

Happy New Year!

The good old greeting "Happy New Year" has more than usual significance this year to members of the Montana oil fraternity. (The Montana Oil Journal has its own private cause for joy, in that the automatic elevator is in and working and even the more plump and wheezy members of the fraternity may now visit the offices at 316 Montana Power Building without having to toil up two flights of winding stairs.)

The year drawing to a close has been more significant than many realize, and some of the things that have happened are likely to have some profound repercussions in 1947.

Not the least of these has been the opening of production in a porous zone beneath the top of the Madison lime in the Cut Bank field and the opening of a high-pressure gas zone in the Devonian formation on Texaco's Utopia structure. Both events are likely to have repercussions during 1947, in areas far removed from the immediate scene of the strikes.

Other highlights of 1946 have included extensions of the deep pay horizons in the Cat Creek field, led by Bill Hanlon and Ralph Chamberlain, with indications this development will receive further impetus during 1947; plans for a deep test in the Flat Coulee field, commencement of a Devonian test in the Bannatyne field; start of a well seeking to extend the Pondera field pay horizon; opening of new possible oil territory west of the Rockies, as evidenced by spirited bidding for wildcat acreage in Beaverhead county;

Start of deep testing on Bowdoin dome; leasing of huge amounts of acreage between the Utopia structure and Bowdoin dome, much of it in the hitherto-neglected Coburg basin; start of a Reagan nose test; revival of the Kicking Horse structure with market outlet now assured; discovery of Madison lime production in the Elk Basin field, on the Montana-Wyoming border; Dave Schrock's discovery on Rattlesnake Butte; northeast extension of the Pondera field by A. B. Cobb; opening of a new Kevin-Sunburst field gas area by F. J. Buscher; opening of a new oil area between the Kevin-Sunburst and Cut Bank fields by the Big West Refining Co.;

Start of an important test on the Twin Buttes structure by Union Oil Company of California—and finally, a general cause for thanks, ending of OPA controls and a general rise in crude prices.

There was some bitter with the sweet during the year, including failure of Bill Clark's deep test, in the Devil's Basin field; abandonment of the Button Butte deep test, by R. C. Tarrant; failure of the Devonian test of the Hunt Oil Company, in the Hardin area; failure of the Maxwell Butte deep test of the Pure Oil Company, and failure of the Mon-O-Co deep test on Harlo dome.

Failures and successes alike had one beneficial aspect in common, however:

They added to the all-too-meager store of information concerning geology and stratigraphy in the more than 100,000 square miles of potentially productive area in Montana and brought closer the day of additional discoveries.

So, no matter if you had good luck or bad luck during the year, the Montana Oil Journal wishes all of you—

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

And now that you know the elevator is working, may we say we'll be glad to have you drop in on us, not just during the holiday season—but ALL DURING 1947!

NEW MEETING SCHEDULED TO TALK LEASING RULES

Of general interest to the oil fraternity in the Rocky mountain area is announcement by James Donoghue, president of the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association, of a meeting to be held soon with members of the interior department to discuss regulations recently announced, covering oil and gas leases on the public domain.

Rig Is Moved Off Kicking Horse Well

With hole bottomed at 1925 feet, Husky Refining Company has released the rig being used to drill its No. 1 McDermott on the Kicking Horse structure. Only small gas flows were found in this well and it is reported, without official confirmation, that it may be drilled into the Madison lime in the spring.

Rock Creek Test Drilling At 2550

Wildcat of the Rock Creek Bench Oil Company near Moore, a short distance southwest of Lewistown, this week reported hole made past 2550 feet. It is being drilled with rotary tools. Last reported top was the third Cat Creek sand at 1323 feet.

Stanolind Elk Basin Well Drilling, 3817

Stanolind's No. 129 ET, on the Montana side of the Elk Basin field, this week reported hole made to 3817 feet. Though it is only a short distance north of a well that recently opened Madison lime production in the Wyoming portion of this field, it is now reported that the 129 ET will test only the Embarras zones.

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Bannatyne Deep Test Reported Spudding In

Heavy duty spudder and other equipment of Meeks & Beardslee was moved to location this week in the Bannatyne field and the long-awaited deep test on the structure is reported to have spudded in. Housing for the crew was obtained in the field and it is believed operations can be continued throughout the winter, regardless of weather conditions. Tom Carney, the backer, is to test the Devonian formation. The field, which once had 30 wells producing from a shallow sand about 1500 feet, has never had a deep test, though drilling of the shallow wells served to define it as a regular structure with considerable closure. The Devonian is expected at about 2600, with plans now calling for drilling into the Jefferson section of the formation, recently found productive by Texaco in its Utopia structure, 51 miles to the northeast.

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"Toughy" Has Christmas Present Shay Overcomes Jinx; Gets Two Good Ones, North Field

What appear to be two of the best oil wells drilled in this year in the Kevin-Sunburst field are being completed by C. W. "Toughy" Shay, on acreage recently acquired by him when he bought out the interest of his long-time partner, R. J. (Rudy) Prevol.

The wells are almost in the center of Section 10-35N-3W, at the extreme north edge of a square-mile government lease which has been operated for several years by Prevol & Shay, developed so far only by the drilling of wells around its western and eastern edges.

FEW RIGS RUNNING, CUT BANK

Activity in the Cut Bank field was at a very low ebb during the week, with no commercial completions recorded and no new locations announced. Operations for the most part were confined to efforts to finish

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Carter Makes Staff Changes

The following personnel changes have been announced by Robert Curran, Carter Oil Company vice president at Billings, in charge of the company's northwest division:

Harry C. Chapman, Billings attorney, becomes assistant manager; John O. Campbell Jr., recently chief scout for the company at Tulsa, comes to Billings as assistant division manager. Taking his place at Tulsa will be Joe C. Kahl, who has been chief scout for the northwest division. And replacing Kahl at Billings will be William Crutcher, from the company's Illinois territory.

Texaco Nearing Devonian In Deep Test On Bowdoin

The Texas Company moved a step nearer the Devonian formation this week in its deep test on vast and hitherto untested Bowdoin dome in northeastern Montana, making hole to 3871 feet in its No. 1 Gov't.

If this well checks with exposures on the flanks of the Little Rockies, the Devonian should be topped at around 4100 feet, less than 300 feet from the last-reported bottom of the hole.

On the southeast flank of the Bears Den field, Texaco's deep test is drilling with rotary tools at 3365 feet, after topping the Madison at 2899. Objective is presumably the Jefferson section of the Devonian—the same horizon as that in which high-pressure gas in large volume, plus oil shows, was found recently on the Utopia structure, southwest of Bears Den.

Both got a start as "hard luck" wells, losing the first holes that were commenced, one as Prevol & Shay-Gov't No. 21 in NE NE SW 10-35N-3W, the other as Prevol & Shay-Gov't No. 22, NW NE SW 10-35N-3W. Rigs were skidded 70 feet and new holes were started, with new designations as 21X and 22X.

This week the No. 21X, after topping the Madison at 1788, drilled to total depth of 1804. It immediately filled to the top with oil and began running slowly over the top of the pipe. The crew reported inability to ball it down lower than 200 feet off the bottom.

The 22X got the Madison at 1795 and drilled to 1814, whereupon oil rose almost immediately 1300 feet.

Both wells are scheduled to go on production within the next few

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Union Wildcat Drills Dakota

Interesting wildcat of the Union Oil Company of California, on the Twin Buttes structure northwest of Billings, this week topped the Dakota at 3796 and at last reports was making hole past 3800 feet. No showings of consequence have been reported.

New Cat Creek Wells Pumping

Four wells in the Cat Creek field, drilled in during the past year by the Continental Oil Co., have been placed on production for the first time, using electrical pumping equipment, according to the Winnet Times. Initial output of the four wells is expected to be about 40 barrels apiece, the Times says.

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