



The preacher, at the end of a stirring address, shouted: "Hands up all those who want to go to Heaven!"

A quiet little man remained seated, and the preacher shouted at him: "Don't you want to go to Heaven?"

In a thin voice the little one replied: "Not immediately."

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How High Is Up?

Mickey Whalen—Why do you use that blue pencil so much, George?

Editor Blaisdell—Well, to make a long story short I use it to make long stories short.

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TOO LATE

I only knew

Her eyes were blue
Her lips were sweet,
Her little feet
Walked daintily,
I only knew
Her supple grace,
The wistful charm
That lit her face . . .
Ah, me!—Ah, me!

I didn't know

she couldn't sew,
She couldn't bake,
She couldn't make
A bed aright,
I didn't know
She nagged and wept,
Or that her room
Was never swept
From dawn to night—
But now I know!

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"My boy friend made two long runs in the first quarter of the game."

"Well, I would make him buy me a new pair of stockings."

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Traveler: "Who's the close-mouthed individual in the corner? He hasn't spoken for ten minutes?"

Village Wit: "He's just waitin' till Pete comes back with the spittoon."

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Pointed Query

First Cowboy—What puzzles me is why God ever invented cactus.

Second Cowboy—Yeah, that is a sticker.

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Two merchants were hanging to a strap in a street car the other evening. Both remained quiet for many minutes, gazing with worried and beaten expressions into space. Finally one of them gave vent to a long drawn sigh. The other one looked around and with a sneer said: "You're telling me?"

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Miss Sophia Petunia Jones tripped into a lawyer's office. "Can't Ah sue dat no 'count Rastus Smith fo' somepin, mister?" she asked. "He promised to marry me, dat he did, an' yistiddy he done 'loped with another gal."

"Promised to marry you eh?" mused the lawyer. "Well, have you anything in black and white to show for it?"

"No, sub," replied Sophia. "Jes black."

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He: "Why did you quit your job?"

She: "The boss was so bowlegged I fell through his lap."

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Are you working?

Workman: Yes, I'm assistant to the car tapper.

Manager: And what does the car tapper do?

Workman: When a train of cars is on that track he goes and hits the wheels with a hammer.

Manager: What good does that do?

Workman: I don't know, but when he hits the wheel, I listen.

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Lots of us get credit for enjoying our work when we are really only smiling over what we did last night.

Recognizing A New Epoch

Has a new epoch arrived in the oil history of Montana?

An epoch is very apparent when it is viewed across a long span of years, but it is hard to recognize an epoch in the present tense, except perhaps when a person visits the well drilling on Milk River, as did the writer.

Milk River is a structure on the Blackfoot Indian reservation near Glacier park, on the Montana-Alberta border. It is similar in many ways to the famous Turner Valley oil field, farther north. The type of folding and the formations are almost identical.

However, this wildcat well marks an epoch for two reasons:

1. It is the first deep test on a sharp-dip structure in Northern Montana, and
2. It is the first rotary test in the history of Northern Montana oil development.

It is easy to grasp the tremendous significance of these two facts. First of all, Milk River fold is adjacent to an area that is world-famous because of the tremendous oil seeps in the mountains in and adjacent to Glacier Park. This is one of the most petroliferous regions in the world. Yet the closest commercial oil field is the Cut Bank field, which is actually a part of the Kevin-Sunburst uplift, and 50 miles distant.

The Kevin-Sunburst structure is absolutely unlike the Milk River fold. Whereas Kevin-Sunburst is a low, flat dome of the mid-continent type, Milk River is a sharply folded structure where there is a high, narrow, trough-like fold which may contain oil and gas. A similar sharp-fold is producing to the north and a similar sharp-fold is producing to the south of Milk River but this is the first time that a fold between the two has been prospected.

Because of the fact that there was oil in a flat dome in Kevin-Sunburst, operators have confined their efforts to the plains areas. They have overlooked the sharp folds for the reason that they hoped to find another Kevin-Sunburst and the further reason that the sharp-dip structures require deeper and more difficult drilling, as a rule.

Not until Ohio Oil Company went into the sharp-dip area of southern Montana did operators begin to realize that they were overlooking a tremendous opportunity in the district adjacent to the Rocky Mountains, especially between the great Kevin-Sunburst field and the vast field of oil seeps in the Rocky Mountains.

The writer only recently went to view the seeps and the old wells at Oil City in southern Alberta, not far from the Prince

of Wales hotel. Here oil prospectors drilled in the heart of the mountains and found oil. Doubtless there will be some intelligent development of the oil in the Cameron Creek district in the not distant future, for the presence of the oil cannot be questioned. Yet it is not the proper place to search for commercial accumulation of oil.

The fact that there IS oil in the formations within reach of the drill makes it all the more logical that prospectors should look for large pools collected in the well enclosed oil traps which geologists call anticlines, paralleling the mountains.

No well has yet been drilled to a probable producing horizon in this region. The old Mountain Chief well was drilled to the lower Colorado formation. It was reported to have had a showing of oil, although a long way off the Kevin-Sunburst horizon. Two other wells started on the structure were completed to no probable producing horizon. Instead of oil being trapped in the lower Colorado, as the United States Geological Survey first expected, it is now definitely known that oil will more likely be found either in the Kootenai, in the Ellis or in the Madison lime.

At Cut Bank oil has been found on the East edge of the Indian reservation. This oil is coming from a horizon lower than any tested thus far in the sharp-dip structures of Northern Montana.

North of the Montana boundary a short distance a well drilled on what is known as Spring Coulee or Twin Butte structure had oil but in a horizon thus far untested, in the sharp-dip area. With oil lapping up against the Milk River structure on the Northeast and on the southwest, it does not seem possible that this sharply folded structure does not contain oil. The problem is to get a hole down to the known producing horizons.

The solution of this problem apparently rests in the ROTARY DRILL. The rotary is as new to Montana today as is television. Rotaries changed the oil history of the Midcontinent and Texas and made possible the wonderful deep fields of California. But it is a stranger in Montana. Ohio Oil company is using rotaries on the new Dry Creek field but this, again, is an innovation in which the Ohio has demonstrated leadership.

The big rotary on Milk River is making history for it is very likely the forerunner of new drilling methods in Northern Montana. It is a fact that the rotary will not displace cable tools on 2,000-foot drilling but the rotary is going to do all of the prospecting of the future.

The rotary has many advantages over cable tools, owing to modern improvements. Formerly it drilled crooked holes. Now the pressure on the tools is regulated to a pound. Formerly it was impossible to get samples and there was danger of mudding off producing oil and gas sands. Now it is possible to get better samples from a rotary hole than from cable tool drill cuttings. The rotary, furthermore, can core ahead and give positive information regarding the thickness, prosity, saturation and content of oil sands. There is no guess-work with a core.

It costs more to rig up a rotary outfit than cable tools, of course, although portable rotary outfits are being perfected. The advantage is in the fact that once a rotary is rigged up, it will complete wells in less than half the time required for cable tools. Furthermore, once a rotary is rigged up, an operator is not easily halted by superstitions, as he is with a post-hole digger. He will not quit as long as he has a good hole, with no expensive casing required. The rotary mudds the walls of the hole and greatly curtails the cost of casing, which is a very large item in the expense of cable tool holes. The necessity of running another string of casing has caused the demise of many a promising wildcat before it reached a probable producing horizon.

A bunch of cable tool drillers will probably be waiting for the writer around the corner with some bricks when this goes into print, but the fact remains that Mr. Drake's system of drilling must give way to modern methods just as the phonograph has had to give way to the modern radio. With the arrival of rotaries in Northern Montana will come DEEP DRILLING. And with deep drilling, Montana will come into its own as a great oil producing state. The presence of oil in the Devonian and lower sands in Montana is an established FACT. But old-fashioned methods have deterred operators from drilling to these horizons. Let some LEADER bring in deep sand production and everyone else will follow, but for the present none is willing to LEAD.

Ten years ago the writer made a pilgrimage to Milk River anticline to see the first well started, the Mountain Chief well, named after that venerable old Blackfoot chieftain of that name. Ten years ago the trip was an all-day journey over cow-trail roads. This week the entire journey from Great Falls to the Milk River well and return was completed in a day, with a beautiful hard-surface highway all the way to Browning. The rig on the Mountain Chief well was the best of its kind 10 years

ago but it "ran out of hole" before it reached the first probable producing horizon. This was in bold contrast to this wonderful rotary rig which has drilled several mile-deep wells in Turner Valley field, bringing in tremendous producers.

The contrast of it all made one member of the party state the situation in this terse sentence:

"It looks like a new deal."

It IS a new deal for the Montana oil industry. It is a well on a new type of structure than heretofore been tested, with equipment developed in the past 10 years adequate to go to horizons PROVEN for oil during these past 10 years, and likely to come into production at the time of the most promising market situation in the 10-year history of the Montana oil industry.

We believe that the rotary is here to stay and with it deep drilling will shortly become a fact in Montana as it is a fact in New Mexico and other places which would have remained undeveloped except for deep drilling.

The ratio of greater royalty values on deep and shallow production ranges up to ten to one. Milk River royalty in California, were this structure located in California, where deep drilling is a fact, would likely cost twenty times as much as it costs today in Montana where deep drilling is only a theory. With deep drilling, EVERY royalty in Montana will increase in value. Most fortunate is the man who has shallow production to prove the presence of oil in the structure, purchased before the true worth of deep-sand production is known. The presence of oil in an upper sand, no matter how little, is pretty conclusive evidence of the presence of oil in the NORMAL horizons. Elsewhere the normal horizons are found in deeper sands than those now producing in Montana. As realization of the value of the rotary has come to Montana—belatedly—so will come the full appreciation of the similarity of deep sand conditions to other states where the greatest pools have been found in the older formations.

For that reason, a new epoch is at hand, if it has not already arrived. The royalty investor who can grasp this situation can look forward to the not distant future when deep sand production may make of a mediocre present-day royalty investment a tremendous fortune-maker.

Anyone interested in receiving current publications regarding new developments in Montana oil, including Milk River, may receive them by sending in the attached coupon.

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