OF THE STATE OF MEN MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE DEKALE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR AN ORDER OF APPROVAL OF THE UNIT AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE SITTER LAKE UNIT AREA VITEIN T. 105, RANGES 25 and 26 EAST, N.M.P.M., CONTAINING 9,032.38 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, CHAVES COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

Pursuant to notice by the Commission, duly made and published, setting June 7, 1946 at 10:00 A. M. for hearing in the above-entitled matter, said hearing was convened on said day at said hour in the Coronada Room at La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Commission sitting as follows:

Commissioner of Public Lands John E. Miles, Member R. R. Spurrier, Secretary Carl B. Livingston

RECISTER

NAME	COMPANY	<u>ADDRESS</u>
William B. Macey	Oil Conservation Commission	Artesia, N. N.
N. R. Lamb	State Bureau of Mines	Artesia, N. M.
S. W. Ludwick		Roswell, N. M.
Frank D. Gardner	Sinclair Frairie Oil Company	Midland, Texas
R. J. Heard	raybary Oil Company	Artemia, N. M.
R. F. Miller	Grayburg Oil Company	Artesia, N. M.
W. F. Patterson	- · · ·	Santa Pe, N. M.
S. P. Hannifin		Roswell, N. M.
Fester Morrell	U. S. Geological Survey	Roswell, N. M.
E. C. Hemouray	A. T. & S. F. Railway Company	Albuquerque, N. M.
E. C. Iden	A. T. & S. F. Hailmay Company	Albuquerque, N. M.
Karehall Rowley	Carper Drilling Company	Artesia, N. M.
John E. Cochren, Jr.	Maljamar Coop. Hep. Agreement	Artemia, N. M.
William J. Wright	"aljamar Coop. Nep. Agreement	Artesia, N. M.
Charles R. Allen	Continental Oil Company	Ponce City, Okla.
J. 9. Seth	Petrolema Fred. Ref. & Pro. Co.	Santa Fe, N. N.
W. R. McGride	Petroleum Prod. Ref. & Pro. Co.	Santa Fe, N. M.
John M. Kelly	Independent Geologist	Roswell, N. M.
Clarence Hinkle	Hervey, Dow and Hinkle	Roswell, N. M.
Roy O. Yarbrough	Oil Conservation Commission	Santa Fe, N. H.
F. W. Biolosan	Cil Conservation Commission	Santa Fe. N. M.
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Covernor Hiles:

Gentlemen, the Commission is in session, and the Secretary will proceed with the order of business.

Mr. Hinklet

I am Clarence No Hinkle of Hervey, Dew and Hinkle, representing the Dekalb Agricultural Association. This is an application by the Dekalb Agricultural Association for the approval of a unit agreement to be known as the Ditter Lake Unit Agreement. The proposed unit area covers approximately 9,032.38 sores situated in Township 10 South, Ranges 25 and 26 East. All of the lands embraced in the proposed area are lands of the United States, with the exception of 120 seres in Section 2, Township 108, Range 25E, which is State land. The agreement has been executed by all of the owners of the leases and pending applications for leases, except the lands which are embraced in the so-called Bitter Lake Migratory Wildlife Refuge, and there is a question whether leases will be issued for those lands. The area has heretofore been designated by the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey upon the application of the several lease owners as suitable for unitisation. Under the terms of the agreement the operator is given authority to carry on necessary operations to explore and develop the unit area. The agreement provides for a test well to be drilled to a depth of 6,500 feet, unless gas or oil is found at a lesser depth. The proposed unit agreement follows substantially the unit agreements which have heretofere been approved by the Commission. That you may have before you the proposed unit area, here is a plat which has heretofore been filed with you. I might say that at this time the Bekalb Agricultural Association has already started a well in Section 13, which is near the center of the proposed unit area, and at the present time the well is below 3,500 feet. The geological information upon which this unit was formed was done by Mr. John Kelly, and I would like to have him sworm as a witness.

Mr. John M. Kelly, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Hinkles

What is your name?

Tr. Kolly:

John M. Kelly.

Mr. Hinkle:

What is your profession?

Mr. Kelly:

I am a graduate engineer and geologist, and registered to practice in New Yexico.

Fr. Hinkle:

How long have you practiced?

Mr. Kelly:

Ten years.

Er. Hinkle:

Iou were formerly the State Geologist?

Ar. Kelly:

That is right.

Er. Hinkle:

You are familiar with the area involved in the proposed Bitter Lake Unit Agreement?

Mr. Kelly:

I am.

Mr. Hinkles

Have you performed any work in connection with at Agreement?

Br. Kally:

Upon information furnished so by hr. Whelan, who did the magnetometer work, I prepared a contour map of the anticline.

fir. Rinkle:

I hand you herewith the applicant's Exhibit A, and ask you to state whether that is a duplicate of the map made with the application before the U. S. Geological Survey for the designation of the Unit Area.

Mr. Kelly:

It is.

Mr. Hinkle:

You are familiar with the designation which has been made, and the boundaries as shown by the plat attached to the agreement?

hr. Kelly:

Yes.

Mr. Hinkles

State whether in your opinion the area covers all or substantially all of the geological features.

ir. Kelly:

I believe it covers all of the features as shown by the geological map and the area map.

Mr. Hinkles

Are you familiar with the agreement?

Mr. Kelly:

Yes.

Mr. Hinkle:

State whether the operations under this agreement would have a tendency to promote the conservation of oil and gas and the prevention of waste.

Tr. Kelly:

I believe it would promote proper development in the area.

Governor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard in this case? If not, the application is granted.

Mr. Livingston:

The next case is No. 77 in the matter of the application of the Magnelia Petroleum Company for an order of approval of the Unit Agreement for the development and operation of the Black Hills Anticline Unit Area within Townships 17 and 18 South, Hanges 19 and 20 East, N.M.P.M., containing 17,626.62 acres, more or less, Chaves County, New Mexico.

ir. Hinkles

I am Clarence R. Hinkle of Hervey, Dow and Hinkle, and am attorney for the applicant, the Magmelia Petroleum Company. This is the application of the Hagnolia Petroleum Company for the approval of the proposed Bitter Lake Anticline Unit Agreement. The unit agreement which has been filed with the Commission contains a plat which shows the proposed unit area. The proposed unit area contains approximately 17,626,62 acres. All of the lands are lands of the United States, except certain lands aggregating 2,170.56 acres. The unit agreement has been signed by the owners of oil and gas leases covering all of the lands, except the owners of two leases, which are a very small portion of the total acreage. The area involved in the agreement was approved by the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey and the Secretary of the Interior as one proper for unitization. The agreement designates the Magnolia Petroleum Company as the unit operator, and under the terms of the unit is given power to carry on all work necessary for the exploration of the area. The operators agree to commence a well within six menths after the approval, and drill the same to a depth of 7,000 feet, unless gas or oil is found at a lesser depth. The form follows substantially the same form as heretofore approved by this Commission and the Commissioner of Public Lands. Mr. Steve Hannifin, the District Land Hen for Hagnolia, is here, and I would like to have him testify.

Hr. S. P. Hannifin, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Hinkle:

Please state your name.

Mr. Hannifin:

ILLEGIBLE

5. P. Harmifin.

Mr. Hinkles

Where do you reside?

Mr. Hannifins

Roswell, New Mexico.

Ar. Hinkles

What is your official position?

Mr. Henrifins

District Land Man for Magnelia Petroleum Company.

Hr. Hinkle:

How long have you been with the Magnolia Fetroleum Company?

Mr. Hammifins

20 years.

Mr. Hinkle:

Are jon familiar with the so-called Sitter Lake Anticline Unit Agreement in Chaves County, New Mexico, which is the subject of the proposed unit agreement?

Mr. Hancifins

Yes, sir.

fire Hinkla:

Fo you know whether any geological investigation has been made of this

Mr. Hanrifins

Several years ago such an investigation was made by J. B. Hedley.

Hr. Hinkle:

Did Mr. Hedley make a report in connection with the report of the designation of this area before the U. S. Geological Survey?

Mr. Hamiline

He did, yes.

Mr. Hinkle:

I hand you harewith the report of Hr. J. B. Hedley, marked Exhibit A, on the litter Lake Antielino, Chaves County, and ask you whether it is a duplicate of the report filed with the application.

Mr. Hannifin:

It is.

hr. Kinkle:

Dues that map show the geological structure involved?

itr. liamifin:

Yas.

Mr. Hinkles

to the plat?

Mr. Hannifins

It does.

Mr. Hinkles

Are you familiar with the terms of the unit agreement?

Mr. Hannifine

Yes, sir.

Mr. Hinkle:

State whether in your opinion the operations under the proposed unit agreement, if a discovery is made, would tend to promote the conservation of oil and the prevention of waste.

Mr. Hennifin:

I believe it would. Yes, sir.

Covernor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard in this case? The application is granted. Next case.

Hr. Livingston:

The next case is No. 78 in the matter of the application of the Petroleum Products Refining and Producing Company for an order of approval of an irregular oil and gas well location in Section 36, T. 18N, R. 9N, Hospah Field, McKinley County, New Mexico, Well No. 48, to be located in the Southeest-Southeast quarter of said section, 1220 feet East of the center section line, 330 feet North of the South line.

Mr. Sethi

My name is J. O. Seth, and I appear for the Petroleum Products Refining and Producing Company. This is an application to drill this well that I marked on this plat. The field and the development began many years ago, and was drilled on a 10-acre spacing. The old wells were not so located as to be in the center of each 10-acre tract. The proposal of this location is to get 660 feet East of the well already drilled. The lease is a State lease, and notody would be hurt by the location. I would like to have Mr. McKride sworn.

Mr. W. R. McBride, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Or. Setat

Your name, please.

Ar. Actuades

W. N. Heliride.

Mr. Settle

You are an officer of the Petroleum Products Hefining and Producing Company?

fir. neltrade:

Yes, sir.

hr. Sethi

What is your position?

Hr. hebraces

Vice-resident.

ilr. Sethi

You know the general location of these walls in the Hospah Dome, do you not?

Mr. McBride:

168.

Mr. Coth;

That development began many years ago?

Mr. Mobride:

I think back in 1928 or 1929.

Mr. Sethi

This application today is to drill the well marked on this plat?

fir. hourides

That is well No. 45. The Roman numerals there are the numbers we anticipate drilling, but this is well No. 1 here.

Hr. Jothi

I would like to have this plan marked for attention.

(NOTE: The plat at this point was marked Exhibit A for the record).

Mr. Demil

The location you seek for this well is merely to keep it at 660 feet?

Ar. Kelvide:

Tes, and to correct some of the previous locations and in drilling additional wells we can try to keep them all within the proper spacing. They will all be the same distance from each other. We may have to come in and ask for smother irregular spacing if it is necessary.

Mr. Sothi

Are all the wells on the same State lease owned by your Company?

Mr. MeBride:

Yes, eir.

Mr. Seths

I believe that is all.

Forerace Miles:

Anybody else want to be heard in this case? The application is granted.

ir. Livingatom

The next case is No. 79. The positioner, through his attorneys, Kiker and Sanches, has requested that the hearing date upon this position be vasated and that said position be set down for a hearing at some future time, owing to the fact that the positioner, with other operators in the Fulcher Basin Cas Field, is endeavoring to formulate a spacing plan to present to the Commission.

The next case is No. 80 in the matter of the petition of Operators' Committee under Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement for amendment to Order No. 485, as amended by Order No. 595 of the Commission, to provide for the running of back allowable from the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring area.



My name is John E. Cochran, Jr. I represent Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement. This is a matter in which the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement saks that Order 485, as amended by Order 595 of this Commission to provide for the running of back allowable from the Maljamar Cooperative Representing Agreement. Order 485 entered by the Commission in Case 36 on November 14, 1942 was the order which approved the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement and approved certain in-put wells and provided for the distribution on allowable on in-put wells to the other wells. Order 595 entered by the Commission on January 8, 1945 smended the original order and set up an allocation production plan for the area. Before that order was entered, and while the study was being made, it was agreed that in the interest of conservation at that time no back allowable would be allowed the area, and there was written on February 11, 1944 a letter by Mr. Kelly, then State Scologist, which provided that no back allowable be run from leases in the Haljamar area. Since that time, however, the allocation plan approved has been so successful that the operators feel that it would not be detrimental to the properties to run some back allowable which occurred for the reasons I will tell you. During November Mulco Refineries, Inc., who was a substantial crude bayer from the area had too much crude, and the Malco discontinued purchasing crude oil from a large number of leases in the area, and following that several operators had no pipe line connections, and a sub-stantial back allowable accumulated by reason of having no outlet for the oil. As of June 1 there were approximately 20,000 barrels of back allowable which have not been run from certain leases within the area. This back allowable is in some instances unproduced, and in some cases has been produced and is in storage. All of the operators in the area feel that they should be allewed to run oursently to the pape line compenies purchasing the oil a back allowable at a rate not to exceed the rate the Commission allowed the State generally. All operators of leases and walls in this area feel that the way this should be handled would be for individual operators to make application to the Operators! Committee, which is the manager of the Project, and designate the lease and the amount of back allowable that they feel should be run during a current month, which would not exceed the back allowable figure set for other parts of the State by the Commission. This would amount to probably a barrel a day per well, and in some instances three barrels a day per well, and where the cil is in storage a request would be made for permission to run this to the pipe line company, not to exceed ten barrels per day. After the applications have been made to the Operators' Cound thee by the operators, the operators feel that the Chairman of the Operators' Committee of the Haljamar Cooperative Sepressuring Agreement should potition the Commission, or its deputies, administratively for authority to run back allemable during the current month. The reason for suggesting the matter be handled thus is when an operator makes application for back allowable the Operators' Committee will have an opportunity to study the request, and if it is in the interest of conservation the Chairman of the Operators' Committee would file the application with the Commission or its deputy. Due to the fact that the back allowable had its origin about the first of Pecember, the Maljamar Repressuring Agreement asked that the Commission permit it to follow this precedure in requesting authority to run back allowable starting December 1, 1945. Hr. Hilliam J. Wright, Engineer for the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement is here, and if the members of the Commission would care to ask him any questions he may be sworn. Do you have any questions you want to ask him?

Covernor Hiles:

Yes, will you bring him forward?

Mr. William J. Wright, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Cochrens

Will you state your name?

Hr. Wrights

William J. Wright.

Mr. Cochrene

Where do you live?



Mr. Wright:

Maljamar.

Mr. Cochrans

What is your occupation?

Mr. Wright:

Project engineer for the Maljamar Cooperative Repressuring Agreement.

Mr. Spurrier:

Mr. Wright, give us an approximation of what percent of the production of any one well would this additional production be; that is, what the back allowable would constitute.

Mr. Krights

From a daily run it should not exceed 15% of daily allowable, which would be from 1 to 3 barrels per day.

Mr. Cochran:

Mr. Wright, in your epinion, if the method of making up back allowable, as is hereby outlined, is followed, would that constitute underground waste?

Mr. Wright:

Definitely not.

Mr. Livingston:

Back to what period of time is it desired that back allowable be permitted to run?

Mr. Wright:

December 1, 1945.

Governor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard in this case? If not, the application is granted.

Mr. Livingston:

The next case is 81 in the matter of the petition of the Grayburg Cil Company of New Mexice, Operator of Grayburg Cooperative and Unit Agreement, for an order for transfer of allowable from in-put wells to other wells of same basic leases in the unit area of Grayburg Cooperative and Unit Agreement, Eddy County, New Mexico.

Mr. Miller:

I am Raymond Miller of the Grayburg Oil Company, Artesia. The Grayburg Oil Company is the operator of a unit agreement located on Government lands. In connection with this unit cooperative agreement we are operating a repressuring plant. The last several months we have converted two top allowable wells to in-put wells situated in the MM2SE2 of Section 26, Township 17, Range 29, the well known as Grayburg-Keeley 9-B. The other well, Mestern Production Company-Keeley 12-C, is located in SM2NE2 Section 25, Township 17, Range 29. These wells were top allowable wells at the time they were put on as in-put wells, and since then we have been losing that allowable, and we request this allowable be transferred to other wells situated on the same basic leases. The Keeley B basic lease covers the S2SM2 Section 24, N2NM2 Section 25, R2 Section 26, Township 17, Range 29K. The Western-Keeley C lease covers the M2SM2 and the MM2SE2 of Section 13, S2SE2 Section 24, all of Section 25, except the M2MM2 and the W2 of Section 26, all in Township S, Range 39E. Mr. R. J. Heard, Vice-President of the Grayburg Oil Company, is present, and I would like to have him heard.



Mr. R. J. Heard, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows: Mr. Millers Your name is -Mr. Heard: R. J. Heard. Mr. Miller: Where do you reside? Hr. Heard: Artesia. fire millers Your position with the Grayburg Oil Company? Br. Heard: Vice-President. Hr. Millers Mr. Heard, you have been in charge of the drilling and production of these subject wells? Mr. Beards Tes. Mr. Millers Do you know that these wells are capable of producing top unit allowable at the time they were converted to injection wells? Tr. Heard? Yes. Mr. Millers In your opinion, if the walls were reconverted to producing wells at this time, would they produce top unit allowable? Mr. Heard: Yes. Mr. Millers Do you think this unit allowable could be produced from other wells on this same basic lease without waste? Mr. Heard? Yes. Mr. Hillers Is there any question you munt to sak hr. Heard? Mr. Spurriers Approximately how many wells do you intend to allocate this in-put production to, hr. Heard?

Approximately 17 wells on one basic lease, and I think around 12 or 14

Me. Heard:

on the other.

Mr. Spurriers

Then that would be about 2 or 3 barrels per day per well, would it not?

Mr. Heard?

Yes, sir.

Mr. Sparriers

This would be something less than 10% of each well's production?

Mr. Heard:

Yes, sir.

Mr. Miller:

We are requesting the Commission to make up back allowables on these wells, beginning May 1, 1946; that is, on these two subject in-put wells. We are also requesting the Commission to reserve jurisdiction in this case, that they may act administratively in the case of corrections, etc.

Mr. Spurrier:

You mean by that you contemplate drilling more in-put wells?

Mr. Miller:

Yee, that is right. There are more wells being drilled at the present time on these leases, and it is our intention to convert those to in-put wells.

Governor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard in this case? If not, the potition is granted.

Mr. Livingstons

The next case is No. 82 in the matter of the application of I. K. Westbreck for an order of approval of an irregular oil and gas well location in SHAME Section 22, T. 20N, Range IIW, N.M.P.M., McKinley County, New Mexico for I. K. Westbrook-Senta Fe Pacific Hailroad Company Well No. 1, which location is 1994 feet South of the Morth line and 2411 feet West of the East line of said section. This well started off as a water well, and seems to be ending up as an oil well.

Mr. Iden:

my name is E. C. Iden, and I would like to have fire I. K. Westbrock and Mr. E. O. Hemenmay sworm.

Mr. E. O. Hessmay, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Iden:

Your name is E. O. Hemerway?

Mr. Homeumays

Tos.

hr. Iden:

You are connected with the Santa Fe Pacific Mailroad Company?

Hr. Hemenway:

I am Land Commissioner at Albuquerque.



Mr. Idens

You are familiar with this application of I. K. Westbrook?

Mr. Hemanways

Yes.

Mr. Iden:

The Santa Pe Pacific Railroad Company is the owner of the land on which this wall is located?

Mr. Hemormay:

Yes.

Hr. Iden:

State to the Commission Mr. Westbrook's activities with reference to this land, particularly with reference to grazing leases prior to the time he acquired the oil lease.

Mr. Hemenwayt

Mr. Mestbrook is a livestock operator in this part of McKinley County, and in connection with his livestock operations entered into a contract with a driller to drill him a deep water well, and when he got down a certain distance there was some showing of oil, and he immediately stopped his work on his water well and felt that there might be some advantage in attempting to get an oil well out of this prospect.

Mr. Iden:

You are familiar with the location of the well?

Mr. Hemenway:

It is in Section 22, Township 20 North, Range 11 West. It is in the 5W1 of the HE4.

Mr. Iden:

I believe as shown by the petition, it is 274 feet South of the quarter section line 40-ears subdivision line. Is that correct?

Mr. Hemenway:

That is about it. I think it is 274 feet South of the quarter line and 229 feet East of the West line of that 40-more tract.

Mr. Idem:

Stated in another way, it is 1594 feet South of the North line and 2411 feet West of the East line?

Mr. Hemerway:

Yes, sir.

Mr. Iden:

bid the grasing lease Mr. Westbrook had prior to an oil showing in the water well embrace other lands than this?

itr. Remermay:

Yes, as I recall, it took in all oil holdings in that township.

Hr. Iden:

He still has the grazing lease?



Mr. Hemmys

He has a purchase contract for the purchase of the surface rights.

Hr. Idens

After the showing you gave him an oil and gas lease on certain lands for the purpose of protecting him in drilling the well, further with the hope that he might get oil or gas?

Mr. Hemenways

Yes.

Mr. Iden:

It covers 160 seres surrounding this prospect?

Mr. Hemsinways

Yes.

Mr. Ideas

Does your company own all of the acreage adjacent to this particular acreage?

Mr. Hemenways

He own impodiately adjacent. Section 15 cornering to the Northwest is a school section. We own the others in the immediate vicinity.

Mr. Idems

Generally speaking, how far is this from any other producing oil and gas well?

Hr. Hemenways

Approximately 15 or 18 miles Northwest of any present production.

Mr. Iden:

to you know the depth of the water well?

itr. Henemayı

Approximately 1100 feet.

Mr. Idens

Do you know of any possible objection in permitting this well to be drilled in this location?

Mr. Hemmy

No.

Mr. Iden:

I think that is all.

Covernor Hilses

What is the approximate distance from this well to the corner of the school section you speak off

Mr. Hemeraway:

About 2900 feet approximately to the Poutheast corner of the school section.

Mr. Iden:

Ar. Westbrook, will you take the stand?

Mr. Westbrook, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

Mr. Lden:

Your name is I. K. Westbrook?

Mr. Westbrooks

Yes, sir.

Mr. Idens

You are the petitioner in this matter?

Hr. Westbrook:

Tes, sir.

Mr. Iden:

where do you live?

Mr. Westbrooks

Crompoint.

Ar. Ideas

How long have you lived there?

fir. Wastbrooks

29 years.

Mr. Iden:

You are a rancher in that community?

Mr. sestbrook:

les, sir, I have been a rancher there 29 years.

Mr. Idens

You have heard Mr. Hemenway's testimony. Wes it correct in all respects?

Mr. westbrooks

Yes, sir.

hr. Iden:

You might desire to continue the drilling of this well with the hope of getting oil and gas?

Mr. Westbrooks

Yes, I would like to prospect for it.

itre Idens

It was begun as a water well?

Ar. Westbrooks

absolutely. Mear the center of this township.

fir Iden:

At west depth did you encounter this oil and gas showing?

Kr. Westbrocks

1092 fest.

Mr. Iden:

Is that where the well stands today?

Mr. Westbrooks

Yes, sir. There is quite a bit of oil comes off the water when you draw it.

Mr. Iden:

So far as you know, would it make a comma reial well at this time?

Mr. Vestbrook:

I do not know. There is quite a little showing, and the driller states it may be a commercial well.

Fr. Idea:

I believe that is all, whlese the Commission has some questions.

Mr. Spurrier:

One question, Mr. Westbrook. You have a lease. Mow do you have a plugging bond?

Mr. Bestbrook!

The bond is accompanying my petition here.

the Livingstons

Mr. Westbrook has on file a \$2500 corporate surety bond to go to a depth not to exceed 1500 feet, but the bond has not been accepted until the Commission grants its order.

fir. Iden:

keed on that showing, we ask that the petition be granted.

Covernor Miles:

Anyone else want to be heard on this case? If not, the application is ranted. Mosting dismissed.

I certify that the above is a transcript of the proceedings in this matter as taken from my shorthand notes.

many. Martin

Mary & Martin, Stenographer