

Kevin-Sunburst OIL FIELD Newspaper
THE KEVIN COURIER

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**KEVIN'S ORIGINAL LEASE MAN
MADE RICH BY INVESTMENTS
RETIRES TO SOUTHERN HOME**

Although the Kevin-Sunburst field is only a little over three months old since it was proven that oil was under the ground, hundreds of men have been already made comfortable well-to-do who were "broke," many have been made wealthy and several rich. Among the latter is E. L. McWhorter. Last Tuesday, a check, not the first that he has received nor the last, he will get, for \$20,000.00 was deposited to his credit in a Great Falls bank for the lease on 80 acres of ground, the purchase being made by one of the well known capitalists who recently entered the oil game. The lease purchased covered the northeast of the northeast, section 34, and the northwest of the northwest of 35, township 36, range 2 west, and the price figures at \$250 per acre.

Mr. McWhorter came to Montana from Birmingham, Alabama, about a year ago and while not knowing anything about the oil game he had faith in the men who were then pioneering here and took leases and invested a small fortune in royalties, getting them at that time at a low figure. Since the strike in March he has done nothing else but make out assignments and deeds and keep tab on his bank account which recently grew to such proportions that he concluded to take a rest, and Saturday, he and his family left for their old home in Alabama. He still retains much royalty and some very choice acreage, much more than he has sold, and no doubt will be back at intervals to watch the progress of the field and his investments.

Other deals Mr. McWhorter closed before leaving included the sale of 2 1/2 per cent royalty to Mrs. N. G. Bullard of Great Falls in 80 acres in 32-36-2 west, the price being \$20 per acre.

The lease of 120 acres in 32-36-2 west to William G. Bridewell of Great Falls at \$150 per acre.

The leasing of 40 acres to the Homestake Exploration company in 13-35-2 west, at a price of \$150 per acre, it is said.

Mr. McWhorter purchased from the Homestake company 2 1/2 per cent royalty in 120 acres in this section 13.

Mrs. William J. O'Haire of Sunburst last week sold to W. G. Bridewell of Great Falls one-fourth of one per cent in 320 acres, 4-35-2 west.

Speaking of the success of Mr. McWhorter, a daily newspaper of Great Falls, where the McWhorter family

have made their home recently, has this to say:

"After having acquired enough of worldly goods to keep the wolf from the door of his home and from the homes of his children and perhaps his children's children, E. L. McWhorter, manager of the Kevin-Sunburst Realty company, is leaving on Saturday for his old home, in Birmingham, Alabama, perhaps to return, perhaps to stay.

"McWhorter on March 1, 1922, called himself a broker, but was actually broke. Today he leaves behind the brokerage business and the title, but takes with him upwards of \$100,000 in cold cash, representing about half of his winnings, at present prices, in the Kevin-Sunburst oil field.

Mr. McWhorter is in Great Falls today closing up his affairs. His father, J. W. McWhorter, who is also an investor in northern Montana oil, has been in the field for the past few weeks, and he is taking his son back to the old home town with him when he returns on Saturday.

"Betting everything he had, McWhorter plunged in royalties and leases in the Kevin field in the fall of 1921.

"He has closed a number of other deals, retaining about half of his lease and royalty holdings. He has enough of either leases or royalties to give him a comfortable income and he has scattered his holdings over the field in such a way that he cannot lose, "no matter how the cat jumps." Mr. McWhorter is one of the first of the new batch of Montana oil millionaires. He is well satisfied with his holdings, he says, and he now intends to keep what he has and "let someone else make some money in the field."

**Plucky Men Gamble
Making Reservoirs**

The recent heavy rains not only filled all the old reservoirs and sloughs but stocked up with the previous fluid so essential to drilling operations many reservoirs built by local men and oil companies plucky enough to take the generally considered poor chance of heavy rains this late in the season. Among these were William Seabrook, who hired a dam thrown up on 19 and 30-35-2W, and he together with B. C. Hurd, control the water in the lake northeast of Kevin, from which the Gladys-Belle is piping water about a mile to its drilling operations in the east half of the southeast quarter of 18-35-2W.

Art Louis, field manager for the company by that name, which is drilling the well next expected in on 14-35-3W, just north of Kevin, being a local resident and knowing the scarcity of water during the summer and fall months here, built a dam and reservoir on land near operations and the recent rain has repaid his foresight.

The big reservoir back of the Campbell discovery well has been filled, which will furnish a reserve for much drilling in that vicinity. The Rainbow company is using water from this as well as for the Campbell operations.

L. W. Baker, local agent for Artlee Beardslee, the Great Falls retired sheepman who has such large lease holdings here, has seen to it that a number of substantial dams were built at strategic points in the field, most of these being completed before the heavy rains.

All of which puts the field in a very favorable position, as water is generally scarce in most oil fields, many places in Texas it cost from \$15 to \$50 per day per well or drilling and until water wells were brought in from the deep sands of Cat Creek, water commanded a price of one dollar a barrel in the field.

Kevin Blacksmith Shop

L. R. Pyke has opened his new blacksmith shop on First avenue south, and is now prepared to handle all sorts of acetylene welding, boiler work and general blacksmithing. Mr. Pyke has a successful shop in Havre, and seeing the great need of a shop in Kevin, he is determined to put in a first-class shop here.

The Adams wholesale oil station has been completed and doing business.

**Mid-Northern Drill
Site in Kevin Sector**

Big Company Which Has Done Much to Develop Cat Creek and Recently Brought in Gushers There, Ships Rig Here.

After much preliminary work and scouting in Toole county, extending over a long period, The Courier hears that the Mid-Northern has decided to put down a well in the Kevin section of the field and a rig for this operation is said to have already been shipped. The site for the Mid-Northern's first well is said to be on an 80-acre tract recently obtained by that company in 9-35-2W.

Guy Craig, superintendent of the company and who has had charge of the extensive and successful operations in Cat Creek where but recently gushers have been added to the company's many producers, was at Kevin Wednesday, making final arrangements, it is understood, for the drilling of the first hole. Township 35, range 2 west, is getting more play, outside of the territory of the two producers, than any other sector, a new site being chosen in that township almost daily.

The Mid-Northern has a large block in the northern part of Toole county, south and west of Sweet Grass, which was leased last year and it is understood that its holdings have been enlarged this season in that section, and its entry in the Kevin sector is the first known of the company's intention to operate in this part.

**Shaffer Will Drill
West of Ohio Well**

Another Well Known Oklahoma Oil Man Has Secured Acreage in Kevin-Sunburst and Rig Ordered for Early Drilling.

Following a visitation to the field on Wednesday by J. K. D. Shaffer, president of the Shaffer Oil company, and W. C. Wright, geologist, it became known in Kevin that Mr. Shaffer has secured 80 acres in 33-36-2W and that a well would be immediately started. It is understood that a rig has been ordered through the local lumber company's office. While the exact location of the site was not announced, the selection was made while these gentlemen were in the field. It has also been rumored that this well will be immediately sunk to considerable depth unless an extra heavy flow of oil is found sooner, as a thorough test of all sands is desired.

Although Mr. Shaffer has retained his interests in Shaffer Oil, since his brother, C. B. Shaffer retired from the organization last fall, he is acting independently in the local fields.

**Widely Advertised Theory Put
Out by Promotion Co. Shattered
by Startling Statements of Hager****Suit For Oil Land**

Shelby, July 15.—Action has been brought in Toole county by J. C. Smith and Leigh Wade to enforce specific performance of control of purchase and sale of the S 1/4 SW 1/4, S 1/4 SE 1/4 of section 30, NW 1/4 NW 1/4, S 1/2 NW 1/4, N 1-2 SW 1/4 of section 31, township 36, north, range 2 west, containing 320 acres.

The complaint alleges that the plaintiffs and the defendant, Irvine S. Sprecher, entered into a contract on June 17, 1922, for the purchase and sale of this property at \$27.50 per acre. The purchase included 12 1/2 per cent royalty retained by the defendant under a lease which he made to Gordon Campbell some time ago.

The complaint also alleges that the plaintiffs made a deposit of \$500, the balance to be paid within 30 days and that the plaintiffs have complied with all of the terms of the agreement on their part to be performed, but that the defendant has failed and refused to comply with his part of the agreement.

The plaintiffs further seek to recover the sum of \$8,000, which they claim as damages alleged to have been sustained by them in the loss of profits due to the failure of the defendant to complete the transaction between him and the plaintiffs.

**Standard Co. Buys
Land East of Aloe**

The California company has purchased from Robert J. Holland all of section 6, township 33, range 1 west, paying \$12,800 for 640 acres.

This is at the rate of \$20 an acre and sets a new price scale on acreage in the southern part of the field. This acreage is four miles east of the station of Aloe and is eight miles south and east of Kevin.

This purchase is taken to indicate growing faith of the California company in the south slope of the Gas Ridge anticline. The California company has taken "protection" acreage in all parts of the field. Recently the California company spotted a well in the SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of section 13-34-2 west, which would seem to give credence to the theory that the Troy-Sweet Grass diamond drill test does not fully establish that there is no oil in that section.

The heavy rain Saturday afternoon and night has furnished additional moisture for the growing crops and range and ranchers are, as a consequence, in a happy frame of mind.

In flat contradiction of the widely advertised theory, as shown by contour maps prepared by geologists for the Sunburst Oil & Gas Co. and circulated by the thousands, comes the statement from Dorsey Hager, California geologist and said to be an authority on such matters and who is now identified with the same company, that "the Sunburst well is located WELL DOWN THE FLANK OF A GIANT STRUCTURE." The statement is made in an article by Mr. Hager published by Great Falls press and is his first public printed utterance regarding the local field. No given as to the exact location of the structure, and local oil men, many of whom have been working on a "hunch" or upon the popular conception of the structure as advertised by the promotion company, are now busy revising their ideas in the light of the Hager statement, and it may be possible that many of those will come to Gordon Campbell's conclusions regarding the field.

Following is important excerpts from Mr. Hager's article, portions referring to the history of the company with which he is now identified and commending its officers being omitted:

"The recent discovery of oil in the Sunburst well in section 34, township 36 north, range 2 west, Toole county, Montana, has attracted a great deal of interest to that area. The Sunburst well is the second producer in the district, the first well being the Gordon Campbell well, located four miles northwest from the town of Kevin and seven miles southwest from Sunburst well, in section 16, township 35

north, range 3 west. Both wells were promoted by L. C. Stevenson of Great Falls, Montana. The Sunburst well No. 1 is good for 200 to 250 barrels, 36 gravity oil, depth at 1,550 feet, the thickness of the sand 28 feet. The oil was found in a sand of the Kootenai group. The Sunburst well is located well down the flank of a giant structure.

The discovery well was located by Mr. Gordon Campbell in 1921, and was completed in March, 1922. These two wells open what seems to be one of the largest producing areas in the United States if not in the world, for a single pool.

Gathering Area Is Vast

"Geological conditions are unusual here. The Sweet Grass Arch is a great structural feature, some 300 miles long and 150 miles wide. A cross-fold cuts this great arch in the neighborhood of Sunburst and Kevin and forms a reservoir to which the oil drains from all sides. This cross fold has a south dip of 30 miles, a west dip of 50 miles, an east dip of 20 miles and a north dip of 150 miles, which gives a tremendous drainage area that is not paralleled within the borders of the United States. The area which seems likely to develop as an oil field is roughly 12 miles square, and roughly comprises about four townships. The great size of the fold was what discouraged many geologists from recommending tests of this dome as it was their belief that there could not be enough oil to fill such a vast reservoir. Large wells are not looked for although they may come.

Operating Cost Low

"Operating conditions are cheap as holes can be completed for from nine to ten thousand dollars, in from two to three weeks time. Portable drilling machines are best fitted for work here. There are few troubles in drilling, as the Colorado shale, which most of the drilling has encountered, stands up very well. It is interesting to note that these wells start in Colorado shale, in which some of the best fields of Wyoming are found. However, the Colorado shale has not produced oil in commercial quantities in Montana, except in Elk Basin, on the line between Montana and Wyoming.

Foresees Other Pools

"The importance of this strike (Continued on Page 8)

**Refinery to Build
Because of Kevin**

President of Franz Corporation Quoted as Saying Kevin Field Expected To Develop Need for Refinery in Montana.

That the Kevin-Sunburst oil field is expected to develop to such production that the big Franz corporation, pioneers in Cat Creek, will build a refinery in this state, is given in a statement to a Helena paper by James G. Stanley of Denver, president and general counsel of that company. According to the report given the Helena paper Mr. Stanley figures with the increased production of the Cat Creek and the Kevin field, the supply of crude quantities for a refinery in Montana is assured for at least three years. The fact that the exploration of the Kevin-Sunburst field has been the means of bringing the big companies to consider putting in a refinery in this state is significant, as all Standard production from the Cat Creek has gone to the Wyoming plants.

Speaking of the local field, Mr. Stanley is reported to have said: "We have great hopes in the Kevin field and have already laid a basis for acquiring production from that field when developed, which we hope and expect will produce in such quantity as to justify our building a refining plant in Montana."

Another Rig In East

According to information given The Courier there will be another rig on a site either in section 7, 8 or 9, 34-2W, probably in 8 on the Hurley ranch, Joe Baker having closed a deal with Skillen & Son and A. J. Eulberg, it is said, whereby the former is to drill a well in the near future.

Development Activities**KEVIN-SUNBURST FIELD****Producing**

Gordon Campbell-Kevin Syndicate No. 1, NE NE 16-35-3W.

Sunburst Oil & Gas company No. 1, SE SW 34-36-2W.

Drilling

Holding and Royalty, SE NE 21-35-3W.

Sunburst Ohio No. 1, NE NW 3-35-2W.

Aloe Oil Syndicate No. 1, SE NW 6-34-2W.

Rainbow No. 1 NW SE 9-35-3W.

Orchard No. 1, SE SE 9-35-3W.

Coe No. 1, SW SW 4-36-2W.

Gladys Belle, NE NE 19-37-4 east.

A. E. Louis Corporation, NE SE 14-35-3W.

Homestake No. 1, NE NW 3-35-2W.

Three-In-One Oil Syndicate No. 1, SW SW 8-35-1W.

Troy-Sweet Grass Oil company No. 1, NE NW 28-34-1W.

Sunburst Oil & Gas company No. 2, NE SE 5-35-2W.

California company No. 1, SE SE 10-35-3W. Shut down, 500.

Gladys-Belle-Fulton No. 1, NE NE 1-34-2W.

Gladys-Belle-Three-In-One No. 2, NE SE 18-35-2W.

Gordon Campbell-Kevin Syndicate No. 2, SW SW 10-35-3W.

Ohio-Reibe No. 1, NW NE 3-35-2W.

T. S. Hogan, 22-35-2W.

Ohio-O'Hanna No. 1, section 26-36-2 west.

Ohio-Claire Stevenson No. 1, section 3-35-2 west.

Ohio-Swayze No. 1, section 34-36-2 west.

Ohio-Sanden No. 1, section 1-35-2 west.

Ohio-Barr No. 1, section 2-35-2 west.

Ohio-Davey No. 1, section 34-36-2 west.

Ohio-Davey No. 2, section 3-35-2 west.

Rice No. 1, NW NW 8-35-2W.

Homestake No. 2, 26-35-2W.

Black Magic Oil company, SW SE 16-35-3W.

Location

O'Neil & Catlett, NE 15-35-3W.

Rainbow No. 2, NW NW 15-35-3W.

Sweet Grass Oil and Land No. 1, SW SW 6-35-1W.

Producers Oil & Gas, SW SW 21-36-2W.

Sunburst-Ohio No. 2 SW SE 34-36-2W.

Potlatch No. 1, SE SW 27-34-1W.

Big West No. 1, NW NW 6-34-1W.

California Co., SE SE 13-34-2W.

Potlatch No. 2, NW SW 28-34-1W.

Apex No. 1 SW SE 3-35-3W.

Mid-Northern, 9-35-2W.

Sunburst O. & L. Co., 10-34-2W.

Dawson-Merkle No. 1, NW 1/4 NE 1/4 9-35-2W.

**Gladys-Belle Adds
to Kevin Holdings**

Oklahoma Concern Now Drilling Two Holes in East Part of Field Buys Half Section More Near Kevin.

Another block of acreage near Kevin has been taken by an active drilling company and another well is to be started before fall. The land is the half of southwest quarter, the southeast quarter, and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 24, 35-2 west, 320 acres and has been leased by the Gladys-Belle Oil company from H. E. Fryberger, a Minneapolis attorney. The consideration has not been made public but it is known that Mr. Fryberger was asking a good price. The Gladys-Belle company has only recently entered the Kevin-Sunburst field, first taking a hold of a big block of acreage east of the Sweet Grass hills where they have a hole down nearing the 2,000 feet level and where oil was hit in a well drilled there some years ago. After the second producer was brought in here, the company made a deal with W. M. Fulton on the permit he was drilling on in 1-34-2 west and are now making a rapid hole there. They took over 80 acres in 18-35-2 west from the Three In One Oil Syndicate and have spudded in on that. Last week they took an additional forty in that vicinity and now with the Fryberger acreage and no doubt other acreage purchases not yet made public, they are to be real factors in the development of the local field as well as the pioneers in what many believe to be a good field in the Sweet Grass hills.

The editor of The Courier and Thos Amerman were at Sunburst Friday night.