

DIRTY DEEDS

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VOLUNTEERS CERTAINLY aren't attracted by the elegant atmosphere. Their voices echo through the large metal storage building filled with floor to ceiling metal shelving stacked high with tough-looking, long, shallow brown cardboard boxes.

Senior volunteers keep their hands close to the earth

tative samples of these California rocks, especially subsurface rocks from oil wells, according to Knauer. "We've got the only such repository in California," he said. "What most of the people come looking for is information. For instance, that Shell shipment. "They're looking at cores and studying sandstones from known oil reservoirs. They want information that can help them find a new drill site where they aren't drilling blindly. Studying the rocks gives them a better chance to cut their losses. They know what they're getting into."

Not very exciting.
Curator Larry Knauer frankly admits workers sizzle in the summer and freeze in the winter.

Winds can whip up a dust storm inside when the huge sliding doors are open at the east and west ends of the building — which usually they are.

So why would anybody eagerly look forward to spending several deskbound hours a week there cataloging dusty rock core and bore site samples for the Well Sample Repository on the Cal State Bakersfield campus?

Three Action Network volunteers for Cal State Bakersfield's Sixty-Plus Club and one Retired Senior Volunteer Program member agree it's because "everybody's so nice and we're really appreciated."

Action Network volunteer Ann Goodman says, "It's just the really good feeling you get from working with the people here. Larry (Knauer) makes it comfortable for us and we're welcomed. They keep us plied with coffee, there's pleasant music playing — and the friendship is great."

It must be the right combination for Goodman, she's donated 600 hours cataloging at the repository just since January of this year.

"That's very flattering," said Knauer, "but we're so grateful for their help. There's just not the money available for such a labor-intensive, time-consuming cataloging and indexing operation. I don't know where we'd be without them. Anything we can do to make it pleasant for them is worth it."

Open boxes of samples displayed on large work tables were explained by Rose Stockton Logan who regularly spends one morning a week at the repository.



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Volunteer Rose Stockton Logan arranges earthen files at the Well Sample Repository

"These," she said, "are part of a shipment being readied to send to Shell Oil in Houston. We loan samples just like libraries loan books. And people borrow them for the same reason as books, for some good information."

It's hard for an ordinary visitor to see anything informative in the slices and hunks of grayish, sandy earth, but interested professionals from the United States and many foreign countries come to investigate represen-

tative work on campus I went to a meeting and made my pitch."

He got Goodman's attention because she had a lingering interest in geology after taking a course taught at CSB by professor Ed Laskowski and "Larry (Knauer) made it (cataloging) sound interesting."

Logan's two uncles, Frank Stockton and H.K. Armstrong, were geologists and she felt volunteering at

Samples at the repository are a \$3 billion treasure trove for geologists.

That's what it would cost to redrill at the California sites and collect equivalent samples, according to geologist James R. Weddle, chairman of the repository's advisory committee.

He's referring to the cores housed in the repository from more than 12,000 drilled oil wells, waiting for rebagging, relabeling and cataloging by Knauer's willing volunteers. The donated samples are from such companies as Exxon, Occidental and Shell, according to Weddle, and include "everything Superior Oil had when it went out of business."

Information recorded for each sample, Knauer said, includes locations, depth drilled and box contents. "It's up to the volunteers to clean and organize the collections — not a quick or easy task," he added.

Knauer got his volunteers, he said, by asking for them. "We needed help and when I saw a campus announcement the Sixty-Plus Club had an Action Network with members looking to do

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the repository would be a good thing.

Bea Pizar is the RSVP volunteer. On Goodman's advice, Knauer acknowledged, he listed his need for helpers with the Volunteer Center on Chester Avenue, and "It caught Bea's attention."

Pizar, who holds a North Dakota University degree in geology and recently retired after a 27-year career as an engineer with Kern County, said, "I was interested enough to come and check out the job — and I stayed because it's the nicest group of young men to work with."

In addition to Knauer there are three part-time students involved in the work and eight volunteers. In addition to well cores, the facility houses sidewall (from oil well drilling) samples, drill cutting, outcrop samples, foundation borings and mineral suites.

The repository's goal is to keep these and like collections from being lost, so it collects, classifies, processes, stores and makes them available to investigators. Its thousands of samples include offshore as well as onshore sites.

Tara Hagen who coordinates Sixty-Plus Club activities as a CSB public affairs officer says the newly



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Ann Goodman records some notes on the well-core samples

created Action Network (whose chair is CSB professor emeritus Lorraine West) has approximately 46 volunteers working regularly on campus in areas such as fine arts, for the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment, tutoring in the Academ-

ic Advancement Center.

Every volunteer probably has a special reason for feeling good about the work they do, but Rose Logan's parting remark sums up her pleasure: "It's just like playing with mudpies."