# SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW ENERGY LAW INSTITUTE:

**ISTORY AND FUTURE OF** 

## BANKING IN THE OLL PATCH

Buddy Clark Haynes Boone, LLP August 28, 2019 Houston Texas

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# CANDUNANT

The History of American Oil, Wildcatters, Independents and Their Bankers

BERNARD F. CLARK, JR.

# In Search of the Holy Grail

## HISTORICAL FOUNDATION OF U.S. OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

- Plentiful Oil and Gas Resource
- Private Ownership of Minerals
- Rule of Law
- Access to Capital

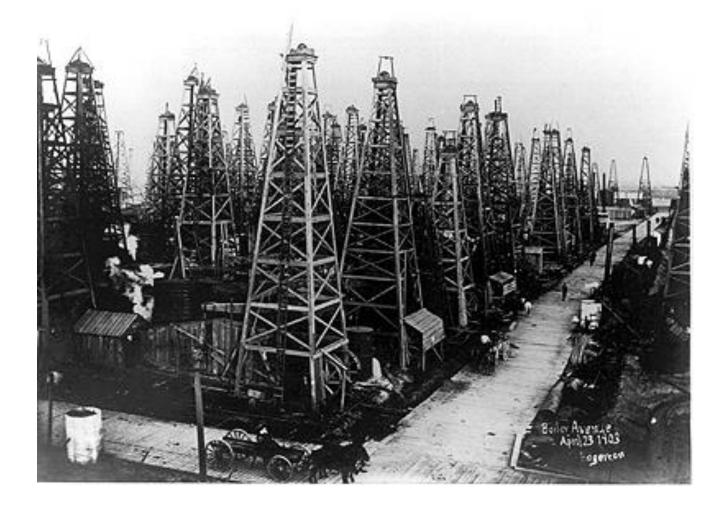
## PRIVATE MINERAL OWNERSHIP

- Historical Mineral Ownership from Ancient Greeks to 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Many countries did not assert national ownership of minerals until WWI proved its strategic value.
- Today, only 3 countries, including the U.S., permit some level of private ownership of hydrocarbon reserves.

## **RULE OF LAW**

- Certainty of title
- Certainty of contract
- Certainty of right to produce

#### RULE OF CAPTURE AND THE WILD, WILD WEST



## PRORATION CREATED THE PRODUCERS' NEED AND SOLUTION

- Proration Tamed the Rule of Capture
- Well production and monthly field production was tied to market demand
- Limited production also brought control over market prices and more predictable cash flow
- Reduced production reduced the producer's cash flow, creating the need for leverage
- Proration was the catalyst that created modern energy lending in the US

## ACCESS TO CAPITAL

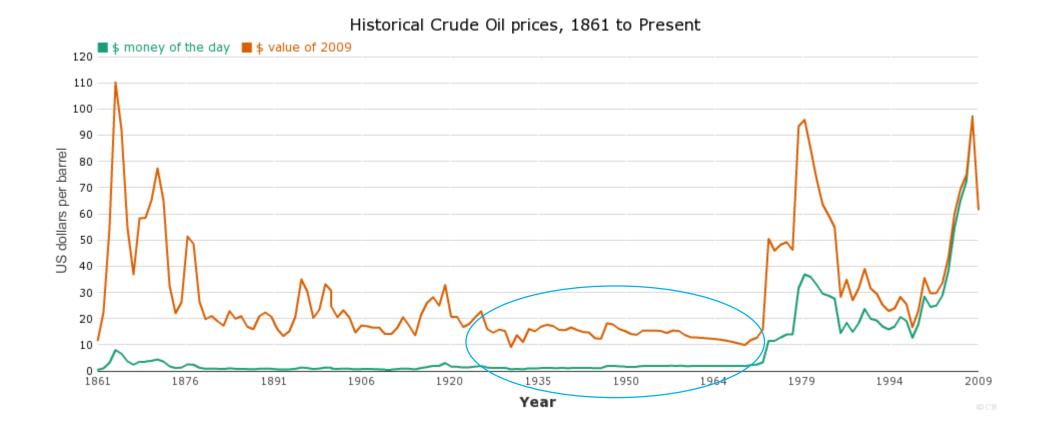
Originally, banking was prohibited in Texas -Anti-Banks, Anti-Railroads, Anti-Major Oil State Banking Permitted in 1904 – no branches, no interstate banking

This Local Bias was a blessing and a curse –

Early on, it helped independent producer (source of Railroad Commission)

But by the 1980's it would prevent the rescue of Texas' homegrown banks.

#### **1935-1969: RELATIVE PRICE STABILITY**



## **1930-1970 ERA -- PRODUCTION LOANS**

- Secured Term Loans tied to Production
- Simple Documentation Note, Mortgage and Assignment of Production
- ABC Loans and Production Payments

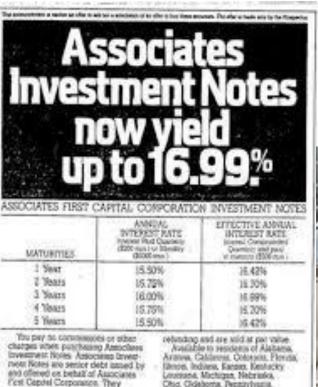
### 1970-1980'S: A TIME OF VOLATILITY

#### Middle East

#### **Interest Rate**

#### **Market Supply**





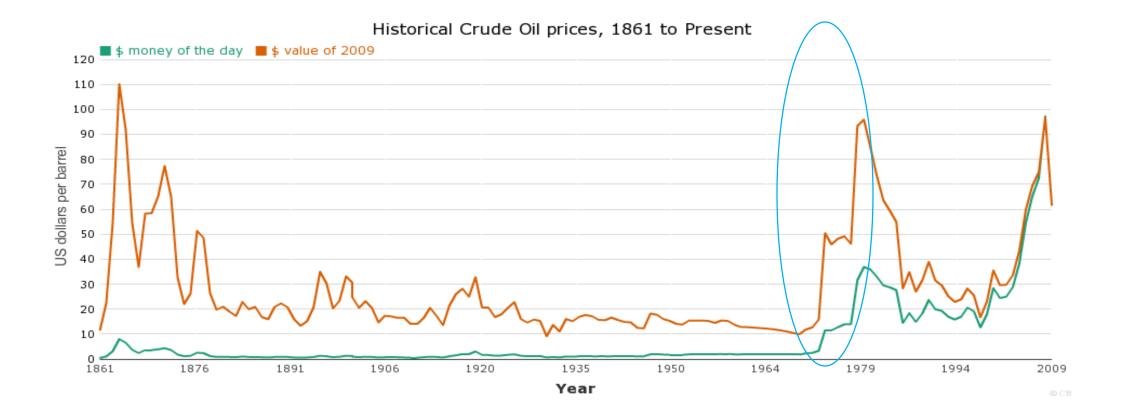
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## **1980'S: TRANSITION FROM RELATIVE PRICE STABILITY TO** WILDLY UNPREDICTABLE PRICES



### PRICE VOLATILITY GENESIS OF THE BORROWING BASED REVOLVER

Problem:

- Increasing oil prices caused Producers to demand more credit for mortgaged oil and gas property.
- Fluctuation in prices caused Bankers to need safety net when prices fell.

Answer: Reserve Base Revolver

- Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust (circa 1979) introduced a revolving credit facility with availability tied to fluctuation in borrower's collateral value.
- Flexible credit available under flexible loan documentation.

## **1980'S – DECADE OF DESTRUCTION**

#### Penn Square – Canary in the coal mine July 4, 1982

American Banker	November 6, 1981
Friday, November 6, 1981	
Greenwich Rescue Ma	y Top All in Cost
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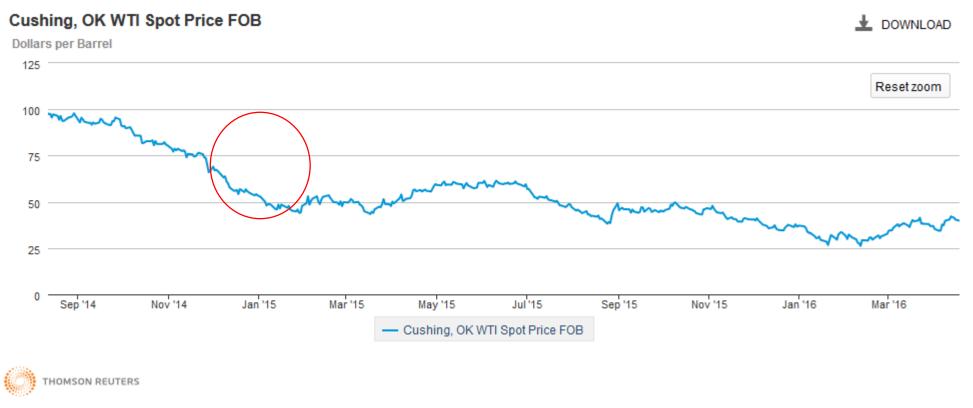
#### **Texas Banks Failed or Acquired:**

- Texas Commerce Bank (acquired)
- Allied Bank of Texas (acquired)
- Mbank (Mercantile National Bank and Southwest Bank of Texas)
- First National Bank
- First Republic (Republic National Bank and InterFirst Bank)
- Texas American Bancshares
- National Bancshares
- BancTexas Group
- First City Bank

## **DECADES FOLLOWING THE CRASH OF THE 1980S**

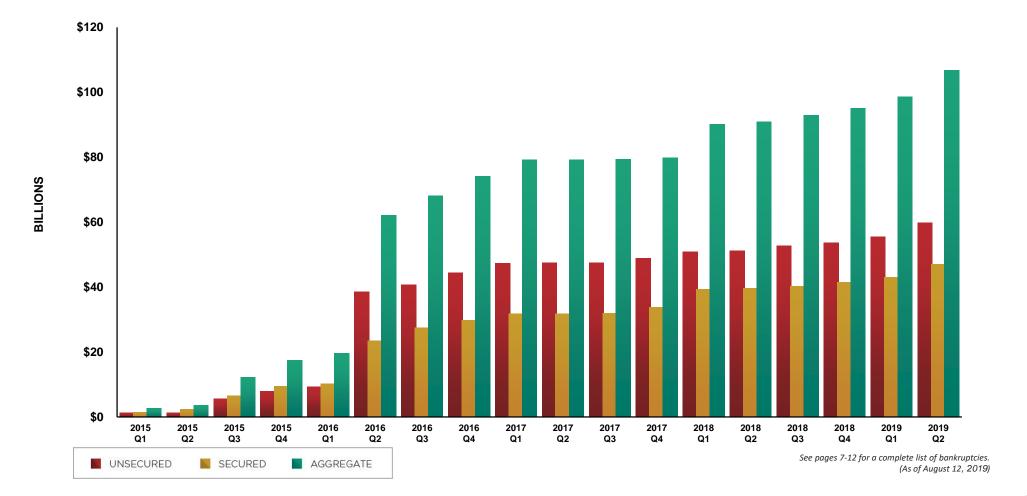
- **1990s** Alternative Financing Sources, Futures Markets and Tax Credits
- 2000s Shale Revolution and Increase Demand for Capital, Private Equity Investment and The Great Recession
- 2010s Shale Revolution Continues, Complex Debt Structures, OCC Guidelines and OPEC's Thanksgiving Turkey Surprise.

## **OPEC'S 2014 THANKSGIVING TURKEY**



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

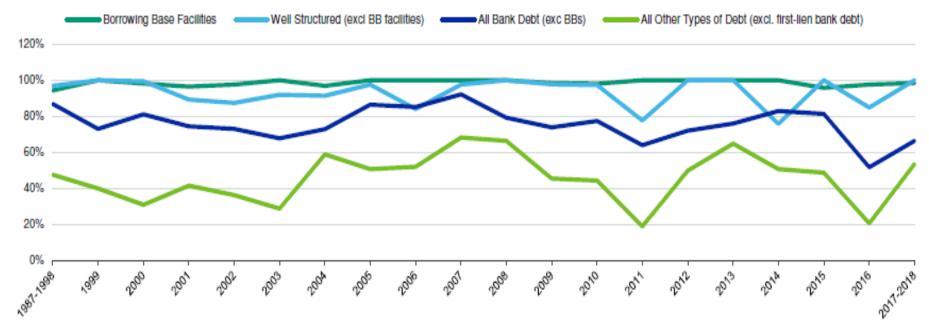
## 2015-2019 CUMULATIVE E&P UNSECURED DEBT, SECURED DEBT AND AGGREGATE DEBT



## **RBL STRUCTURE -- TAKES LICKIN' AND KEEPS ON TICKIN'**

Exhibit 1

#### Borrowing base facilities consistently performed well, exhibiting low recovery volatility



Source: Moody's Ultimate Recovery Database

## **CURRENT MARKET**

- "Buy and Flip" Meets "Lower for Longer" becoming "You Broke It, You Buy It"
- Public Markets Sentiment has Turned against Oil and Gas Industry and Closed the "Easy Exit" Door
- New Mantra: "Go Slow, Live within Cash Flow"
- Demand for Debt Capital is no longer to maximize leveraged returns, but instead to keep the lights on.

## PE IMPACT ON CURRENT RBL TERMS

- Demands for 'consistent' terms across portfolio industries introduces foreign concepts
- Precedent Documents become 'Standard Market' overnight
- Decreased emphasis on the basics:
  - Oil and Gas Collateral
  - Financial Covenants
  - Lender Control

Buddy Clark Haynes and Boone, LLP 1221 McKinney, Suite 2100 Houston, Texas 77010 clarkb@haynesboone.com

## haynesboone