Lafayette authors spotlight demise of oil industry

Oil People: A Gap in Understanding is a newly published book that has been written as a reference for those who have been concerned about the demise of the oil and gas industry during the past decade, as well as for the future well-being of the industry and nation.

The book has been written in a journalistic editorial style by Frances and John Love of Lafayette. They are Texans who came to Louisiana in 1954.

Frances Love is a longtime public relations director, journalist and publisher. She has been interviewing, researching, and writing about oil people since the 1960s. Many of her clients have been leaders in the oil industry. She is associate publisher of Travelhost of Acadiana magazine. For this book she has kept well documented records of the industry’s decline for the past ten years. At the University of Texas at Austin she majored in journalism and public relations.

John Love is an independent oil and gas lease broker who worked for Superior Oil Co., Tidewater Oil Corp., and Columbian Carbon Co. throughout his long career. A journalism graduate at the University of Texas at Austin, he was a member of the journalism honorary fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi. For years he has tracked oil history in Texas and Louisiana courthouses and has interviewed many oil people.

The book has been formatted in two columns on 8½-by-11-inch pages in big easy-to-read type. Headlines, summary outlines, a chronology of highlights, 165 photographs...
BOOK: Oil’s story

graphs, illustrations and charts are used to show how the world’s quality of life has been enhanced throughout the 20th century by oil people and technology that started at the Spindletop field (near Beaumont, Texas) in 1901, and has continued offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.

It begins with some rare 1901 photographs of Spindletop and Jennings/Evangeline Field in Louisiana and ends with extinguishing of the oilfield fires in Kuwait.

Although this book has nothing to do with partisan politics, it describes how both Republicans and Democrats have ignored our nation’s energy industry.

Among the subjects discussed are the down-sizing of the industry; Senate hearings on energy; reactions of governors, senators, congressmen, presidents, bureaucrats and foreign lobbyists in Washington; OPEC’s attempts to eliminate the industry in the U.S., as well as the admonitions of both friendly and unfriendly countries.

The findings of both the University of Texas and the Harvard University Energy and Environmental Policy Center as they probed the need for import fee protection are included. An attempt by Dan Frantzen, then president of Stone Oil Company, to get help from Presidents Reagan and Bush is described.

A group of oil people in Lafayette, Houston and Dallas have reserved copies of the book to send to elected officials in Washington DC and state capitols.

The book will be available in stores or by mail at a cost of $16 (plus $2.50 for mail orders). The publisher is McDowell Publications, Utica, Ky. Marketing company is Frances Love and Associates.