

# Sterling City News-Record

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No. 8



## Mrs. Wayland Lee Foster McCLURE-FOSTER WEDDING HELD

Miss Debra Wynn McClure and Wayland Lee Foster were united in marriage at a ceremony on February 14 at 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Sterling City with the Rev. Roy Wold officiating.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Winford J. McClure and Mr. and Mrs. William Leser Foster III.

Honor attendants were Patty Allen of Austin, maid of honor, and Bill Foster, brother of the bridegroom, best man. Bridesmaids were Julie Runnels of Ft. Worth, Cheryl Butler of Lubbock, Marilyn Nowlin of San Angelo and Judy Copeland of Sterling City.

Lisa Horwood played organ music and Joy Sour sang a solo.

Groomsmen were Curtis McClure, brother of the bride, Johnny Copeland, Gary Foster of Sterling City and Barney Sisco of Water Valley.

Ushers were Bobby McClure, brother of the bride, Speedy Sparks, Bob Westbrook of Sterling City, Collin Douthit of Houston and Charlie Wright of San Angelo.

Candles were lighted by Mike Ross of Ft. Worth and Bill Smith of Clarendon.

A reception was held in the ranch home of the bride's parents. The bride's chosen colors of red and white were carried out throughout the house.

Members of the houseparty included Mmes. Martin Reed, Stan Horwood, Crisp Williams, Tommy Foster, Ross Foster, Marvin Foster, John Copeland, C. J. Copeland, J. Q. Foster, Mike Foster, Gary Foster, N.H. Reed, Neal J. Reed, M. C. Herdry, Bill R. Bynum, Roland Lowe O. T. Jones, Hank Johnson, Worth B. Durham, Taylor Garrett, all of Sterling City, and Mrs. Charlie Wright, Ms. Kelly Sue Robbins, Mrs. Lanis Gross of San Angelo, Mrs. Stanley Mayfield of Sonora, Mrs. Leroy Butler and Miss Vicki Butler of Lubbock, Mrs. Mike Smith of Clarendon, Mrs. Art Lusty and Mrs. Sid Lee of Fort Worth, Mrs. Mattie Jones of Arlington and Mrs. Larry Cheatham of Sidney.

The couple went to Lake Tahoe on a wedding trip.

The rehearsal dinner was held at the Log Cabin Steak House in San Angelo, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William Foster and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Augustine.

## Methodists to Start Time Capsule

Special services are being planned for the First United Methodist Church on the 5th Sunday, February 29. This date (coming on a Sunday) will not be repeated until 2004.

As a bicentennial project of the church, it is hoped that a homecoming day for former members and pastors can be realized. Besides the morning worship there will be historic displays, lunch, fun and fellowship.

A time capsule will be started on this date in which church histories, family and personal mementoes, pictorial directories, etc. will be sealed on Sunday July 4 and buried, to be opened on the fifth Sunday in February of 2004.

## U.M.W. TO HEAR INDIAN MISSIONARY MONDAY

Mrs. J. A. Richardson of San Angelo, who has been a missionary to Western Indians, will be on the program here Monday at the United Methodist Women's meeting. The meeting will be held in the church at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 1, said Mrs. Tom Asbill. All women of the town are invited to be present.

## Rosanne Foster Wins Awards

Rosanne Foster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Foster, won three awards in the 1976 Annual Permian Basin Ad Club awards competition. She won the first place award in the Regional-National single direct mail piece category with her Christmas card titled OIL, CIRCA 1976. Rosanne's resume won the first place award for the local single direct mail piece category and also 'best of the show' competing with over 80 entries. Rosanne is employed as an art director with Snelson, Randel and Johnson, Inc., an advertising agency in Midland.

The Permian Basin Ad Club is composed of persons in the advertising and public relations profession. By winning the Ad Club first place awards, Rosanne's entries are both automatically eligible for the 10th district American Advertising Federation competition which will include entries from ten states.

## DANCE AT CITY PARK ON MARCH 5

The CAVALIERS will play for a dance here March 5 at the city park. If it should be too cold or rainy, the dance will be held in the community center, said Rama Jo Mitchell.

Admission will be \$3 per person and the dance will last from 8 to 12 p.m.

## ATTEND FUNERAL IN CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Cipriano Amador and daughter, Carmen, attended the funeral services for a nephew of Mrs. Amador last week in Fresno, Cal. He was Ralph Capuchin of Fresno. The Amadors flew from Midland on Wednesday and returned home Saturday.

## Bicentennial Fair

*Spirit of '76—The Miracle of America* is the theme of the Bicentennial Fair which the Sterling City PTA is sponsoring to celebrate America's 200th birthday. Students who best express the theme creatively will be winners of special Bicentennial prizes. Deadline for entries will be April 2; winners will be announced on April 12, 1976.

Parents and other friends of students are urged to encourage Sterling City students to participate in the Bicentennial Fair.

## V.F.D. Volleyball Tournament Set

For a fund raising project the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary is going to hold a volleyball tournament on March 5 and 6 in the school gym. Neighboring towns are being invited to enter and compete for first, second and third place trophies. Three or four teams from Sterling will also be entered.

The Firemans Auxiliary is planning the concession. They are asking people to donate items from Brocks and Watsons grocery stores. The following list will be placed in both stores—

Cold drink cups, coffee cups, plastic spoons or forks, chili, cheese, onions, pop corn, pickles, paper plates, crackers, tuna fish, bread, crackers, cake mixes, cake frosting, brownie mix salad dressing and coffee.

All donations will be appreciated.

WANTED, NEEDED — old used soft rags at the Sterling County Hospital and Nursing Home. They will be appreciated and used as cleaning rags.

## LIONS CLUB

The Sterling City Lions Club met at noon Wednesday in the community center. Mrs. Henry Bauer was a guest. The door prize went to C.A. Tucker.

A film on Cancer drive was shown. The film was on quitting smoking.

Howard Cudd acted as president in the absence of Charlie Davis. Twenty persons were present.

## City Election Here in April

The first Tuesday in April which will be April 2, will be the date for the City of Sterling City election for a mayor and two councilmen.

The election will be held in the city hall that day. Mayor L. R. Reed's term is expiring and also the terms of councilmen F. S. Price and Dan Glass.

Other members of the council are Ross Foster, Neal Reed and Dan Griffin.

Anyone wanting to file for an office must file with the City Secretary Mrs. Horace Donalson thirty days before the election date.



AROUND  
THE  
COUNTY



ARTHUR BARLEMANN, JR. COUNTY AGENT

Thirteen Sterling County 4-H Club members participated in the San Antonio Livestock Exposition which was held February 13-22. The show attracted a record number of entries in all departments this year. As an example, there were 2069 lambs entered in the Market Lamb Show and 1544 steers entered in the Market Steer Show. Entries in the breeding sheep and breeding heifer shows were also greater than usual.

In spite of the competition, local club members managed to place their livestock in all departments except one. For the first time in years, not a single lamb won a ribbon.

Greg Davis' Charolais steer placed fifth in the on-hoof competition in the carcass show. Only two of the five carcasses in this class placed and unfortunately, Greg's was one that did not place in the carcass competition.

Lenard Horwood's Hereford steer placed twelfth in the medium weight division of the breed. It sold for 53c per pound in the auction Friday.

A Polled Hereford steer shown by June Humble placed third in the breed's medium weight class. It sold for 51c per pound in the auction.

A heavyweight Polled Hereford steer shown by Susie Humble placed fifth in its class. This steer sold for 50c per pound in the sale. Floor price of the steers was 50c per pound; the packer bid was \$39.16 and the show added the remainder to guarantee the exhibitors 50c.

Lonnie Horwood's Hereford heifer placed fifth in its class. The heifer bred by Weldon Edwards of Clyde, was calved in November 1974.

A Hereford heifer shown by Lenard Horwood placed 13th in its class. Also bred by Edwards, his heifer was calved in October 1974.

Paula and Delmer Radde Jr. showed the reserve champion ram and reserve champion ewe of the Open Delaine Breeding Sheep Show. They were entered in the Open show to avoid competing

with brother Bennie in the Junior Delaine Show. Their ram lambs placed fourth and fifth and their yearling rams placed first and fourth. In the ewe division, their ewe lamb placed first and the yearling ewes placed second and third.

Wesley Hodges showed in the Junior Rambouillet Show. This was the largest Junior Rambouillet show in a number of years at San Antonio. Wesley's placings were fifth and eighth in the ram lamb class; fourth and fifth in the yearling ram class, tenth and twelfth in the ewe lamb class; second and third in the yearling ewe class; and third in the pair of sheep class.

Amy and Becky Hodges each showed in the Open Rambouillet Show and Wesley had 2 entries in the Open Show. Wesley had the reserve champion ram while Amy showed the champion ewe and Becky showed the reserve champion ewe.

In the class placings, Becky had the second place ram lamb and Amy the third and fifth places. Amy had the second and third place yearling rams while Becky had the fourth place ram. In the aged ram class, Wesley had first and second places. Becky had the first and third place ewe lambs while Amy had second and sixth places. Amy placed first in the yearling ewe class with Becky second and third. First place in the aged ewe class went to Amy and second to Becky. Becky placed first in the exhibitors flock class with Amy second. Second place in the pen of lambs class went to Amy. In the pair of sheep class, Becky placed first and Amy second.

The Hodges won first place in the Herdsman Award division of the Open Sheep Show. This award, twenty dollars, is given to the exhibitors who display their animals in the best manner, maintain cleanliness and orderliness in their display, cooperate with the show officials, and are always observant of the rules of the show and present themselves in a pleasant, neat manner during the show.

## Census To Be Taken Here Soon

C.O.G. SPONSORED

A census is to be taken here in Sterling County soon. It is sponsored by the Concho Valley Council of Governments and is more or less under the direction of Our-Reach Worker, Rev. C. A. Tucker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

Although primarily begun to get a survey of aging citizens, it now will be a complete census even to being a religious census, said Tucker. Church groups are to take the census, being the La Hermosa Baptist Church or Mission, the Catholic Church, the Church of Christ, the Baptist and the Methodist churches here.

A meeting was held last week working out the plans and another was held this Wednesday.

Tucker said the churches were to line up the house knockers—and rural road workers, and the job will be completed by the middle of March.

Forms for the census have been mimeographed by Tucker and the job will be rather simple.

As the out-reach worker for the COG Tucker said the forms dealt mostly with those who are senior citizens and their problems. COG is sponsoring such censuses around over the area.

### FOSTER CEMETERY NOTICE

All those interested in Foster Cemetery and having plots there—are asked to send in the contributions now. Money is needed to carry out some improvements and keep the cemetery in good shape. (Your contribution to the cemetery is tax-deductible).

Send your money to the secretary treasurer, Mrs. Foster Conger.

FOSTER CEMETERY ASSN.

### RODENT CONTROL SPECIALIST AVAILABLE

Sterling County is one of 19 area counties selected to be serviced by an urban Rodent Control Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas A&M University cooperating.

Larry J. Killgo, a native of Snyder, will be stationed in the County Extension Office in Abilene. He is the son of C. J. Killgo of Snyder and has a B. S. degree in Wildlife Management from Texas Tech University.

He will give talks, demonstrations and help where needed on rodent control—like mice, rats, and even sparrows, starlings, skunks, armadillos and racoons.

He can be contacted through the local County Extension Office or by writing him Care of County Extension Office, County Courthouse, Abilene, Tex., 79602 or phone 673-0331.

### Social Security Tips

Social security checks should be cashed within a reasonable time to prevent loss or theft, even though there's no time limit on cashing them, according to social security officials here.

'If your check is lost or stolen, get in touch with your nearest social security office at once,' a spokesman said. 'The check can be replaced, but it takes time. Handle your check carefully when you get it and you won't have to wait while it's being replaced.'

Social security pays over \$4 billion a month in benefit checks to almost 29 million people—eligible retired and disabled workers and their families and families of deceased workers who worked long enough under social security.

### SALES HELP WANTED

Texas Refinery Corp. offers opportunity for high income, cash bonuses, fringe benefits to mature individual in Sterling City area. Commission regardless of experience, airmail A. T. Pate, Pres. Texas Refinery Corp. Box 711, Ft. Worth, Tex. 76101.

## Free or Reduced Lunches at School

The Sterling City School serves meals every school day. Students may buy lunches for 50c, breakfast for 20c and extra milk for 12c.

Children from families whose income is at or below levels shown on the tables below are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. The reduced price for meals is 20c for lunches and breakfast 10c.

If one's income is below that listed, the children may be eligible for the reduced or free lunches. Applications for free or reduced lunches will be received at any time at the school, said James Thompson, superintendent.

All children are treated the same regardless of the ability to pay. In the operation of the child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color or national origin.

### FREE AND REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME SCALE (Minimum Guidelines for Free and Increased by 95% for Reduced Price Meals)

Family Size	Free Meals	Reduced Price Meals
1	\$0—2,580	2,580—5,040
2	0—3,390	3,390—6,620
3	0—4,200	4,200—8,200
4	0—5,011	5,010—9,770
5	0—5,750	5,750—11,210
6	0—6,490	6,490—12,650
7	0—7,160	7,160—13,970
8	0—7,830	7,830—15,280
9	0—8,440	8,440—16,460
10	0—9,050	9,050—17,640
11	0—9,650	9,650—18,820
12	0—10,250	10,250—20,000
Each additional Family Member	\$600	1,180

## 1975-76 School Calendar

August 11 Teacher Inservice  
 August 12 Teacher Inservice  
 August 13 Teacher Inservice  
 August 14 Teacher Work Day  
 August 15 No School  
 August 18 School Year Begins (for students)  
 October 27 District TSTA (A student holiday)  
 November 7 End of 1st Quarter  
 November 10 Teacher Work Day (student holiday)  
 November 11 Holiday-Armistice Day  
 November 27 and 28 Thanksgiving Holidays  
 December 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, January 1 & 2 Christmas holidays  
 January 19 Holiday, Local Stock Show  
 February 20 End 2nd Quarter  
 February 23, 24, 25, Inservice (student holidays)  
 March 12 Holiday (San Angelo Stock Show)  
 March 19 & 22 Spring Holidays  
 April 15, 16, 19, Easter Holidays  
 May 22 Baccalaureate  
 May 26 Graduation  
 May 26 End 3rd Quarter  
 May 27 Teacher Work Day

## Democratic Political Announcements 1976

The following announce their candidacy in the Democratic Primary May 1, 1976:  
 For County Attorney,  
 HOWARD V. CUDD  
 WORTH B. DURHAM  
 For Sheriff, Tax Collector and Assessor:  
 F. J. (Jim) CANTRELL  
 For County Commissioner Prc. 1  
 CLEDIS W. SMITH  
 For County Commissioner Prc. 3  
 BILLY R. BYNUM  
 For State Legislature, 63rd District:  
 MICHAEL H. EZZELL  
 For District Attorney, 5th Judicial District:  
 F. W. FERRELL  
 TOM GOFF

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Call one of our service agents: Thurston McCutchen or Waldon Millican at (915) 453-2812 Mrs. C.E. Arrott, Secretary

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1. James Allen--Chairman
2. Crowley Harmon
3. Danny Stewart

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# STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD

A Tribute To The Oil Fraternity Of The Area

STERLING CITY, STERLING COUNTY, TEXAS

## Oil Production Keeps Gaining Momentum Here

With ranching as a longtime picture, Sterling county now has come to the forefront in oil production. Last year brought a total production of 25 million barrels of oil — since 1947.

The settlers of the area saw good grasslands and settled for that reason. (Some few even saw farming possibilities — dry land kind.) The livestock industry was foremost however and that was what Sterling's economy was built on.

Oil companies sent geologists in back in the 20's and did some leasing and shallow tests. Some resulted in small amounts of oil. Nothing spectacular was noted — but most all old timers felt that there was oil here. It only remained for improved drilling techniques and procedures — off in the future — for real production. Almost every land owner felt this way.

Well, in summer 1947 Bill Lane of the Plymouth Oil Co. leased up quite a block of leases to the north and west of town to try for deep production — or at least testing. They were going all the way to the Ellenburger.

They began drilling that summer on the Georgia Frost No. 1, 11½ miles northwest of Sterling City on the Colorado City highway. It was the first real determined deep test to get oil production here.

In August 1947, the Plymouth Company cased the Georgia Frost well and deepened it 25 feet. After the perforations were made the well began flowing — at the rate of 8 barrels an hour with gas ratio 900-1. The flow was through a choke of ⅝ inch at bottom-hole with a one-inch opening.

The well caused much excitement here in Sterling City. Other companies got set to drill in that vicinity — on the Claude Collins ranch, the Space Ranch, the Forrest Foster ranch and others.

The Plymouth Company was so pleased with production that they gave a big free barbecue for everyone at the site. Over 500 persons whoed up to celebrate the production of oil in Sterling County.

The well was on a section of land that F.M. (Shorty) Williams had willed to Mrs. Frost and S.M. Kennedy, both of Oklahoma. The Williamses had also left a section to the Church of Christ and one to the Foster Cemetery.

Landowners that had unleased land were swamped with lease hounds. Bonuses of \$10 per acre and \$1 rental were quoted daily. Soon all land owners that really wanted to lease had done so.

Royalty buyers were active too. Mrs. Frost sold half of her royalty on her

half section for \$50 per acre, and kept half of it. Her brother, Kennedy, sold half of his royalty at \$100 per acres and kept half of it. Many landowners refused \$100 an acre for part royalty and kept thinking there was no ceiling to offers. Claude Collins was offered \$250 per acre for some of his royalty. Plymouth was to have to drill two wells on his country in order to hold their lease.

Pete Ainsworth joined with the Plymouth Company in throwing the Barbecue. Mike Griffith, vice president of the Plymouth, Dan Ritter and other locals all pitched in and helped with the feed.

Bill Lane, of the Plymouth Co., kept saying the company wasn't satisfied with the small production of the well. The company began all kinds of treatment to improve the flow. They acidized, they re-perforated, they shot the well and even deepened it — and even tried a higher pay — but it seemed the more they tried the less the well produced. They swabbed that No. 1 well so much they probably thinned the casing by half. They would swab and the drillers would taste the stuff — to see if it was oil, acid, or what. They would cement in new plugs, re-shoot the well and drill out plugs—all to no avail.

Well, Sir, that well finally just kinda died. It was a real letdown.

But drilling in that area started. A test a mile away on Willie May Foster's was the next test. Also on J. C. and N. H. Reed's lands tests were started with somewhat high hopes.

Meanwhile, the Plymouth Co. decided maybe the first results of the Georgia Frost were okay. They cemented back up to the original depth and re-perforated — and hoped for a resumption of the original oil and gas flow. All they could get was oil and water by swabbing. The water was salty. The company just did not care to pump a deep well for 3 barrels of oil and 3 barrels of water hourly. It was too expensive a way to get oil.

Nothing else much happened in 1947—no real oil pays were found. Lessors, royalty buyers and wildcatters all were busy around here, though trying to get production—or leases—or anything they could.

Cities Service Co. drilled a test on Claude Collins Hackberry Ranch to test the Ellenburger. The company officials told Mr. Collins that if they didn't find something down there about as big as the Pacific Ocean they would just plug up the hole. They found oil—allright—but not enough to suit them.

Then by the end of the year Anderson-Prichard Oil Company started a test on Marvin Frances Foster's land south of Sterling City. The Plymouth Co. was still trying to improve the Georgia Frost and bring in the Willie Mae Foster test.

Hopes were still high for oil for Sterling County, though, and in February, 1948, the Anderson Prichard Marvin Frances Foster well hit production in the lower Permian and flowed 25 barrels hourly of 38 gravity oil on a test. This brought the oil fever back to Sterling County. The company and drillers though the pay was from the Wichita-Albany—which was basal Permian. So oil fever was now centered to the south of Sterling City.

Royalty was talked, sold, traded and re-hased by all citizens. Some of the land owners made good royalty sales. All nearby landowners could have sold royalty for real sums of money.

The Apco-Vickers (as it was called later) flowed

815.40 barrels of oil on the M.F. Foster test. It was 28.5 gravity, a little low gravity to suit oil companies — but the fever persisted and drilling kept on. Marvin Frances sold some royalty, Bob Foster sold some royalty and prices quoted were as high as \$150 per acre.

Many companies, many drillers and many wildcatters and hopefuls drilled tests in every part of the county. L.S. Yarborough and Son of Midland, Texaco, Anderson Prichard, Standard Oil and Gas, Humble Oil and Refining Co., Ray Albaugh, Pan American Oil Co., and many others figured in the drilling tests over the entire county.

The tests nearly all had some pay and caused excitement between landowners and the companies and the local citizens.

Ranching was great—when you could get oil lease money in yearly — and in some cases nice royalty payments. Ranchers nearly all picked up supplemental income from the oil people. Some ranchers were admittedly content just to get the lease money. The oil—if it were down here—was safe. So they reasoned. Nobody was hurting even if there was not a lot of production here.

(Continued on Page 2)



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# Oil . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

But small operators began hitting shallow production; deep production was being brought in areas over the county — nearly every direction out of Sterling City. Production grew steadily and each year saw more and more oil being produced and found in Sterling.

The far north, the north-

west., the west, the south, and east parts of the county all had some production. Some started out as pretty big producers and got smaller. Some have held their own for years. Oil production had been steady and constant for many years.

Then, on some new trials to the north part of the county, considerable production was found. The north part of the county boomed and settled down as the drilling was completed and the fever

subsided.

Later — the real production that put the county in the oil producing business was brought in mostly south and west of Sterling City. The wells are good ones. Fewer disappointments are listed — although now and then a test is plugged up.

The royalty checks come in regularly. The oil income exceeds the ranching income in many a rancher's bank account. This fixes it so the landowners can improve their land. They can push and chain brush and mesquite. They can dig the pear off. They can build better corrals, fences, barns, homes, etc. They can have more water wells. They can terrace their land and plant and irrigate feed crops for

their stock.

Many ranchers are so cleared off now that old-timers would not recognize them if they were suddenly back in Sterling County after a long, long absence.

So, mixed with livestock raising or ranching, the oil business has been good to Sterling landowners — and always will be. Many of the gains here in ranch improvement are due primarily to oil hunting, oil leasing, and now oil production.

In all likelihood, it will not take but a few more years now to get the second 25 million barrels of oil produced here in Sterling County. Many guesses can be made, but one guess is it will not take over 7 or 8 years at the most — to get the second 25

million barrels.

At present production of nearly 5 million barrels a year it will take 5 years — but more wells are being drilled all the time — and nearly all add to the total.

So, hats off to Sterling County — which really gets underway with the oil business and natural gas production.

\* \* \*

Anesthesia was first used in America in 1842 when some young men, seeing laughing gas extolled by a traveling patent medicine salesman, got Dr. Crawford Long to give them ether. Noting that his turned-on friends felt no pain when they fell down, he applied his discovery to a tumor operation and opened the way to modern, painless operations.

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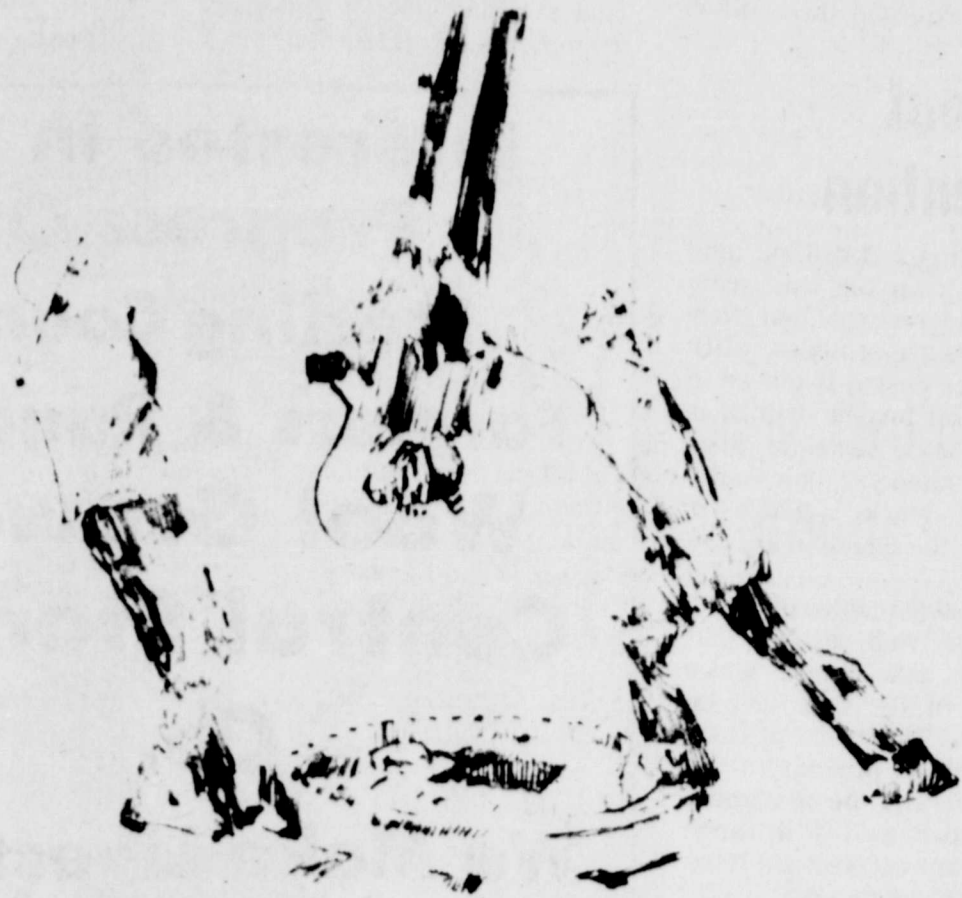
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Sterling City

# Drilling For Oil and Gas

## Rotary Drilling

Sterling City, Texas, News-Record—3



In rotary drilling, a bit is attached to the lower end of a string of pipe, called "drill pipe." Bits ranged from less than four to more than 22 inches in diameter. They are made of very hard steel, and some types have two or three rotating cones covered with sharp teeth for grinding through rock. Other bits have industrial diamonds embedded in them, and may cost thousands of dollars. The bit and pipe pass vertically through a rotary turntable on the derrick floor. As the pipe is turned and lowered into the earth, the bit bores a hole deeper and deeper. As the hole deepens, the drilling crew adds new lengths of drill pipe.

When a bit becomes dull, the entire length of drill pipe must be removed, unjoined, and stacked in the derrick. After a new bit is attached, the drilling crew reconnects the lengths of pipe and returns it into the hole piece by piece. This is an operation that demands high skill, speed, and precision, and one which may have to be repeated many times in drilling a well 10,000 feet or more in depth.

Extreme care must be taken

during the entire drilling operation to avoid parting the string of drilling tools and having it drop to the bottom of the hole. If this happens, it could mean the loss of the well. At the very best, it becomes a costly "fishing" operation to retrieve whatever has dropped.

Equally important is the care that must be taken to avoid getting the drilling tools stuck in the hole. To lessen the chances of this happening, rotary drilling is carried on around-the-clock, seven days a week.

During rotary drilling a special "mud" — a mixture of water, clay and chemical additives — is pumped under pressure down through the drill pipe. When it reaches the bottom, it is forced out through nozzle openings in the bit, and returns to the surface outside the drill pipe. This constantly circulating mud cools and cleans the bit and transports cuttings from the well. It also cakes the sides of the hole, preventing cave-ins and, by its weight, controls the pressure of any gas, oil or water that may be encountered by the drill bit.

Setting casing is an important job in drilling wells.

(Continued on Page 4)

Before actual drilling can begin on a site, a great deal of preparatory work must be done. In remote or rough and swampy terrain, this is a major engineering job in itself. The land must be surveyed. Then it is cleared and graded.

If necessary, access roads are built for bringing in derricks and pumps, fuel and supplies. When these roads go through wooded areas, oil men work with forest rangers to insure their maximum compatibility with woodlands and game trails.

A constant power source must be provided for operating the heavy on-site equipment. Provision must be made for a constant supply of water, both for the men and the drilling operation. If the site is far from a town, a camp is usually put up to house the men. Sometimes temporary fences are built to keep out inquisitive animals.

Now the drilling rig is brought in.

There are two basic types of drilling equipment in use today — rotary and cable tool.

In both cases, machinery is set up and a derrick erected for handling the tools and pipe that go down into the well. Most rigs now use a portable hinged derrick or mast which can be raised and lowered intact. These "jack-knife" type rigs have largely replaced "standard" derricks, which

are made of steel girders, erected and dismantled piece by piece and used over and over again. Standard derricks still are used for some very deep wells or where space is unavailable for moving in a "jackknife" rig.

today primarily to drill shallow water wells, and to drill certain types of formations peculiarly suited to this method. By far the larger number of wells are now drilled by the rotary method.

## Cable Tool Drilling

Of the two drilling methods, the cable tool is much older, and seldom used today. Five centuries before Christ, the Chinese invented a cable drilling method essentially similar to the ones which drilled the first oil wells.

A cable tool rig is made up of machinery and gear that raise and drop a "string" of tools, consisting of a "bit" and stem on the end of a cable. The heavy bit pounds its way into the earth, pulverizing soil and rock. At intervals, the string of tools is removed. Then the hole is flushed, and the resulting "slurry" of drilling cuttings is removed by bailing. At appropriate intervals, the hole is lined with steel casing to prevent caving in, and to protect underground fresh water strata encountered during drilling.

The cable tool rig is used

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**Drilling . . .**

(Continued from Page 3)

Casing is an important job in drilling wells. Casing is run in the hole to shut off water sands, high pressure gas zones, prevent cave-ins, and protect fresh water strata. The casing

consists of a number of lengths of heavy steel pipe joined together, normally by threaded couplings.

After the casing has been lowered to the desired point, it must be securely sealed to the walls of the hole. This is done by pumping a cement slurry

through the string of casing and forcing it out through the bottom, so that it rises to fill the space between the outside of the casing and the walls of the hole.

**Blowout Prevention**

The casing and drilling mud normally keep the flow from the well under control, but other safeguards are provided. After the surface casing is placed in the well, all further drilling is protected by a series of large valves, called a "blowout preventer stack," which is attached to the top of the casing.

These valves can be closed to seal off the well bore, so that the gases and liquids under pressure in the hole can be controlled. There are at least two blowout preventers on each well; and the maximum number per well will range from four to seven. This equipment varies both in size and in the design of the closing mechanism.

One of the more commonly used controls is the "bag type" blowout preventer. This uses a bag, similar to an inner tube, to close the area between the casing and the drill pipe during an emergency. Fluid is forced into the bag, expanding it and sealing off the flow from the well. Once used, the bags must be replaced.

Another style of blowout

preventer frequently used is "ram type." Fluid is forced against piston-like rams, moving them into the well bore and stopping the oil and gas from rising from the reservoir.

These rams can be reopened, tested and set again by reversing the fluid pressure drive.

While the well is being drilled, (Continued on Page 5)

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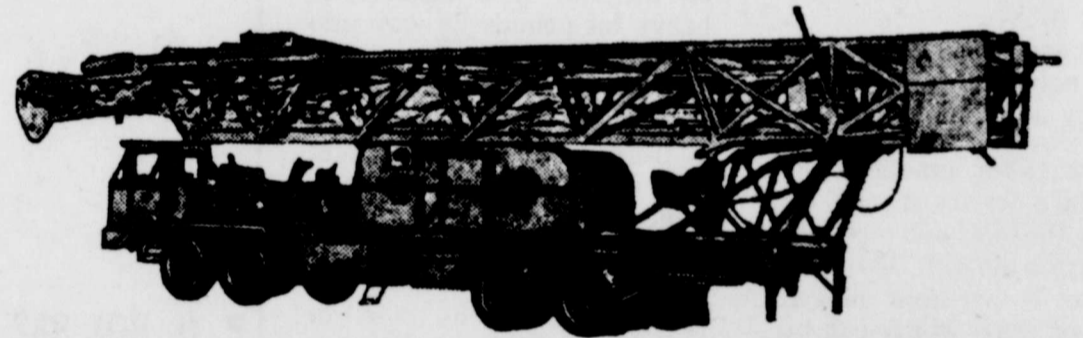
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## Blowout . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

drilled, instruments measure and record critical aspects of the drilling operation, what is occurring within the well, and the behavior of the drilling machinery. Should a change occur unexpectedly, an automatic indicator sounds an alarm. Crews immediately closed the blowout preventer, adjust the weight of the drilling mud, or take other steps to control the flow of fluids.

## New Drilling Methods

Engineers are constantly working on new techniques to improve drilling operations.

Some of the techniques used, such as electrodrill and turbodrill, are designed to give more direct power to the drilling process by locating the drill motor just above the bit at the bottom of the hole. Rotary percussion drills use a circulating fluid to activate a hammer-like mechanism above the drill bit that creates a rapid series of percussion blows. In this way, rotary percussion drills bore and pound their way into the earth.

Some other drilling techniques now being tested include abrasion drilling (the use of abrasive material under pressure to "cut" the strata, instead of using the conventional drill stem and bit); flexible pipe, run as a continuous unit, and which is designed to permit raising and lowering the pipe without having to couple and uncouple joints; computerized drilling; and automatic drilling machines.

## Directional Drilling

During the past 40 years, rotary drilling techniques have been perfected to deflect the drill from the vertical in a gradual curve as the hole goes deeper. Such controlled directional drilling can tap reserves inaccessible by vertical drilling. Oil deposits lying beneath the Pacific Ocean off California have been reached by wells drilled directionally from shore. This method was also employed to drill a well which reached its

(Continued on Page 6)

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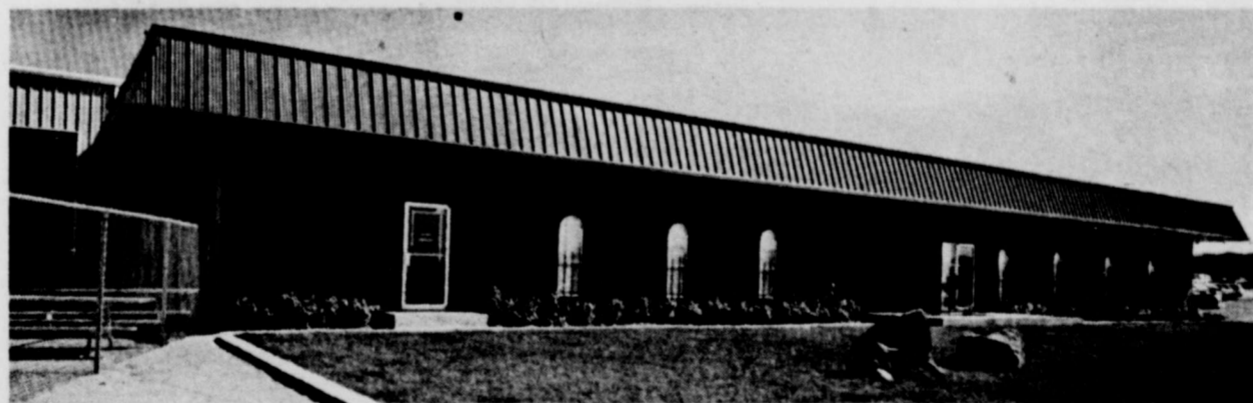
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## Drilling . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

total depth beneath the state capitol building at Oklahoma City from a derrick 400 feet away.

In marine operations, which involve high costs, a number of wells can be drilled from one platform by a directional drilling. This cuts drilling and production costs per platform. Directional drilling may also be used to "kill" wild wells.

## Marine Drilling

The history of marine drilling goes back to 1938, when the Creole field was discovered in the Gulf of Mexico, one nautical mile off the Louisiana coast. But it was not until after World War II that marine drilling got its real impetus. Today, underwater exploration has extended to the Pacific.

Atlantic and Arctic coasts of the United States and to deep and shallow water areas all over the world.

Marine platforms in navigable waters are equipped with navigational warning devices. Automatic shutdown equipment, including sub-surface safety valves designed to close down the flow of oil if the platform is damaged, is installed. These devices operate when they detect an unusual change in the well pressure or flow rate. The production platforms, themselves, are constructed to withstand extreme storm conditions.

Until recently, marine drilling was only possible in depths up to 300 feet. Now it is possible to drill in waters over 1,000 feet deep. But oil men are currently experimenting with methods capable of drilling in waters exceeding 10,000 feet deep.

Several types of drilling rigs are used for marine operations. One is an enormous self-contained platform large enough to provide living quarters for the crew, warehousing for supplies, and legs through which drilling equipment can be run, pipelines strung, and divers conducted to the ocean floor. Later, production equipment is installed. Such drilling platforms may cost as much as \$20 million.

Another kind employs a smaller stationary platform that supports the rig. It is serviced by a floating tender that houses the auxiliary equipment, supplies, crews' quarters, and a helicopter landing platform.

A third type consists of a platform and submersible barge which are towed to the drilling site on the water's surface. At the site, the barge is submerged until it rests on the bottom, bringing the platform down to surface level. These cost from \$10 million to \$25 million.

A fourth rig is a mobile, self-elevating unit in which the latticework steel legs can be jacked up to platform level for towing. On location, the legs are lowered to the sea bottom below the platform. These cost up to \$15 million.

A fifth type consists of a self-propelled drilling ship, equipped with anchors, cables and winches to hold it securely above the drilling site. Positioning in some of the newer vessels is assisted by propeller-driven thrusters. These vessels are designed for operation in deeper waters. Recently, a core hole was drilled from such a ship in a water depth of 10,000 feet.

Ocean floor completions, where the wellhead equipment is lowered to the ocean bottom and sealed to the well casing when drilling is completed, is a relatively new technique used primarily with the drilling vessels. It is particularly advantageous in deeper waters, and its use will undoubtedly increase as the technique is improved and conditions require.

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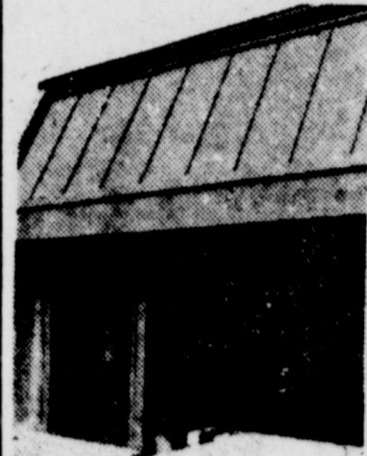
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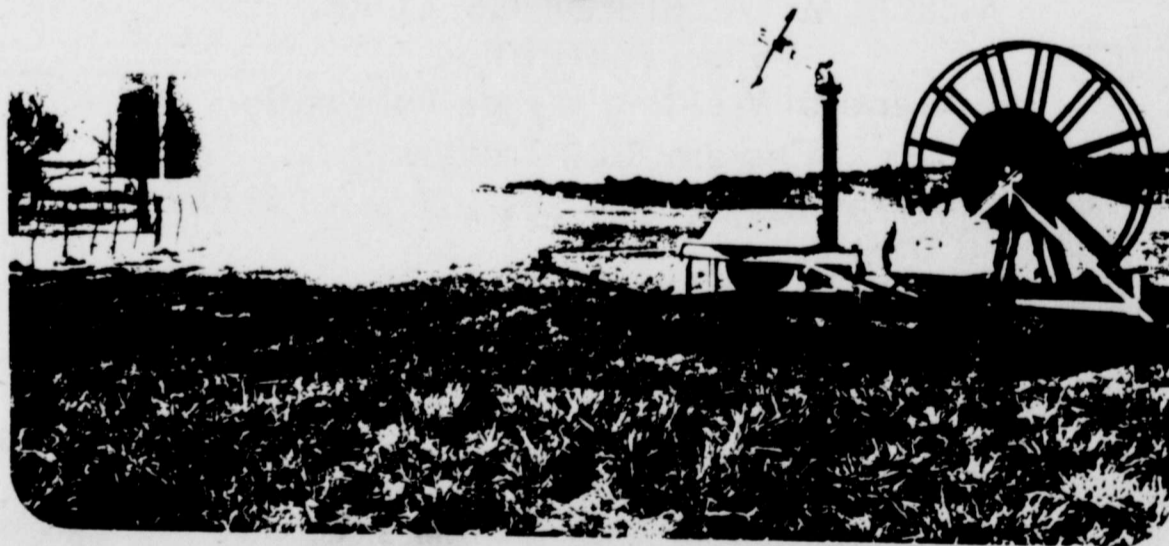
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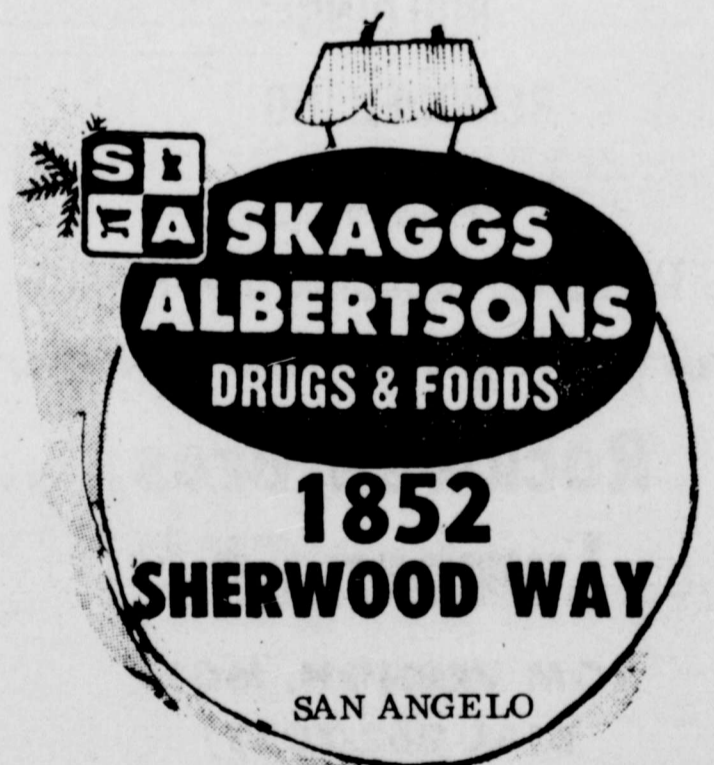
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## Types of Wells

Exploratory wells are classified as follows: those drilled to find the limits of an oil- or gas-bearing formation, that is partly developed; those drilled in search of a new productive formation in an area that is already productive; and those drilled in an area where neither oil nor natural gas has ever been found. These last are known as new-field wildcats.

The chances of finding oil or natural gas in new-field wildcat drilling are slim, to say the least. On the average, only one new-field wildcat out of every 10 drilled finds any oil or natural gas. And only two out of every 100 such wells finds enough oil or natural gas to be considered commercially significant.

Wells which are drilled within an area that has already proved productive of oil or natural gas, are called development wells. Service wells are those which are drilled for injecting liquids or gas into an underground formation in order to increase the pressure, and thereby force the oil toward the producing wells. Service wells also include wells used for the disposal underground of salt water produced with the oil and gas.

## Putting A Well Into Production

First the drill pipe and bit are removed. Cementing operations then set the final lengths of casing. Next a special instrument, containing sockets holding either shaped explosive charges or bullets similar to those used in a gun, is lowered into the well. This perforating instrument fires, by electric impulse, charges or bullets through the casing into the producing formation to open passages through which the oil and natural gas can flow

into the well bore. Tubing then goes down inside the casing, and the oil and natural gas flow through this to the surface.

To control the oil flow, a set of valves and control equipment is set in a place at the top of the well. In oil country this is called a "christmas tree" because of its many branch-like fittings. It controls the flow of oil and natural gas from the moment the well starts producing.

## Drilling Facts

Most of the wells drilled in the early days were relatively shallow. Drake's well, which came in at a depth of 69½ feet, took about 12 to 15 drilling days.

Today's wells average over 5,000 feet. Many go beyond 15,000 feet. The world's deepest well, drilled in Oklahoma, was 30,050 feet. Drilling time now ranges from a few days to more than three months, and some wells take longer than a year to drill.

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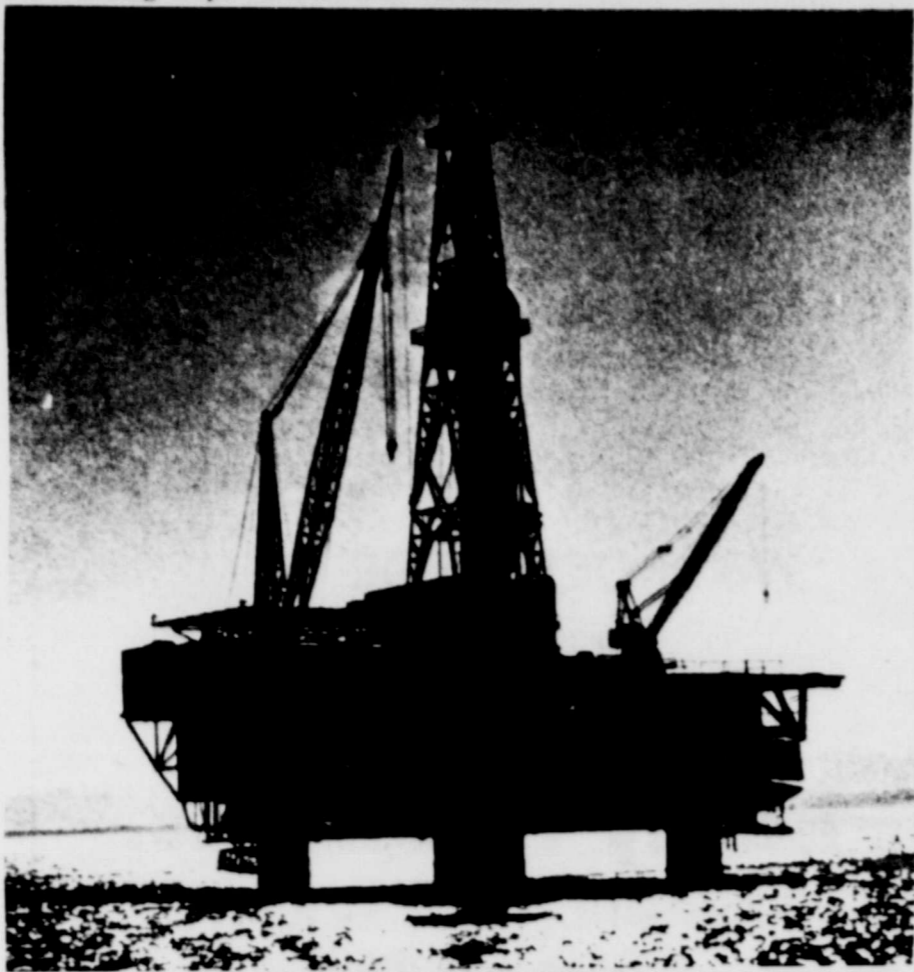
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The energy available to our early pioneers was limited to their own muscle power, the work they could obtain from draft animals, and the power they could generate from water, wind, and wood. Then man found a new energy source — coal — and learned to put it to work for him. But with the discovery of a way to tap our petroleum reserves in 1859, came our most significant energy break-through.

This new motive force revolutionized technology. In the early 1850's, only about 35 per cent of all work in the United States was performed by machines. The rest was performed by animals and man himself. The few crude steam engines, locomotives and factory equipment that were in existence broke down regularly for lack of proper lubricants.

Today, machines which depend upon petroleum for all of their lubrication and almost three-quarters of their fuel, do 99 per cent of the work in this country. As a consequence, the present-day American worker, using machines, can produce six times as much as one man could a century ago.

As the nation's energy consumption and work output have increased, so has its economic growth. There is ample experience to indicate that energy is one of the important resources that a nation needs to develop and sustain economic growth.

The close correlation between energy consumption and economic growth during the past century points the way to the future. In the years ahead,

the demands for energy will multiply tremendously. And contributing significantly to the energy demand increase will be the power necessary to clean up the environment — power to recycle waste, for maintaining air and water pollution controls, and to manufacture the environmental protection devices needed to update older, and to

develop new, low-pollution factories, refineries and home and commercial heating units.

As these demands increase, so will our economy grow. Thus, with the predicted increase demands for petroleum in the years to come, oil and gas companies will continue to play a significant role in the nation's future economic growth.

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Of more than 40,000 oil and gas companies making up the U.S. petroleum industry, 10,000 are engaged in exploration for and production of crude, oil or natural gas.

The leading producer accounts for less than eight per cent of domestic crude output, and the 20 largest producers are responsible for only 58 per cent.

More than 125 companies operate some 250 refineries in the U.S. The largest refiner has less than 9 per cent of total U.S. capacity.

Finally, the intense competition typical of the petroleum industry is especially apparent in the marketplace. The largest share of the gasoline market held by a single firm is 8.3 per cent.

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Sterling City

# Oil Production Has Significant Impact on Sterling Economy

Sterling City, Texas, News-Record—9

The production of crude oil and natural gas in 1974 continued to have a significant impact on the economy of Sterling County, with the estimated value of the county's production, royalty payments, and state severance taxes reaching new highs.

Sterling was one of 197 counties — an increase of four

from 1973 — which produced oil and gas valued in excess of \$100,000 in a year which saw the total value of state production jump from just over \$6.7 billion to almost \$11.4 billion.

The county ranked 132nd in the state in the total value of petroleum produced — \$7.4 million — with \$6.6 million of

that coming from the sale of 936,563 barrels of crude oil; \$836,000 million from the sale of 2.9 million MCF of natural gas. These figures now pale into insignificance with today's production of gas.

This study by the Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association shows also that the county's petroleum production last year resulted in the payment of \$924,000 to royalty owners.

"These figures, whether considered statewide or individually in almost 80 percent of Texas' 254 counties, emphasize the importance of a healthy petroleum industry in the nation's No. 1 energy state," said Sherman Hunt, a Dallas independent oil man who is president of Texas Mid-Continent.

"In the face of declining production in Texas, it is significant that this increased return to royalty owners and producers came from crude oil and natural gas which is free from restrictive federal price controls. But there are at this time proposals in Congress which would place all of Texas' petroleum production under federal price controls, with predictable disastrous consequences for the industry, as well as the whole economy of the state," Hunt said.

The survey also shows that the State of Texas received \$364,000 in production taxes from county wells, with \$301,000 coming from crude oil output and \$63,000 from natural gas production.

Oil and gas developers and producers spent an estimated \$9.2 million drilling 26 wells in the county last year, with 30.8

percent of that figure lost in 12 dry holes. The total drilling yielded eight oil wells and six gas wells. The exploratory effort in the county included the drilling of 18 wildcat wells seeking new oil and gas fields.

According to the Texas Employment Commission, 16 oil and gas industry employees worked in the county in 1974 and shared a payroll totalling \$80,000.

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**Gas Control  
 Review Needed**

The energy gap has caused gas industry spokesman to call for the complete removal of natural gas controls.

"The time has come," said Herbert D. Clay of the American Gas Association, "for Congress to take decisive action on the most obvious and timely step: that is the removal of the Federal Power Commission regulation of the field price of new natural gas."

Clay emphasized that he does not represent producers of natural gas, and is not interested in increased profits.

"Our interests," said Clay, "is in being able to serve the 160,000,000 consumers served by the 300 AGA companies."

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A.G.A. president Donald Hart called the move to remove controls on new gas prices the "Most timely step that could be taken."

Hart pointed out five reasons why controls should be removed:

1. Natural gas is clearly our dominant source of present domestic energy production.
  2. Natural gas is our cleanest fuel.
  3. Natural gas is our most efficient fuel.
  4. There is a huge resource base of potential new domestic natural gas.
  5. Present proved gas reserves are committed under long term contracts at low prices which means the higher incentive necessary to develop this vast potential can be rolled in with existing prices. This will result in the least inflationary impact on consumers.
- "These are facts," said Clay, "not points for debate."

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# API Chairman Urges Cooperation Of Oil Industry, Media, Govt.

The oil industry, federal government and national news media were urged today by Charles E. Spahr, American Petroleum Institute chairman, to become involved in the development and support of policies and positive action programs based on economic realism to get the U.S. going on constructive solutions to its energy problems.

Spahr, also chairman and chief executive officer of The Standard Oil Co. (Ohio), told a New York Security Analysts meeting that the nation's energy problem has grown even though the U.S. is no longer confronted with an embargo on some foreign supplies.

"The risks of another embargo are still with us, and its impact could be at least as bad, and perhaps worse, than was the case a year ago. U. S.

crude oil production is down, Canadian crude oil is being withdrawn from export markets, the Trans-Alaska pipeline is still two and a half years away from operation, severe natural gas shortages are beginning to emerge, there has been little real progress toward the clean and efficient use of coal, and the nation's energy R&D programs have not advanced substantially.

"This is a grim picture, particularly when one considers the economic and monetary aspects of increased energy costs, balance of payments problems, and the worldwide transfer of wealth that is now underway to the oil producing nations," he added.

Spahr said there are steps the oil industry, the government and media should undertake now in the national interest.

He said the oil industry should:

— Continue to lead in promoting energy conservation, and influence others to do likewise.

— Support positive action proposals that address the dual problem of conservation and new supplies.

— Participate fully in the development of a national energy program and express its views to government, people and other business leaders.

Spahr said the oil industry has been unable to date to offer convincing and unified specific action programs to help formulate national policies on energy, taxes and the economy. He cited the competitive instincts of individual members of the oil and gas industry as a basic cause of past inability to agree on the best answers to U. S. energy problems.

He urged Congress to take the following actions:

— Create legislation that encourages energy conservation by both individuals and business, and include investment incentives that would aid recovery of the economy.

— Provide energy industries with a legislative climate that is encouraging to capital formation without threat of punitive taxation.

— Expedite availability of Outer Continental Shelf for exploration.

— Review environmental regulations with the aim of striking a reasonable balance in environmental benefit versus economic impact.

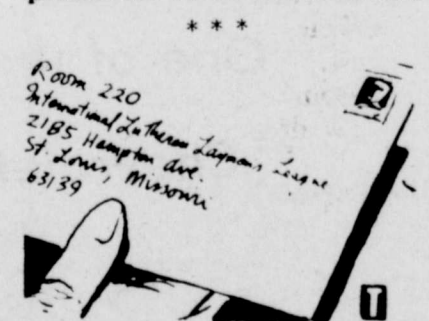
— Establish a strong national research and development program for creation of synthetic gas and liquid fuels from coal to augment future dwindling supplies of oil and gas.

— Encourage through policy, legislation and regulation the more rapid development of nuclear energy because of its future importance along with coal.

Spahr indicated the government, especially Congress, had accomplished somewhat more than the public gave it credit for over the last 15 months.

"The Alaskan pipeline and offshore oil-port legislation were passed in 1974, and some steps were taken to permit some reasonable easing of environmental standards in regard to energy usage.

"What Congress didn't do is also important. It did not pass punitive legislation against the oil industry. A recent estimate suggests this probably preserved more than two billion dollars of industry profits for further investment



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in vital energy development programs. Reports of various companies indicate they are investing far more in new energy projects than they earned last year," he added.

Turning to the news media and "to their imperative role in the improved reporting of energy and economic matters," Spahr said:

— The media must become more educated economically since the nation's major concerns are economic in nature. (The energy industry should help by being responsive to legitimate requests for information and interpretation.)

— The media should become equally critical of the

economics of all proposals from whatever source — industry, government or public.

"The media's past performance on matters of energy and economics, in general, has been distressing to most of us in the energy industries," Spahr said. "The media frequently have handled the analysis of a complex situation in a simplistic, headline-seeking manner."

He said the media have "failed to understand the economic forces at work against our economy in the energy field and to react critically to headline-seeking news releases and press conferences of some in and out of government.

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## Texas First Oil Well Is Over 100 Too

The problems of raising money to make a profitable enterprise out of Texas' first oil well — drilled over 100 years ago — are revealed in a biographical booklet on Lyne T. Barret published by Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association. Publication of the booklet is one of the number of projects slated by the Association to honor the pioneer oil man whom petroleum historians credit with drilling the first Texas oil well near Nacogdoches in 1866.

Written by Frank X. Tolbert, Dallas historian and newspaperman, the story which is based on some of Barret's correspondence and business papers, discloses the great optimism and disappointments surrounding this first attempt to create a Texas oil Company.

Barrett obtained some \$5,000 worth of machinery from

operators in the then young Pennsylvania oil industry to develop the oil leases he held, however, following a second well, which failed to produce, his source of capital dried up. Correspondence indicates that Barret attempted to swap Texas land to the Pennsylvanians for further assistance, but they were not interested. Mrs. Barret was reported to have inherited a great deal of land.

Tolbert wrote that after trips north for additional financing failed, Barret apparently never

drilled another well, although he did live to see the development of great fields at Beaumont and other places in the southeastern section of the state. He had written letters prior to the drilling of his own well near Nacogdoches describing a venture planned in Hardin

## Government Controls Price Of 60% Of American Crude Oil

Roughly 60 percent of the crude oil in the U. S. is under federal price controls. Controlled oil is commonly referred to as "old" oil, and sells for about \$5.25 per barrel. "Old" oil is the volume produced from a well in the comparable month during 1972, the "base" year.

The other 40 percent of U.S. crude falls under one of the following three categories:

— "stripper" oil, that from well producing less than ten (10) barrels per day;

— "New" oil, that brought into production since 1972, or increased production from a well over monthly production levels of 1972;

— "Released" oil, that amount equal to the increase of production from 1972 levels from a given property.

For each barrel of "new" oil (incremental) produced from

wells which were in production in 1972, the lease holder may "release" a barrel of "old" oil from price control. For example, a well which produced twenty (20) barrels per day in November 1972, and has been worked over, might produce twenty-five (25) barrels now. The five barrel increase is "new" oil, and a like amount is released from price controls. The well would now produce 15 barrels per

day of "old" and 5 barrels per day each of "new" and "released" oil, free of price controls.

Prices for uncontrolled domestic crude are set in the marketplace through competition with the world prices of foreign oil. The foreign oil price is now determined by the cartel of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The current price is in the \$10-\$11 range.

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County. Phrases from the letter indicate his optimism: "The great excitement of this age is oil. This region of Texas will be wild upon the subject in a few months. . . a man and the money have already gone north to buy the necessary machinery to search the bowels of the earth of the earth for oil. . . None doubt that oil will be found. . . What is the use of toiling and struggling with aching brains and weary hands for bread when gold so temptingly invites you to reach out and clutch it?"

Unfortunately for Barret, according to the Tolbert account, the man who drilled the first Texas oil well was unable to "clutch it."

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# Roadbuilding Real Challenge When Battling Red Tape

One of the most difficult tasks facing the oilmen building the Alaska pipeline is that of bringing in equipment to the construction area.

It will be done in large part via a 360-mile service road now being built from the Yukon River north to the Arctic Circle. As they build the road, workers are being extremely careful with the environment. For example:

— A number of temporary air strips along the road are being used to bring in supplies. Once the strips are no longer needed, they will be graded over and revegetated. Eventually they will return to their natural state.

— The gravel being used comes from former streambeds. It is removed

only after appropriate governmental agencies are notified and specific permission granted.

— Vehicles are not permitted to travel on any unprotected surface in the area, such as an ungraded portion of the road.

— Bridges are designed to provide a clearance of at least three feet during periods of maximum flooding, and their construction is timed to avoid interference with spawning or fish runs.

Along the Yukon-North Slope road the watchword is: "Protect the Environment." For the pipelines know the haul-road won't be a haul-road forever. One day it will become an Alaskan state highway.

## Permafrost Thought Of Workers in Alaska

Nearly everything built in the Arctic must be designed with permafrost in mind — buildings, roads, bridges, runways, railroads, towers, drainage ditches, pipelines, dams and reservoirs, sewage disposal facilities and telephone lines.

Permafrost is permanently frozen ground covered by a relatively thin layer of vegetation that freezes and thaws with the seasons. About 85 percent of Alaska is underlain by it.

Once the covering vegetative mat is broken, the permafrost below melts, turning the unprotected area into mush or a series of ponds. Houses and other structures can sway drunkenly or even sink out of sight, unless their foundations are carefully built.

Today, according to the American Petroleum Institute's magazine, Petroleum Today, experienced arctic builders have designed living quarters for Alaskan oilmen that stand seven feet above

the ground on insulated steel stilts. These stilts are sunk 40 feet into the permafrost. A five-foot gravel pad protects the permafrost from the building's heat, and the building itself is insulated.

Roads are laid like carpets, with a five-foot thick pad of gravel placed underneath. Vehicles are especially equipped with huge balloon tires so that they may move gingerly and safely across the tundra.

As for the 800-mile Alaskan pipeline itself, some 409 miles of it will be buried conventionally in so-called "dry permafrost" that contains gravel. Most of the rest of the line will be built above ground with special techniques. Some 10 miles will be frozen into the ground with a special refrigerated burial method.

Now that scientists and engineers are learning to work with permafrost, essential resources of the Far North are being developed with minimum disruption of the natural environment.

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# True Answers Given To Questions On Gas Industry

The consumer is being bombarded by conflicting, and often misleading, reports about the natural gas shortage, and whether it would be good or bad to remove federal controls from the source of supply — the natural gas fields.

The Natural Gas Supply Committee, alarmed by the dim outlook for additional supplies, has gathered the following information from the Federal Power Commission, the Federal Energy Administration, the American Gas Association, and other responsible sources in response to the most frequently-asked questions:

**How important is natural gas?**

It's vital in our every-day lives, providing a third of all the energy used in the U.S. Some 40,000,000 homes are heated with natural gas. Industries and farms depend on it in the manufacture of consumer goods and the production of food.

**IS it really in short supply?**

Yes, and it has been for several years. However, the average householder has not yet felt the full impact, since "user" priority goes to home heating. But industry is being hurt badly, and this affects jobs and production of consumer goods.

**How short is it?**

The FPC estimates a 107% increase in curtailments this winter over last. Government and industry warn that the continued shortage will result in plant shut-downs, lower output of goods, and layoffs.

**Explain the shortage in comparison with demand.**

The country consumes about 23 trillion cubic feet per year. The FPC says the shortfall this year will amount to about 2 trillion cubic feet, or nearly 10% of total demand.

**Will it get better next year?**

No. There's no way you can turn the situation around in a short time. We used to find more than we consumed each year. But no more. For example, we use up 23 trillion a year, but in 1973, we replaced this with less than 7 trillion. The AGA says that unless corrected now, shortages will amount to 15 trillion cubic feet a year by 1985.

**How did this happen?**

Experts agree that it's a classic example of what happens to supply and demand when the federal government takes control over a basic, competitive, high-risk industry. Twenty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the FPC has authority to tell the private producing company what to charge for the gas he sells in the interstate market.

**Didn't it work?**

No. The government emphasized unrealistically low prices for the consumer. What followed was a big surge in demand, a decreasing supply, and interminable red tape, while hundreds of small producers went out of business for lack of incentive. Drilling

was cut in half.

**What's so bad about that?**

At first, from the consumer point of view, it meant cheap, clean-burning and efficient natural gas in abundance. But it also discouraged wild-cattling. Investors put their money elsewhere. The 20-year experiment backfired on the consumer.

**What's meant by "decontrol"?**

If controls continue, the situation will worsen.

Congressional action is needed to remove price controls from new wells and from newly-expired contracts. This would allow the market place to determine the prices.

**But wouldn't this only add to inflation?**

Not in the long run. Old gas already under long-term contract — which constitutes the bulk of all gas consumed — would continue to be

(Continued on Page 15)

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# Short Term Outlook Poor For Natural Gas Supply

An oil industry executive told a farm group here today that the short-term outlook for natural gas supply "is not encouraging."

Ray R. Wright Jr., director of the American Petroleum Institute's Division of Refining, noted that it takes three to five years to develop increased supplies. He added: "As for oil, supplies are limited domestically, and if we can't afford imports the principal game plan available for the immediate future is conservation."

"High prices, as much as jawboning, are encouraging all of us to use less energy. Industries are putting in energy-saving plans and equipment. Major energy consuming industries like steel, aluminum, glass, cement, chemicals and petroleum refining have pledged to use energy 15 percent more efficiently by 1980. As for gasoline, taxes, higher user fees, or excises for heavy, low-mileage cars, may be imposed."

"But for the longer term we must come to grips with reality, stop playing political Mickey Mouse with our serious energy problems, and make the decisions necessary."

Speaking before the National Association of Wheat

## True Answers...

(Continued from Page 14)  
regulated. Rolling in the new price of new gas with old gas would not allow the average price of gas to rise drastically. The increase would be gradual and would stimulate exploration for new gas. This would be far less inflationary than alternate sources.

What is meant by alternate sources?

As domestic natural gas supplies diminish, the void must be filled with alternate fuels, which are 5 to 14 times more costly! For example, interstate gas sells for only about 28 cents per thousand cubic feet. Synthetic gas from liquids will cost up to \$4 per thousand. Liquefied gas, shipped from Algeria, costs as much as \$2 per thousand. Coal gas would cost \$1.65. Crude oil, the source of home heating oil, costs \$1.40 on an equivalent energy basis.

Yet some say decontrol would cost consumers \$10 billion the first year.

The FEA and the FPC say that this is grossly exaggerated. Such unfounded reports serve to confuse the consumer about an already-complex situation. Erroneous figures such as these are based on false assumptions, the most notable being the price of old gas would somehow also be immediately free of all restraints.

What other factors are involved?

In addition to continued regulation of old gas, another important factor to remember is that the price of gas at the well accounts for only about one-fifth of the burnertip price of gas. Most of the consumer's bill goes for transportation and local distribution service — which would also remain regulated.

Growers, Wright said the American people should urge Congress to:

— Allow the market to set prices.

— Cure shortages through actively encouraging new supplies.

— Get government out of the energy regulation business.

— Come to grips with the fact that energy production will impact on the environment; this impact will be minimized.

— Make a maximum effort to generate steam with coal or nuclear power, freeing natural gas and oil for use on the farm, in the home and for chemical synthesis.

— Avoid waste of existing resources.

— Realize that conservation, per se, will not sustain the future energy needs of this nation, even at

zero energy growth, because of the need to replace aging oil and gas fields.

Since natural gas is a key element in the manufacture of fertilizer, Wright told the farmers they have an important stake in the deregulation of natural gas prices. But here again, he held out little hope for short-term relief from shortages.

"Our gas fields today have the capacity they had seven years ago," he said. "It will take a lot of effort and some luck to keep natural gas production at current levels, let alone find enough to permit expanded gas use. Even if government policy recognizes facts and econtrols gas price regulations, don't expect miracles overnight, but do expect to see good results in 3 to 8 years."

Wright made the point that federal regulation of natural gas has had an effect on other segments of the petroleum industry, notably refining, which is responsible for about 30 percent of fertilizers and propane, and over half of the

## Triumphs Of American Science

A computer in Texas is helping an oil company in its search for oil in many parts of the world.



feedstock for agricultural chemicals.

Price controls, allocations, federal policy on imports, entitlements, and other such government policies have helped take "their toll of plans to expand domestic petroleum refining," he said.

## COMPUTER AIDS OIL EXPLORATION

Located at the Houston Technical Services Center, this computer is part of the expanding service capabilities of the Gulf Science & Technology Co. in Harmarville, Pa.

The computer sifts through the vast volumes of data which are collected by research vessels like the *Hollis Hedberg*. This ship roams the world's oceans collecting seismic data that help Gulf in its continuing search for offshore oil fields.

The computer analyzes sound waves which have been sent through various layers of the earth's crust, detected by hydrophones on the surface of the sea and recorded on magnetic tape. These measurements help scientists look for spots which may contain oil.

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will soon enough have to  
cope with and function in.  
And adjusting properly to  
that world is just as impor-

of these grade-A students are  
being recruited by business  
and industry before graduation.

Which would indicate that  
they were far from bored  
with their college education.



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For District Attorney, 55th Judicial District: F. W. FERRELL  
TOM GOFF

PHONE 6-3431

BOX 000

Sterling City

**STERLING CITY NEWS-RECORD**

JACK DOUTHIT, Publisher

Entered November 10, 1902, at the Sterling City Postoffice as second class matter.  
Published Every Friday

\$4.00 and \$5.00 A YEAR  
Papers to far off postal zones will carry a higher rate due to higher mail rates.

NEWS established in 1890  
RECORD established in 1899  
Consolidated in 1902

Phone in your personal items of news—your visits, your visitors, your parties, etc. News-Record, 378-3251.

**NOTICE—**

**COST OF ENGRAVINGS**

—Due to the high cost of cuts or engravings of pictures, we are now forced to charge for all society type pictures run in the paper. The costs have always been an item to be considered, but now the cost makes a charge necessary. Cuts or engravings run from \$2.75 for a one column cut to around \$6 for a two column cut. This is actual cost and will be charged for from now on.

**For Insurance Needs**

FOR AUTO, FIRE AND CASUALTY AND LIFE INSURANCE, Use Your Local Reliable and Tested Agent—**DURHAM INS. AGENCY DURHAM ABSTRACT CO.** Abstracts and Title Policies

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SEE US FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE NEEDS

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POSTED—All land operated by me posted against trespassing and hunting.

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RUBY POTTS, Owner  
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**HELP WANTED**

Earn money at home. Home-workers needed in this area to lace leather goods at home. No experience necessary. Send \$1.00 (refundable) and long stamped envelope to Appalachian Leather Goods, 100 Main St., Williamsville, Va. 24487.

News Items—if you have a worthy news item, call it in to the paper. 378-3251.

GET YOUR San Angelo morning paper delivered to your home each morning for only 3.99 a month (tax and all). For Sunday only, 2.27 a month. The same price you would pay for it by mail. Carter Neel 378-5871

FOR SALE — 3/4 Limousin bulls, 1/2 Chianina bulls—will sell or lease. 50 to pick from. Call E. J. Bishop or Darrell Compton, 754-4324 or 754-4515 Winters, Texas.

FOR SALE—4 corner lots, 200x140 cleared, overhead tank, water well, septic tank, \$2,500. Phone 378-4441.

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES RESPONSIBLE PERSON**

Wanted to own and operate candy & confection vending route. Sterling City and surrounding area. Pleasant business. High profit items. Can start part time. Age or experience not important. Requires car and \$1395 to \$4795 cash investment. For details write and include your phone number:

Department BVV  
3938 Meadowbrook Rd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55426.

**HOMEMAKERS**—Earn extra spending money without leaving home. Occasional telephone interviewing. Experience not necessary. No selling. Must have private telephone. Send letter including name, phone number, education, any work experience, and names of references to: American Research Bureau, Field Operations, 4320 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

The Texas Department of Public Safety is offering immediate career employment to qualified young men. Contact your nearest DPS office or patrolmen for more information.

**HELP WANTED—FEMALE**

**ATTENTION DEMONSTRATORS**—Toys and Gifts. Work now thru December. FREE Sample Kit. No experience needed. Call or write Santa's Parties, Avon, Conn 06001. Phone 1 (203) 673-3455. Also Booking Parties.

Call in your news items to the News-Record. 378-3251.



BILL McDONALD

Bill McDonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer McDonald of Fort Worth, has just finished his basic training at Lackland A. F.B. in San Antonio where he was an honor graduate of his flight.

He has been transferred to Keesler A.F.B. in Mississippi for further training as an administration specialist.

Lela Gonzales is his great grandmother and Raul Rodriguez Sr. is his grandfather. Frances Gomez of California is his grandmother.

Bill's wife, Teresa will join him in Mississippi sometime this month. He is a graduate of Arlington Heights High School of Ft. Worth, attended Tarrant County Junior College, prior to his enlistment. He plans to continue his education while serving in the Air Force.

**NOTICE**

The Texas State Department of Health has established, in accordance with the Federal Public Health Service Act, the current annual level of uncompensated services for Sterling County Hospital and Nursing Home, Sterling City, Texas to be that the facility does not intend to deny anyone admission to the facility or any of its services because of an inability to pay. The documents upon which the determination was based are available for public inspection at the Texas State Department of Health, 1100 West 49th St., Austin, Texas from 9:00 A. M. to 4:30 P.M. on regular business days. The level of services set out meets the presumptive compliance guidelines of the Federal regulation.

**NEWS OF EDUCATION**

**College Students: Bored of Education?**

To many concerned parents, today's college students seem much less impressed with the importance of their education than were students of years ago. Sometimes, the students even seem bored.



But educators and psychologists point out—seriously, yet sometimes with a smile—that many college students today are learning far more at school than their parents ever did.

Today education is different. Not only do new teaching methods make learning easier and lots more effective, but also college is seen as a place for social—as well as academic—instruction.

Which is as it should be, when you consider that college is a mini-model of the tough outside world students will soon enough have to cope with and function in. And adjusting properly to that world is just as impor-

tant and just as difficult as any course a school has to offer.

That's why so many students are getting involved with the running of their schools. The actuality of practical campus politics is a good deal more enlightening and instructive than classroom theories.

That's also why students seem to take their competitive sports more seriously than ever before. Trying to do one's best is very much a part of the outside world and these kids are very much aware of it. They play hard and work hard at keeping themselves fit with effective medications like Tinactin cream; solution and powder, which fight most fungus to kill and help prevent athlete's foot, that old college locker room nemesis.

Unfortunately, these kids—the good kids who make up the majority of this nation's student body—rarely make news on radio or TV. But their abilities and straight thinking have not gone unnoticed.

Each year, more and more of these grade-A students are being recruited by business and industry before graduation.

Which would indicate that they were far from bored with their college education.

**Insur-Mation**



**By Thurston McCutchen**

LIFE INSURANCE IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS BEING AN INVESTMENT TOOL. HOW CAN LIFE INSURANCE BE USED THIS WAY?

The ownership of life insurance is considered by many people to be a sign of financial responsibility, integrity, and maturity. Permanent life insurance accumulates cash value . . . sometimes referred to as an equity. Should you need to raise extra money and require collateral as potential lender might very well accept the cash value or paid up value of your permanent life insurance as the collateral needed. Often, the only requirement is assignment of the policy for the term of the loan.

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**DUMP GROUND USERS**—New regulations require burning of trash before dumping. Please dump from both sides of the pit. No car bodies or wire or old large appliances allowed.

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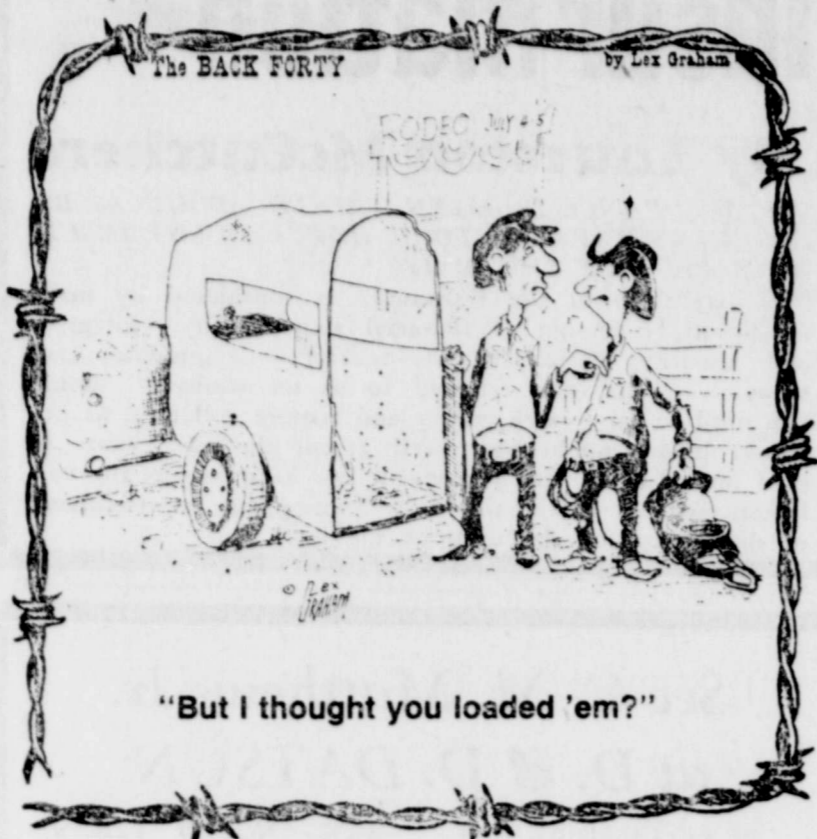
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Sterling City, Texas 76951  
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

## A GIFT OF LIFE

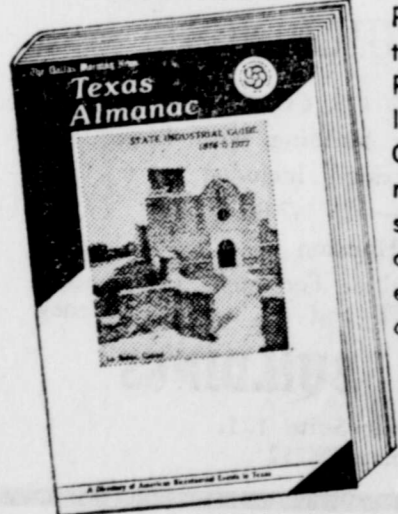
Your contribution to the American Cancer Society in memory of your loved one will help support a program dedicated to the conquest of cancer. Your memorial gift will not only do honor to the dead. It could help provide a gift of life.

Memorial gift funds may be sent to your local American Cancer Society office.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

## MOST USED TEXAS REFERENCE TEXAS ALMANAC

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## HOSPITAL NOTES

Patients in the Sterling County Hospital on Thursday morning of this week include:

Mrs. Aaron Clark  
Aaron Clark  
George R. Demere  
Jeff Davis  
Mrs. J. F. McCabe  
Manuel Lujan, Sr.  
Charles Bright  
Marcus Estrada

Dismissals since Thursday morning of last week were;

Sue Hays  
Ronnie Hirt  
Owen Armstrong  
Jim Butler

Patients in the Sterling County Nursing Home on Thursday morning of this week were;

George Case  
Mrs. Walsie Gibbs  
Virgil Brownfield  
Mrs. Lucy Chaney  
Mrs. Blanche Copeland  
Mrs. Luther Hallmark  
Mrs. Lura McClellan  
Mrs. Edith Hudson  
Mrs. Ida Brown  
Mrs. Jim Duke  
Jim Duke  
Mrs. Lucy Norman  
W. J. Williams  
Mrs. J. E. Bynum  
Mrs. Larkin Longshore  
Mrs. Robbie Grace  
Noble Read  
J. B. Ratliff  
Mrs. Minnie Pinson  
Mrs. Noble Read  
Mrs. O. M. Cole  
Mrs. Mabel Martin  
Mrs. Clifford Carpenter  
Mrs. Iver P. Mercer  
Mrs. Henrietta Long  
Roy Morgan

## SCHOOL LUNCH ROOM MENUS

(All Type A lunches served with 1/2 pint milk, bread and butter.)

### LUNCHES

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Steak  
Potatoes  
Peas  
Cake

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Chicken Tacos  
Pinto Beans  
Salad  
Cookies

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Macaroni and Meat Sauce  
Cole Slaw  
Green Beans  
Brownies

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Hamburgers  
Lettuce  
Tomatoes  
French Fries

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Pigs in Blanket  
Corn  
Pear Salad  
Gingerbread

### BREAKFASTS

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Scrambled Eggs  
Biscuits  
Orange Juice

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Pancakes  
Pears

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Cheese Toast or Cinnamon Toast  
Peaches

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

French Toast  
Orange Juice

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Cereal  
Bananas

## TURN IN A 'PUSHER'

If you know or hear of any one who is pushing heroin or hard drugs and want to report it to the federal government—it's easy to do now.

Just dial 112-800-368-5363 and you will get the Department of Justice in Washington and things will start.

This is a toll free number and someone is on duty at all times there. Callers need not identify themselves and rights of all callers will be protected.

Help by turning in a pusher and help this program.

FOR SALE—On bids, Eddie Jones' 1965 Ford Custom. Drop bids at Jim Cantrell's.

TEXAS OIL COMPANY has opening in Sterling City area. No experience necessary. Age not important. Good character a must. We train. Air Mail A. S. Dickerson, Pres., Southwestern Petroleum Corp., Ft. Worth, Tex.

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LICENSED OPERATOR

## REWARD NOTICE

A reward of \$500.00 will be paid by the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association to any person (other than law enforcement officers) giving information causing the arrest and first conviction of any person or persons found butchering or stealing any sheep or lambs or goats belonging to any Association member in good standing. When 2 or more persons give information, the above sum will be divided at the discretion of the Board of the Association. When two or more defendants are involved in a single crime, the total reward is limited to \$500.00, but the conviction of one defendant, even though the other defendants are acquitted will entitle the claimant or claimants to said sum of \$500.00. All claims must be submitted within ninety (90) days following conviction. If upon conviction, a defendant confesses other thefts, no additional rewards will be paid. All decisions concerning the payment of such reward and the conditions of payment will be made by the Board of Directors of the Association.

TEXAS SHEEP & GOAT RAISERS ASSOCIATION

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## Heart Fund Drive

STRIKING BACK AT HEART DISEASE

The phone suddenly tumbled from George's hand. He slumped to the floor. Arm, leg, speech—all were affected. He fell into a coma a few minutes later.

George never awakened. He never knew what hit him. At 57 he died quickly from a stroke. The triggering factor, a blood clot in a brain artery.

George was one of more than a million Americans who will die this year from some sort of heart and blood vessel disease. And, he was one of the 23 million persons in this country who suffer high blood pressure, a leading cause of stroke.

After citing this example of the premature death and disability by cardiovascular disease, Mrs. Chesley McDonald, president of the Sterling County Heart Association, said—there is a way to fight back at heart attack and stroke.

The American Heart Association dedicates all of its efforts to the prevention of heart and blood vessel diseases through research, education and community programs.

An especially meaningful way to help combat heart disease is for individuals or groups to make memorial gifts to the Sterling County Heart Association in honor of loved ones whose lives were lost to heart disease, noted Mrs. McDonald.

She pointed out that memorial contributions help support, maintain and expand the Heart Association programs such as mass high blood pressure screening, life-saving emergency care, and the promotion of vital research.

Although memorial gifts are often made in the memory of a heart disease victim, they also can mark birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions, the Heart Association spokesman added.

When you make a memorial gift, Mrs. McDonald said, send the name or names of the person (s) to be honored, your name and address, and the name and address of those to be notified, along with a check or money order to the Sterling County Heart Association, at Box 671. For forms and information, call 378-4591.

Memorial gifts are quickly acknowledged with a card naming the donor and the person in whose memory the gift is made. The donor receives a receipt, and the amount of the gift is always kept confidential.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SET FOR FRIDAY

The local Presbyterian and Methodist Women will unite in a World Day of Prayer program here Friday, March 5.

The joint program will be held at the Methodist Church at 3:30 and the Presbyterian Women of the Church will be in charge.

All women of the community are invited and welcome.

## PICTURES

In our method of printing at the News-Record, we have to mail off pictures and have a cut or engraving made or print from. This takes at least a week; and it costs money. We make a regular charge for using pictures—which is our cost only. The cost runs \$3 for a single column picture to \$6 for a big 2 column wide picture. This includes all pictures, like weddings, winners and the like.

WANTED—Sales Representative in this area for Bernina Sewing Machine. Must have good sewing skills. Ideal position for the housewife. Part or full time acceptable. Contact Farm and Ranch Fabrics and Bernina, P.O. Box 2072, Abilene, Tx. 79604.

WEDDING and Commercial Photography. Excellent work, reasonable rates. Call 263-6710 in Big Spring.

In case of fire, dial 8-4771.