

**Okmulgee District History**

One outstanding characteristic of the Okmulgee field, which has brought fame to the field and fortune to the men who have developed it, is the longevity and staying power of the producing oil wells. There are more than fifty oil wells in the county now producing oil which have been producing oil every day for more than ten years and which have every indication of being able to continue their production for at least ten years more. There are hundreds of wells from five to ten years old and only a very small percentage of producers have as yet been entirely abandoned in this field.

The first real oil well ever drilled in Okmulgee county is still producing every day, its present production being just above two barrels daily. It is the No. 1 Baker well of the Brown Oil & Gas Co. on the Nimrod N. Doyle allotment in the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of 28-13-14, three miles southwest of the city of Morris. This well was drilled into the pay sand at 1,533 feet on June 2, 1907, and has been producing oil every day since that time, approximately 15 years. This well had an initial flow of 1,000 barrels daily and it was several months before the production went below 100 barrels daily. From 140 barrels daily the production decreased very gradually to about three barrels per day and it has been producing from two to three barrels per day for the past two or three years. It is estimated that this well has produced more than eighty thousand barrels of oil at least.

There are four other wells on this same lease, all drilled in 1907, that are still producing, and two other wells on the lease drilled in 1909 and 1911 respectively are also pro-

ducing, the total daily production of the seven wells being about 45 barrels daily. The lease is still owned by the Brown Oil & Gas Co. There are many similar leases with wells of remarkable staying power in all of the older producing districts of the county. Records of all of these wells are accessible to any operator who desires further information regarding their history.

Oil from this No. 1 well of the Brown company has been sold at more than a score of different prices ranging from 35 cents in 1909 to \$5.50 per barrel in 1920.

Although the Brown well is referred to as the first real oil well drilled in the county, it was by no means the first hole drilled, nor the first producing well. The Brown well, however, started the development work which has broadened constantly, until today there are more than three hundred wells now drilling in the Okmulgee field. It is estimated that more than 15,000 wells, including oil and gas wells and dry holes, have been drilled in Okmulgee county since the first test for oil was made.

As far as can be determined the first test well ever drilled in this county was drilled on the townsite of Okmulgee in the southwest quarter of 6-12-12, in May, 1904. This hole was drilled by the Citizens Oil & Gas Co., of which W. E. Wood, now vice president of the Kingwood company was an officer. The hole was drilled to about 1,300 feet and found an oil sand at 1,272 feet which produced a small quantity of oil for a short time. The well was soon abandoned, however, and another one drilled near by, and this was also abandoned.

Scattering wells were drilled throughout the county during 1904, 1905 and 1906, tests being made in

both the Beggs and Morris districts during this period.

The first real oil boom in the county came in the early part of 1905 when a test well was drilled on the farm of C. L. Bonch, in the south half of the northwest quarter of 29-13-14, south of Morris. A large body of sand with a considerable initial flow of oil was found in this well, but the well soon ceased to produce. The test, however, started the prospecting which led to the discovery of paying oil producing areas in the Morris district and also supplied the name for the sand since known as "Bonch," which has been one of the big producing sands in the east side fields.

The original drilling contract for the Bonch well is now in the possession of A. D. Adcock of Okmulgee, and is an interesting document. The contract was drawn and signed on February 18, 1905. James B. Day of Hartford, Wis., who is named as party of the first part, agreed to drill to a depth of 1,500 feet for \$1,500 and a three-fifths interest in the lease and product of the well or wells on the same.

Twenty-seven men and women who then lived in or near Morris are named as parties of the second part and the agreement sets forth that they are to pay the contractor the \$1,500 and furnish teams to haul the machinery and lumber for the drilling rig to the site of the well and are to have a two-fifths interest in the lease and products of the well or wells.

The contract bears the original signature of James B. Day as party of the first part and the following signatures as parties of the second part: E. R. Hines, J. J. McCrorey, A. T. McCrorey, A. E. Flowers, E. L. Avers, Pioneer Trust company, Nicholas Allen & Lamar, Dr. J.

H. Adcock, R. G. Eager, Campbell & Clark, Cary Jennings, C. A. Lamar, John McAfee, T. T. Brown, Hall, Shipley & Patrain, Amanda Bonch, Laura Milam, Mrs. G. W. Cook, W. J. Anicker, Allen Huff, W. E. Shins and Eliza Robinson.

Considerable development in the Morris district followed the completion of the wells of the Brown Oil company in 1907 and the development spread from there to the Bonch sand district, Hold Hill and Schuller. Tiger Flats was first tested out in 1905 and the Preston district in 1909. Beggs reported three wells completed as early as 1907, but there was no real production in the Beggs district until 1918. The west-side fields recorded their first boom in January, 1917, when a well was completed in 6-13-12, Youngtown pool, opened in the early part of 1918 was the first big production in this county or field and new and larger pools have been opened at regular periods, since as the deeper drilling campaign has been extended over the county and the field.

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