

War-Rich Throng 'Wildcating' For Oil in Oklahoma

By HAL BOYLE

OKLAHOMA CITY — (AP) — War - wealthy amateurs have started a new "wildcat boom" in Oklahoma's half-century-old oil fields.

More than 600 wells are being drilled throughout the state by a new crop of investors strange to the oil business—war contractors, brewers, wine dealers, professional gamblers and movie stars—all drawn by the lure of discovering fresh pools of "black gold" hidden under the Sooner State's crusted acres.

"There is more drilling now than at any other period and more money is being spent," said Claude Barrow, oil editor of the Daily Oklahoman here and one of the best-informed men in the industry.

"They are mostly people with big money looking for easy profits. They know little or nothing about oil, and they have had to hire experienced men at ungodly figures to supervise the work."

This wild orgy of free-spending has amazed old-time oil operators. Most are sitting tight waiting for it to slow down.

"They expect to be here years after this spree is over," said Barrow. "The major companies can afford to sit back and buy into anything big that develops."

Huge Expense Involved
Bringing in a gusher no longer is a shoe-string operation. Getting a well into production may cost anything from \$5,000 to \$1,000,000—and you can spend the money and end up with nothing but a hole in the ground.

"Wildcaters" are speculators who drill for oil outside proved areas where it is known to be. They are like Broadway producers backing an expensive stage show with untested talent.

"In two Oklahoma counties over a three-year period the wildcats brought in one producing well for each five dry holes," said Barrow. "The wildcat average throughout the United States is about one out of seven." Even then the producing well may not turn out enough oil to pay for the cost of the other ventures.

Fortunes and 'Busts'
The search for Oklahoma's oil wealth has broken many wildcaters, made multi-millionaires of others.

Since the first oil well was drilled fifty years ago last April, 761 fields have been discovered. They have produced almost 5,500,000,000 barrels of crude oil and paid about \$7,000,000,000 to producers and royalty owners.

That is more than ten times the value of all the gold taken from Alaska and three times the value

of the the gold produced by California since 1848.

Of Oklahoma's 44,425,000 acres some 37,000,000 are considered potential oil lands. But only 800,000 to 900,000 acres have been proved. Between 1897 and 1942 some 160,516 wells were dug. Only 52,500 were still producing in 1942.

Oil Harder to Find

Oil is getting more difficult and more expensive to find. In the 1934 to 1936 period 280 dry holes were dug to locate a major pool. By 1938 to 1940 the dry hole average increased to 700.

One oil company has gone down 17,711 feet in Caddo County—the deepest man-made hole in history—and still hasn't hit anything but rock and water.

"It'll go to 20,000 feet if it costs a million dollars," said one oil man.

The current crop of individual wildcaters now drilling seems to have the capital for an extended struggle. One relaxes by playing nickel pinball machines for \$1,000 stakes.

"But they'll be taken," said a veteran oil man. "It's a rough gamble."

O-C Land Opening To Mining Sought

WASHINGTON, June 5. — (AP) — Legislation to permit mineral exploration on the Oregon and California railroad grant lands has been recommended to the House public lands committee by a subcommittee.

Rep. Ellsworth (R-Ore.), author of the measure, said he hoped it would not be opposed and explained:

"This bill, if passed, will have the result of opening up 2,500,000 acres of O. and C. lands to mineral entry and exploration."

"When the lands were revested in 1916 it obviously was the intention of Congress that they should be subject to the same mining and mineral laws as other public domain lands."

"When the O. and C. act of 1937 was enacted it provided for administration of the lands on a sustained yield basis and the general accounting office held it repeated the mineral provisions of the 1916 act."

He told a reporter that the legislation is necessary to unblock the present almost total prohibition of mining on the lands.

Senator Cordon (R-Ore.) has a similar bill pending.

TRIPLE BIRTHDAY

SALT LAKE CITY, June 5. — (AP) — Mrs. William L. Adams celebrated her birthday Tuesday by giving birth to a son, Jene William.

On her birthday in 1946 she gave birth to a daughter, June.

25-Year Service Award Presented To Leader of 4-H

ASTORIA, Ore., June 5. — (AP)

Mrs. Hilda Lahti, Knappa 4-H club leader and principal of the Knappa school today received the first 25-year 4-H service award ever presented in Oregon.

The award will be presented by A. L. Mills Jr., first vice president of the United States National Bank.

Club leaders from all over Clatsop county attended the luncheon.

In Mrs. Lahti's 4-H club career she has led 35 different clubs with an enrollment totaling 416 children. She has taught sewing, cooking, canning, garden work, rose and flower work and hobby and health activities.

At present she has every Knappa child of club age—nine years and over—enrolled in 4-H projects. In addition to leading clubs of her own, she has been active in sponsoring and organizing garden, dairy and other clubs in the county.

Although her clubs have never produced a national winner, they have been the mainstay of the annual county 4-H fair. She has concentrated on broad enrollment rather than pushing a few individuals to state or national glory.

Sgt. has two sons, both of whom have gone through 4-H club work. One has just recently returned home from service in the army in Korea.

Sales Tax Issue Splits Grangers at State Convention

BEND, Ore., June 5. — (AP) — State Grange convention delegates divided into controversial policy issues today as more committee reports came to the assembly floor.

The taxation committee's formal report was expected to draw strong arguments today, particularly over the sales tax issue.

The state's tax proposal has a substantial bloc of supporters in the Grange convention for the first time in the organization's history.

Delegates yesterday approved resolutions calling for more pre-paid medical and health program after Peter Zimmerman, Yamhill, declared "the farmer takes more care of his livestock's health than of his own and his family's."

Other action asked for a timber severance tax to assist forest conservation; open season on beaver trapping where the animals damage farm property;

tighter enforcement of the Bang's disease control law.

Governor Snell and the state utilities commissioner were asked to investigate charges of inequitable freight rates in Oregon, particularly in the Klamath Basin.

A resolution also recommended restoration by Congress of funds for reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration projects.

Alleged Assault by John Roosevelt Fizzles

LOS ANGELES, June 5. — (AP) — Picked George Hardy was refused an assault and battery complaint yesterday against John Roosevelt, youngest son of the late President.

Hardy, testifying briefly before Assistant City Attorney Don M. Redwine, declared Roosevelt took a punch at him in front of a women's wear store during picketing operations.

Roosevelt, an executive of the store, giving his version, said: "I had my hands in my pocket as I walked in front of the store. I have a peculiar habit of walking with my hands in my pocket."

"Hardy threatened without provocation to smash me in the face. Later, when police came, he pleaded with me to have him arrested. I declined to accommodate him."

Batch of Drunks, 'Vags' Fined in Recorder's Court

Ten persons were fined in the City Recorder's Court Wednesday on charges of vagrancy or drunkenness. Chief of Police O. A. Kennerly reported. They included:

Ben B. Suddath, Seneca, S. C., vagrancy, \$15 and 10 days; Cyrus Wright, New Weston, Conn., vagrancy, \$5 and 10 days; Don S. in m o n d s, Bratford, Penn., vagrancy, \$10 and 10 days; Eugene E. Fitzsimmons, Redding, Calif., vagrancy, \$10 and 10 days.

M. C. Clayborn, Chloride, Ariz., vagrancy, 10 days; Robert B. Ackley, Grants Pass, drunkenness, \$20 paid; H. V. Hanson, transient, drunkenness, \$20 committed; Dalton Duane Backdoll, Myrtle Point, drunkenness and disorderly conduct, \$20 paid; Kelly James Smith, Broadbent, Ore., drunkenness and disorderly conduct, \$20 paid; Dick Cox, Redding, Calif., drunkenness, \$20 paid.

DDT Proves Effective In War on Mosquitoes

PORTLAND, June 5. — (AP) — The city-county mosquito control program is apparently 98 per cent effective, Arthur H. Woody, Portland insect control supervisor, reported today.

Breeding pools and areas have been sprayed consistently with DDT since April 1, covering parts of Clark County, Wash., and three Oregon counties near here.

Oregon Crops to be About Normal, Says Farm Director

SALEM, Ore., June 5. — (AP)

Oregon's 1947 agricultural yield will be about normal, despite considerable rain and drought damage over much of the state, State Agriculture Director Peterson said yesterday.

Cherries, prunes and apricots have been hit the hardest in the Willamette valley, Peterson said, but the peach crop will be larger than usual.

The long dry spell in the spring will shorten the pasture period in the valley, causing dairymen some trouble.

In most sections of eastern Oregon the wheat yield will be far below normal because of the lack of snow last winter and the early dry season.

The apple and pear crops will be above average in the Hood River and Medford areas, Peterson said the potato crop in the Klamath Falls district will be normal.

In addition to the prune shortage in the Willamette valley, the prune crop east of the Cascades is spotted, and only 80 per cent of last year's yield is expected this year.

Peterson said the hop yard conditions are normal, although extended rain would cause mould.

"Farmers of Oregon have been faced with peculiar conditions," Peterson said, "and also a softening of prices. However, reports in my office indicate that the state will come through this year with a normal agriculture yield and unless farm prices drop too rapidly, the average farmer will come through with some profits."

Habitual Crime Count Hits Snag In Court Action

HOOD RIVER, Ore., June 5. — (AP) — Circuit Judge Fred W. Wilson yesterday slapped a "go slow" sign on a habitual criminal prosecution of John Omar Pinson, Pasco, Wash., convicted slayer of a state patrolman, and asked the state's attorney general to study the case.

Following Pinson's conviction for the April 25 slaying of Detective E. Hondeau, grand jury indictments were returned against him for burglaries the night of the shooting and for possession of a pistol. District Attorney Wyers initiated prosecution under the habitual criminal act, which would bar parole from the life term meted Pinson for the slaying.

When Pinson appeared in court yesterday his attorney, Charles A. Phipps, objected that the spirit and intent of the statute would be violated by prosecution on charges allied with the principal offense. He said the statute was designed to inflict a penalty after opportunities for reform had been rejected, and required three previous distinct convictions, with time between them.

Judge Wilson, postponing the trial, said the case was proceeding on "dangerous ground." He asked that the attorney general appear personally or by representative along with an opinion from Ralph E. Moody, special prosecutor in the murder trial.

The issue raised is of importance not only in Oregon but throughout the United States, he said, and "is loaded with dynamite."

Stages 2nd Holdup While Tried for First, Charge
SEATTLE, June 5. — (AP) — A 33-year-old machinist, already on trial for a gun shop holdup, was charged yesterday with the \$300 holdup of a tavern a few hours after he left court Tuesday night. The man caught in the multi-

ple arms of the law was Wesley Jacobsen.

At about the time that Deputy Prosecutor McCutcheon filed a robbery charge against him for the tavern holdup, Jacobsen admitted in his Superior Court trial that he participated in the gun shop holdup last February 8.

Bond was set at \$10,000 for the new charge—a charge which he denied. He was in court under guard.

He had been free on \$3,000 bail on the gun shop charge.

In another repercussion of the twin-pronged case, Jacobsen's attorney sought a mistrial ruling on the grounds that the jury would be prejudiced by printed reports of the new charge. Judge Williams denied the motion.

In India, more than half of all deaths occur among children under 10 years of age and malnutrition is believed to be the principal cause of these deaths.

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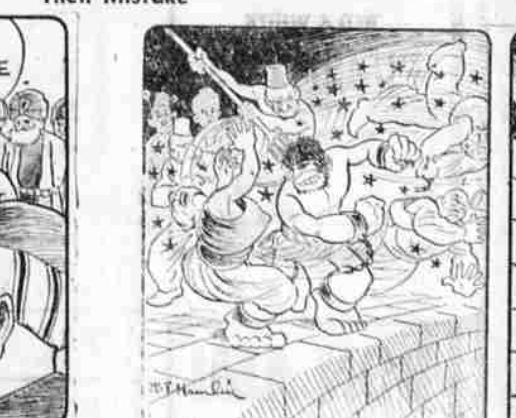
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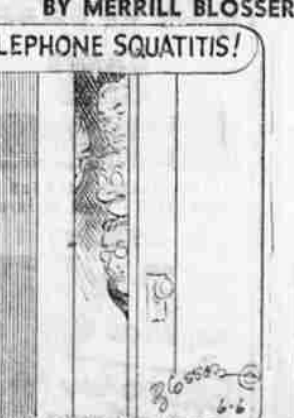
FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



It's a Plague



BY MERRILL BLOSSER



With all the current discussion about inflated prices, President Truman's request for reductions, buyers' strikes, etc., it occurred to me that few people realize that admissions in the Roseburg theatres are among the very few prices that have not been raised in the past. As a matter of fact, the only times in many years that theatre admissions in Roseburg have been raised have been when new tax bills have been passed by Congress, resulting in higher admissions taxes. Incidentally, I wonder how many people realize that 20% of every admission goes to Uncle Sam.

Increased costs of operation, certainly no different in our business than in any other business, fortunately have not forced us to drop the policy consistently maintained for so long—"the greatest value for the least cost to our patrons."

I have been astounded at the differential in theatre admission prices in Roseburg and elsewhere. The prevailing adult price seems to range somewhere between 65c and 80c and you'd be surprised how many theatres are charging the latter figure while showing exactly the same programs we show in Roseburg. Children's prices are 20c and 25c with the 25c figure most common. All of which means that, with an 80c adult and 25c children admission, it costs a man \$2.10 to take his family (wife and two children) to see the same show for which our Roseburg patrons pay \$1.42. Quite a difference!

Yes, Dann, I think we can be proud that we haven't found it necessary to raise prices in the past, even though there have been many times when it seemed as though it was going to be necessary to do so. I wonder how many other businesses can say the same?

Sincerely, your partner,
Eino Hemmila.