

Reflections of L. C. Soileau

I remember participating in many a bull session in one of the little rooms under east stadium where the Engineer Battalion (of ROTC) lived four to a room. The conversation always worked around to wondering how many years it would take us to work our salary up to \$10,000 a year after graduation.

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I recall rushing to one of Bennie Craft's one o'clock classes with a newspaper clipping in which some "learned" individual stated that as of that time (1938-39) all of the commercial oil (gas was almost worthless) in the U.S. had been discovered. As good as Bernie was, it took the whole hour for him to convince us that the statement could not possibly be correct and we should not transfer out of petroleum engineering.

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After being released from the service in late 1945, the very first item on the itinerary was to return to the LSU campus, the Engineering School and Bennie Craft. Where else could one go to learn of the job opportunities? Sure enough, it was there I first heard of The California Company, that they were in fact hiring, that they were very technically oriented and most importantly that they paid 50 cents a month more than the next company. I naturally went to work for The California Company.

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In later years, about mid-1948, Bennie visited The California Company's New Orleans and Harvey offices. I was selected to take him on his first off-shore tour. Can you

imagine how proud I was to be his guide, answer his questions and explain items of interest?

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I remember the Geological and Mining Society initiations and carrying a rock on a string hung around one's neck – the beard, tar, etc – lots of fun.

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I recall sitting in the Geological and Mining Society room discussing the possibility of the U.S. entering WWII.

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Geology Camp evokes memories. I suppose every one of us “older fellows” remember the camp, especially Dr. Roy and some of his ground rules, but what a great fellow.