

# R. E. AITCHESON TELLS ROMANTIC STORY OF FINDING NATURAL GAS

Gives Thrilling Tale — Chinese First to Use Natural Gas Centuries Ago.

Editor's Note—Natural gas is bringing about an economic change in California. In the larger cities, where natural gas is already being served by piped line direct from oil fields, the public has been saved thousands of dollars every month in reduced fuel bills. Through the recent formation of Natural Gas Corporation of California, which is a Standard Oil subsidiary, service of gas is now being extended to other cities. This very interesting article on the romantic history of natural gas has been prepared by R. E. Aitcheson, vice president of the company which is serving gas here.

Like so many important discoveries of the ages, the discovery that contributed largely to the well-being of the people in homes and business—natural gas is often just taken for granted and used without appreciation of how much it means to health, happiness and convenience. Yet it is difficult to conceive of a world today trying to get along without this great force which provides for both home and industry. A world without gas would be a world in a primitive stage.

The Chinese are credited with the first use of natural gas long before the discovery of manufactured gas by Von Helmholtz in 1869, or the natural gas wells of Europe began to attract attention. During a period of Chinese development, which later deteriorated the Chinese piped natural gas—arising from coal deposits—through bamboo pipes to light the city of Peking. However, it never came into general use among the Chinese people.

Centuries ago, it was the chance discovery of natural gas that led to the building of the temple of the Oracle of Delphi. This came about through the observation of a Grecian herdsman that some of his goats, when they neared a certain spot, began to wander about in an unusual manner. He drew near to investigate and became convinced that something that arose from the ground.

He ran to the village and told his neighbors. They hurried back in great excitement and all had the same experience. The villagers agreed that they were in the presence of some supernatural being, and decided that a god was living there. Later they appointed a priestess to communicate with this god and built a temple where persons might go

R. E. AITCHESON



Mr. Aitcheson, vice-president of the Natural Gas Corporation of Oregon.

for advice. Thus, the Oracle of Delphi became famous.

In the various parts of the world where natural gas was first discovered, it was in almost every instance regarded as the work of a supernatural agency, and in places where the gas became ignited, causing continuous fire, fire worshippers erected temples. Dr. I. C. White, state geologist of West Virginia and internationally known scientist, mentions the fact that in his travels through Asiatic Russia he saw the remains of gas wells that had been used in the temples of fire worshippers at Baku.

The discovery of natural gas in our own country has not been without the elements of the supernatural. The first natural gas well in the United States is credited with having been struck in 1820 on the south bank of the Ohio river within the present limits of the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. Here the proprietors of a salt works while drilling along the banks of the river in an effort to increase their supply of salt water, discovered, much to the amazement and consternation of the drillers, that one of the wells was discharging a gas instead of the salt water they

expected. This development became a matter of serious consequences when the gas ignited and destroyed the entire plant. The owners were greatly rejoiced when they succeeded in plugging up the hole and shutting off the flow of something they considered as little less than Satan.

The second discovery (although some contend this took place before the above mentioned) was at Fredonia, New York, and occurred under more pleasant circumstances. Some small boys were instructed by their parents to quench the embers of an oven in their back yard, in which their mother had been baking bread. As the small boys were much the same as now, they naturally did not stop with throwing burning sticks into a small nearby stream but managed to throw the embers entirely across the stream. One of them noticed that when they lighted near a certain spot a burst of flames occurred, and they continued to dig a well and put down a hole some six or seven feet in diameter, and twenty feet deep, over which they put a tin roof and from it a pipe to the house. Thus, the first use of natural gas was made in the United States. Later, when Lafayette visited Fredonia and found them using gas coming out of such a place, said it was evidence that he had found the underworld for his comfort.

It was not until 1865 that any real domestic use of natural gas began. The first record of the use of natural gas in the United States was in the form of a letter from the United States to the United States, which was known as the "Fredonia Gas Light and Heat Works company." In 1867 gas was used for fuel in twelve houses in Oil City, Pa.

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L. R. BARNWELL



Lloyd R. Barnwell, of the Natural Gas Corporation of Oregon.

Gas Was Named In Year 1909 By J. B. Von Helmholtz

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known as the "soul of coal" due to the fact that it can be formed by heating coal.

Accident has played a great part in most of the development of the use of gas, also, as well as its name. Almost two hundred years after the discovery of Von Helmholtz, Murdoch conducted some extensive experiments to develop the use of gas, as up to that time a little or nothing had been done in this regard.

In desiring to stop the flow of gas which was burning from an open tube, he hurriedly put a thumb over the end of the tube—but it was an old thumb and had been pierced in numerous places. The gas coming through the holes in smaller volume, brought into contact with a greater proportion of air, gave a much better light—and this was the first gas lamp.

The "Goddess of Chance" has indeed played an important role in the development of the gas industry.

BELGIANS ARE LITTLE — JUST DON'T GROW TALL. BRUSSELS (AP)—The Belgians are mighty, as they have shown in time of war, but they are little men.

Figures issued by the government show that 20 per cent of the population ranges in height from 4 feet, 3 inches to 5 feet, 2 inches.

The next 69 per cent are not much taller, heights only running up to a maximum of 5 feet, 7 inches. And only 2 per cent are taller than that.

## Manufacturer Tells About Gas Ranges—Has Made Them 30 Years

TRANS-PACIFIC PHONE TO CLOSE CIRCUIT GAP Foreign

SACRAMENTO, Cal. (AP)—Preliminary work has been started for the inauguration of trans-Pacific radio telephone service.

When completed, within a year, it is expected to close the gap in around-the-world voice communication.

Receiving and transmitting short wave stations near here will operate in conjunction with Hawaiian stations and will hook up American telephones with the Pacific Islands, Australia and Asia.

The complete circuit of the world by telephone from San Francisco through Sydney, London and New York will be 31,475 miles. The investment of the American Telephone and Telegraph company in the Pacific Coast stations will be approximately \$1,000,000. The Hawaiian stations are to be constructed by R.C.A. Communications, and will serve subscribers of the Mutual Telephone Co. in Hawaii.

For the first time the international date line will be crossed in a regularly established service. The electric impulse carrying the voice of a talker in San Francisco to a friend in Australia will in the half second it takes to traverse the Pacific ocean, pass from "today" to "yesterday" and back to "today" again.

BREAD BOOTLEGGED FROM BELGIUM IRKS BAKERS OF FRANCE

LILLE, France (AP)—The bootlegging of bread from Belgium into France has reached such proportions that the recent Congress of French Bakers and Bakers asked the government to stop it.

Frenchmen residing along the Belgian frontier for some years have been authorized to purchase two pounds of bread in Belgium.

As long as the price in Belgium and France remained about at par, these purchases were insignificant.

Recently, however, French bread soared, and with the difference in relative value of the currencies, helping the bootleggers, a wholesale traffic in loaves was organized.

Proprietors of some large hotels and restaurants have been using Belgian bread exclusively.

PRUSSIA SHUTS LEGATION MUNICH (AP)—Prussia, on April 1, will abandon the legation which she has maintained here in the capital of Bavaria for half a century. Economy is the cause of the move.

Various Meanings

The word "prints," in speaking of pictures, includes woodcuts, engravings, etchings and lithographs.

J. F. FINNIGAN



J. F. Finnigan came to La Grande from the Natural Gas Corporation of California. He is salesman for the company.

ANTIQUES GO BEGGING

ROUEN, France (AP)—A former director of the museum of antiquities offered for sale here some of the finest pieces ever presented at a French auction, but bidding was so low that most of the treasures were withdrawn. Some dated back to the 17th century.

PICTURE ENGLISH WILLS

LONDON (AP)—A super-camera is being built at Somerset House to photograph wills for persons who may want copies of last testaments. The probate department, answering objections, said the plan had worked well in America.

PLAN ARCTIC SURVEY

LENINGRAD (AP)—Prof. Rudolph I. Samoilovich, soviet Arctic explorer, has planned for 1931 a survey of Russia's entire Arctic coast from Archangel to Vladivostok. In 1932 he hopes to drive a powerful ice-breaker to the North Pole.

BIG CHINESE RAIL DEBT

SHANGHAI (AP)—Civil war, high taxes and lack of coordination have thrown the government owned railroads in China into debt more than \$500,000,000, says a report from the ministry of railways.

Just Reward

The man who sows seeds of kindness has a perpetual harvest. —Chicago News.

## Many Questions Answered By Gas Corporation

Every effort is being made by Natural Gas Corporation of Oregon to aid consumers in the proper and efficient operation of their new gas appliances.

Particularly as this is the first time gas service has been available here, there have been numerous questions and problems arise as to just the manner in which best results may be obtained.

As a solution of these questions, arrangements have been made by R. D. Scott, local representative of the company, to have Miss Elmer Martin, home economist of the Natural Gas Corporation of Oregon, spend some time in this territory. Miss Martin is calling upon the various consumers who are now using gas and Mr. Scott states he will be pleased to have the requests for her services left at the local office of the company, and she will then call on you at your convenience.

"There is no charge for this service," continued Mr. Scott. "It is simply a part of the program of our company to make sure that everyone is able to take full advantage of gas service which we have brought to this community."

"Miss Martin has had a wide experience in this field, both in commercial work and the practical application of her knowledge. For several years she was home economist for the San Francisco Bulletin, and since that time has devoted her time to specializing in food advertising. Now housewives in this section may take advantage of Miss Martin's experience and are urged to bring their food problems to her attention. She will also assist you with new recipes and the planning of 'balanced' meals."

LONDON BRIDAL COUPLE KUES WEDDING PRESENT

LONDON (AP)—A newly married couple have had the curiosity pleasantly aroused and unpleasantly satisfied.

Among their wedding presents was a pair of tickets for a popular show from an anonymous donor.

"Now who do you suppose can have sent those?" asked the bride in pleased surprise.

"I can't imagine," replied the groom. "But they're for a date just after we get back from our honeymoon so we'll go."

And go, in due time, they did. When they got back to their newly furnished apartment they found that everything had been moved out but the roses on the wall paper. On the bare floor a note, reading:

"Now you know who sent the tickets."

## Reliable Menus of the Day

By Mrs. Alexander George

CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING

Dinner Menu

Escalloped Tuna Baked Potatoes

Buttered Carrots

Bread Fruit Celatin Salad

Chocolate Bread Pudding

Hard Sauce

Coffee

Escalloped Tuna, Serving 6

4 tablespoons butter.

6 tablespoons flour.

2-3 teaspoon salt.

1/2 teaspoon paprika.

1/2 teaspoon celery salt.

3 cups milk.

1 1/2 cups tuna.

1 cup diced, cooked celery.

2-3 cup cracker crumbs.

3 tablespoons butter, melted.

Melt the 4 tablespoons of butter and add flour, salt, paprika and celery salt. Add milk and cook until a thick creamy sauce forms. Stir frequently. Add tuna and celery. Pour into shallow, buttered baking dish and cover with crumbs, which have been mixed with the 3 tablespoons of melted butter. Bake for 25 minutes in a moderate oven.

Cranberry Sauce

4 cups berries.

2 cups water.

1 1/2 cups sugar.

Look over the berries carefully. Add water and cover. Cook 5 minutes. Add sugar and boil gently 5 minutes. Serve warm or cold.

Fruit Gelatin Salad

1 package lemon flavored gelatin mixture.

1/2 cup boiling pineapple juice.

1 1/2 cups boiling water.

1 cup diced pineapple.

1 cup red cherries.

Pour boiling pineapple juice and water over gelatin mixture, and stir until dissolved. Cool. Add rest of ingredients and pour in shallow dish. Chill until stiff. Cut in squares and serve on lettuce and surround with salad dressing or mayonnaise.

Chocolate Bread Pudding

2 squares chocolate.

2 cups bread crumbs.

2 cups milk.

2-3 cup sugar.

2 egg yolks.

1 teaspoon vanilla.

1/2 teaspoon salt.

2 egg whites, beaten.

Mix chocolate, crumbs and milk. Heat in double boiler until cup has melted. Add sugar and egg yolks and cook for one minute. Add rest of ingredients and pour into buttered baking dish. Set in pan of hot water and bake 30 minutes in slow oven. Cool and chill.

A JANUARY SUNDAY

Breakfast

Chilled Diced Grapefruit

Cooked Wheat Cereal and Cream

Poached Eggs

Coffee

Dinner

Roast Pork and Browned Sweet Potatoes

Creamed Cauliflower

Bread Plum Jelly

Asparagus Sals Piquant

Marble Cake

Coffee

Supper

Tomato Karelbit

Toast

Dill Pickles

Fruit Cookies

Tea

Asparagus Sals Piquant, Serving 6

1 package lemon-flavored gelatin mixture.

2 cups boiling water.

1 teaspoon salt.

1/2 teaspoon paprika.

1/2 cup chopped sweet pickles.

1/2 cup chopped pimento.

1 1/2 cups asparagus (canned or fresh).

1/2 cup salad dressing.

Marble Cake

1 cup fat.

1 cup sugar.

2-3 cup milk.

2 eggs.

1/2 teaspoon salt.

1/2 teaspoon vanilla.

1 teaspoon cinnamon.

1/2 teaspoon cloves.

1/2 cup raisins.

2 cups flour.

2 teaspoons baking powder.

Cream the fat and sugar. Add milk, eggs, salt, vanilla and flour. Add baking powder and beat two minutes. Take out half of mixture and add rest of ingredients to it. Alternate tablespoons of the plain and raisin mixture in a loaf pan lined with waxed paper. Bake 35 minutes in a slow oven. Cool and frost.

Fluffy Frosting

1 cup sugar.

3 tablespoons water (boiling).

2 egg whites.

1 teaspoon vanilla.

Mix sugar and water and let stand 5 minutes in upper part of double boiler. Add egg whites, beaten, and place in lower part of boiler which has been filled 1/3 full with boiling water. Set over moderate fire and beat with a rotary beater until frosting forms in peaks. It will require about 7 minutes. Remove upper part of double boiler from lower part, and beat frosting until cold and creamy. Add vanilla and frost the cakes.

USING LEFTOVERS

Menu for Dinner

Rice and Meat Mold Tomato Sauce

Buttered Turnips

Biscuit Plum Jelly

Grapefruit Salad Cheese Dressing

Raisin Pudding Cream

Coffee

Rice and Meat Mold, Serving 6

2 cups boiled rice.

2 cups chopped, cooked meat.

1 cup soft bread crumbs.

2 eggs, well beaten.

1/2 teaspoon salt.

1/2 teaspoon paprika.

2 tablespoons finely chopped onion.

2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley.

1/2 cup milk.

Mix 1/2 the salt with rice and line a buttered mold with 2-3 of the mixture. Mix meat, crumbs, seasonings, eggs and milk. Pour into mold. Cover with remaining rice. Lay piece of heavy waxed paper over top. Set in pan of hot water and bake 35 minutes in moderately slow oven.

Tomato Sauce

2 cups tomato sauce.

2 slices onion.

2 celery leaves.

3 bay leaves.

4 whole cloves.

1/2 teaspoon salt.

1/2 teaspoon paprika.

1/2 teaspoon sugar.

1 cup water.

3 tablespoons butter.

4 tablespoons flour.

Mix all ingredients excepting butter and flour. Cover and cook slowly 20 minutes. Strain well. Melt butter, add flour and tomato mixture. Cook until a little creamy. Stir constantly.

Grapefruit Salad

2 cups diced grapefruit.

1/2 cup diced celery.

1/2 teaspoon salt.

Mix and chill ingredients. Serve on lettuce. Add dressing.

Cheese Dressing

1 teaspoon salt.

1 teaspoon sugar.

1/2 teaspoon dry mustard.

1/2 teaspoon celery salt.

1/2 teaspoon paprika.

3 tablespoons grated cheese.

4 tablespoons vinegar.

## Newest Secrets Of Sea Are Told By Mathematics

LA JOLLA, Cal. (AP)—Mathematics is taking over the depths of the sea as one of its latest fields of usefulness.

An oceanographer, sitting in his laboratory, can plot wind velocities, temperatures and the amount of salt in ocean water to map ocean currents with fair accuracy.

The mathematical method is considered especially appropriate for dealing with large-scale ocean currents, especially drifts which regulate climates of nations and even of continents, and which affect the fertility of the sea in food products.

How these intricate mathematical methods have been developed is described by Dr. George F. McEwen of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla.

The ocean rivers are so huge and complicated that complete observations of them upon and under the surface have been impossible.

Resourceful oceanographers have largely overcome this handicap by discovering the laws of motion of both surface and deep waters.

Winds give surface water a motion of about two per cent of the wind velocity. This is modified by depth, friction, temperature, coast and bottom contours and the varying weight or density of the water.

Even the earth's rotation is a factor. It causes ocean currents to deflect to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere.

AMATEURS TEST PHONE CODE IN SPEED TRIALS