
Corbin, Robert	March 3, 2011	Long Beach, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP760	UA	Deepwater
Cornay, Howard Jr.	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML010	UA	Deepwater
Cornay, Steve	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML009	UA	Deepwater
Cornell, Phyllis	July 13, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML022	UA	Deepwater
Cornell, Robert "Bob" Kirk	June 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML015	UA	Deepwater
Couvillon, John	July 9, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW008	ULL	OOGHP
Coyle, Billy	April 8, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB051	UA	OOGHP
Craig, William	July 24, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW011	ULL	OOGHP
Cramer, Neal	August 20, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS006	UH/HI	OOGHP
Crawford, Carl	June 2, 2008, June 10, 2008	Gautier, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP116	UA	Deepwater
Crawford, Jim Bob	July 27, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL014	UA	Deepwater
Creel, Evelyn	January 20, 2005	Cut Off, LA	Joanna Stone	JLS05	UA	OOGHP
Creswell, Tim	August 5, 2002; August 8, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci; David DiTucci	SW016; DD008	ULL	OOGHP
Crochet, James "Peanut"	July 20, 2001, July 25, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier, Andrew Gardner	EB009, AG039p	UA	OOGHP

Interviewee(s)	Date(s)	Location	Interviewer(s)	Interview Number(s) (*=no audio)	Researcher Affiliation	Project^
Crosby, Percy	January 22, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM058	UA	OOGHP
Crowell III, James	October 5, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM412	UA	Deepwater
Culligan, Leland	July 7, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC007	ULL	OOGHP
Cunningham, Jerry	June 8, 2001, January 11, 2002, January 14, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG028, AG045, AG049p	UA	OOGHP
Curole, Bernice	January 21, 2002	Larose, LA	Diane Austin	DA026p	UA	OOGHP
Curole, Windell	June 5, 2002	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM035	UA	OOGHP
Curole, Windell	July 22, 2009	Galliano, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT050	UH	Deepwater
Curtis, Lawrence "Buck"	March 4, 2010	Lake Conroe, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT012	UH	Deepwater
Dagenhardt, Lloyd "Highpockets"	June 26, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS023	UA	OOGHP
Daigle, Irving "Sammy"	January 21, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM025	UA	OOGHP
Daly, Tyrelle	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML024	UA	Deepwater
Danenberger, Elmer	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP013	UH	Deepwater
Daniels, Walt	November 21, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA077	UA	OOGHP
Danos, Allen	July 10, 2002	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM041	UA	OOGHP
Dardar, Michael	July 10, 2003	Boothville, LA	Jessica Piekielek and Diane Austin	DA104	UA	OOGHP
Dardar, Thomas, Jr	July 26, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand and Nicole Crosby	AA014	UA	OOGHP
Dardar, Thomas, Sr..	July 26, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand and Nicole Crosby	AA014	UA	OOGHP
Dardar, Whitney	July 14, 2002	Golden Meadow, LA	Diane Austin and Tom McGuire	DA046	UA	OOGHP
Darsey, Elton	October 1, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM052	UA	OOGHP
Daspit, Walt	March 14, 2002, July 10, 2002, July 16, 2002	Mandeville, LA	Diane Austin	DA039, DA044p, DA048	UA	OOGHP
Datel, Louis	December 6, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE424	UA	Deepwater
David, Aaron Matthew	July 9, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML019	UA	Deepwater
Davis, Haggai	July 8, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS060	UH/HI	OOGHP

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Davis, J. Frank	May 10, 2004	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS030	UH/HI	OOGHP
Davis, Ovide	April 30, 2008, May 7, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP060	UA	Deepwater
DeFelice, Raymond	January 24, 2002	Lockport, LA	Emily Bernier	EB031	UA	OOGHP
DeHart, Esmiel "Dee"	July 26, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA013	UA	OOGHP
Delcambre, Clifton	May 1, 2001	Delcambre, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG008	UA	OOGHP
DeMartini, David	July 9, 2004	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS036	UH/HI	OOGHP
Dempster, Robert "Joe"	April 12, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP052	UA	Deepwater
Denet, Edward Richard	July 22, 2003	Boothville, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP007	UA	OOGHP
Deshotels, Ronald	January 19, 2003	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD004	ULL	OOGHP
Dias, Lee	June 7, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD001	ULL	OOGHP
Dickey, Ruby	October 18, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM429	UA	Deepwater
Dickie, George	January 27, 2003	Thibodaux, LA	Debbie Z. Toups	DT002	UA	OOGHP
Dilsaver, Ed and Tess	July 24, 2001, January 5, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Emily Bernier, Rylan Higgins	EB012, RH020	UA	OOGHP
Dilsaver, John and Catherine	April 6, 2002, July 25, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Emily Bernier, Diane Austin	EB050, DA113	UA	OOGHP
Dion, Howard	July 16, 2001	Bourg, LA	Emily Bernier and Ari Anand	EB005	UA	OOGHP
Domingue, A.G.	December 22, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW031	ULL	OOGHP
Domingue, Eddie	June 19, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW003	ULL	OOGHP
Dominique, Doughty	January 17, 2002, January 21, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB023, EB027p	UA	OOGHP
Doré, Sam	November 9, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE411	UA	Deepwater
Dorman, Charles	April 29, 2010	Union, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP306	UA	Deepwater
Doss, Arles "AJ"	June 28, 2003, January 10, 2005	Houma, LA	James Sell, Lauren Penney and Colleen O'Donnell	JS025, LP001	UA	OOGHP
Doucet, Keith	September 25, 2001	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM016	UA	OOGHP
Doucet, Manson	June 4, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG024	UA	OOGHP
Douglas, Allen	January 28, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP676	UA	Deepwater
Downey, Marlan	September 24, 1999	Dallas, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC013	UH/HI	OOGHP

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Dugas, Harold	May 3, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG010	UA	OOGHP
Duhart, Dennis	February 27, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE458	UA	Deepwater
Duncan, Flora	July 23, 2003	Boothville, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP009	UA	OOGHP
Dungan, Brett	May 29, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP080	UA	Deepwater
Dunn, Patt	July 1, 1996	Columbus, TX	Joseph Pratt and Bruce Beauboeuf	SOC033	UH/HI	OOGHP
Duplantis, Clarence	May 16, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG021	UA	OOGHP
Duplantis, Elmer	February 5, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW038	ULL	OOGHP
Duplantis, Irvin and Drusella	July 16, 2003	Dulac, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP005	UA	OOGHP
Dupont, Edward	July 2, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH004	UA	OOGHP
Dupre, Dennis D.	September 28, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB022	UA	OOGHP
Dupre, Raymond	July 11, 2001	Point-Aux-Chenes, LA	Emily Bernier	EB002	UA	OOGHP
Durel, L.J. "Joey" Jr.	July 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML039	UA	Deepwater
Durocher, Freddie	January 24, 2002	Chackbay, LA.	Emily Bernier	EB030	UA	OOGHP
Dyerson, Clyde	July 19, 2001	New Orleans, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH012	UA	OOGHP
Edmonds, Jim	August 11, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS068	UH/HI	OOGHP
Edwards, C.E. "Chuck"	April 30, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS023	UH/HI	OOGHP
Elliot, Russell	January 25, 2002	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA030	UA	OOGHP
Ellzey, E.J.	July 19, 2002	Venice, LA	Tom McGuire	TM049	UA	OOGHP
Ellzey, Orvis (Bill)	July 9, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC309	UA	Deepwater
Enze, Chuck	June 26, 2009	Dallas, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT014	UH	Deepwater
Eschete, Louis	July 24, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC325	UA	Deepwater
Eshete, Daryl and Liz	March 23, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB044	UA	OOGHP
Estevens, Bill	August 6, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW018	ULL	OOGHP
Evans, Orde	February 25, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW042	ULL	OOGHP
Evans, Sam L.	April 9, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS002	UH/HI	OOGHP
Fackler, Dale	November 18, 2002, December 4,	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA074, DA080p	UA	OOGHP

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	2002					
Falgout, Ted	March 14, 2002	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM033	UA	OOGHP
Fanguy, Floyd J.	July 16, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA005	UA	OOGHP
Fanguy, Phillip	March 25, 2002, April 10, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB045, EB054p	UA	OOGHP
Farmer, Warren R. "Dick"	February 12, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC003	ULL	OOGHP
Felterman, F.C. "Butch"	October 3, 2000, January 17, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner Rylan Higgins	RH016, AG054	UA	OOGHP
Ferris, R.L.	December 17, 1998	Lakeaway, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC014	UH/HI	OOGHP
Fields, Aubrey	July 30, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG042	UA	OOGHP
Fisher, James	April 22, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP302	UA	Deepwater
Fitzgerald, Clyde	August 14, 2006	Galveston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS069	UH/HI	OOGHP
Flechas, Mike	May 16, 2008, May 20, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP070	UA	Deepwater
Florstedt, Jim	June 5, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW053	ULL	OOGHP
Flowers, Bill	June 18, 1999	Tyler, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC031	UH/HI	OOGHP
Folse, L.J.	March 17, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS017	UA	OOGHP
Fondren, Tobe	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC314	UA	Deepwater
Ford, Liz	June 18, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP040	UA	Deepwater
Ford, Reena	June 18, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP121	UA	Deepwater
Foreman, R.J. Bronc	June 19, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy	ML005	UA	Deepwater
Forrest, Mike	June 29, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC015	UH/HI	OOGHP
Fortune, Johnny	July 29, 2011	Walnut Grove, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP926	UA	Deepwater
Foster, Joe B.	April 22, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Joseph Pratt	MMS003	UH/HI	OOGHP
Fournet, Robert	June 11, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD002	ULL	OOGHP
Francis, Antoine "Tee"	July 23, 2003, January 19, 2005	Dulac, LA	Joanna Stone Scott Kennedy, Betsy Plumb	SK002, JLS03	UA	OOGHP
Frankhouser, Frank	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP015	UH	Deepwater

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Frazell, W.D.	July 31, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci and Steven Wiltz	SW015	ULL	OOGHP
Frederick, Larry	February 17, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW040	ULL	OOGHP
Freire, Wagner	September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP016	UH	Deepwater
Frisbie, Richard "Dick"	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP017	UH	Deepwater
Fromenthal, Logan	July 6, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS037	UH/HI	OOGHP
Fryou, Lester	July 6, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH007	UA	OOGHP
Fullerton, Bill	March 19, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA042	UA	OOGHP
Galerne, André	December 17, 2001	Scottsdale, AZ	Diane Austin	DA021	UA	OOGHP
Galletti, Mary Ann	July 26-28, 2002	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA057	UA	OOGHP
Galvan, Lionel	June 3, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW052	ULL	OOGHP
Galvin, Ray	January 29, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS021	UH/HI	OOGHP
Garacci, Ben	November 21, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW029	ULL	OOGHP
Gardner, Charles "Pete"	July 5, 2001	Franklin, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG033	UA	OOGHP
Gates, Otis Sr.	October 13, 2011	Pass Christian, MS	Kelly McClain	KM420	UA	Deepwater
Gaudet, Lloyd	July 10, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA002	UA	OOGHP
Gautreaux, Arthur "Tuts"	September 25, 2001	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM016	UA	OOGHP
Gautreaux, Murphy	September 25, 2001	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM016	UA	OOGHP
Gazzier, Richard	June 18, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP104	UA	Deepwater
Geer, Ron	December 12, 1997	Houston, TX	Bruce and Joe Pratt Beauboeuf	SOC016	UH/HI	OOGHP
Geist, Lloyd	June 28, 2003, January 10, 2005	Gray, LA	James Sell, Lauren Penney and Colleen O'Donnell	JS024, LP002	UA	OOGHP
George, Al	August 13, 2002; February 4, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW022; SW037	ULL	OOGHP
George, Beverly Cowart	July 23, 2002	Metairie, LA	Diane Austin	DA053	UA	OOGHP
George, Philip and Eleanor	September 25, 2001, January 21, 2002	Larose, LA	Diane Austin	DA009, DA024p	UA	OOGHP
Gerard, Robert	July 20, 2015	Scott, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML027	UA	Deepwater
Gibbens, Jimmy	July 16, 2001	Metairie, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG035	UA	OOGHP

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Giblin, Jim	June 30, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS070	UH/HI	OOGHP
Gillock, Ronnie	August 21, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL020	UA	Deepwater
Gilmore, Selwyn "Sebby"	July 8, 2003, January 11, 2005	Bourg, LA and Houma, LA	James Sell, Lauren Penney and Betsy Plumb	JS028, LP003	UA	OOGHP
Gipson, William E.	May 9, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS024	UH/HI	OOGHP
Giroir, Jake	May 8, 2001, July 31, 2001, January 7, 2005	Morgan City,LA	Andrew Gardner, Colleen O'Donnell and Diane Austin	AG015, AG044p, DA128	UA	OOGHP
Gisclair, Maxie	June 3, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG023	UA	OOGHP
Glover, John	July 6, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC304	UA	Deepwater
Glynn, Andrew M. "Boom Boom"	September 18, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB018	UA	OOGHP
Godfrey, Dan	June 9, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT018	UH	Deepwater
Golden, Ruben Lee	July 15, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC316	UA	Deepwater
Goodell, Kim	December 13, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE435a	UA	Deepwater
Goodell, William (Bill)	December 13, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE435b	UA	Deepwater
Goodroe, Richard	January 18, 2002	Houma, LA.	Emily Bernier	EB024	UA	OOGHP
Graebner, Robert J.	June 13, 2002	Dallas, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS007	UH/HI	OOGHP
Gravelle, Charles de	July 26, 2002; December 2, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci; David DiTucci	SW012; SW030	ULL	OOGHP
Gray, Karen	July 18, 2002	Thibodaux, LA	Diane Austin	DA051	UA	OOGHP
Green, B.T.	July 31, 2001	Metairie, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG043	UA	OOGHP
Gremillion, Ed	May 20, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW051	ULL	OOGHP
Grice, Billye	February 11, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA122	UA	OOGHP
Griffin, Abraham	July 23, 2001	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM008	UA	OOGHP
Grow, Ira and Cecile	October 5, 2000, July 18, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Rylan Higgins, Diane Austin	RH017, DA106	UA	OOGHP
Grubbs, C.E. "Whitey"	March 20, 2002, September 30, 2002	Baton Rouge, LA	Diane Austin	DA043, DA061p*	UA	OOGHP

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Guidry, Anna Belle "Rusty"	July 16, 2002	Bush, LA	Diane Austin	DA048	UA	OOGHP
Guidry, John Allen	March 26, 2002	Larose, LA	Emily Bernier	EB047	UA	OOGHP
Guidry, Richard "Dick"	October 4, 2001	Galliano, LA	Diane Austin	DA018	UA	OOGHP
Guzzetta, Vince	July 1, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS038	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hagan, William	February 25, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE455	UA	Deepwater
Hahn, Clyde	July 2, 2001	Franklin, LA	Emily Bernier and Andrew Gardner	AG031	UA	OOGHP
Hammonds, Charles	December 6, 2002	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS004	UA	OOGHP
Harris, Michael	March 18, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM060	UA	OOGHP
Harrison, Frank	December 1, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE422	UA	Deepwater
Harrison, Henry	August 8, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW019	ULL	OOGHP
Harrison, Robert "Bobby"	April 20, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP301	UA	Deepwater
Hartgen, Carol	November 22, 2002	Reston, VA	Tyler Priest	MMS016	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hasenpflug, Harry	August 22, 2002	Sugarland, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS008	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hawkins, Dolores	July 7, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL002	UA	Deepwater
Heathcock, Walter	May 5, 2010	Quitman, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP308	UA	Deepwater
Heathcock, Walter Sr.	January 8, 2011	Quitman, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP678	UA	Deepwater
Hebert, Betty Roth	March 4, 2002	Thibodaux, LA	Diane Austin	DA035	UA	OOGHP
Hebert, Daniel	July 8, 2015	Broussard, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML018	UA	Deepwater
Hebert, Earl	December 5, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA082	UA	OOGHP
Hebert, Edmond	July 21, 2015	Carencro, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML030	UA	Deepwater
Hebert, James "Jimmy"	April 17, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG003	UA	OOGHP
Hebert, Jocelyn	July 31, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML041	UA	Deepwater
Hebert, Steve	June 25, 2015	Scott, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML014	UA	Deepwater
Henderson, Dolores	July 16, 2001, March 7, 2003	Morgan City,LA	Diane Austin Rylan Higgins	RH011, DA104	UA	OOGHP
Henry, Ed	November 18, 2002, January 24,	Houma, LA	Diane Austin James Sell	JS002*, DA138	UA	OOGHP

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	2005					
Henry, Merian and Ed	July 15, 2003	Houma, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP003	UA	OOGHP
Hernandez, Claire	November 7, 2010	Carencro, LA	Laura Ek	LE409	UA	Deepwater
Hernandez, Cliff	May 1, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG007	UA	OOGHP
Hernandez, Gari	December 11, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE432	UA	Deepwater
Hernandez, Randy	February 14, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE449	UA	Deepwater
Hernandez, Willie	June 18, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML003	UA	Deepwater
Hilliard, Paul	December 14, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE436a	UA	Deepwater
Hingle, Paul	March 12, 2002	Port Sulphur, LA	Tom McGuire	TM031	UA	OOGHP
Hirsch, Robert	November 26, 2003	Navasota, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS039	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hobbs, Fannie	July 23, 2003	Bayou Vista, LA	Diane Austin	DA109	UA	OOGHP
Holdridge, Herb	August 4, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS071	UH/HI	OOGHP
Holland, D. Scott	February 3, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS025	UH/HI	OOGHP
Holland, William "Bill"	July 26, 2007	Biloxi, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP027	UA	Deepwater
Hollier, John and Claire	July 8, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer, Morgan Lundy	LL003a, LL003b	UA	Deepwater
Howard, Bob	May 18, 2000	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC033	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hubble, Elmo	July 2, 2009	Lafayette, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT019	UH	Deepwater
Huff, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP020	UH	Deepwater
Hughson, B.B.	June 26, 2002	New Orleans, LA	Tyler Priest	MMS009	UH/HI	OOGHP
Huntsberry, Claude	June 24, 2015	Erath, LA	Morgan Lundy, Laura Loewer	ML012	UA	Deepwater
Huttman, Steve	August 23, 2006	Galveston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS072	UH/HI	OOGHP
Hynson, Tom	October 9, 2002	Schriever, LA	Diane Austin	DA065	UA	OOGHP
Ingram, Bobby Joe	July 29, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL016	UA	Deepwater
Jackson, H.L.	January 30, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB037	UA	OOGHP
Jackson, Pierre	June 8, 2001	Berwick, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG029	UA	OOGHP
Jacques, Jesse	October 8,	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW025	ULL	OOGHP

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des	2002					
Jefferson, David	January 7, 2003	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA087	UA	OOGHP
Jett, Jimmy	July 3, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH005	UA	OOGHP
Johnson, John	January 11, 2005	New Orleans, LA	Diane Austin	DA129	UA	OOGHP
Johnson, Johnny	January 17, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP544a	UA	Deepwater
Johnson, Paul	January 17, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP544b	UA	Deepwater
Johnston, Clyde	July 24, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS040	UH/HI	OOGHP
Johnston, Dwight	September 9, 2009	Robert, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT021	UH	Deepwater
Jones, Bobby	January 6, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP706	UA	Deepwater
Jones, Jeremy	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP074	UA	Deepwater
Jones, Jerry	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP073	UA	Deepwater
Jones, Ollie Otis "O.O."	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT049	UH	Deepwater
Jordan, Jill Chiasson	November 12, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE418	UA	Deepwater
Joseph, Rose and Warren "Chuck"	November 14, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Lois Boutte Diane Austin	DA071	UA	OOGHP
Kaigler, Kenneth	June 25, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW005	ULL	OOGHP
Keene, Patrick William	February 27, 2008, April 1, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP038	UA	Deepwater
Kelly, John	July 23, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC323	UA	Deepwater
Kennedy, Altha Lee	May 1, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW048	ULL	OOGHP
Kennedy, Sean	May 16, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP069	UA	Deepwater
King, Craig	August 7, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS073	UH/HI	OOGHP
King, Earl	September 28, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA013	UA	OOGHP
Kleinpeter, Huey	August 6, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW017	ULL	OOGHP
Kleinpeter, Lee	January 24, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA029*	UA	OOGHP
Kleinpeter, Lee and Tommy	November 14, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Steven Wiltz, Diane Austin and David DiTucci	SW028	ULL	OOGHP
Knott, Francis L. "Frank"	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML038	UA	Deepwater
Knox, Gloria	November 6, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW026	ULL	OOGHP

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Kyle, Ed	September 23, 2001 and September 27, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA007	UA	OOGHP
Laborde, Alden J. "Doc"	January 13, 2005	New Orleans, LA	Betsy Plumb Diane Austin	DA130	UA	OOGHP
Laborde, John P.	June 26, 2002	New Orleans, LA	Tyler Priest	MMS010	UH/HI	OOGHP
LaCasse, Phil "James" and Patricia	July 13, 2015	Iota, LA	Laura Loewer	LL004a, LL004b	UA	Deepwater
Lagers, George	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP022	UH	Deepwater
Lambson, Alfred	August 15, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW023	ULL	OOGHP
Lampton, Jim	July 2, 2003	Cold Spring, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS041	UH/HI	OOGHP
Landry, Albert J.	July 6, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL001	UA	Deepwater
Landry, Drew	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE434	UA	Deepwater
Landry, Glenn and Meloney	November 6, 2015	Abbeville, LA	Diane Austin	DA654	UA	Deepwater
Landry, Lori	July 6, 2015	Broussard, LA	Laura Loewer	LL018	UA	Deepwater
Landry, Patrick	January 23, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM059	UA	OOGHP
Landry, Sylvia Jean	January 21, 2005	Thibodaux, LA	Diane Austin	DA135	UA	OOGHP
Larner, Ken	September 24, 2002	Golden, CO	Tyler Priest	MMS011	UH/HI	OOGHP
Laroussini, Jill	July 10, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML020	UA	Deepwater
Lastrapes, William Dudley	February 25, 2003	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD013	ULL	OOGHP
Latch, Edward "Ted"	July 21, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML029	UA	Deepwater
Latham, Bud	July 16, 2002	Madisonville, LA	Tom McGuire	TM047	UA	OOGHP
Laws, Verdie	November 18, 2002	Patterson, LA	Diane Austin	DA075	UA	OOGHP
LeBlanc, Herman	January 27, 2002, January 29, 2002	Cocodrie, LA	Emily Bernier	EB032, EB036	UA	OOGHP
LeBlanc, Joseph	August 8, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW020	ULL	OOGHP
LeBlanc, Michael James	July 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML034	UA	Deepwater
LeBoeuf, Harry and Gladys	January 2, 2003, July 21, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin, Jamie Christy	DA083, MMS062	UA, UH/HI	OOGHP
Lee, Arthur	November 13, 2002, January 11, 2005	Houma, LA	Diane Austin, Lauren Penney	DA069, LP004	UA	OOGHP

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Lee, Griff	June 26, 2001	New Orleans, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH001	UA	OOGHP
Lefort, Pershing and Ophelia	March 5, 2002	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM029	UA	OOGHP
Legrom, Wayne	May 7, 2010	Toomsuba, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP310	UA	Deepwater
Leimkuhler, Joseph	June 12, 2015	Mandeville, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Julie Lucetta	ML002	UA	Deepwater
LeJeune, Houston	March 22, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS027	UH/HI	OOGHP
Lerrille, Red	September 23, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE408	UA	Deepwater
Lewis, Hartwell	October 4, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM053	UA	OOGHP
Lirette, Eugis "Shorty"	July 17, 2001	Theriot, LA	Emily Bernier	EB006	UA	OOGHP
Lirette, Melvin, Lirette	July 27, 2001, September 11, 2001, January 15, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier, Andrew Gardner	EB013, EB015, AG051p	UA	OOGHP
Lirette, W.F. "Bill"	July 27, 2001, September 11, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB013, EB015	UA	OOGHP
Lirette, Wayne	July 27, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB013	UA	OOGHP
Little, Gary Don	December 12, 2002	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS005	UA	OOGHP
Lochridge, Joe	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP023	UH	Deepwater
Loftin, Lillie	March 29, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Emily Bernier	EB049	UA	OOGHP
Long, Bob	June 7, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG026	UA	OOGHP
Long, Miner	July 16, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS050	UH/HI	OOGHP
Looper, Robert "Bob"	February 22, 2003	Golden Meadow, LA	Debbie Z. Toups	DT003	UA	OOGHP
Lowe, Robert "Bob" D.	June 19, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy, Diane Austin, Ben Luton	ML007	UA	Deepwater
Lowry, Rufin	February 27, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW044	ULL	OOGHP
Lucas, Ed and Juliet	June 26, 2003	New Iberia, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW058	ULL	OOGHP
Luke, Stanley "David"	March 17, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP719	UA	Deepwater
Lynn, Robert Jr.	June 13, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP117	UA	Deepwater
Macnab, Alistair	July 24, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS074	UH/HI	OOGHP
Maillet, Bonnie Blue	November 6, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA655	UA	Deepwater
Maley, Steve	December 14, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE436b	UA	Deepwater

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Manzilillo, Jim	June 23, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS075	UH/HI	OOGHP
Marin, Rufus	August 1, 2002	New Iberia, LA	David DiTucci and Steven Wiltz	DD006	ULL	OOGHP
Marmande, R.H.	April 9, 2002	Theriot, LA.	Emily Bernier	EB053p	UA	OOGHP
Marquardt, Earl	June 26, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW006	ULL	OOGHP
Martin, Jimmie	June 7, 2002	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM037	UA	OOGHP
Masters, Roy	January 29, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB035	UA	OOGHP
Matherne, F.J.	July 11, 2001, September 11, 2001	Bourg, LA	Emily Bernier	EB003, EB014	UA	OOGHP
Mattei, Larry	January 31, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW035	ULL	OOGHP
Mayon, Terry	March 3, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS042	UH/HI	OOGHP
McCord, Jack	January 8, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW032	ULL	OOGHP
McCord, Patsy	January 30, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC001*	ULL	OOGHP
McCully, Jack	January 18, 2002, January 19, 2002	Des Allemands, LA	Andrew Gardner, Emily Bernier	AG056, EB025p	UA	OOGHP
McGoffin, Gary	November 11, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE415	UA	Deepwater
McIlwain, Thomas	May 13, 2008	Ocean Springs, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP114	UA	Deepwater
McKinsey, Johnny	May 13, 2010	Sandy Hook, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP312	UA	Deepwater
McQuaid, L.D. "Mac"	July 11, 2002	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM042	UA	OOGHP
McRoy, Arthur	June 9, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP118	UA	Deepwater
McRoy, Juanita	June 9, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP119	UA	Deepwater
Melancon, Murphy	July 21, 2001	Point-Aux-Chenes, LA	Ari Anand	AA008	UA	OOGHP
Mellington, Lyle	June 19, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW056	ULL	OOGHP
Merriman, Bob	November 15, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA073	UA	OOGHP
Michel, Drew	July 26, 2002	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA056	UA	OOGHP
Michel, Drew	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP024	UH	Deepwater
Michel, Peggy	March 21, 2005	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA139	UA	OOGHP
Mickleberry, Mick	July 16, 2002	New Orleans, LA	Tom McGuire	TM046*	UA	OOGHP
Middleton, Howard	July 16, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS076	UH/HI	OOGHP
Miguez,	January 14,	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW034	ULL	OOGHP

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Ronnie	2003					
Miller, Charles	August 11, 2004	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA126	UA	OOGHP
Miller, Jim	June 20, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW004	ULL	OOGHP
Miller, Lillian (also Lillian Espinoza-Gala)	August 10, 2004, August 11, 2004	Lafayette, LA, Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA124, DA125	UA	OOGHP
Miller, Lillian (also Lillian Espinoza-Gala)	September 19, 24, 2010, March 7, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE407, LE409, LE474	UA	Deepwater
Miller, Lynda	June 28, 2006, June 29, 2006	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA141	UA	OOGHP
Millet, Frank	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC321	UA	Deepwater
Mills, Charles	June 27, 2006	Pearland, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS077	UH/HI	OOGHP
Mitchell, Roland	March 13, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB038	UA	OOGHP
Molaison, Richard	January 31, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS011	UA	OOGHP
Montague, Dave	August 25, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT025	UH	Deepwater
Monteiro, John	July 14, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC313	UA	Deepwater
Monteiro, John D.	July 5, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS026	UA	OOGHP
Montgomery, Roy	February 27, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC005	ULL	OOGHP
Moore, Sharon	February 27, 2003	Patterson, LA	Diane Austin	DA094	UA	OOGHP
Mouton, Arthur "Art" D. and Wiliam Hugh	June 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer, Morgan Lundy	LL012a, LL012b	UA	Deepwater
Mouton, William Hugh	July 31, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW014*	ULL	OOGHP
Moville, James	June 27, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW060	ULL	OOGHP
Mullen, Valine	March 5, 2003	Patterson, LA	Diane Austin	DA103	UA	OOGHP
Mullendore, Doris	March 3, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA100	UA	OOGHP
Munson, King	December 8, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE430	UA	Deepwater
Murphy, Don	September 10, 2002	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA059	UA	OOGHP
Murray, Roy	June 1, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS078	UH/HI	OOGHP
Myers, Charles "Chuck" and Hallie	July 24, 2015	Opelousas, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML035a, ML035b	UA	Deepwater

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Nanz, Bob	September 15, 1998	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC020	UH/HI	OOGHP
Naquin, Donald	July 10, 2001, July 26, 2001	Bourg, LA	Emily Bernier, Andrew Gardner	EB001, AG040p	UA	OOGHP
Naquin, Frank	July 23, 2001	Thibodaux, LA	Ari Anand	AA009	UA	OOGHP
Naquin, T.R. and Elaine	December 5, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA081	UA	OOGHP
Naughton, Scott	September 10, 2002	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA059	UA	OOGHP
Navarre, Joe "Sonny"	July 8, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC306	UA	Deepwater
Neil, Edward "Peanut"	July 29, 2009	Chauvin, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC328	UA	Deepwater
Nelson, Ken	August 21, 2008	New Orleans, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT026	UH	Deepwater
Nelson, Sheila	November 12, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE417	UA	Deepwater
Noble, Willy "Dub"	September 14, 2001, January 4, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Emily Bernier, Rylan Higgins and Betsy Plumb	EB016, RH018	UA	OOGHP
Nolan, Herman Ray	February 2, 2011	Bayou La Batre, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP668	UA	Deepwater
O'Brien, Jerry	June 5, 2002	Conroe, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS003	UH/HI	OOGHP
Odom, Charles	May 26, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP316	UA	Deepwater
Olin, Loyd	July 23, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB010	UA	OOGHP
Olivier, Christian "Buster"	October 7, 2002	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS001	UA	OOGHP
Ordogne, Marcelle	February 26, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA093	UA	OOGHP
Osborne, Tim	July 21, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL010	UA	Deepwater
Otteman, Lloyd	May 17, 2001	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC030	UH/HI	OOGHP
Ottinger, Patrick	August 12, 2003	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD010	ULL	OOGHP
Owen, Thomas	May 17, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP115	UA	Deepwater
Oynes, Chris	July 8, 2003	Harahan, LA	Tyler Priest	MMS043	UH/HI	OOGHP
Paine, Sam	June 8, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC032	UH/HI	OOGHP
Parr, Roy	June 8, 2001, February 27, 2003	Baldwin, LA	Andrew Gardner, Diane Austin	AG030, DA095p	UA	OOGHP
Patout, Rene Louis and Violet	March 13 2002	New Iberia, LA	Carolyn Cummings	CC001	UA	OOGHP
Patout, Shawnee	April 5, 2003 and April 6, 2003	New Iberia, LA	Debbie Bryant	DB001	UA	OOGHP
Pattarozzi, Richard	May 15, 2000	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC021	UH/HI	OOGHP

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Patterson, Robert	August 28, 2009	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT027	UH	Deepwater
Pawley, Julian	November 13, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS018	UH/HI	OOGHP
Pearce, Charles	July 6, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS044	UH/HI	OOGHP
Peart, Doug	March 4, 2009	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT028	UH	Deepwater
Peatross, Bob	February 22, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE451	UA	Deepwater
Pedersen, Jan	January 24, 2002	Algiers, LA	Tom McGuire	TM027	UA	OOGHP
Peebler, Robert	August 21, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS012	UH/HI	OOGHP
Perron, Jim	September 29, 2001	Lafayette, LA	Tom McGuire	TM020	UA	OOGHP
Perry, Ken	January 8, 2003, July 23, 2003	Patterson, LA	Diane Austin	DA088, DA110p	UA	OOGHP
Petersen, Bill	October 2, 1999	Houston, TX	Joe Pratt	OEC029	UH/HI	OOGHP
Petrovich, Luke	March 13, 2002, July 11, 2003	New Orleans, LA	Diane Austin	DA036, DA105	UA	OOGHP
Pfister, Ted	October 2, 2003	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS026	UH/HI	OOGHP
Phillips, Maurice	February 25, 2003	Grand Bayou, LA	Diane Austin	DA092	UA	OOGHP
Phillips, Myrtle	February 25, 2003	Grand Bayou, LA	Diane Austin	DA092	UA	OOGHP
Pickens, Larry	May 29, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP318	UA	Deepwater
Picou, Ed Jr.	July 8, 2003	New Orleans, LA	Tyler Priest	MMS045	UH/HI	OOGHP
Pierce, F. Daniel	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL015	UA	Deepwater
Pinell, Elce	July 20, 2001	Montegut, LA	Ari Anand	AA007	UA	OOGHP
Pipsair, Chester "Blackie"	January 22, 2005	Pierre Part, LA	Diane Austin	DA136	UA	OOGHP
Pitre, Amy	July 28, 2003	Cut Off, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP012	UA	OOGHP
Pitre, Loulan	September 24, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin and Tom McGuire	DA008	UA	OOGHP
Pitre, R. D.	June 29, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS063	UH/HI	OOGHP
Pizzolato, Samuel C.	July 18, 2002	Boothville, LA	Tom McGuire	TM048	UA	OOGHP
Plaisance, Hurby	July 23, 2001	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM007	UA	OOGHP
Poiencot, Russell	July, 24 2001, July 25, 2001	Houma, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG037, AG038	UA	OOGHP

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Poncio, Inez	January 12, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Lauren Penney, Joanna Stone, and Colleen O'Donnell	JLS02	UA	OOGHP
Poorman, Frank	December 8, 1998	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Sam Morton	SOC022	UH/HI	OOGHP
Porche, Larry "Moon"	July 17, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC320	UA	Deepwater
Powell, Joseph and Nelda	July 27, 2015	Youngsville, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML036a, ML036b	UA	Deepwater
Proffitt, Jack	July 10, 2002	Sunset, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW009	ULL	OOGHP
Prosperie, Werlien	July 9, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS029	UA	OOGHP
Prosperie, Werlien "Moose"	June 30, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC301	UA	Deepwater
Pyle, Morris	August 7, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz and David DiTucci	SW062	ULL	OOGHP
Rabinowitz, Philip	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP030	UH	Deepwater
Ransonet, Abigail	March 3, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE463	UA	Deepwater
Redmond, John	November 12, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC023	UH/HI	OOGHP
Redmond, Richard "Fuzzy"	July 22, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC322	UA	Deepwater
Regan, Bobby	May 24, 2010	Sandy Hook, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP315	UA	Deepwater
Reggio, Villiere	March 5, 2009	Baton Rouge, LA	Dolly Jorgensen	DJ031	UH	Deepwater
Reilly, John	October 30, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS013	UH/HI	OOGHP
Rel, Gabriel	June 9, 2008	Grand Bay, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP120	UA	Deepwater
Renois, Emmett H.D.	July 17, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Tom McGuire	TM001	UA	OOGHP
Renois, Joycelyn	July 28, 2003	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin	DA117	UA	OOGHP
Renois, Theodore "Butch"	July 17, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Tom McGuire	TM001	UA	OOGHP
Reyes, Dwight	July 22, 2003	Grand Bayou, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP008	UA	OOGHP
Rhodes, Percy	January 24, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS007	UA	OOGHP
Rhodes, Ronnie	July 8, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC307	UA	Deepwater
Rhodes, Wilbert	January 29, 2003	Bourg, LA	James Sell	JS010	UA	OOGHP
Rhodes, Wilson	July 16, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC317	UA	Deepwater

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Richardelle, E.J.	July 22, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin	DA003	UA	OOGHP
Richardelle, Katherine	July 22, 2001, January 21, 2002	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin	DA003, DA026p	UA	OOGHP
Richoux, Irvin	March 20, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM063	UA	OOGHP
Rigaud, Clovis	January 22, 2003, January 20, 2005	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire, Christina Leza	TM057, CL002	UA	OOGHP
Rike, Jim	January 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP032	UH	Deepwater
Rivet, Al	April 18, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG004	UA	OOGHP
Robb, William	August 19, 2006	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS079	UH/HI	OOGHP
Robertson, Ira	September 17, 2001	Thibodaux, LA	Emily Bernier	EB017	UA	OOGHP
Robin, Joseph Wilson	July 1, 2002	Arnaudville, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW007	ULL	OOGHP
Robin, Russell	June 13, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD003	ULL	OOGHP
Robinson, Delmer	September 27, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	PP970	UA	Deepwater
Robinson, Joe and Mildred	January 16, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire, Diane Austin, and Emily Bernier	DA023	UA	OOGHP
Rodgers, Billy	April 4, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW046	ULL	OOGHP
Rodrigue, Myron	August 13, 2009, September 22, 2012	Houston, TX	Jason P. Theriot, Tyler Priest	JT033, TP034	UH	Deepwater
Rodriguez, Joseph	May 22, 2008	Bayou La Batre, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP075	UA	Deepwater
Rogers, Elgin	March 20, 2002	Bayou Blue, LA	Emily Bernier	EB042	UA	OOGHP
Rogers, L.A. Pete	January 16, 2002, January 16, 2002, January 5, 2005	Patterson, LA	Andrew Gardner, Diane Austin and Betsy Plumb	AG052, AG053p, DA127	UA	OOGHP
Rome, MacNeely	September 22, 2001	Golden Meadow, LA	Tom McGuire	TM014	UA	OOGHP
Ross, Burt	July 24, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Emily Bernier	EB011	UA	OOGHP
Rousso, Santo	July 27, 2001, January 6, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner, Rylan Higgins and Betsy Plumb	AG041, RH021	UA	OOGHP
Rousso, Stella	January 12, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Lauren Penney, Joanna Stone and Colleen	JLS01	UA	OOGHP

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			O'Donnell			
Rucks, William	January 19, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW033	ULL	OOGHP
Ruffin, Roussell	July 19, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH010	UA	OOGHP
Ruiz, Burleigh and Molly	July 17, 2001	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB007	UA	OOGHP
Ryan, James	July 19, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS064	UH/HI	OOGHP
Ryan, John and Marguerite	May 8, 2001, January 11, 2002, March 3, 2003, January 6, 2005	Patterson, LA	Andrew Gardner, Diane Austin, Rylan Higgins and Betsy Plumb	AG016, AG046p, DA099, RH022	UA	OOGHP
Sadler, Forrest	April 3, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW045	ULL	OOGHP
Salter, Norman "Pete"	February 4, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW036	ULL	OOGHP
Samaha, Mary	July 16, 2001, January 22, 2002	Houma, LA	Emily Bernier	EB004, EB029	UA	OOGHP
Sanford, Joe and Susie	October 5, 2002, October 8, 2002	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA063, DA064	UA	OOGHP
Santiny, Carl and Georgia	March 20, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM064	UA	OOGHP
Santiny, Sidney and Mildred	January 21, 2003	Grand Isle, LA	Tom McGuire	TM055	UA	OOGHP
Sanzin. Michael	January 31, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP669	UA	Deepwater
Savoie, Earl P.	July 15, 2003	Dulac, LA	Jessica Piekielek and Scott Kennedy	JP002	UA	OOGHP
Savoie, Joyce	July 23, 2002	Boutte, LA	Diane Austin	DA052	UA	OOGHP
Savoy, George Allen	July 24, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC326	UA	Deepwater
Scarce, Stacey	December 13, 2010	Scott, LA	Laura Ek	LE433c	UA	Deepwater
Scheuermann, Herb	July 20, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL008	UA	Deepwater
Schnoor, Ron	May 30, 2008	Pascagoula, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP083	UA	Deepwater
Schoeffler, Harold	November 15, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE420a	UA	Deepwater
Schoeffler, Sarah	November 15, 2010	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE420b	UA	Deepwater

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Schouest, Joseph	March 16, 2002, July 11, 2002, July 15, 2002	Covington, LA	Diane Austin	DA041, DA045, DA047p	UA	OOGHP
Schrick, Ben	February 26, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW043	ULL	OOGHP
Schultz, Thomas	October 14, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP441	UA	Deepwater
Schwab, Frank	August 13, 2002	New Iberia, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW021	ULL	OOGHP
Scott, Christine	July 30, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS065	UH/HI	OOGHP
Sekul, Morris	February 7, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP609	UA	Deepwater
Sellers, Emmet	July 20, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS046	UH/HI	OOGHP
Seneca, Rene	May 9, 2001, July 21, 2004	Berwick, LA; Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner and Jamie Christy	AG014, MMS061	UA, UH/HI	OOGHP
Sevel, Michael	January 10, 2011	Gulfport, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP665	UA	Deepwater
Sevin, John	March 25, 2010	Amelia, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT035	UH	Deepwater
Shannon, Mark	August 25, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT036	UH	Deepwater
Shaw, John	February 13, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Robert Carriker	RC004	ULL	OOGHP
Shea, Jerry	May 31, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG022	UA	OOGHP
Shelley, Matthew	May 6, 2010	Forest, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP309	UA	Deepwater
Shirley, O.J.	June 8, 1999	Houston, TX	Tom Stewart	SOC026	UH/HI	OOGHP
Shirley, Steve	September 8, 2010	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA405	UA	Deepwater
Shivers, Robert	January 12, 2002, January 12, 2002	Patterson, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG047p, AG048	UA	OOGHP
Shivers, W.G.	November 19, 2002	Patterson, LA	Diane Austin	DA076	UA	OOGHP
Simon, Bobby	February 18, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW041	ULL	OOGHP
Simoneaux, Gregory "Greg"	July 10, 2015	Rayne, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML021	UA	Deepwater
Smith, David "Smitty"	July 9, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC308	UA	Deepwater
Smith, Larry	September 19, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci and Steven Wiltz	DD011	ULL	OOGHP
Smith, Roy	October 10, 2002	New Orleans, LA	Diane Austin	DA066	UA	OOGHP
Sonnier, Alden Jr.	July 21, 2015	Sunset, LA	Laura Loewer	LL009	UA	Deepwater
Sonnier, Claude	July 23, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW061	ULL	OOGHP

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Spencer, Robert	May 21, 2008	Moss Point, MS	Victoria Phaneuf	VP037	UA	Deepwater
St. Julien, John	July 23, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML033	UA	Deepwater
St.Pierre, George	September 26, 2001	Cut Off, LA	Diane Austin	DA010	UA	OOGHP
Stallworth, Bill	January 9, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP037	UH	Deepwater
Standridge, Joe	April 30, 2001	St. Martinville, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG006	UA	OOGHP
Stansbury, Barbara	July 25, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA112	UA	OOGHP
Steinhorst, Richard	February 13, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW039	ULL	OOGHP
Stemmans, Don	August 5, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci and Steven Wiltz	DD007	ULL	OOGHP
Stephens, Ray	June 19, 2002	Lafayette, LA	David DiTucci	DD005*	ULL	OOGHP
Sterling, Gordon	June 8, 2009	The Woodlands, TX	Tyler Priest, Jason P. Theriot	TPJT038	UH	Deepwater
Steward, Leighton	May 11, 2004	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS080	UH/HI	OOGHP
Stutes, Greg	July 24, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL013	UA	Deepwater
Subra, Wilma	July 24, 2003	New Iberia, LA	Diane Austin	DA111	UA	OOGHP
Sullivan, Dennis	July 19, 2017	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA656	UA	Deepwater
Sullivan, Vinson "Bill"	July 28, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA015	UA	OOGHP
Swanlund, Cliff	September 17, 1999	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	SOC027	UH/HI	OOGHP
Swoboda, John	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP039	UH	Deepwater
Talbot, Gilbert and Russell	March 19, 2002	Montegut, LA	Emily Bernier	EB040*	UA	OOGHP
Talbot, Merlin	July 7, 2009	Schniever, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC305	UA	Deepwater
Tarleton, Oran	September 10, 2002	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA059	UA	OOGHP
Taylor, Allen	February 8, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP598	UA	Deepwater
Taylor, C.E. Joe	May 14, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG020	UA	OOGHP
Taylor, George	July 29, 2002	Irving, TX	Diane Austin	DA058	UA	OOGHP
Terrell, William	June 27, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW059	ULL	OOGHP
Teu, Billy Joe	May 4, 2010	Stonewall, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP307	UA	Deepwater
Theriot, Norman	September 30, 2002	Larose, LA	Tom McGuire	TM051	UA	OOGHP
Thibodaux, Howard	July 7, 2001	Donner, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH008	UA	OOGHP

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Thibodeaux, James R. "Rusty"	July 28, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML037	UA	Deepwater
Thomas, Inez	October 10, 2011	Biloxi, MS	Kelly McClain	KM416b	UA	Deepwater
Thomas, Marti	July 30, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Laura Loewer	LL017	UA	Deepwater
Thompson, Diana	January 18, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP675a	UA	Deepwater
Thompson, Rodney	January 18, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP675b	UA	Deepwater
Thorjussen, Terge "Ted"	August 1, 2006	Clear Lake, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS081	UH/HI	OOGHP
Tillery, Billy Joe	January 18, 2002	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM023	UA	OOGHP
Tisdale, Charles	May 3, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG009	UA	OOGHP
Trahan, P.J.	March 20, 2002	Gretna, LA	Emily Bernier	EB041	UA	OOGHP
Trahan, Ronnie	July 27, 2009	Houma, LA	Jacob Campbell	JC327	UA	Deepwater
Trosclair, Lou	May 8, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA	Jamie Christy	AG013	UA	OOGHP
Trosclair, Lucius	July 2, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Andrew Gardner	MMS058	UH/HI	OOGHP
Truxell, Robert "Bob"	June 25, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Steven Wiltz	SW057	ULL	OOGHP
Tucker, Larry	March 2, 2003	Pearl River, LA	Diane Austin	DA098	UA	OOGHP
Turlich, Bertram "Bert"	March 11, 2002	Port Sulphur, LA	Tom McGuire	TM030	UA	OOGHP
Turner, Craig	June 25, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML013	UA	Deepwater
Usie, Glenn	January 23, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS006	UA	OOGHP
Utley, Merrill, Sr. and Merrill, Jr.	January 24, 2005	Thibodaux, LA	Joanna Stone	JLS06	UA	OOGHP
Van Calcar, Hank	October 10, 2009	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP040	UH	Deepwater
Van Meter, Keith	May 6, 2005	New Orleans, LA	Diane Austin	DA140	UA	OOGHP
Vance, George	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP041	UH	Deepwater
Verdin, Marie	March 4, 2003	Grand Bois, LA	Diane Austin	DA102	UA	OOGHP
Verret, Kirby	July 22, 2003	Dulac, LA	Scott Kennedy	JP001, SK001	UA	OOGHP
Verret, Unell	May 4, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG011	UA	OOGHP
Viator, Kenneth	April 30, 2001, July 20, 2001	Erath, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG005, AG037p	UA	OOGHP
Vincken, Leon	September 24, 2011	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP042	UH	Deepwater
Vining, Alden	March 16, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS029	UH/HI	OOGHP

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Vining, Laurie	January 21, 2005, January 22, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Colleen O'Donnell and Christina Leza, Diane Austin	CL004, DA137	UA	OOGHP
Vizier, Eric	July 24, 2001	Houma, LA	Ari Anand	AA012	UA	OOGHP
Voisin, Ernie	September 26, 2001	Houma, LA	Tom McGuire	TM018	UA	OOGHP
Voisin, Magnus and Elvira "Blackie"	July 24, 2003	Dulac, LA	Jessica Piekielek and Scott Kennedy	JP011	UA	OOGHP
Voisin, Mildred	July 18, 2003	Dulac, LA	Jessica Piekielek	JP006	UA	OOGHP
Voss, Jack	July 8, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS027	UA	OOGHP
Vujnovich, Capt. Pete	July 27, 2001	New Orleans, LA	Tom McGuire	TM009	UA	OOGHP
Waguespack, Warren	February 6, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS015	UA	OOGHP
Wallace, Charles	July 16, 2001, January 20, 2005	Larose, LA	Diane Austin, Christina Leza and Colleen O'Donnell	DA001, CL001	UA	OOGHP
Waller, James	January 5, 2011	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP673	UA	Deepwater
Waller, James Jr.	May 30, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP319	UA	Deepwater
Ware, Jodee	July 30, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML040	UA	Deepwater
Ware, Sally	March 9, 2011	Lafayette, LA	Laura Ek	LE468	UA	Deepwater
Warriner, Al	March 14, 2002	Slidell, LA	Diane Austin	DA038	UA	OOGHP
Watkins, Garver	July 3, 2001	Morgan City, LA	Rylan Higgins	RH006	UA	OOGHP
Weaver, Annie	January 25, 2002	Houma, LA	Diane Austin	DA032	UA	OOGHP
Webb, Cathy	April 22, 2010	Meridian, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP303	UA	Deepwater
Webbon, Robert	August 6, 2006	Clear Lake, TX	Jason P. Theriot	MMS082	UH/HI	OOGHP
Weber, Denis	March 25, 2010	Morgan City, LA	Jason P. Theriot	JT043	UH	Deepwater
Webre, Charles Mike	June 18, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin, Morgan Lundy, Ben Luton	ML004	UA	Deepwater
Welcome, Adam	May 14, 2001	New Iberia, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG019	UA	OOGHP
West, Benny	May 23, 2010	Waynesboro, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP314	UA	Deepwater
West, J. Robinson	November 18, 2002	Washington, D.C.	Tyler Priest	MMS014	UH/HI	OOGHP
Wheeler, Steven	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP044	UH	Deepwater
Whitaker, Dean	July 31, 2003	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA120	UA	OOGHP
Wickizer, Carl	November 21, 1997	Houston, TX	Bruce Beauboeuf	SOC029	UH/HI	OOGHP

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Wilbourn, Phil	September 25, 2010	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	TP045	UH	Deepwater
Wilkerson, Lou	June 26, 2009	Prosper, TX	Jason P. Theriot	JT046	UH	Deepwater
Willet, Wayne	July 24, 2002	Belle Chasse, LA	Diane Austin	DA054	UA	OOGHP
Williams, Andrew "Pep" and Bertha	September 21, 2001	Galliano, LA	Tom McGuire	TM013	UA	OOGHP
Williams, Bill	June 6, 2001, June 7, 2001	Bayou Vista, LA	Andrew Gardner	AG025, AG027	UA	OOGHP
Williams, Dale	June 17, 2008	Coden, AL	Victoria Phaneuf	VP103	UA	Deepwater
Williams, Eldridge "Tot"	March 23, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS028	UH/HI	OOGHP
Williams, James	May 21, 2010	Clara, MS	Preetam Prakash	PP313	UA	Deepwater
Williams, Lisa Topham	January 14, 2003	Amelia, LA	Diane Austin	DA090	UA	OOGHP
Wilson, Bill	January 3, 2003, March 30, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin, Jamie Christy	DA085, MMS047	UA, UH/HI	OOGHP
Wilson, Dewey	September 28, 2001, January 4, 2005	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin, Rylan Higgins and Betsy Plumb	DA012, RH019	UA	OOGHP
Wilson, Jewell "Judy"	March 4, 2003	Morgan City, LA	Diane Austin	DA101	UA	OOGHP
Windham, Luther R.	July 16, 2015	Natchitoches, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML025	UA	Deepwater
Woodhall, Paul	August 1, 2003	Houston, TX	Diane Austin	DA121	UA	OOGHP
Wooten, William -Bill-	January 18, 2009, January 7, 2011	Union and Lake, MS	Diane Austin, Preetam Prakash	DA301, PP677	UA	Deepwater
Work, Dave	June 4, 2002	Houston, TX	Tyler Priest	MMS004	UH/HI	OOGHP
Written, John Henry "Dickie"	July 26, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS048	UH/HI	OOGHP
Wurzlow, Kermit and Peggy	March 27, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell	JS019	UA	OOGHP
Wurzlow, Peggy	March 27, 2003, July 16, 2003	Houma, LA	James Sell, Jessica Piekielek	JP004	UA	OOGHP
Young, Joe	March 22, 2004	Morgan City, LA	Jamie Christy	MMS049	UH/HI	OOGHP
Young, Penny	July 14, 2015	Lafayette, LA	Morgan Lundy	ML023	UA	Deepwater
Zamadics, Ed and Mary	January 23, 2002	Lafayette, LA	Diane Austin	DA028	UA	OOGHP
Zirlott, Jeremy	February 13, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP674	UA	Deepwater
Zirlott, Patricia	December 10, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP564a	UA	Deepwater

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Zirlott, Robert - Chris-	December 13, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP566	UA	Deepwater
Zirlott, Simon	February 9, 2011	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP649	UA	Deepwater
Zirlott, Victor	December 10, 2010	Coden, AL	Preetam Prakash	PP564b	UA	Deepwater

Department of the Interior (DOI)

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BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

The mission of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is to manage development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

BOEM Environmental Studies Program

The mission of the Environmental Studies Program is to provide the information needed to predict, assess, and manage impacts from offshore energy and marine mineral exploration, development, and production activities on human, marine, and coastal environments. The proposal, selection, research, review, collaboration, production, and dissemination of each of BOEM’s Environmental Studies follows the DOI Code of Scientific and Scholarly Conduct, in support of a culture of scientific and professional integrity, as set out in the DOI Departmental Manual (305 DM 3).