Reading Questions for *Petrolia* and *The Prize*

STS.038 Class Discussion: Wednesday, November 8, 2006

1) Why does Black distinguish “extraction” from “degradation?”

2) What does it mean to study the history of landscape? Why does Black call Petrolia’s landscape “Sacrificial?”

3) What role does “myth” play in Black’s history? What role does “progress” play?

4) Was oil drilling in Petrolia scientific?

5) Why does Black rely on 19th century photographs? How are they used as historical sources? What advantages do they provide as sources and what disadvantages?

6) Why does Black describe Oil Creek as an “Industrial Apparatus?” How did this process occur? Was it inevitable?

7) In Yergin’s account of the emergence of the Persian Gulf oil industry, who was (were) responsible for these developments?

8) What role did science play?

9) What role did politics?

10) In tone and argument, how do Black and Yergin differ?