

Montana Journal

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

BULLETIN NO. 29

(Continued from Page One)

Fred Plymale, Townsend; Erma Lutz, Kalispell; Elizabeth Mosser, Chinook; Marion Johnson, Chinook; Vivian Bainsard, Beverton; Thos. Darland, Froid; Louise Behmerwold, Heron; Robert Krueger, Bozeman; Mercedes Nelson, Shelby and Joyce Henderson, Stevensville.

Local judges were William Black, attorney and former superintendent of Shelby schools; and Mr. and Mrs. George Downs, the latter formerly of the staff of University of Minnesota. State judges were Mrs. Rex Haight, wife of the deputy superintendent of public instruction; Mrs. John Erickson, wife of the former governor; and Hon. Albert Roberts, mayor of Helena.

Following is Mildred's Prize-winning essay:

MONTANA OIL FOR MONTANA PEOPLE

By Mildred Anderson

Of the many different sources of Montana wealth, oil is now perhaps the most important. Everyday it is used in cars, in trucks and in machinery; besides being valuable as an export. We can help to develop this industry by buying Montana crude oil products.

There is in Montana a great need for sale of oil. Just recently we lost, to a Canadian competitor, our entire sale to the Dominion of Canada. Because of this loss, the excess oil has had to be stored, increasing the loss on sales by the expense of storage. As this oil is not selling, the price is going down, wells are being closed, men are losing jobs, and the entire oil industry is threatened.

The oil from these wells of Montana, scattered from the boundary of Canada to Wyoming, is of the best possible quality. The oil and cracked gas refined in the modern Montana Refineries is equal to any in the United States. That in the Cat Creek wells is found to have as little asphalt and lube oil as to be usable in Diesel engines without refining.

It would take almost a book to describe the types of employment provided by the oil industry. In the first place there is

needed on each oil field a great number of men to work as drillers, repairmen, inspectors, iron workers, pipe fitters, welders, mechanics, carpenters, and pumpers, besides truckers or railroad men. A refinery employs pipefitters, mechanics, carpenters, painters, chemists, gaugers, stillmen, firemen, electricians, clerks, salesforce, foremen, and truckers or railroad men. In short, the oil industry supports thousands of workers.

The spending of money earned by these men affects directly or indirectly, almost every other form of business in Montana. Oil workers cannot purchase food, clothing and furniture without helping the farmers, the ranchmen, the merchants and the manufacturers.

As oil wells are highly taxed, these taxes are helping Montana to grow and to expand. They make it possible to build the highways, schools, and institutions, the citizens of Montana have always prized. Since it is possible to help indirectly the improvements of our state merely by buying oil produced of Montana, why not buy them? We would be ungrateful indeed if we did not answer Montanans call for help when one of her greatest industries is in danger.

If we are to help cultivate home industry, give employment to Montana citizens, help Montana business grow, and make money to further the building up of the state we honor and love, we must not only talk, but begin now to buy Montana oil and gasoline.

STATE JOINS UNIT

In compliance with the supreme court decision approving the unitization of state school lands in gas fields Nanita B. Sherlock of the state land board has issued a consolidated lease to Glacier Production company at Cut Bank for natural gas development. The state will have 480 acres of state land pooled with privately-owned land under lease, totaling 2,208 acres.

SEND A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUNBURST BADGER



If all the boarders in all the boarding houses were placed side by side at one table, they'd reach

Ducks and Ducks
A salesman was rattling along a country road in eastern Tennessee, when he came to a ford. A ducky was standing by the little stream where some ducks were swimming. The salesman said: "Can I get through the creek with this car all right?" "Yes, suh, drive right through." The salesman, thus encouraged, drove into the stream, only to find that the water was so deep that it flooded his engine. He and his companion had to get out into the stream with the cold water up to their armpits and push the car to the bank. The salesman turned to the negro and said angrily: "What do you mean by telling me that I could drive through that creek?" "Well, boss, I nevuh

knew dat water was so deep. It only comes half-way up on my ducks!"
Smith: "But dear, I am late for dinner because I have had my nose to the grindstone all day."
Mrs. Smith: "Well, you had better get a grindstone that doesn't leave face powder, rouge and lipstick all over you."
There was a young lady of kent Who said that she knew what it meant When men asked her to dine, Gave her cocktails and wine. She knew what it meant but she went.
OUR SENTIMENTS
This business of thinking up jokes

Has got us a little bit daunted. The ones you want, we can't print And the ones we print aren't wanted.

NEW PIPE USED
for Every Purpose
OUR ODEE FOR HIGH PRESSURE OIL AND GAS LINES
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JOS. GREENSPON'S SON PIPE CORP.
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The Pioneers Had No Such Opportunity

THE real history of Montana oil development is a matter of the future rather than the past. The past contains the story of the beginnings—of the years of prospecting and experimentation. The serious business of the oil industry is yet to come.

The real history will be written around three factors:

1. Deep drilling.
2. Geophysics.
3. Improved drilling methods.

Any man who has a dollar invested in Montana oil should take time to study carefully into these factors. We believe that anyone who does examine the facts carefully will see his way clear to make himself a lot of money.

In our recent Bulletin No. 473C we briefly discussed these factors and gave a general outline which furnishes food for thought and investigation. Recently, we have discussed in this column something of the market situation. That is a prime factor. Glancing back at the past, we find that Montana has never had a stable market for its crude. The crude market has been a day-to-day, hand-to-mouth proposition ruled by the uncertainty on the one hand that there was enough crude available to take care of a stable market demand; and on the other hand a uncertainty whether the next week or the next month or the next year would see a market for developed supplies of crude.

Now that the Canadian domination of the market is removed, Montana producers know for the first time that there will be a definite market next week, next month and next year for a certain number of barrels of crude. Whether that figure be higher or lower than in the past it is for the first time a certain market. Present refineries and those building or contemplated will take a definite number of barrels of crude per annum FROM MONTANA OIL FIELDS. There will be no substitution of other crudes. There will be no market rocking. For the first time we can see STABILITY in the market for petroleum products, and this market is certain to GROW, because of the advantageous location of Montana oil fields.

Then last week we discussed the possibility of production in horizons below the top of the Madison lime. We know that if no wells in Turner Valley were drilled below the top of the Madison lime that there would be no Turner Valley oil field. We know that if there were no drilling below the Madison or Mississippian lime in New Mexico that there would be no great amount of crude in that state today. The same thing is true in the Midcontinent.

If it is true elsewhere that the top of the big lime IS THE BEGINNING OF THE BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCTION, then why is it not equally true in Montana?

We have seen the history of the famous Ohio-Baker No. 3 well. We now have the spectacle of the Aronow-Government well which seems to have tapped a vug or fissure such as made possible the Ohio-Baker No. 3. We know from the best of

production engineers that this oil IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE FORMATION TAPPED BY THIS WELL. The material which blew out of the Aronow well was non-porous and not capable of yielding up oil as does a true oil sand.

It has been established beyond any possible doubt, to the satisfaction of every petroleum engineer who has made a study of Montana oil fields, that this oil IS COMING FROM BELOW. If it is coming from lower horizons, does it not seem probable that there IS MORE OIL REMAINING IN LOWER HORIZONS?

One of the attempted deep tests in Kevin-Sunburst field encountered oil at the "great depth," as we call it, of 3390 feet. But it was not the same kind of oil that is found in the main field. In the producing wells which yield oil at the top of the lime the oil is asphaltic base. The oil found in the Frazer-Rice "deep test" at 3390 feet was green oil, high gravity, similar to Turner Valley crude. Is it at all probable that the few barrels of oil that belched out of the Frazer-Rice well before the terrific gas pressure wrecked the hole, was ALL the oil existing below the big lime? None in the world would vouchsafe that statement.

It follows that since Turner Valley gets its production from the lower part of the Madison lime, it would be a good guess that some oil will likewise be found in the lower part of the Madison lime in Kevin-Sunburst. It does not seem probable that Mother Nature would deposit oil below the big lime in New Mexico, in Wyoming and in Alberta and not in Montana, which has more oil at the top of the lime than has Alberta. Alberta development was held back for years by the theory that no oil could be expected from horizons below the top of the Madison lime. But Alberta had to drill so much deeper to reach the TOP of the Madison lime that the drillers had modern equipment with which to penetrate the lime. So it was that Turner Valley has become one of the world's major oil fields: through drilling to depths of 7,000 feet to penetrate the lower part of the Madison limestone.

The Madison limestone is around 600 feet thick in Kevin-Sunburst field. It offers hard drilling for cable tools. No rotary has ever attempted to cut through it. The formations in Turner Valley are just as hard, however, for it is identical massive limestone, and Turner Valley rotary drillers are able to drill through the Madison lime without trouble.

It follows that the day is coming when someone is going to get equipment suitable for drilling through the Madison lime in Kevin-Sunburst and other north Montana oil fields. The depth of any one of the producing wells in Turner Valley oil field would test not only the Madison lime but all the formations down to and including the Ordovician, which is the horizon of the greatest of all producing formations on the continent—the Wilcox sand.

We cannot help but feel that history will repeat itself in Montana oil fields as it has in other oil states where deep drilling has been done. IF the source of our oil is in lower formations, and IF operators can locate the structural conditions in lower formations, it goes without saying that operators are going to drill for that oil. They will find greater rock pressure with depth. They will doubtless have large flowing wells for that has been the history of other states and of Alberta, where deep drilling has been done.

Is it not apparent that the man who owns a royalty on a farm in Kevin-Sunburst field today has greater possibilities before him than anyone has enjoyed in the past? We recall the story of Spindletop oil field, which was a spectacular producer at shallow depth. The production declined and the field went off to nothing. The royalty owner on that field who kept his royalty simply was unable to sell it or give it away. Everyone thought the field ready for abandonment. Then came deep drilling. The lower sands have produced more than the upper sands, and the true production history of Spindletop lays in the productive history of the deep sands. We believe the same will be true of North Montana oil fields.

Oddly enough, the average person does not realize these simple facts. Most people think that when the oil at the Madison lime is exhausted that Kevin-Sunburst will be abandoned. We ourselves base our royalty buying on the possible production of the horizons at the top of the Madison lime, erratic as we know them to be. At the same time, when we buy a royalty on 320 acres we get not only a part of the oil at the top of the lime but also in any and all productive horizons in the lime and in the Devonian and other formations on down to the granite core of the earth. Today a royalty may be earning a few pennies but with deep drilling this same royalty may be earning a hundred times as much.

With 15 years to study this situation, we consider most fortunate the investor who can come in today and buy royalties. The man who bought royalties back in 1922 had to take tremendous odds, because the sciences on which we depend for our future were not known. There was no possibility of locating structures, faults and other structural features through geophysics; there was no drilling equipment to economically test horizons below the lime even if the oil were known to be present; there was no such thing as acidization which makes one hole as effective as several holes of the olden days.

It was not the pioneers who were lucky: it is the third generation investor who comes in today and buys royalties on such a basis that the production ABOVE the lime will pay out and pay a profit, with the lower sand possibilities awaiting—fortunately—to make the really great fortunes of Montana oil history.

Persons interested in more explicit facts along this line are invited to write to us or call on us.

The attached coupon will bring our current publications to enquirers.

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