

DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

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NUMBER NINETEEN

GAS DISCOVERED NEAR DENISON

Big Well Struck at 500 Feet. Showing of Oil Also. Paying Oil Production Believed Further Down.

Added impetus was injected into Denison's, Texas, oil prospects Monday with the bringing in of 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 cubic feet, according to drillers working for the Denison Oil and Gas Company, a concern composed of Denison men. The well is on the farm of J. H. Dunning, nine miles northwest of Denison.

Officers of the company say also that at the present stage of the drilling, which is to be continued further, oil production will amount to from five to ten barrels a day. News that the well had come in spread like wildfire and as a result every train arriving in the city from the surrounding country is unloading oil men who have come to look over the field. This gasser came in at a depth of less than 500 feet in the first oil sand the drillers struck. At the second stratum of sand they believe oil production will come in with a daily flow of 50 to 100 barrels.

Several other companies and individuals have been drilling near Denison for a number of months, but this is the first production of which anything definite is known. Leases jumped from 40c and 50c an acre to \$2.50 and \$5 about ten days ago.

According to officers of the company which produced the well this morning, the gas threw the slush and mud of the well high into the air when the drill passed through a thin layer of gas rock. Just prior to the coming in of the gas a marked showing of oil came up with slush which was being pumped from the well. A. L. Lewis, secretary-manager of the company, had not been away from the well more than half an hour on his way to Denison this morning when the gas was struck.

PAVE 6TH AVE TO S.E. NORMAL

Petition Likely to Be Passed Among Property Owners of North Sixth Avenue in Near Future. Improvement Needed.

The talk of paving Sixth avenue from Main street to the Normal school grounds north of town, is gaining ground every day and is likely that a petition will be passed among the owners of property on this street in a very few days. Already a great many people interested on the street have signified their willingness to pave the street, and it is thought certain that the improvement will go thru if he petition racket is started.

This street from about Locust on to the Normal is in a horrible condition, and well nigh impassible in wet weather. In the bottom near the creek, is fearful, and the hundreds of teachers and pupils of the institution are forced to wade mud ankle deep to get to and from school in the rainy season.

This condition is giving the school a sort of black eye for the reason that out of town students realizing the condition hesitate to enroll in the local school, and there is no doubt that the attendance is cut down on this account.

The State Board of Education has left the intimation that Durant is expected to improve this street during the coming summer, although no direct request to this effect has been made either officially or otherwise. If the improvement should not be made, the board naturally would not go on with many improvements and enlargements, which are contemplated for the building and campus.

JURY COMMISSIONERS MEET.

The newly selected jury commissioner comprising Tom Benson of Durant, Jim Turner of Achille and John S. Cosgrove of Kenefick met this week to select a jury panel of three hundred men from which county and district court juries will be picked the coming year. One hundred men will be selected from each of the three commissioners districts.

FRENCH HEADS TONKAWA SCHOOL.

The State board of Education has elected W. C. French, present city superintendent of Lawton, as president of the University Preparatory school at Tonkawa. Mr. French was formerly a member of the Southeastern Normal faculty of this place and is regarded in state circles as an able educator.

CHILD DRIVERS MUST STOP.

Clamp, down goes the lid on the child automobile drivers of Durant, and Mayor Yarbrough and Chief of Police Taylor are sitting tight on the lid, and say that there will not be the least particle of loosening up, no matter how hard the lid may be pried and pushed against.

These officers say they are going to put a stop to the practice of little children driving auto over the city at a reckless speed, and that there is no better time to begin than right now.

There is a law against any child under 16 driving an auto in Durant. The officers have notified the owners of cars of this law, so don't be surprised if your boy is picked up by the officers some day.

And the speeders are coming in for a share of notice by the officers. Some of the principal streets are being used for a race track, so it seems. The mayor and chief of police are going after these fast ones, teeth and to-nail, and they are going to get results.

MORE FREEDOM FOR INDIANS.

The 11,981 restricted Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians are to be given more freedom in the transaction of their affairs according to the secretary of the interior, who has appointed a competency commission, to pass on the fitness of each individual restricted Indian. Each Indian, now restricted, who after examination is found competent to manage his affairs, will be given freedom, regardless of his degree of blood. The commission has now started work and it is estimated that four months will finish the task.

CITY COUNCIL IN BUSY SESSION

Denied Several Requests. Passed a New Show License Ordinance, and Accepted Plans for Improvement of Main Street.

The city council in session Tuesday night, did more business than merely approve plans for the paving of Main street. A gentleman from Oklahoma City, interested in the oil business, wanted the council to undo part of what they did some time ago, and that was to reind ordinances requiring that gasoline tanks be buried underground. As this and other ordinances were passed in conformity with fire insurance requirements, and the insurance rates of the community are effected, the request was naturally given scant consideration and was rejected.

A representative of a tent show that will be here next week asked that the daily license of a tent show be reduced from \$20 to \$10 a day, and this was done as requested. The council was agreed on this point, as they had satisfied themselves that twenty dollars a day is too high a tax to impose on traveling shows.

A representative of a local laundry asked that the council levy a tax on all incoming baskets of laundry from other cities. It was quickly decided that the city had no authority by law or otherwise to provide a remedy for the objection complained of.

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MAY HAVE FAIR AND MAYBE NOT

Will We or Will We Not Is Question Being Put Up to People of the Community. Dates Set Are Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16.

Shall we have a county fair this fall or shall we not, is the question that is being put to the business people of the city this week. If proper interest is shown, a fair it will be, if no interest is shown, a fair it will not be.

A small but enthusiastic number of fair fans met Tuesday night at call of President C. H. Crook of the Fair association, and cussed and discussed the situation at some length and finally concluded that the representative people and interests should be advised with, and if its desired, hold the fair. Dates had previously been agreed upon as four days, September 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Within the next few weeks, it is hoped that the officials of the fair may definitely announce whether we will have a fair or not this fall.

STREET TAX COLLECTIONS.

Buck Potts, street commissioner, is winding up the delinquent street tax collections for the year ending June 30, 1916, this week. He reports collections aggregating \$1,500, representing collections from five hundred men. After deducting about 500 men, who are not liable for this street tax, it is seen that he collections have been followed pretty closely this year.

TROOP TRAINS THRU DURANT.

That the trouble on the border between the United States and Mexico is not considered over by the government was evidenced very plainly here Sunday when a number of troop trains passed through enroute to San Antonio, Texas. All the trains went over the Katy and were carrying regulars of the United States army, and a large amount of equipment. All the men appeared to be veterans, and the trains were certainly loaded down with fighting equipment. Among the equipment which was of interest to people here who saw it were the armored motor trucks, machine guns, and big field pieces. A large amount of this kind of equipment was carried and it looked as if the soldiers were going down for a long stay and to do some real fighting before their return. Particulars concerning this troop movement could not be obtained, except that their first destination was San Antonio.

KATY NEW TRAIN IN DITCH.

Katy train number seven, the new steel train, due to pass Durant at 9:35, was wrecked near Clinton, Missouri, caused by a broken rail, injuring twenty-two passengers, two of whom were Oklahomans. The train was making forty-five miles an hour over a fill when the accident happened, and the engine, tender and five coaches were derailed and turned over on their sides at the bottom of the embankment. All injured save six were able to extricate themselves from the wreck. Had the train not been made up of all steel coaches it is thought that many would have been killed.

LET CONTRACT ON MAY 29TH

Many Bidders Expected to Compete for Big Main Street Job. Will Use the Bituminous Asphalt. Street to Be 27 Feet Wide.

On Monday night May 29th the city council will let the contract for the paving of Main street from Fifth avenue to the city limits of Durant, and judging by the interest already being manifested it is evident that competition for the job will be keen. There will probably be at least one loyal man on the job, E. C. Baum, who while working for another concern laid the present Main street brick pavement from the Katy to Fifth avenue.

The plans and specifications call for a street 30 feet wide from inner line to inner line of concrete curbs of which width 27 feet shall be bituminous macadam. On either side of macadam pavement will be laid a concrete gutter 18 inches wide and a concrete curb 6 inches in thickness. There will be laid a 4-inch foundation of crushed stone, upon which will be laid a 2-inch layer of chert or other hard broken stone that would pass on inch ring, with a mixture of not less than thirty nor more than fifty per cent of ground natural bituminous stone, enough being used to thoroughly fill the voids in and bind the hard broken stone, and all rolled with a 10-ton roller until brought to a smooth, even finish of wearing surface an dleft to stand twenty-four hours; then to be turned over for traffic.

The process that is to be used is patented and is owned by J. S. Downard of Ardmore who will receive a royalty of twenty cents a square yard for all pavement laid according to his plan.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish the city bond in the sum of thirty percent of the contract price, to guarantee faithful execution of contract, and a twenty percent five year maintenance bond to guarantee the paving as regards wear and tear for five years.

In view of the fact that the city has proceeded this trip by petition and not by resolution, it is hardly probable that any slip will knock the deal, as has occurred in four former occasions. About seven-eighths of the people on the street have signed the petition, and are anxious for the improvement to proceed at once.

SERIOUSLY HURT IN BUGGY SMASH

Miss Beulah Emmert and Miss Susie Cat and Mrs. M. E. Mackey Sustain Serious Injuries When Buggy Driven by Young Durham Upsets Their Buggy.

Mrs. M. E. Mackey of this city, Miss Susie Cat of Heavener, and Miss Beulah Emmert of Talihina, were all seriously injured late Tuesday evening, in a collision between their vehicle and a two horse rig driven by a young son of Dr. Durham, living east of the city.

Miss Cat suffered a badly broken elbow, which may result in permanent disability of the arm. Miss Emmert's head and face was badly lacerated and she received internal injuries, and Mrs. Mackey suffered a bad cut over the left eye and a dislocated arm. Miss Mabel Curnutt of Talihina, was injured. The buggy was upset and all the ladies pitched forward violently to the pavement by the collision. The three young ladies were being taken to the train by Mrs. Mackey at the time the accident occurred. All were given medical aid, and moved to the Mackey residence, where they are reported as doing nicely.

The Mackey buggy a one horse rig was going south on Second and made the turn onto Main, just as the two horse buggy driven by the Durham boy was coming up Main to the west.

Eye witnesses say that the Durham boy was driving rather fast, was too near the middle of the street and did not appear to be watching where he was going. As the Mackey buggy took the turn round the post in the center of the street intersection, the other buggy crashed into it, the tongue catching the rear wheel and upsetting the buggy. Fortunately, none of the horses mixed up in the wreck were panicky, as a worse smash up than ever might have resulted.



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