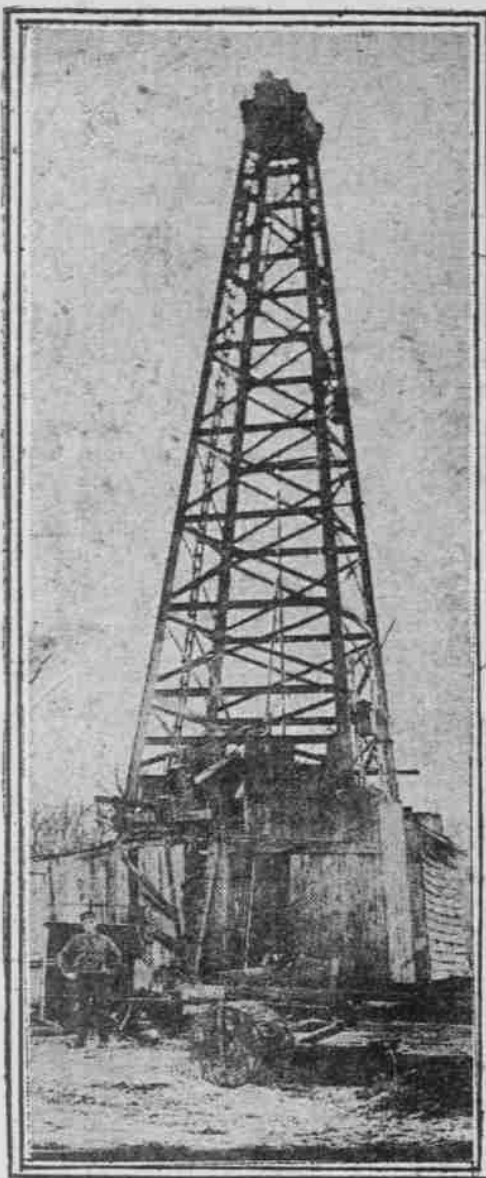
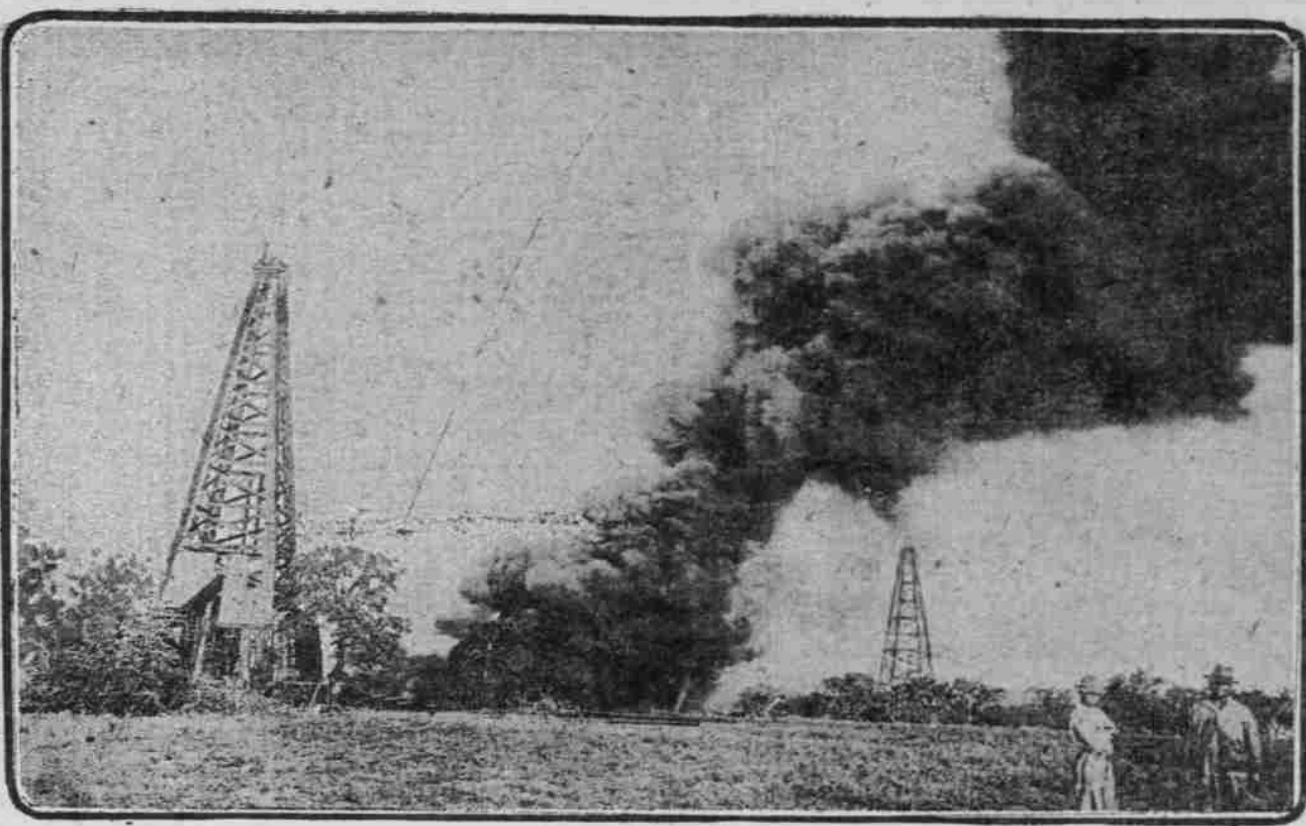


DOWN WHERE THE MILLIONAIRES BLOOM OVER NIGHT

Texas Farmers Who Couldn't Borrow a Hundred Dollars a Year or So Ago Now Talk in Terms of Hundreds of Thousands as Result of Oil Boom That Has Revived California and the Klondike Days



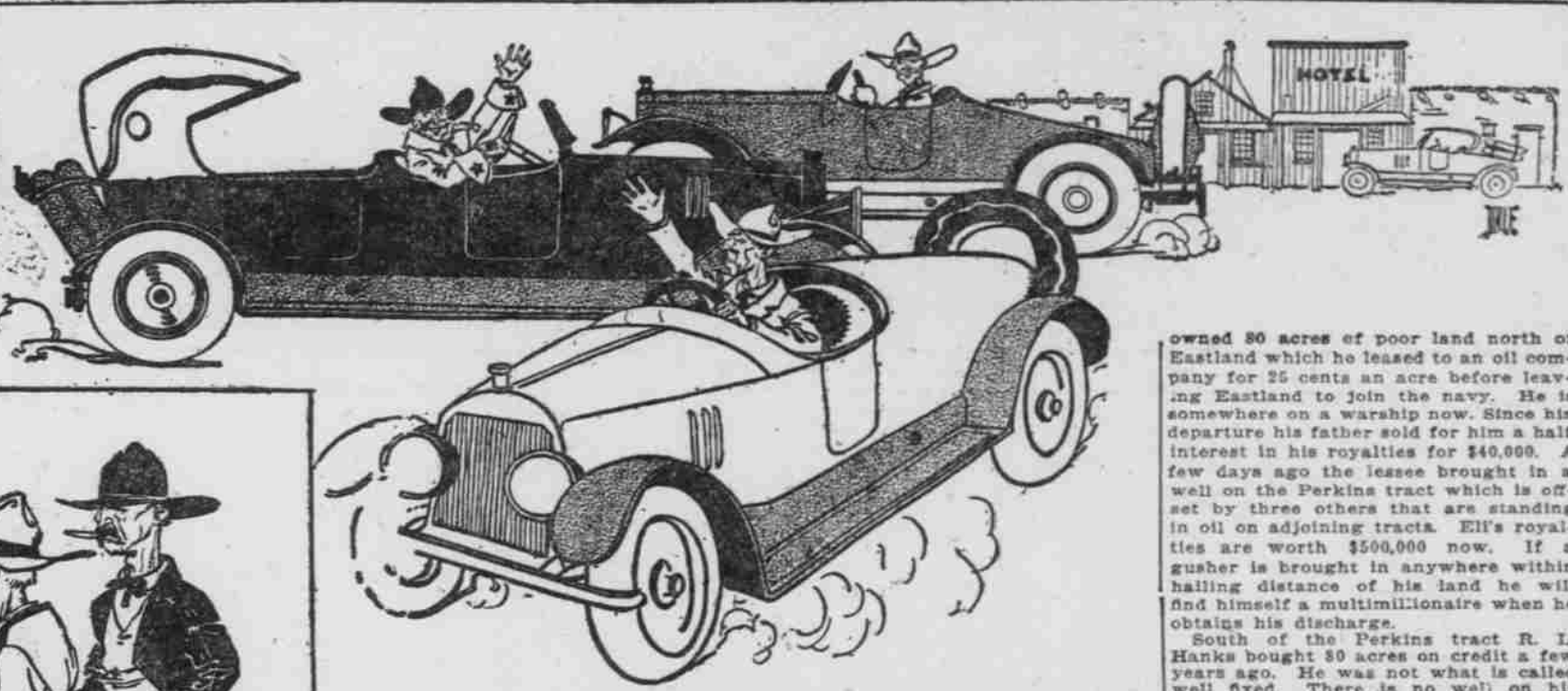
The owner of this well has made millions and has built a \$100,000 country club on part of his farm



Flow tank on fire near Eastland, Tex., one of the boom towns of the oil belt



Residence of P. C. Woods, who has made a million dollars on an original investment of \$10,000 in twelve months



One of the first things that the average possessor of an oil fortune does is to buy a high-priced six-cylinder automobile. Texas is said to be the best market for expensive motorcars there is in the United States at this time



In the wake of the oil boom there have come salesmen and fakers of every type and description. Stock-selling schemes and every possible variety of game for inducing the inexperienced men of wealth to part with their money are being worked

BY W. D. HORNADAY.

EASTLAND, Tex.—Life as it is lived in the central west Texas oil fields affords a most interesting study of human nature right now. Fortunes suddenly acquired have brought luxury almost unimagined within the reach of thousands of people who were poor and, in some cases, poverty-stricken a little more than a year ago. Comparatively few of these favored folks are going in for wild extravagances. Their habits of living for the most part have changed but little. Although there are scores of land owners who were poor so far as being able to realize in dollars and cents upon their holdings before the oil boom and who are now counting their money by the hundreds of thousands and even by the millions of dollars, there are, besides these, hundreds of other farmers scattered throughout central west Texas who have made comfortable fortunes from the leasing of their properties.

One of the noticeable features of the changed conditions that have come to these men is that they are for the most part content to remain in their own communities, although they have enough money to live in affluence in any part of the world. Very few of them have expressed any intention of doing even the smallest amount of traveling. In many instances they are erecting better residences upon their farms or have moved into town and built beautiful homes for their occupancy. They are investing their money in a variety of ways.

Unprecedented Prosperity. It is significant, perhaps, that the religious element of the people who have been thus favored by the goddess of fortune in central west Texas is of the old-fashioned, sound type. For this reason it is not surprising that many of the devout farmers who have reaped big fortunes on account of the discovery of oil are giving tithes. In the matter of making church and charitable donations these men are proving their faith by their works. They respond liberally to all legitimate demands that may be made upon them for contributions of this kind.

Naturally, the inflow of so much money to a territory 250 miles long by 150 miles wide has stimulated all lines of trade and industry. One of the outstanding evidences of the prosperity of the people is to be found in the enormous increase in bank deposits not only in the town immediately adjacent to the producing fields, but in the more removed and larger cities, particularly Fort Worth, Dallas, Waco and Wichita Falls. Little country banks that be-

fore the discovery of oil had deposits of \$50,000 to \$75,000 now show deposits of \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 each. Never, perhaps, in any part of the United States, not even excepting the mining camps of the west in the heyday of their prosperity, was money more plentiful than in the thriving towns that are being directly benefited by the oil development operations. Men talk in figures of \$50,000 to \$100,000 as though these sums were mere bagatelles. Curbstone and hotel lobby transactions involving hundreds of thousands of dollars are made daily.

Several cases are known where farmers who were not able two years ago to borrow \$100 from a bank have become stockholders in new financial institutions of that kind in their home towns to the extent of perhaps \$50,000, and in some instances they have been elected to positions of president or vice-president in these banks. It is also noticeable that many of the farmers are investing their newly-acquired riches in the purchase of additional land. Some of them have bought farms and ranches in the more western part of the state for their sons. Others have gone in for fine livestock and are carrying out the ambition that they may have long cherished in the matter of making their properties up to date in all respects.

One of the first things that the average possessor of an oil fortune does is to buy a high-price six-cylinder automobile. This part of Texas is literally overrun with cars of this type. They speed along the country roads and on through the crowded streets of the towns all hours of the day. This is said to be the best market for expensive automobiles there is in the United States at this time. In the wake of the oil boom there have come salesmen and fakers of every type and description. Stock-selling schemes and every possible variety of game for inducing the inexperienced men of wealth to part with their money are now being worked.

Some Budding Millionaires.

Although the people of Eastland regard this town as being destined to become the great oil metropolis of the producing territory on account of its central location, counter-claims of this kind are being made by Ranger, Desdemonia and De Leon, with possibly other communities which are as yet practically unknown in the industry yet to hear from. The population of all of these towns has increased enormously. Rural settlements that were mere villages before the discovery of oil are now teeming with life. Town

lots that were worth \$10 to \$25 each are now readily selling for \$5000 to \$15,000 each. Owners of properties of this kind who never dreamed of becoming wealthy are now well to do.

There are two men by the name of Connellee who have made big fortunes out of oil in the Eastland oil district. C. U. Connellee owned a ranch near town and has piled up a few million dollars since the oil boom began. He is now spending part of the money in buying thoroughbred trotting horses. He has built a private race track upon his ranch, where he spends most of his time sipping his horses exercise.

The other Connellee is named Tom. He was a passenger conductor on the Texas & Pacific railroad that runs through Eastland when the call of fortune came to him. Some years ago he purchased 320 acres of land, situated five miles east of here. It is claimed by geologists as the most valuable piece of proved high-grade oil producing territory in the United States. When oil was discovered at Ranger, in the eastern part of the county, 15 months ago Tom Connellee leased his land to the Magnolia Petroleum company for a nominal consideration and one-eighth of the oil it should produce. The company brought in a well with initial production of 5000 barrels a day, known as the "Big Tom Connellee" on this land and is drilling six offsets to it. Mr. Connellee did not sell any of his royalties. Instead, he deeded a quarter of them to his son and a quarter to his daughter and retained a half for himself. His royalties are now being paid him \$1,250,000 today. They bring an average revenue of \$30,000 per month now. Mr. Connellee has quit his job as conductor for the Texas & Pacific. He is taking life easy and traveling at his leisure.

Ellis Perkins was a young man of draft age when the United States joined the allies in the war against Germany. He

owned 80 acres of poor land north of Eastland which he leased to an oil company for 25 cents an acre before leaving Eastland to join the navy. He is somewhere on a warship now. Since his departure his father sold for him a half interest in his royalties for \$40,000. A few days ago the lessee brought in a well on the Perkins tract which is offset by three others that are standing in oil on adjoining tracts. Ellis' royalties are worth \$500,000 now. If a gusher is brought in anywhere within half a mile of his land he will find himself a multimillionaire when he obtains his discharge.

South of the Perkins tract R. L. Hanks bought 80 acres on credit a few years ago. He was not what is called well fixed. There is no well on his land, but he has sold the royalties on its potential production for \$50,000 and now drives a fine automobile.

Before the oil boom came Warren Wagner was a struggling well driller. He leased the schoolhouse lot at Merriman, seven miles east of Eastland. He brought in a well from which he has already sold \$700,000 worth of oil and has paid the school trustees \$100,000 in royalties. With this money he has bought all the land in the Desdemonia and other fields, and established oil-field supply depots and promoted oil refineries at strategic points.

From Casimir to Capitalist.

The Merriman Baptist church, a short distance from the school, has collected \$200,000 in royalties from a well drilled on its lot. None of this money goes to any member of the congregation, which numbers 29. It all goes to Baptist educational and charitable institutions.

P. L. Wolfe, a young man born in Van Zandt county, came to Eastland 18 months ago and obtained the position of cashier of the City National bank. He has since then been on a capital of about \$300 began trading in leases. Finally, he got possession of an 80-acre strip in the York survey on which a 400-barrel producer was brought in a few days ago and on

so given to alcoholic beverages that he found temperance organizations springing up in Germany as early as the eighth century. Charlemagne, although credited with being the first to plan a vineyard on the Rhine, tried diligently to reform the hard drinkers among his subjects. He decreed that drunken witnesses should not appear in court, that earls should not sit in judgment if intoxicated, and that soldiers who were drunk in camp should be restricted to water as a beverage until they had publicly admitted their guilt and promised to do better in the future. The mere fact that these laws were issued shows how deep rooted must have become the taste for alcohol.

Apparently, however, the edicts of Charlemagne did not have much effect, for similar laws were put into effect in generation after generation after his death. Charles IV even went so far as to state that drunkenness was so tremendously increasing that it had made the Germans, "whose manliness was so famous in olden times, despised and condemned of all foreign nations."

Several rulers of the petty German states founded temperance societies, while others were formed by leaders of the church or by prominent citizens. The members bound themselves to pay fines for the relief of the poor for gross intoxication and swearing. Sometimes the guilty persons were compelled to go to jail, but it is characteristic of medieval thought that such punishments applied only to lords. Gentlemen always escaped with fines.

To counteract these organizations there were many flourishing drink clubs that might be termed intemperance societies. Numerous writings of the time warn them, however, against youths whom they do not know who cherished evil designs.

The cheapness of liquors probably had much to do with the prevailing drunkenness. Sometimes the casks were worth more than the wine they contained.

Scores of witnesses might be cited to prove the prevalence of drinking in medieval Germany. But there would be too great a sameness about them all. Most of them agree with a clergyman of the ninth century, who wrote that "feasting and drunkenness especially reign, since not only the rude and vul-

PRaise OF WINE WAS SUNG BY PERSIANS IN EARLY DAYS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

Despite Teachings by Mohammed, Use of Liquor by All Classes Prevailed and Drunkenness Seemed to Inspire Unusual Achievements.

(Continued From Page 2.)

alcoholic drinks, although its lure was largely confined to the nobility and consequently it could hardly have been as common as ale and beer. Mead was made from water and honey which was fermented. It was usually drunk from horns of oxen, but some mead-horns have been found which were fashioned from ivory. The shape was conducive to hard drinking as the horns could not be put down until they were emptied. One receipt for making mead, given by the Swedish writer, Olaus Magnus, commends a mixture of one part of honey to four of boiling water, which was well stirred, boiled, and the mixture was put into casks and brewers' yeast put in. After being strained it was said to be ready for drinking in eight days.

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gar people but the noble and powerful of the land are given up to them. Both sexes and all ages have made intemperance into custom."

They had just as strict rules as the others, but they applied to those who failed to drink as much as was judged meritorious. Tour-naments were held to see who could drink the most. Hans Sachs, the beloved German poet of medieval times, described one of these affairs in which 12 "beer heroes" managed to empty an enormous tun in six hours.

Character Judged by Length of Fingers.

Researches of French Army Officers Seem to Establish Fact.

THAT the hand furnishes a most precise index to character may not appeal to those who have a preconceived antipathy to what they regard as sly and unscrupulous. Nevertheless, one of the most painstaking seekers after truth, Captain d'Arpentigny, a French army officer in the time of Napoleon Bonaparte, became convinced that the bony structure of the hands and fingers was in some mysterious way connected with the spiritual nature of man. With painstaking care he examined many thousands of hands, classifying them, until the result of his researches assumed the form of a veritable science.

For instance, he found that long fingers indicate a mind which delights in performing minute, delicate work and reveals in details, whereas short fingers are indicative of quite the opposite propensity. A person with very short fingers, he found, has no patience at all with detail, but wants things presented at once and in their entirety. And, moreover, he cares only for big undertakings.

2000 Saloons in Mexico City.

MEXICO CITY.—El Heraldo De Mexico in the course of a protest against social conditions in the capital states that there are now more than 2000 saloons in the city with scores of others operating in secret under the guise of

which another well is being drilled. He was made a millionaire over night. When his well was drilled in, Floyd Brewer was a stock farmer near Merriman, Eastland county, was proved to be oil territory 15 months ago. There are ten wells on his place now, and he is one of Eastland's millionaires, and has erected valuable buildings in the town which bring high rents.

Eliza Roper owned a 500-acre farm in the York survey when the boom came. He was a good farmer and was considered to be in good circumstances according to pre-oil standards. Now one of the big gushers bears his name and he is in the millionaire class. He owns the best of business and residence properties in Eastland, bought with oil money.

R. E. Ryken came to Eastland county from Stephens county about 12 years ago and taught country schools. After a while he was elected to the office of county superintendent of public instruction, which he was holding when the oil boom struck the country. He traded a worn-out automobile, worth \$115,000, for a new one, and he has less than \$100, for a lease on 20 acres of land four and a half miles east of Eastland, which he sold for \$20 an acre. With this for a tax he got into the oil game right, and has accumulated half a million dollars and is still going strong.

H. P. Brelsford, who is one of Eastland's millionaires now, had more than 4000 acres on his hands when the oil boom came, which he admits he would have parted with at any time had he been able to convince any one that it was worth owning. About 600 acres of this land was inherited from his father, who established a horse ranch on the tract in 1886 north of the Eastland town site. The remainder was obtained from clients who had no cash and paid for his services as a lawyer in land instead.

"Now they call me a smart man because I kept my land and it is valuable for the oil that it contains," he says.

Brelsford is investing his revenues in Eastland property. A bank he founded nine years ago has increased its capital stock eightfold and broken ground for a nine-story office building that will cost \$150,000. On one side of the country club site he is building a dam across the north Leon river canyon to form a lake that will hold 5,000,000 gallons of water, or enough to supply the needs of a city of 50,000 people. This dam is half a mile long and 30 feet high. Water will flow from it by gravity into Eastland.

If Frank D. Hogg, who owns a farm of 1000 acres in the Desdemonia field, is thankful that oil has brought him great wealth he has a poor way of showing it. Some of his neighbors say. Before the discovery of crude petroleum was made on Joe Duke's farm, the adjoining country village, now known as Desdemonia, was called Hogg's Town. With the coming of unimagined riches to the community the citizens decided that the town should be given a new name, so Desdemonia was chosen. Hogg is said to have no use for oil men. He has no connection with the state's oil industry and he has never visited the oil fields. He cannot be induced to talk about it. He shies every time an oil man comes within hailing distance. He did manage to relax his prejudice long enough to sign the lease contracts which are the means of bringing him a fortune of upward of \$10,000,000, with more millions in sight. Hogg is going on about his farming business as though no change had come to his material station in life.

Joe Duke was a farmer when oil was first brought in at Desdemonia, and he says he has no intention of changing his vocation, although he has an in-

come of \$100,000 a year from producing wells and is rated as worth more than \$2,000,000. He has bought a good span of mules and puts in ten hours a day hauling lumber and other material for the well-drilling outfits and his neighbors, besides looking after his crops. Virtually every church congregation in the county has leased its church lot for oil-development purposes. In some instances big sums were paid for these leases and the churches which have profited in this way are erecting new and handsome edifices.

Long before the Duke gusher was brought in, J. W. Caruth, a barber of Hogg Town, was talking oil in season and out of season. For several years he had had a "hunch" that crude petroleum existed in paying quantities beneath the surface of the lands around the little, struggling, poverty-stricken village. He was known then and is still called "Shorty the Barber." He proved his faith by leasing 5000 acres of land around town and organizing the Hogg Creek Oil company. He was oil beneath their lands. This company was formed some time before the oil strike. The company has subleased its lands for enormous sums and Caruth is well up in the millionaire class.

Keeping Within the Law. In the old days Hogg Town's most notable citizen was "Shorty the Barber," a one-armed school teacher named L. L. Steele and a former rural pedagogue named Dan Powers. Willey Powers, brother of Dan, also lived at Hogg Town. Willey was a wagon driver or teamster in the old days. With the coming of oil Dan and Willey Powers formed a partnership and are now piling up a fortune at the rate of about \$500 a day. Steele, who used to loaf around the barber shop in his spare time, is getting well along toward a millionaire.

J. H. Rishing, a deputy sheriff, who has lived in this county for 33 years, has found time to dabble in oil, along with his duties as peace officer. At the time the oil excitement began he was the owner of 200 acres of land situated in what has since proved to be the producing zone. He had never considered this land to be of any value, and it was more of a burden to him than a source of income. As a result of the oil boom he has sold the land for \$100,000. He has since then been busy himself suddenly on the road to great wealth. It took but little of his time to sign lease contracts with several of the big oil companies. The result of wells was soon under way. Notwithstanding the riches that have come to him, he devotes his time strictly to the enforcement of the law. He gives special attention to violations of the liquor traffic. In his bailiwick bootleggers find it very difficult to do business.

In this connection it may be mentioned that, notwithstanding the great influx of visitors to the different oil fields of Central West Texas and the motley type of men that go to make up the transient and ever-increasing population, bootlegging is kept down to a minimum. While it is admitted by peace officers that considerable quantities of whiskey are brought into the town, these violations are not numerous enough to cause any drunkenness.

It is certain that there are no secret fires or drinking establishments in any of the towns. Neither is gambling permitted. There is a demand, however, on the part of the red-blooded, energetic newcomers for certain forms of entertainment, and this demand is being met with to the fullest extent that the law will permit. In all of the towns, growing boom towns nightly public exhibitions of boxing and wrestling are given. These athletic affairs are conducted in an orderly manner and are witnessed by great crowds of all sorts and conditions of men, from the driller and helper in the oil fields to the wealthy banker from the north or east who may be here for the purpose of making investments. Recently a movement was started at Desdemonia to have a nightly dancing entertainment. Local authorities, however, would not consent to this form of amusement until the opinion of the attorney-general of Texas had been obtained as to whether it would be in violation of the law. This opinion was given in due time and was to the effect that the law only applied to traveling dancing troops which gave more than a one-night performance in a town.