

News Notes of Fall River County's Oil Fields

ITEMS GATHERED FROM THE NEWEST AND BEST OIL FIELD IN THE WESTERN COUNTRY TODAY.

George Walker and Fred McCain, of Rapid City, were here the first of the week making final arrangements for the organization of their oil company.

John F. Sidey, of Cripple Creek, Colorado, arrived Monday and is busy looking after his oil leases here this week. He expects to be drilling by the first of the year if proper arrangements can be made.

J. B. Barnard, of Oral, was a visitor in the city, Tuesday. He and his associates have secured about two sections more in the Slim Buttes South Dakota, where the Mid-West Company, have a well down some 2,600 feet at the present time. Mr. Barnard is in hopes that the Mid-West well will be brought in this winter, so that he can make some definite disposition of their large holdings, or arrange for the development of his acreage himself.

Oil Rig Being Unloaded at Edgemont

F. S. Hitch left this morning for Edgemont to superintend the unloading of the rig for the Alum Creek Petroleum Company, which arrived from Illinois yesterday. Steve Mader has the contract for moving the equipment out to Old Woman Creek where it will be set up, preparatory to starting active operations on their holdings.

The officers and directors, as well as the stockholders of the company, are pleased to know that the rig is now actually on its way to the field and in fact have begun to count time for the first well to be brought in.

Another Company Interested.

From the oil advertising page of Wednesday's Denver Post we note an ad for the Wyoming-Illinois Petroleum Corporation making their initial offering of 200,000 shares of treasury stock at 10 cents per share. John F. Sidey is named as field manager for South Dakota with offices in Hot Springs. Mr. Sidey has been here for the past three weeks securing leases in this county for his company. The company have approximately 6,000 acres in this state several hundred of which are located in this county, being near Hot Springs and Ardmore, where drilling operations are now being carried on by the Shiloh Oil and Refining Co., and the Homestake Gold Mining Company, of Lead.

Mr. Sidey will have offices in the Evans Hotel. It is indeed apparent that the big oil men of our country have their eyes on the oil possibilities of this county and will leave no stone unturned to bring about actual development within the next five or six months.

Ardmore Dome Notes.

The Wykote Oil Company is delayed somewhat in the starting of operations because of being compelled to wait for casing. This company has considerable casing and another standard rig coming from Watertown within the next thirty days or thereabouts. *****Howard Farnsworth, geologist for a big Oklahoma Oil Company claims to have located a dome at the head of Cottonwood draw in range 1, township 11 and 12 south, along the Wyoming line in South Dakota. Should this be the case there will be some development on the west of Ardmore, nearer than Old Woman Creek, in the near future. *****J. F. McConnell, J. E. Porter, Earl Kennedy, of Crawford, and J. H. Crowder, Rushville, met with W. B. Craven, J. D. Heywood and G. C. Caylor, local directors of the Ardmore Oil Company, Wednesday. The Ardmore Oil Company has now subleased the greater part of its large holdings and it is now practically certain that the stockholders who have waited patiently for some returns on their investment will soon be rewarded abundantly.—Ardmore American.

New Oil Company

One of the new oil companies to organize in Fall River county is the Ruffing Oil & Gas Company, with their main place of business at Edgemont, South Dakota.

This is a company organized by Christ Ruffing, from whom the company takes its name, is the president of the company, owning valuable ground in the Old Woman Creek dome, west of Edgemont. J. T. Hewitt, R. E. Porter, and L. S. Phillips, of Edgemont, and B. W. Wattles and Judge Ward of Hot Springs are among the incorporators of this company.

They have valuable holdings in Old Woman Creek and in different parts of Fall River county, and are negotiating for a number of every desirable leases in different parts of this county and Wyoming. As soon as they have secured all the leases they will offer a limited amount of stock to the public and will start drilling early in the spring.

The incorporators are very enthusiastic over their prospects and expect to make it one of the best companies hereabouts.

Visit Oil Fields

Last Saturday, Miss Ruth A. Eastman, Frank P. Hennard and Miss Brunnschmidt, of Buffalo Gap, in Mr. Frank S. Hitch's Overland made a trip to the Old Woman Creek Oil fields to view the field, while Mr. Hitch attended to some business matters for the Alum Creek Petroleum Company.

The day was ideal and gave the

visitors a chance to visit the greater part of the field, that is now being developed. The party reports quite a lot of activity for this time of the year. The Clark Petroleum & Refining Co., have two rigs up and are at work on the third one. The Wyoming & Dakota Petroleum Co., who are putting down a well on section 3, are down about 1350 feet and with reasonably good luck should be into the sands during the next two or three weeks. The Norbeck-Nicholson people are closed down temporarily, having just completed their No. 2, about ten days ago, which it is rumored is a 500 barrel producer. Several outfits are in the field getting lined up for extensive development work this winter and coming spring.

Geo. E. Lathom, field manager of the Alum Creek Petroleum Co., entertained the party at dinner in his new camp building; and from all reports the entire party enjoyed the "hot biscuits" and other palatable food served them. Mr. Dorety, the assistant, helped make the visitors enjoy their trip to the field.

Miss Brunnschmidt, returned, more of an "oil fiend" than ever before and it is safe to predict, that the people of Buffalo Gap have heard of the Old Woman Creek Dome by this time. She is a stockholder and booster for the Alum Creek Petroleum Company now.

Mr. Hitch has been meeting with success in the sale of stock for his company and whenever he runs into a doubting "Thomas," as to what holdings they have, away he goes to the fields with his prospect, and on the return another another block of stock has been sold.

Miss Ruth Eastman secured a picture of the site selected for the drilling of the company's first well; also several other pictures of the other rigs now in the field and close to the company's holdings.

While the members of the above party are boosting certain stocks, they are numbered among the boosters for the development of the oil industry in and around our city and county.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

Geologist Tells How Petroleum Deposits Can Be Determined.

The following article is by L. W. Trumbull, state geologist of Wyoming:

"The wrinkles in the earth's surface have often been compared to the wrinkles formed in the skin of a withered apple. The cooling earth shrinks in size and its cold outer skin must wrinkle in order to still fit the smaller earth's body.

When the last period of wrinkling took place in North America, Wyoming and adjacent territory happened to be one of the areas of maximum wrinkling and the convex wrinkling now show as mountain ranges, anticlines, domes and folds of various kinds, while the down wrinkles are the intervening synclines, or troughs. The waters, winds and frosts of untold years have carved the upward folds until the surfaces of many of them stand no higher above sea level than do the surfaces above the adjacent synclines.

The earth's skin is not a single layer, but is formed of innumerable layers, or strata, of limestones, sandstones and shales, with limitless variations of the three, the whole being many thousands of feet in thickness. Petroleum is supposed to be the fossil remnants of animal deep sea fish fats, which sank to the bottom in microscopic particles and were there covered up in the deep sea muds which later compacted and solidified into shale.

As the wrinkling process progressed, the waters carrying the tiny oil particles with them flowed to and fro thru whatever porous channels they could find, and, of course the nearest channels of such a nature were the nearest layers of sand, which cannot compact as closely as do shales.

When the wrinkling began, the accumulation of oil particles into oil pools must have begun, for oil is lighter than water, and as the oil laden waters passed thru the sand stratum, the oil must have been trapped and held in the crest of any upward fold in that stratum. That in brief and non-technical language is the most generally accepted theory of oil genesis and accumulation.

The state of Wyoming was entirely covered by the Cretaceous Sea which deposited alternating oil-laden muds and sand beds upon its bottom. When the period of wrinkling came, an almost untold number of folds of various kinds were formed and a certain portion of them were of the proper shape to entrap and retain the oil which gathered to them. Some of these folds have been cut to the heart of the granite by erosion and, of course, their contents were lost. Others still lie too deeply buried to be economically drilled at the present time, but still others lie with the sandstones at proper depth to have retained their oil and gas contents, yet near enough to the surface to be easily reached by present day drillers.

A fold of proper shape is usually spoken of among oil geologists as a "structure," admitting the implied adjective "favorable."

That many structures have not yet been found and drilled seems probable, for those which have been drilled are those which show their characteristics so plainly that one could not fail to recognize them. No doubt many less well defined

structures than those now drilled in Wyoming will yet be found. The present boom in Wyoming oil is causing the search for structures to be undertaken by many of the big oil producing concerns of the country. Nearly every one of the big concerns of the Mid-Continent fields now have their scouts and geologists at work in Wyoming and adjacent fields. The season of 1917 will see much new "wildcat" territory drilled and it is confidently expected that new production will be developed. That increased production will be made from the present oil fields seems certain."



Common Weakness.
"What have we here?"
"A group of savants have met to discuss the foibles of the human race."
"Well! Well! Incidentally, they are showing themselves not much above the common herd."
"What do you mean?"
"They dropped everything to pose for a newspaper photographer."

Politics as She Is Did.
Political Leader—How does Bump stand?
Henchman—All right, I guess. He belongs to the same political party as we do.
Political Leader—Confound it! That's no sign. Is he with us or against us?—Puck.

Hitting Back.
Wife—If a man loves his wife as much as she loves him, he will stop wasting his money on cigars if she asks him.
Hubby—Yes, but if the wife loves him as much as she ought to love a man who loves her enough to stop if she asks him, she won't ask him.

Great Expectations.
"Great things are expected from him."
"So?"
"Yes. Any number of men expect that some day he will pay back the money he has borrowed."—Detroit Free Press.

One Explanation.
"The Eskimos like phonographs."
"I can easily understand that."
"Yes?"
"The walls of an Eskimo's igloo are so thick he can't hear his neighbor's phonograph playing the tunes he abominates."

ART REPORTEE.



First Art Critic—They say Miss Daurer is wedded to her art.
Second Art Critic—Guess she'll have to get a divorce on the grounds of non-support.

Cranial Distinction.
Sometimes the crown a forehead shows, Sometimes a laurel wreath, And sometimes nature will disclose Gray matter underneath.

Almost Equal to Divorce.
"Ole Bill sez 'e 'ardly never sees 'is missus nah."
"Oh! 'Ow's that, then?"
"Cos she's all mornin' an' arternoon in a sugar cue, and 'e's all evenin' in a beer cue."—London Punch.

No Hysterics.
"What would you do if I should kiss you?"
"I'd take it calmly," said the girl.
"This weather is too hot for hysterics, and besides I've been kissed before."
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

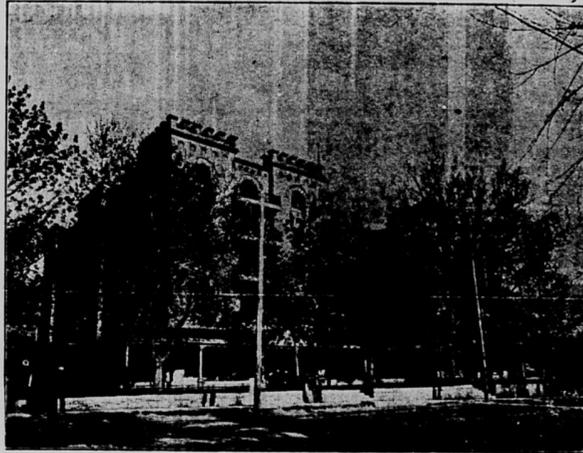
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