

Reply to: ***Scientist Took Theory, OU Alumnus Says***

This is the reply to *The Oklahoman* newspaper article (now online) regarding Richard Donofrio's role in the Siljan Impact Crater drilling project in Sweden. This letter was written by a former president of the Petroleum Exploration Society of New York. It is dated August 25, 1988 and was never published by *The Oklahoman*. It is shown here for the historical record.



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August 25, 1988

Mrs. Mary Jo Nelson
The Oklahoman
P.O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Dear Mrs. Nelson

I am writing in regards to the anticipated deepening of the Siljan Well in Sweden to 25,000 ft. in the search for commercial abiogenic hydrocarbons. The publicity surrounding this venture centers around the abiogenic hypothesis of Professor Gold for the origin of hydrocarbons. However, I wish to point out that the idea of drilling a meteorite crater to test his hypothesis did not originate with Professor Gold. It was definitely the idea of Dr. Richard R. Donofrio.

Dr. Donofrio first presented this idea in a paper entitled "Subsurface impact craters as hydrocarbon traps" which he delivered on September 20, 1979 before the Petroleum Exploration Society of New York in New York City. I was president of the society at the time. Later on March 5, 1980 he gave the same presentation at a colloquium in the Department of Geological Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. His paper was published in 1981 in the Journal of Petroleum Geology.

Dr. Donofrio has commented publicly on the Siljan project which he regards as futile because of the geologic setting of the crater. It seems to me that you need his geologic expertise to provide balanced reporting on this project.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Olsson
Chairman

RKO:dd

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