GRANT C. STEBBINS, Pioneer Mid-Continent Producer

Lease house, band power house, boiler house and other buildings of the Gladys Belle Oil Company, on the Rosy Monroe least at Stone Bluff, where the company has 15 producing wells.

Many Rich Strikes Made Throughout Oklahoma; His Daily Production Now Averages 1,500 Barrels

(By JACK SCHUYLER)

PIONEER Oklahoma oil producer!

Without fear of contradiction or distrust that he would be accused of boasting, Grant C. Stebbins, president of the Gladys Belle Oil company, president of the Oklahoma Union Railway company, president of the Stebbins Investment company, and officer and director in a score of other prominent eastern Oklahoma business enterprises, could claim this title, for everyone recognizes him as such. Not only do they generously accord him this honor, but his record would force this recognition even were some one inclined to dispute the claim.

Were it left up to Grant Stebbins himself, however, to call attention to the fact that he has blazed the trail into more unproven oil territory in Oklahoma than any other, the world would never know, for he is one of those refreshing characters whose modesty is one of the things which attract attention to his greatness.

To Mr. Stebbins the oil development business is a study, and oil prospecting a game, one which he has played with wonderful success. The law of average applies to the oil game just the same as it does to any other game in which there are chances to lose as well as to win, but unlike games of pure chance, close application, careful study and wise decisions swing the balance from chance to certainty—and that is the way it has been played by Grant Stebbins.

FOURTEEN YEARS IN OIL GAME HERE.

In playing this game he has a system that is all his own. It is a system he has developed through 14 years of close, analytical application to the study of its ins and outs in which original theories have been tested out in practice, personally directed so that he has been able to bring it to its highest state of perfection.

"If I had known as much about the oil game when I started into it as I do now," he said the other day, "why I'd be many times a millionaire off the same territory where I got nothing but dusters when I drilled before."

An adventurous disposition, an irresistible desire to reach out just beyond the other fellow. Patience, courage, determinaiton, keen judgment, an aggressiveness which causes him to move quickly once he has determined upon a proposition and remarkable memory are traits which have characterized his whole life. They caused him to forsake the farm in La Salle county, Illinois, on which he was born some 50-odd years ago, to enter the real estate and insurance business in Marseilles. They caused him to forsake his small private business for a larger field as land representative of one of the great western railroads. They caused him later to strike out again for himself in the greatest field of business adventure ever entered—the Oklahoma oil fields.

That is how he happened to come to Tulsa some 14 years ago. He had made himself a little stake and the oil fever struck him when eastern Oklahoma was a young land and when the oil business here was in its infancy. He knew absolutely nothing about it, but satisfied that he could master it, and determined to do so, he moved in and started operations.

His first attempt to tap the petroleum reservoirs underlying eastern Oklahoma was made well inside the present incorporated limits of the city. It was a failure. Many an ambition, as well as bankroll, has vanished when the maiden effort has proved vain. Not so with that of Grant Stebbins. He shrugged his shoulders and spudded in on a new location. Again disappointment was his lot. The third, too, was a duster. There was no reward—except experience—in the fourth and fifth, and sixth. He saw his financial accumulation of years shrink after each failure, but he learned something new every time a bit was stuck into the ground and confident that his efforts finally would be crowned with success, he persisted. Failures crossed the dozen mark without ever a producer, then mounted to a score, and it was not until he had started his twenty-seventh hole that he struck pay. It came in 75 barrels per day.

Since then his operations have been phenomenally successful.

In 1905 he drilled the first gas well just west of Claremore, and this gas was piped to Claremark for commercial use.

GLADYS BELLE ORGANIZED IN 1910.

Toward the close of 1910, when it became apparent that he was on the high road to fortune, he organized the Gladys Belle Oil Company, capitalized at $10,000. The other stockholders were his wife and two daughters, and it was for his eldest daughter that the company was named. This company has grown in capital until it has been capitalized at a quarter of a million dollars for the last three years and now as the result of unprecedented development a corresponding increase has been made in the capital stock of the company.

In addition to being peerless as an oil pioneer, Grant Stebbins has produced more gas than anyone else in the entire mid-continent field.

Two years after the incorporation of the Gladys Belle company, Mr. Stebbins opened the gas fields near Eufaula, in McIntosh county, and also the gas fields near Quinton, north of McAlester. These were 10,000,000 to 12,000,000-foot gassers, brought in at a depth of about 1,250 feet. The same year he opened the East Glenn Pool, bringing in a number of wells from 75 to 250 barrels at 1,800 feet.

It was in 1913 that he struck really big pay. Down by Lost City he drilled into a pool at 1,500 feet which produced 1,000 to 1,200 barrels per well from sand found at only 500 feet. In addition to the 20 wells still producing in this field, he is continuing to bring in more of them and also is coining money from casinghead gas. In the same year he opened the Yahola pool in Muskogee county, from sand at 1,200 feet, getting an unusually high-premium oil, the demand for which has been much greater than for the ordinary run of petroleums developed in this section of the country.

Two corking good fields were uncovered by him in 1916, the Sarah Cherry, in the west part of the Boynton district, and that east of Cherryvale, Kan. The former was good for wells between 200 and 1,200 barrels at 1,700 feet. The Kansas wells were smaller but were only about a third as deep.

1917 ONE OF HIS BEST YEARS.

The year 1917 was a big one for the Gladys Belle. Early in the year he put down the first gas well in 22-14-11, which opened the famous Youngstown pool. This was a 23,000,000-foot strike. He continued his operations there, opening the oil pool in 13-11 known as the Stebbins pool in the Youngstown district. Here Mr. Stebbins owns some 400 acres, considered one of the most valuable pieces of acreage in the mid-continent field. He has brought in wells at from 300 to 1,500 barrels per day and he is drilling five more at the present time. The sand is found at about 2,300 feet.

This same year Mr. Stebbins also drilled the offset to the famous Trapshooter well in Butler county, Kansas, winning a race to see who would be able to strike pay first. With his hustling ability, Mr. Stebbins got there first, got a big well, was offered $300,000 for his quarter interest and took the money.

Last year saw him make a rich strike in what has come to be known as the Rosie Monroe pool at Stone Bluff. Sand found at 1,200 feet produced wells delivering 200 to 800 barrels daily. A large part of this lease is still to be developed.

Though this year is young, it appears to have added another to Mr. Stebbins' long list of drilling triumphs, for he has opened a new gas field near Yeager, in Hughes county, that offers great promise.

While Mr. Stebbins has prospected in Kansas and took a fling at the Texas oil game, he declares that Oklahoma holds greater prospects with surer returns than any other state in the union. He believes there are many big fields yet to be opened and he has secured hundreds of acres of leases with the intention of going down and seeing what he can find. He believes he will strike some rich production in what is still virgin territory.

At the present time he has a production of more than 1,500 barrels daily.

Today he is drilling 16 wells in Oklahoma and contemplates doubling this number within the next 30 days.

He has 200 apparently proven locations for wells which he proposes to put down at the earliest possible moment.

SUCCESSFUL IN OTHER ENTERPRISES.

While oil has been Grant Stebbins' major business, he has proved himself to be a remarkably versatile business man. More than a dozen enterprises, every one of them a big one, have been built up with him in the directorate, many of them with him at the head.

Second only to the extensive Oklahoma City interurban system is that of the Oklahoma Union Railway Company, of which he is the president. Also the Stebbins Investment Company. He is, and always has been since the organization of such a body, a director of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce. He also is a director in the Tulsa Automobile Corporation.

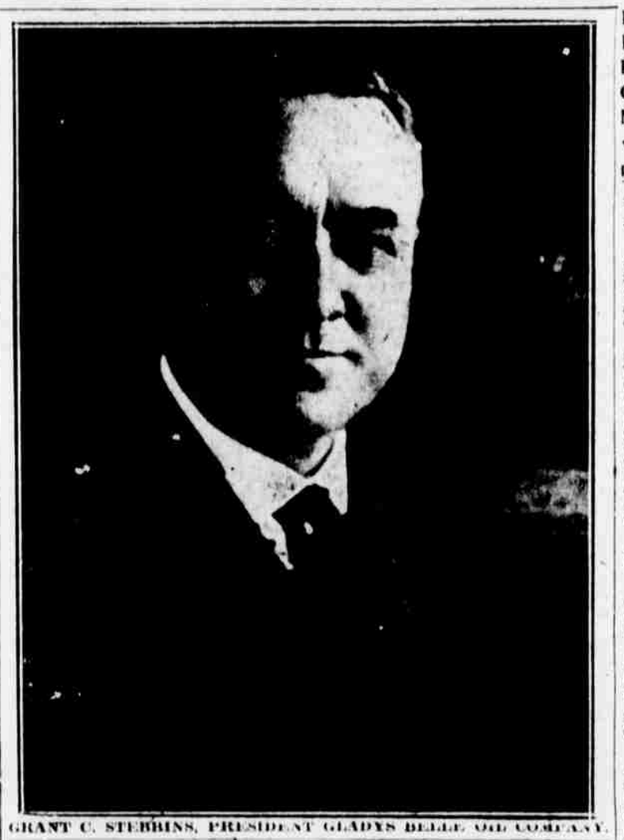
CHARLES A. STEERE EXPERIENCED DRILLER.

"I've got the best drilling man in the United States."

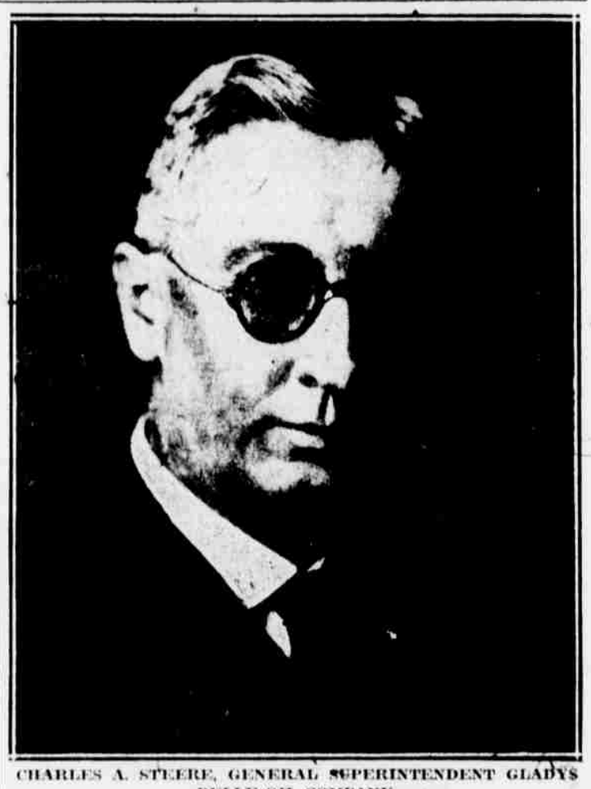
These are the exact words of Mr. Stebbins, in speaking of C. A. Steere, general superintendent of the Gladys Belle Oil Company, who has been Mr. Stebbins' right-hand man for the last six years.

Mr. Steere comes by his marvelous success as a superintendent of drilling naturally. He was born in Bellaire, Ohio, about the same time as Mr. Stebbins appeared upon the world stage in Illinois.

Mr. Steere's father was a driller before him, bringing in the first well ever drilled with cable tools. This was just about the close of the civil war. Mr. Steere himself has been in the oil game for some 35 years, having tackled every phase from that of laborer on up to his present position as general superintendent of one of Oklahoma's greatest pioneering oil companies. His experience covers work in the West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma fields.



GRANT C. STEBBINS, PRESIDENT GLADYS BELLE OIL COMPANY.



CHARLES A. STEERE, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT GLADYS BELLE OIL COMPANY.

Special Pipe Line Will Tap Okmulgee Acreage

Anticipting an enormous production from the Gladys Belle 1,280-acre block in northeast corner of Okmulgee county, the Texas Pipe Line Company is laying a 3-inch pipe line from their Youngstown pumping station to this location. The pipe line will be eight miles long.

The Gladys Bell already has brought in three good producers on the acreage to be tapped by the new pipe line and an extensive drilling campaign now is in prospect.

New Oil Pools and Gas Fields Opened by G. C. Stebbins.

1905—First gas well just west of Claremore.

1912—Gas fields near Eufaula, McIntosh county.

Gas fields near Quinton, north of McAlester.

East Glenn oil pool, 75 to 250 barrel wells at 1,800 feet.

1913—Lost City pool, 1,000 barrel wells at 1,500 feet.

Inola pool, 1,000 to 1,200 barrel wells, at 500 feet.

Yahola pool in Muskogee county, high premium oil at 1,200 feet.

1916—Sarah Cherry pool, in Boynton field, 200 to 1,200 barrel wells at 1,700 feet.

Cherryvale, Kansas, field, 25 to 100 barrel wells at 600 feet.

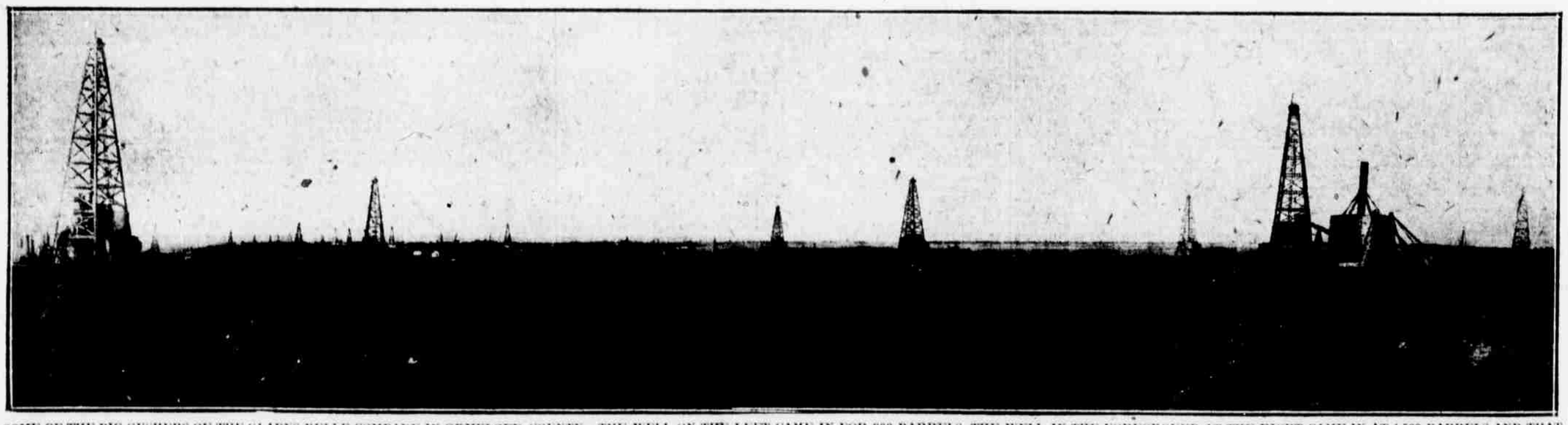
1917—First gasser in Youngstown pool, 23,000,000 cubic feet.

Stebbins oil pool, Youngstown district, 300 to 1,500 barrel wells at 2,300 feet.

Offset to Trapshooter well in Butler county, Kansas.

1918—Rosie Monroe pool, at Stone Bluff, 200 to 800 barrel wells at 1,200 feet.

1919—Gas field at Yeager, Hughes county.



SOME OF THE BIG GUSHERS OF THE GLADYS BELLE COMPANY IN OKMULGEE COUNTY. THE WELL ON THE LEFT CAME IN FOR 800 BARRELS, THE WELL IN THE FOREGROUND AT THE RIGHT CAME IN AT 1,500 BARRELS AND THAT IN THE BACKGROUND AT THE RIGHT AT 1,000 BARRELS. THE GLADYS BELL HAS 400 ACRES IN THIS TRACT.