

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)  
September 24, 2002 (September 20, 2002)

ST. MARY LAND & EXPLORATION COMPANY  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	000-20872 (Commission File Number)	41-0518430 (I.R.S Employer Identification No.)
---	--	--

1776 Lincoln Street, Suite 1100, Denver, Colorado 80203  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (303) 861-8140

Not applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Item 5. Other Events

On September 20, 2002, the registrant issued a press release entitled "St. Mary Announces Retirement of Thomas E. Congdon as Board Chairman." A copy of this press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is furnished as part of this report:

Exhibit 99.1 Press release of St. Mary Land & Exploration  
Company dated September 20, 2002.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ST. MARY LAND & EXPLORATION COMPANY

Date: September 24, 2002

/s/ RICHARD C. NORRIS

-----  
Richard C. Norris  
Vice President-Finance,  
Secretary and Treasurer

For Information, Contact:  
Mark A. Hellerstein  
Robert T. Hanley  
303-861-0934

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. MARY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF THOMAS E. CONGDON AS BOARD CHAIRMAN

DENVER, September 20, 2002 - St. Mary Land & Exploration Company (Nasdaq: MARY) announced today that Thomas E. Congdon, 76, retired yesterday as its Chairman of the Board of Directors. Mr. Congdon will continue to serve the Company as a Board member.

The Company also announced that Mark A. Hellerstein was elected Chairman of the Board. Mr. Hellerstein will assume the Chairman's duties in addition to his current duties as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

"Tom has been an officer or Chairman of St. Mary since he moved the Company to Denver in 1966. Under his guidance, St. Mary has transformed itself from a royalty distribution company to a passive oil and gas and real estate investment vehicle to a fully operating public oil and gas company. Few companies, regardless of their greatness, survive for 94 years, let alone are currently listed by Fortune magazine as one of the ten fastest growing companies in America. His leadership and vision have been vital to the success we have enjoyed. We are pleased that Tom will remain on the Board and we look forward to his continued involvement in the Company for many years to come," said Mr. Hellerstein.

###