



SHALE SPEAK - EDITORIALS

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From the Desk of Gene Powell, Publisher/Editor

Golden Goddess has Brought Fort Worth Plenty of Good Luck

Many of us in the oil and gas industry and our families through many years have patted the [Golden Goddess](#) on her derriere for luck, for courage and for bonanza from oil and gas. Our last couple of generations have brought us the Barnett Shale, the biggest of all gas reservoirs, right under downtown Fort Worth, when before it was always somewhere other than Fort Worth, Tarrant County, or Dallas.

The Goddess currently resides at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth, where there is a plaque dedicated to her, which reads as follows:

Benjamin Johnston Tillar, builder of the Westbrook Hotel, brought the goddess to Fort Worth from Italy in 1909. She made her debut at the hotel's opening on December 15, 1910, and became the queen and temptress of its lobby.

Oilmen packed the hotel in October, 1917, after oil was discovered on the McClesky Farm near Ranger, Texas. The oilmen claimed her as their goddess and rubbed her derriere for good fortune. They penned the following ode:

The Oilman's Lament
***Listen To Me You Golden Goddess
Standing High On Your Pedestal
Hold High Your Torch
So High It Can Spread Light
Into The Black Soil Wilderness
Where The Drill Boys Dig Deep Holes For Fortunes
Let Me Rub Your Derriere For Luck, For Courage,
For Bonanza
Look Down Into My Eyes, Golden Girl,
And Bequeath Me Your Favors...
In Black Gold!***

The plaque concludes with the following: *The Petroleum Club, in conjunction with the Fort Worth Wildcatters, acquired the Goddess at auction on March 15, 2003. She was restored for the club by Dow Galleries.*

The past few years, she has stood by the bank of elevators on the 40th floor of the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth until recently, when remodeling of the club began. She will still be present after remodeling is completed but will be relocated to a dedicated area in the Men's Room on the 40th floor.

Below is a recent photo of Will Brackett, Managing Editor (left) and Gene Powell, Publisher/Editor of the *Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter*[®] both patting the *Golden Goddess's* derriere for continued good luck. Will's great grandfathers, John M. Loffland, Sr. and John P. Johnston, grandfathers John M. Loffland, Jr. and Arthur M. Brackett, and great uncle Thomas W. Loffland, as well as Gene's grandfathers Otis H. (Red) Powell and Warren D. Ambrose, Sr., and uncles John Powell and Joe D. Ambrose, Sr., were all oilmen and may have patted the *Golden Goddess's* derriere themselves at some point in the last century.

