

DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION		
Week Ending Sept 15 Allowable		
Montana	10,290	8,900

POSTED FIELD PRICES	
Kevin-Sunburst	1.80
Pondera	1.80
Cut Bank	1.80
Cut Creek	1.80

Montana Journal



VOLUME 14—NUMBER 227. GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1934. 5c PER COPY, CANADA, 10c.

Curtailment Program Awaiting Word From Washington "Hearing"

Montana Commission Finds August Crude Sales Exceeded Production—Price Cut, If Any, Is Postponed.

While waiting for word from the Planning and Coordination committee of the petroleum administration at Washington, the Montana Petroleum Conservation Board was this week preparing for the possible instruction to curtail production in the North Montana oil fields.

So far as can be determined, the "hearing" in Washington was attended by Roby Penn of the Texas Pacific Coal & Oil company and a representative of the Ohio Oil company, one or both of whom were apparently the complainants before the federal administration. The T-P has 500 barrels and the Ohio has 900 barrels of reported daily over-production for which there is no market.

Secure Market Data
On the other hand, the Montana commission made a careful survey of production during the past week, securing from the various buyers of oil their estimated monthly requirements. It was found that there was no increase in storage in North Montana oil fields during the months of July and August. During three months the amount of storage actually decreased, so while the state exceeded its allotment, more oil was purchased by refiners than actually produced during the 31-day period.

Hang Onto Pondera
Another interesting angle was the reported refusal of Canadian buyers to relinquish any Pondera production. Montana refiners are reported to have offered to take up to 800 barrels of Pondera crude, which would allow the use of 800 barrels of Kevin-Sunburst crude, but the Canadian buyers refused to take the exchange.

It is reported that the Great Falls refinery is using all the Pondera crude it can secure, and will put on a fleet of large trucks to haul crude from Kevin-Sunburst, past Pondera, to supply the local plant.

No Crude For New Plants
Located beside the highway between Cut Bank and Shelby is a 500-barrel refinery, newly built, that is not operating because of lack of crude.

There is talk of the construction of a refinery at Lethbridge to handle Kevin-Sunburst crude but the backers are confronted by the lack of a dependable supply of crude. The so-called "distress" oil cannot be contracted for and there is not enough other oil available at present to justify the proposed investment.

Storage Is Empty.
Principal buyers are reported sitting back with empty storage, each apparently waiting for the other to cut the price of crude. Ohio Oil company which names the price at which it is willing to buy Kevin-Sunburst.

DAILY PRODUCTION MONTANA-WYOMING WEEK ENDED SEPT. 15	
MONTANA—	
Cat Creek	620
Kevin-Sunburst	5,220
Pondera	760
Cut Bank	3,380
Buckley Border	270
Lake Basin	40
TOTAL	10,290
WYOMING—	
Big Muddy	1,800
Elk Basin	550
Grass Creek	1,040
Lebarge	1,420
Lance Creek	340
Lost Soldier	1,430
Oregon Basin	3,300
Rock River	1,480
Salt Creek	18,050
Garland	500
Byron	290
Badger Basin	40
Dallas-Derby	510
Dutton Creek	70
Ferris	28
Frannie	2,220
Greybull	1,210
Hamilton Dome	1,210
Hudson	310
Midway	90
Osage	720
Pilot Butte	30
Poison Spider	220
South Casper	500
Teapot	20
Black Mountain	400
TOTAL	36,480
Colorado	3,420
Total Rocky Mountain	50,390

Texaco Adds Another 250-Barrel Well To Cut Bank's Laurels

Another stellar well was added to the growing list in Cut Bank field this week as Texas company's Hinkle No. 5 started off at better than 250 barrels per day.

This well is in NE 1/4 NE 1/4 2-34-6W, in the center of the field, and was drilled into the sand on Sept. 1. The Cut Bank sand was found at 2675 feet and drilling continued to 2810. Oil rose 2500 feet almost immediately and it started off swabbing at the rate of more than 250 barrels per day.

Santa Rita's Whetstone No. 4, in the north end of the field, SE 1/4 NE 1/4 22-35-6W, is still swabbing 300 barrels per day. It was completed August 26 and has by far the largest initial production of any well in the field, having averaged well in excess of 300 barrels, with every prospect that it will continue to swab for many weeks to come.

Montana Power Gas company's more sensational gusher, the Vanormer No. 1, in the south end of the field, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 8-33-5W, is still producing around 200 barrels, pumping and flowing. It started off with the highest initial of any well in the field. A flow bean was placed in the bottom but this soon choked up with paraffin. This trouble has reduced the initial flow of this well.

MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES BESET CUT BANK OPERATORS AND SLOW DOWN COMPLETIONS

Although Cut Bank added a couple of nice producers during the past week there was an unusual number of fishing jobs and other mechanical difficulties that perhaps reflected the haste of operators to get their wells down to the sands before winter sets in.

In addition to the Texas-Hinkle No. 5 well, which tapped the gas-oil area along the last edge of Cut Bank oil field, providing as usual, a large well, Charley Grant and associates completed Yuncok No. 2, in SW 1/4 SW 1/4, at 2930 feet. They had sand from 2851 to the bottom but most of their pay came below 2915. It swabbed 60 barrels during the first 24 hours and is now swabbing around 25 barrels.

Consolidated Gas-Ewing No. 2, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 34-35-6W, is drilling near the sand, at 2795. Craig-Harper has been changed to Fisk-O'Neil-Harper No. 1, in NE 1/4 21-34-6W, and is spudding at 85. Crumley-Jones No. 1, NW 1/4 SE 1/4 31-34-6W, is drilling at 2265.

Fulton Gets Water Shut Off
Fulton-Haggerty No. 2, NW NW 1/4 NW 1/4 15-34-6W, which had water break in from the surface pipe has shut off the water with 121 sacks of cement and is cleaning out at 2808 although the bottom is at 2951.

Montana Power Operations
Montana Power-DeCort Unit No. 1, C 3/4 SW 1/4 23-35-5W, is fishing at 2700. They had jarred the tools up to 1800 at last reports. Montana Power-Gaines No. 1, NW 1/4 NNE 1/4 6-32-5W, is rigging up. Montana Power-Pioneer Unit, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 21-35-5W, is a completion at 2808 with a total flow of 11,560,000 feet of gas. Montana Power-Scheurman No. 1, (Continued on Page Five)

GUY CRAIG IS STRICKEN AT CUT BANK

Guy Craig, veteran oil operator, died Monday afternoon on the derrick floor of his rig in Cut Bank field from a hemorrhage of the throat. While he had been ailing several months ago he appeared recently in good health. He was taken with sudden spasm of coughing while watching his crew spudding a well. He began coughing blood and died in his driller's arms.

Craig was 62 years old and had been raised on a derrick floor. He was formerly superintendent of Mid-Northern operations in Cut Bank, Montana's first commercial field, and was a pioneer in Wyoming oil development. Before that he was contractor and superintendent in California oil fields. It was on his California lease that the famous Dubbs cracking patents were worked out. Certain valves used on a plant intended to remove water and basic sediment from crude later became the basic patents for the Dubbs cracking system in refining. In Wyoming he operated in the Grass Creek field in the hectic



GUY CRAIG
Veteran oil man who died on derrick floor of his Cut Bank rig.

days of strong-arm rule in Wyoming and was later superintendent of the Kinney-Coastal Oil company. Going with the Midwest interests, he was assigned to Montana when Cut Bank came in, as Mid-Northern superintendent. With the development of Kevin-Sunburst, Craig left the Midwest and was associated with Charles Orchard in the early days of the great North field. In 1926 he renewed an association started in Wyoming with Ralph Arnold, and

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THREE WELLS DRILLING IN HILLS AREA

Wild Brothers of Whitlash have abandoned their Mahoney No. 2 well CWL SW 1/4 SE 1/4 23-37-4E, Whitlash oil field. They struck a vein of quicksand which they were unable to shut out. They are moving their rig to the location directly west of the No. 2 well. The new location is SE 1/4 SW Sec. 23-37-4E.

This is one of three active wells in the Hills area. Western Natural Gas-Schaffer No. 3, SW 1/4 SE 1/4 14-37-4E, is straightening out a crooked hole at 300 feet. They were down 1100 feet before the crook became apparent.

On Flat Coulee the Hamilton well is making slow but steady progress, underreaming and carrying 10-inch casing. The formation is so soft that it is necessary to drill ahead 20 feet and then lower casing. While not contemplated in the original plan, this is going to result in giving a much better hole to care for the first sands, expected around 1900 feet, which may carry oil, gas or water. Otherwise, the crew would be working in an 8-inch hole, meaning a second reduction before reaching the sand, expected at around 2680.

MONTANA HOMESTEAD IS NOW HIS FORTUNE

The owner of the farm on which the sensational Montana Power-Van Ormer producer in Cut Bank is located is Frank Van Ormer, a pioneer resident of Cut Bank whose home is now in Tracy, Cal. He will be cashing fancy royalty checks for the next several years of his life.

He sold half of his royalty on the chance that his farm would not produce, before the first well was drilled.

DRY CREEK WELL DOWN 5861 FEET

Ohio Oil company's Maddox well on Dry Creek structure, in south central Montana, is reported at a depth of 5861 and still drilling. Ohio's Byron-Union No. 2 is drilling at 4715 feet in the red beds.

KEVIN FIELD HAS NOT LOST ITS OLD "PEP"

Another 50-barrel well came in this week to prove that Kevin-Sunburst field has not lost its "pep", as had been surmised by some during the three year cessation of drilling in this field. Operators expect, in due course of time, that someone is going to bust in another multi-thousand barrel well, as in the past.

The new producer is the C. C. Operating Co.-Fryberger No. 1, SE SE 1/4 SW 1/4 24-35-2W, in the west central portion of the field. The well bottoms at 1601 feet.

Crumley's Shaw No. 4, NE 1/4 SW 1/4 35-36-2W, is a 50-barrel well, producing from the Sunburst sand. Acid was called upon to save a dry hole on the Seabrook lease this week on Engleking-Pfabe No. 6, NW 1/4 NE 1/4 30-35-2W, not far from the Fryberger wells. The No. 6 had only a showing of oil at 1524. It was drilled in on Sept. 17 and acid is being injected today. Potlatch-Fee No. 4, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 21-34-1W, being drilled for a gas supply for the Big West refinery at Kevin, is about to drill into the sand. Pipe was set at 1155 above the Sunburst gas sand. McKee-Fee No. 8, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 19-35-1W, is drilling at 1400. Imperial Petroleum No. 14, SW 1/4 NE 1/4 19-35-1W, is drilling at 970. Beardslee-Swears No. 3, SE 1/4 NW 1/4 9-35-2W, is drilling at 860, where 8-inch casing was set. Bi-State-Haemel No. 3, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 2-34-1W, is drilling at 967.

TEXACO BUYS T-P STATIONS IN GREAT FALLS

The Texaco company has bought the four Great Falls filling stations and other properties of the Comet Oil company from Texas-Pacific Coal & Oil company and will take possession next Tuesday, Sept. 25. The Comet stations are considered four of the best in Great Falls. Texaco company was preparing to erect a station on its lot at the southwest corner of Second Street and First avenue north before the Comet deal was consummated. Since one of the Comet stations is one block west, at the corner of First avenue and Park Drive, the Comet deal will temporarily halt the building plans on the Second street corner. The Texaco company is engaged in the complete cycle of the oil in-

OLD MAN WINTER SAYS ICY "HOWDY" TO THE OIL FIELDS

The best old pro-rater and drilling curtailer in the world is "just around the corner." He is Old Man Winter, who demonstrated his art, on Wednesday of this week by spreading a blanket of snow over Montana. It did not stay long, except in the hills, but it served to remind oil operators that it is time to bury flow lines and to get gun barrels in readiness to take the moisture out of the oil. No lines froze up, so far as known, although it was below freezing for more than 18 hours. This is the first touch of winter but the weather prophets say that it will be an early and long and hard winter, in which case there will be little worry about restricting new drilling or operating production.