

# EDITORIALS

From the Chairman

## AT 65, WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

**IT IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE** and honor to serve as 2005 Chairman of IADC. 2005 is a seminal year for IADC, in which we celebrate our 65th anniversary. IADC and our industry have changed dramatically in many ways over the past 65 years. Advances in technology, safety, environmental protection, and efficiency have marked our progress step by step. From our inception as an organization representing the emerging entrepreneurial business of US land contract drilling, IADC has grown to embrace the sweep of an extensive global industry.

The issues that IADC works today reflect this growth in scope and operations. Worldwide, we work for sensible legislation and regulation. Part of our work is to secure reasonable access to promising drilling areas, both onshore and off.



Edward D. Kautz, Chairman

Access is a big issue, but all the access in the world won't do us much good if we lack a seasoned workforce. Two decades of economic struggle crippled the normal recruitment and mentoring programs that any industry needs to sustain itself. As our veterans gray and near retirement, it is our major challenge to build from the ground up the next generation of rig personnel and engineers.

To meet this challenge, IADC has worked closely with the US **Department of Labor** to develop programs to train new oilfield workers. IADC member **Key Energy Services** has been at the forefront of this effort. Recently, DOL grants have launched training programs for oilfield workers at San Juan Community College in New Mexico, Midland Community College in Texas and High Plains Technology Center in Oklahoma.

IADC is also re-inventing training for the industry. Our well control accreditation program, WellCAP, is world-renowned and recognized by government, operators, contractors, trainers and academics alike as the best standard for well control training. WellCAP has served the industry for a decade.

This year, we are taking that program to the next level with the introduction of WellCAP Plus. WellCAP Plus is an interactive, team-based program in which participants build solutions to exercises based on real-world well control scenarios.

We are likewise moving ahead with a program to ensure professional competency at the rig site. The IADC Competency Subcommittee, chaired by **George Edwards** of **Global-SantaFe**, plans to develop an accreditation system for competency assurance. With it, organizations can apply for IADC recognition of internal competence assurance systems.

In safety, the drilling industry continues to make great strides, and IADC has been recognized for its efforts by government and industry alike. In addition to convening conferences and publishing safety alerts and manuals, IADC has developed a comprehensive series of regional HSE meetings around the US. These forums help land personnel share problems and learn from the experience of others.

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I've focused in this issue primarily on safety and training—the “people problems”—because these are among our greatest challenges as an industry, if not the greatest challenge.

I look forward to exploring other IADC initiatives in the months ahead, and hope you will join me on this journey.

Meanwhile, I reiterate the pride I feel serving as Chairman of IADC. I am eager to begin touring our chapters and speaking at our conferences during 2005. I hope to see you there.

Rest assured that IADC is hard at work for you. At 65, we are nowhere near retirement. In fact, IADC is just getting started! ■

From the President

## THE BEGINNING

**IN 1900, A GROUP** of cable tool drillers met in West Virginia to form a driller's association. An invitation to gather at the town hall was issued to prospective members — contractors, drillers, tool dressers—in fact, every one who would pay the dues. According to one of IADC's founding members, Harry Edwards, who was present at this gathering, the group met, but they had no aim. “I remember they were going to shorten hours, raise prices. Every one paid dues. They had a square box full of money – but the treasurer tucked it under his arm and walked out on them with the money!” It would be a while before they tried again.

The next effort to form a driller's association was in November, 1940. A very small group of contractors met around a table in one end of a very large ballroom at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, borrowing a few minutes of time from the American Petroleum Institute's annual meeting.

According to J.E. Brantley, the Association's first President, “This small group of oil and gas well drilling contractors concluded after a brief period of open discussion, that the welfare and prosperity of our industry could only be reasonably well assured through the organized efforts of those within it. By-laws were thereupon adopted by the organizing directors and officers were chosen and the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors came into being.” Mr. Brantley concluded by stating, “Our ideas were liberal, our ideals were lofty, our intentions were serious.”



Lee Hunt, President

Observing this second, and more successful effort at forming a driller's association, Harry Edwards remarked, “This association you have today is a live association and is built along different lines and endeavors, and it looks like we are going somewhere.”

And indeed the Association was “going somewhere”. From these beginnings it grew into the International Association of Drilling Contractors we know today. I'm sure that these “founding fathers” would not be surprised to see that their pioneering efforts have grown into an organization with members on six continents serving the interests of drilling and explorations companies on a global basis.

*\*The material in this column is taken from the original minutes of the First Annual Meeting of the American Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, Dallas, Texas, November 13-14, 1941. ■*