

## Montana Oil Journal

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## Oil Shortage Grows Despite High Output

The petroleum industry is producing 4,400,000 barrels of crude oil daily, 600,000 barrels above the output a year ago, but rising military and other essential demands are keeping its inventories at the lowest levels in 20 years.

The stockpile of all refined oil products recently amounted to 243,900,000 barrels, the lowest since 1923, and 60,000,000 barrels under the inventory in December 1941, just before Pearl Harbor.

Crude oil above ground amounted to about 236,000,000 barrels, near the lowest level since 1923 and 7,000,000 barrels under the inventory at the beginning of the war.

Crude and refined products on the basis of today's demand are equal to a little better than 100 days' supply, compared with 130 days' supply in November 1941.

Even a sudden end of the war could not bring immediate relief because the military supplies are spread over the far corners of the earth. Only a part of the stock in coastal areas could be quickly turned into civilian channels should the war end.

## New Pay Zone May Be Opened In Old Field

(Continued from Page 1)

feet below the Dakota in the Elk Basin field, and the Tensleep underlies it directly, with the prospect the new Ohio well will test the Tensleep by drilling approximately 1750 feet deeper than has been common practice in this field.

Immense interest attaches to the new test, since conditions at Elk Basin and at Dry Creek are believed approximately similar.

## Oil Price Bill Likely to Get Action Monday

(Continued from Page 1)

signed the petition to drag the bill out of committee and bring it out on the floor for action, it is expected this bloc of 218, including Montana's two congressmen who signed the petition, will stand by to see that the bill isn't shelved again, and that it receives full attention, as quickly as is possible under rules of the house.

### OIL INVENTORIES LOW

Crude oil production currently is running at the record rate of 4,400,000 barrels daily, 600,000 barrels above a year ago. However, rising military and other essential requirements are holding inventories at the lowest level in 20 years.



Dames are pushovers for gay caballeros. Caballeros are athletes in Spain. Athletes in Spain throw the bull for diversion. Therefore dames are pushovers for bullthrowers.

It was blue Monday and the artist was in a critical mood. He gazed somberly at his model as she walked into the studio to begin posing. "I've told you to quit wear-

ing those round garters—they leave marks on your legs," he snapped. And as she walked past him, he added bitterly, "And quit sitting on those cane bottom chairs."

Two recruits from the Atlantic coast were assigned to a camp in California. On their first Saturday's leave, they were gazing across the blue water of the Pacific.

"Just think," said one of them, "this here Pacific ocean is over twice as big as the Atlantic."

The second one shaded his eyes and scanned the empty waters diligently. After a moment he spoke. "It sure is," he said.

The teacher was testing the moron who registered in her class. "What would happen to you if your nose was cut off?"

"I couldn't smell."

"That's right. Now what if your ears were cut off?"

"I couldn't see."

"Why couldn't you see if your ears were cut off?"

"My hat would slip down over my eyes."

# We Hope You've Kept Them

We mean, those royalty assignments on structures once "condemned" by inconclusive shallow tests.

Day by day, with a rapidity which is bringing gasps from those who have lived with the Montana oil industry for more than 20 years, it becomes apparent that the condition we have been awaiting is near at hand.

Up to now, the condition of Montana has been directly comparable to a mountain area in which there are a lot of deer tracks. No one gets particularly excited about a deer track. But—deer tracks are a pretty good sign of a region in which it might pay to hunt deer.

Montana's "deer tracks" have been shallow fields which have thus far produced more than \$100,000,000 in oil. Quite a bit more than \$100,000,000, it might be said in passing. But, whatever the sum, and despite the fact it has brought wealth to many operators and many royalty owners, it's still only a deer track—a track in the snow pointing the way to real game.

Those who have followed the course of events in Montana since the first discovery well have become more and more convinced that the state's shallow oil fields really don't mean much in themselves. And they don't. They have been profitable, and many have made money by drilling wells in them, and by owning royalties on the acreage on which this drilling was done.

But, in comparison with the potentialities revealed by them, the returns so far have been trifling.

Now, so swiftly it can hardly be grasped by those who have lived with it so long, the Montana oil industry appears about ready to come into its own, to follow the same inevitable course as in other states.

In these other states, there has been set up an inexorable pattern. First, establishment of the productivity of a shallow horizon which might reasonably be expected to carry oil when drilled on a local "high."

Then, for years, exploitation of the full possibilities of this horizon.

Up to now, that's been the history of Montana oil fields.

Operators generally, if you can get one of them quiet long enough to talk to him, will cheerfully agree that the oil zones of Cat Creek, Kevin-Sunburst and Pondera, to mention only a few of the state's fields, are not the "source" zones. They know the oil came from "somewhere else," other than the zone in which it was being found.

There are such things as "source beds."

Oil that comes roaring in over the top of a derrick has to be manufactured someplace. The raw material out of which oil is made is organic matter in shale. To turn that organic matter into crude oil requires heat and pressure.

Montana has very marvelous equipment for the providing of the needed heat and pressure. Tourists who look at this equipment call it the Rocky mountains. Geologists who look at it, the Lewis overthrust. For that's what the mountains are—a break in the earth's surface which allowed a section to telescope eastward, pushing across the prairies for a distance of more than 40 miles.

This overthrust has provided sufficient heat and pressure to distill ALL of the organic matter in the shales beneath, and to convert it into oil.

Oil has one unfailing characteristic — it migrates upward, usually driven by water pressure.

Most of Montana's fields have found their production at the top of the 800-foot Madison lime, or in sands above. The lime, obviously, hasn't been the source of the oil. Its source has been obviously some of the deeper horizons.

Just where these deeper horizons will lie, with respect to the productive areas of fields now mapped, is problematical.

But, geologists are generally agreed that there ARE such horizons. And, they can't be ascertained by surface mappings, because surface strata and deep sub-surface strata are NOT exactly parallel. Surface mapping is good up to a certain point, but no further.

Speaking of children, a group of ladies were discussing the old superstition that events or accidents during pregnancy leave their effects on the children. One lady, however, disagreed and stated in support of her stand:

"Just before I was born, my mother was going downstairs with a stack of phonograph records. Half way down she tripped and fell to the bottom, breaking all the records to pieces, but it did not affect me—affect me—affect me—"

Two little negro boys were loitering on a street corner, when one said to the other: "How old is you?"

"Ah's five," was the reply. "How old is you?"

"Ah don' know," said the first.

"You don' know how old you is?"

"Nope."

"Does women botha' you?"

"Nope."

"Youse fo'."

It will be the same after this war, I reckon—10 percent trying to build up foreign trade and the other 90 percent working to gyp the foreigners.

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