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## **The Subtlety of the East Texas Field**

The single greatest event in the history of the American petroleum industry was the discovery of oil at Spindletop on January 10, 1901. The second greatest event was the discovery of the East Texas Field on October 5, 1930. The East Texas Field has two outstanding features: its unbroken tremendous size (132,000 acres) and the simplicity of its geologic trap which dramatically brought forth to the attention of geoscientists the great significance of stratigraphic type traps. The East Texas Field trap was developed when the eroded edge of the Woodbine sand crossed regional nosing on the west flank of the Sabine Uplift and truncated between the overlapping Austin Chalk above and the Wichita Limestone below. This combination formed a perfect closure for the accumulation of over 7 billion barrels of oil. It is approximately 41.5 miles long in a North-South direction and averages about 5 miles east-west in width.