Ryder Scott oilfield success – Cont. from page 10

Donald T. May, head of the Ryder Scott core lab, recalled those days in an interview with *Reservoir Solutions* more than 20 years ago.

He said, "The operators were watching Ryder Scott. We were doing a Ryder Scott lease right next to Forest Oil. We way outdid them. They couldn't imagine what was happening. Forest Oil was recognized as a good waterflooder, but our deal was much better, and it was all due to chip coring. We could get the right answer and knew where the oil was to go after it."

That the firm was able to find sweet spots in producing trends is not surprising. Leading the way was the lab and its analysis of well logs and chip cores from cable tool drilling.

Contributing heavily to the engineering side was founder **Harry M. Ryder**, an engineer with previous oilfield experience at partnership Ryder & Richmond Corp.

Founder Ryder addressed concerns of producers in Q&A session in 1937

He advised producers to use reliable pressure data

In the mid-1930s, Ryder Scott Co. was a producing company in Pennsylvania. The firm was so successful that other operators in the Bradford field began asking for technical assistance. Oil was only a couple of dollars a barrel, so founders **Harry M. Ryder** and **David Scott Jr**. figured that they could be more profitable as partners in a consulting firm.

Donald T. May confirmed the business plans of the partners in an interview with *Reservoir Solutions* newsletter more than 20 years ago.

May was Ryder Scott's first hire in 1935, and it paid off. May headed up the first laboratory in the world devoted to solving waterflood problems.

Speech kicked off Ryder Scott consulting service

Ryder made a speech at a meeting at the request of the Kentucky Oil & Gas Association in 1937. That was the same year he incorporated consulting firm Ryder Scott Co. in Bradford, PA.

A letter from the association asked Ryder to review questions in writing from members ahead of the meeting.

Ryder said he was honored that the meeting organizers had asked him to lead the discussions on repressuring. He made the presentation in Lexington, KY, on June 4, hundreds of miles from Bradford.

Sharing his field-tested knowledge and introducing his new company were likely priorities for the trip.

Ryder and **C.C. Hogg** of the National Petroleum Co. debated the finer points of repressuring. Though not specific, Ryder said he respected the opinions of Hogg but did not always agree.

Hogg chaired the Production Advisory Committee, which aimed to map the oil sands of Kentucky and establish recovery factors to benefit producers there.

The most common repressuring medium at that time was air and air-gas mixtures. Air is not suitable for repressuring wells because it deteriorates oil and is combustible in some wells.

Ryder was aware of those shortcomings, saying that when air drags the oil, gas and gasoline are removed (lost). He added that air oxidizes the oil, increases the viscosity, makes oil more difficult to move and becomes problematic to refine.

Following are his closing remarks to the audience:

DISCUSSION ON REPRESSURING
In the Form of Questions by Producers
With Answers by **Harry M. Ryder**
Lexington, KY
June 4, 1937

Cores, laboratory logs and gauges are interesting, but utterly worthless unless they are put to work, and they are able and willing to do heavy duty, if given a chance. They are worse than useless, if incompetently handled.

A flow gauge reading taken at a key well will not be correct, if, at the moment, the line pressure is dropping, and may be worse than no reading at all. The reading of an open flow gauge will vary depending on the amount of oil over the sand, the time allowed for it to reach a steady state, when the well was last pumped and on other conditions, and all this must be taken into consideration.

If best results are to be obtained on any repressuring project, it seems worth repeating. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on care, thoroughness and competence in planning the project, the actual repressuring development of the lease and finally the continuous observation of the movements of the air, gas and oil and prompt applications of corrective measures as they appear.

If this idea is carried through consistently, the greatest possible returns will be the reward.

Ryder Scott to continue to inform industry through new newsletter

— **Dean Rietz**, *chairman and CEO*

Ryder Scott is changing editors of our flagship newsletter, *Reservoir Solutions*, as our outgoing editor, Mike Wysatta, retires. Please see the Page 1 article written by Mike.

We owe a big thank-you to him. Mike is a well-known staple in the reserves sector. His coverage has kept us abreast of the latest industry trends, news and important events over his many years at Ryder Scott.

Mike was very valuable to our Ryder Scott family. He had a knack for providing commentary on some highly technical topics while keeping the language concise and conversational to maintain reader engagement.

As one steps down, another steps up

Reflecting industry as a whole, a new, diverse generation is now guiding our newsletter. Our subject matter experts are our geophysicists, geologists and petroleum engineers.

They may not even be aware of their contributions to the newsletter. However, with every technical paper they write, or every presentation they make, they are helping to augment newsletter coverage and content. This has always been an important aspect of the Ryder Scott newsletter and will remain essential moving forward.

For instance, this issue features an article on a recent SPE paper written by Ryder Scott authors who introduced a case study of the learning-curve concept in the PRMS.

Like Mike, the new editorial staff knows that content is king, so, in some respects, expect continued coverage of technical presentations and papers in the newsletter.


Pamela Sabo

Please let me introduce the new editor, **Pamela Sabo**. Many of you may already know the name since she has been at Ryder Scott for more than 20 years.

Pamela has worn many hats during her tenure. She began her career at Ryder Scott in 2001, fresh out of college, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and minor in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin.

She started in my group as a technician in the reservoir simulation department. Pamela moved through the ranks of technician, senior technician and analyst during the next 15 years.

She has always enjoyed working with others and when an opportunity arose in 2016, Pamela accepted the challenge to switch to business development as the coordinator.

In 2019, she became business development and sales manager after emerging as our No. 1 job candidate.
Ryder Scott also had looked for an editor inside and outside our company, but in the end, Pamela's comprehensive understanding of our business, her natural writing abilities, and her

Please see Ryder Scott to continue to inform industry on page 14