

Montana Journal

ESTABLISHED 1921 PUBLISHED WEEKLY
Owned and published by the Montana Oil Journal, a Montana corporation. Address all communications to 618 First National Bank Building, Great Falls, Montana. O. I. DeSCHON, Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
\$2.00 Per Year in Advance. Canada and Foreign Subscriptions \$2.50 Per Year. \$1.25—6 Months. Foreign, \$1.75—6 Months. Published Every Saturday.

Entered as Second-Class Matter April 23, 1921, at the Post Office at Great Falls, Montana, Under Act of March 3, 1879.

The Montana Oil and Mining Journal endeavors to insure the honesty and trustworthiness of every advertisement it prints and to avoid the publication of all advertisements containing misleading statements or claims.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

LAUGHING AWAY AN OPPORTUNITY

"Darius Green and his Flying Machine" did more to delay the development of aviation than any other factor, for the reason that it is easier to laugh away a new enterprise or idea than to prove its value. It required a Lindberg, spanning the ocean in a non-stop flight, to wipe derisive grins off the faces of disbelievers.

In like manner, the greatest enemy of mine financing today is Mark Twain's definition: that a mine is a hole in the ground owned by a liar. Any who has read Twain's experiences in a mining venture is ready with a grin when approached on the subject of mine financing.

That the famous Mr. Clemmings should be highly successful as an author and a failure as a miner is not surprising. Harry Sinclair was a failure as a merchant and a druggist. He "went broke" in practically everything he tried, until he went into the oil business, in which he amassed millions. That is true of men in every line of business. Few ribbon clerks can become successful mine operators and by the same token, few gold miners could hold a job as a ribbon clerk. Yet there is a prevalent idea that anyone should be able to succeed in mining.

The human element will always be a deciding factor in the success of a mining project. The great Homestake mine is paying millions of dollars in dividends from the mining and milling of low-grade ores—ores so "lean" that the average miner could not afford to handle them. The success of the Homestake in the hands of a Mark Twain would be highly improbable. Yet oddly enough, Twain's failure laughed away many an opportunity for profitable investment.

Oil Trade Notes Of Interest to Refiners and Marketers

TAXES GIVE GOVERNMENT 57% PROFIT

The Alabama gasoline dealer who posted a sign at his filling station explaining that while motor fuel costs 10c a gallon retail, he has to charge 22c because of taxes, has started oil men of Oklahoma, where much of the gasoline comes from, wondering just who really makes money from gasoline—dealer or government.

Oklahoma oil men sell gasoline wholesale, in carload lots. They say an ordinary carload of common white gasoline sells at the refinery for \$375. Costs of wholesale and retail distribution, which include the wages of the filling station attendant, transportation, equipment, waste, loss—and profits, if any—are estimated at \$400 per carload.

Federal and state governments then add taxes amounting to \$440, which represents a net profit of about 57 per cent for government, since the oil men have to collect the tax themselves. Motorists eventually buy at a cost to them of \$1,125, this carload of gasoline worth \$375 F. O. B. refinery and \$775 put-in-tank, roadside.

Sixty Continental station operators met in Great Falls this week to hear Frank Moore, sales promotion manager, of Ponca City, Okla., who gave the sales promotion program for 1936. H. T. Rapp, assistant division manager of Butte presided.

John L. "Chick" Sulgrove has changed the name of his service station in Choteau from "Tom's Service Station" to "Chick's Shell Station."

British-American Oil Co., owning the Coutts refinery, has purchased the distributing system of the Okanagan-Kootenay Oil Co., in interior British Columbia, including the holdings of R. J. Christian, manager of the company, at Penticton.

For Complete Satisfaction

Two Grades Of Our Gasoline:

SILVER GAS the crystal-clear, high-octane white gas that is creating a sensation in the motoring world. CHIEF MOTO GASOLINE that is a dependable and popular gasoline for all general motoring.

Various Types Of Greases and Lubricating Oils:

RING-FREE MOTOR OIL and ROYAL SCOT MOTOR OIL sold in all weights for all types of lubrication.

Dependable Distillate And Good Deisel Fuel

Two motor fuels that meet special needs in a highly satisfactory and economical manner.

HOME OIL & REFINING CO.

"An all-Montana Institution"—Great Falls



A customer stepped into a gun store, apparently intent on making a purchase. The salesman set about showing him what was in stock. The first weapon brought out was a handsome, single trigger, over-and-under Francot, and just about the last word in a very swell shotgun. The customer was very much interested, but the price, \$600 was far beyond his means. The next assortment shown was a group of

English doubles brought out by gunsmiths known all over the world for their expert craftsmanship. Still too high, thought the customer, and then asked if they had something cheaper.

Yes, the salesman said, there were some inexpensive models that were made in this country and he could let him have one in the neighborhood of \$40.

"I'll take one of these," the customer told the salesman with considerable enthusiasm. "It's really going to be a very simple wedding."

CLEVER THESE CHINESE

A new Chinese cook employed on a ranch in the Far West, was the butt of a good many practical jokes. On the first night, the hands nailed his shoes on the floor. On the second night, they poured cold water on him as he lay sleeping. This went on for about ten days without a single protest from the cook. The hands decided he was a good sport.

"Ling," one of them said finally, "you're all right. We'll call off the practical jokes."

"No more practical jokes?" Ling asked, "All right, no more ketchup in coffee."

The bearded lady in the circus died today, leaving a wife and four children.

Visitor (to little girl) "Was your grandpa covered by insurance when his home burned?" Little Girl: "No'm; just a night-shirt."

After the golf game, having just refused a drink and a smoke, the new member explained as follows: "Gentlemen, it may surprise you, but I do not drink, or smoke, or swear, or run around with women. In fact, I have but one vice."

"What's that," someone asked, and the new member replied, "Well, I lie just a little."

Drill Contractor (to applicant): "I am inclined to give you the position if you understand the dou-

ble-entry system of bookkeeping." Applicant: "I do, indeed! At my last place I had to do a triple entry—a set for the active partner, showing the real profits, a set for the sleeping partner, showing profits, and a set for the income tax officials, showing no profits."

"I am sending a little more material for the Badger just in case he might run short some time in the future," writes W. E. Jones of Joplin, Mo., a steady contributor. "Of course, I am not expecting this to put me in anywhere near in line for the grand prize which I understand is to be a fur lined bathtub. Nevertheless it would be appreciated just now as we are having quite a spell of winter for this part of the country."

No Mr. Jones, the prize this year is a demountable cuckoo clock. You know how much trouble it is to take the old fashioned kind out for exercise. Well, that's the 1936 prize.

John Smith Finds A Homestead

During the past three weeks we have reviewed the A. B. C's of geology, giving the layman a general idea of the source of oil and how it accumulates and the conditions under which commercial amounts of oil may be found.

We saw that oil is generated by heat and pressure exerted on certain shales in the process of mountain building. Waters of present and past ages traveling by gravity from high to low points carries any oil that may seep into porous rocks, such as sandstones back away from the mountains. This oil, in drops or particles of microscopic size gathers over countless ages, floating on top of water. It comes to rest at a point where the water ceases to circulate. The places where underground circulation of water is most frequently halted are called "faults" and "anticlines."

Then comes the birth of mankind and eventually the establishment of government and an American we call John Smith goes west to get himself a piece of land where he can find the independence so alluringly described by Horace Greeley. He picks as good a piece of ground as he can find and files a homestead.

To "prove up" Smith is required to live on the land for three years, to plow up 40 acres, build a home and out-buildings and build a fence. He is allowed a total of 320 acres of farm land or 640 acres of grazing land. This completed, he gets witnesses to prove his assertion that he has so "proved up" and a benevolent Uncle Sam gives him a "patent" to his land, bearing the autograph of the president.

Thus are base titles established. Before 1919 the man who so proved up on his homestead owned that 320 acres from the sky to the center of the earth, including all the mineral rights of every kind.

But few homesteaders filed on land in the belief that it was oil land, although if people had known as much about geology before 1919 as they do now, everyone would be looking for a chance to file a homestead on an oil structure. That is no longer possible because the government now reserves all minerals in the public domain.

The first thing John Smith had to learn was how to locate himself on the homestead. He had to know the meaning of such terms as "township," "range" and "section."

Briefly, here is his lesson: A township constitutes 36 square miles; six miles long by six miles wide. Each square mile is called a "section". So a section is a mile long and a mile wide (5,280 x 5,280 feet). Each section is divided

into 640 acres. So when John Smith took up 320 acres, he had a "half section."

His half section might be described as the East Half of Section 1. It might be the North Half of Section 1. It is easy to recognize any given half of a section.

However, all homesteads were not confined to a simple description. Sometimes the homesteader had 160 acres in one section and 100 acres in the adjoining section. So it was that he described his half section as the Northwest Quarter of Section 1 and the Northeast Quarter of Section 2. A quarter of a section is a fourth of 640 acres, or 160 acres. A quarter of each of two sections gives him 320 acres.

Perhaps he had only 80 acres in section 1 and 240 acres in section 2. That called for this description: the West Half of the Northwest quarter of section 1; the Northeast quarter of Section two and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section Two.

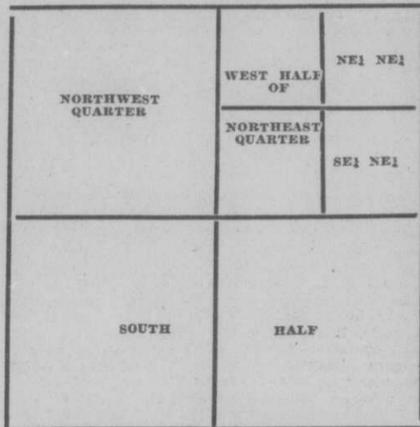
It is apparent that a half of a quarter (160 acres) is 80 acres. Likewise a quarter of a quarter (160 acres) is 40 acres. That is the lowest common unit in land description: 40 acres. Thus the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter is easily located and instantly recognized as 40 acres.

In the Blackfeet Indian Reservation the Indians filed on all sorts of tracts which the white man has difficulty in describing and which gives headaches to abstractors:

Thus we may have such a description as this: N 1/4 E 1/4 W 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 1. To locate this we first find the SW 1/4, then we take a quarter of that and get 40 acres; the west half of that is 20 acres, the east half of that is 10 acres and the north half of that is five acres.

Armed with these facts, John Smith could easily spot his farm buildings on a plat of his land. He could drive a stake somewhere in his half section and give a description of the location so that a surveyor could walk directly to the stake, or conversely mark it on a map. Thus if a stake were 220 feet north of the south line and 220 feet east of the west line of Section 1, the surveyor or anyone else could quickly locate the southwest corner of the section, walk due east 220 feet, thence due north 220 feet and find the stake.

Each township is numbered to show its position with regard to meridian lines. The Montana principal meridian runs through Kevin-Sunburst field. The townships WEST of this meridian are numbered from that line westward starting with 1, then 2, 3



and so on up to 34, the west border of the state. The townships EAST of this meridian are numbered from that line eastward in a like manner, 1, then 2, 3, 4 and so on up to 58E.

These are called RANGE LINES. We must not say "range four but must say range four WEST or range four EAST. Knowing the location of the Montana Meridian, we can easily locate range 2 east by traveling due eastward from the meridian for a distance of six miles.

The townships are numbered north and south of a line which passes through south central Montana, crossing the Montana meridian near Three Forks, Gallatin County. So a township is described by a second dimension; either north or south of this line. Township 37 is 37 times 6 miles or 242 miles south of this line. That is the northernmost township in Montana. The southernmost township is 15 south.

So we locate a tract in Kevin-Sunburst field by locating the range, then the township, then the section and finally the division of the section. Thus we describe the Barr farm in Kevin-Sunburst as the North Half of Section Two, Township Thirty-five N, Range Two West of the Montana Principal Meridian. We can instantly locate the tract on the map. If a well is spotted in the center of the SE 1/4 NW 1/4 we find the northwest quarter, then the southeast quarter of that and mark the center of the 40 acres so established.

However, we have gotten far ahead of the narrative of John Smith, whose land may or may not be oil land, in this story. The procedure of the leasing of his land is the next step in our narrative.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Some time ago we sent out a bulletin stating that an **IMPORTANT EVENT**—the most important in the history of this organization—was pending. It has been **CONSUMMATED**; the greatest stroke of good business in our history. It pertains to Kevin-Sunburst. Those interested in this field can receive the full news by asking for the forthcoming confidential bulletin.

Landowners Royalties Co.

Box 1225

HEAD OFFICE: GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

LANDOWNERS ROYALTIES COMPANY
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA.

Without obligation please send me your publications on Kevin-Sunburst.

(Your Name in Full)