

PIONEER WOMEN OF GEOPHYSICS

Elisabeth Stiles (1889 – 1965)

Education and First Job

- Born in Travis County, Texas

Little is known of Stiles' life prior to her time with SEG but she is believed to have held the following positions at the University of Texas:

- 1918: Secretary
- 1919: Assistant to the director of the Bureau of Economic Geology and Technology
- 1932: Affiliated with the Independent Exploration Company, Houston, Texas, a company founded by the former SEG president Esme Rosaire in 1932

Ways Elisabeth made an impact

- Volunteer work with SEG during the society's early years
- Founding member John Oscar Hoard said about Elisabeth: "She was an outstanding geophysicist, one of the very best of the time. She did everything, including managing crews in the field. In fact, the first time that I met her was in the field. She was digging shot holes. She was an original partner in Independent Exploration, at one time the second largest contractor, and it was always my feeling that she was one of the real brains of that outfit."
- Former SEG president Sally Zinke said Elisabeth "saved SEG" during WWII, as the majority of geophysicists had been called to military service. Elisabeth continued to run SEG "out of her closet."

Elisabeth's SEG involvement

- Only woman on the SEG founders lists in 1930
- One of the first two associate editors of GEOPHYSICS
- Elected to the executive committee
- SEG Secretary-treasurer, elected for 1937-1938 term
- Business manager of SEG until 1939
- Interim business manager, mid 1940s
- SEG Life Membership in 1961

Publications:

- Rosaire, E.E. and M. E. Stiles (1932) Distribution of salt domes in depth, Pan-American Geologist, vol. 57, no.4, p.316. May 1932.
- Rosaire, E.E., and M. E. Stiles (1932), THE EFFECT OF GEOPHYSICS ON THE DEVELOPMENT HAZARD IN GULF COAST OIL FIELDS, Economic Geology, Lancaster, Pa., vol. 27, No.6, 1932, pp. 523-532.
- Rosaire, E.E. and M. E. Stiles (1936). "EXPLORATION ON THE GULF COAST, TO 1936." GEOPHYSICS, 1(1), 141-148.