

Fabulous Tideland Riches Become Real In Louisiana

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN

MORGAN CITY, La. (AP)—This is a land of eerie, stilted silhouettes lifting through tropic seas. Here, abstract talk about tidelands and undersea riches become fabulous reality.

Along the 1,000-mile sweep from Florida's tip to the Texas Rio Grande, men are prospecting, pounding rigs on the manmade islands which are the gulf's distinctive way of drilling, and sometimes bringing in the fishers that tap underwater pools of petroleum.

The Gulf Coast, together with the marginal waters off California, form the crux of the hotly debated tidelands issue. The law, signed May 22, fixes a three-mile limit seaward for all states' boundaries except Florida and Texas. Their maritime domain was set at 10 1/2 miles because of technicalities of the compact under which they were admitted to the Union.

Louisiana, actually the biggest gulf oil-producing state, has aspirations 10 1/2 miles seaward too. Texas wants clarification as to sovereignty over the Continental Shelf from the state's seaward boundary out to where the shelf drops into the deep blue sea.

The shelf is from 31 to 100 miles wide. The sea bottom is Continental Shelf until the waters become deeper than 600 feet.

The importance of offshore holdings to the gulf states is best told in terms of dollars:

Louisiana has 233 wells working in 27 oil and gas fields, produces 22,026 barrels daily, and pocketed 48 million dollars in royalties from 1945 to 1950. Then the U. S. Supreme Court ruled the federal government had control of the tidelands and an added 16 million in royalties was impounded during the ensuing years of controversy.

It's expected that production will give the late between 10 and 35 million in revenue, once all legal entanglements are straightened out.

Texas had 14 offshore wells producing with leases bringing in eight million annually.

Florida has yet to get an oil rig producing, but the state has eight million underwater acres on lease to oil companies and collects \$100,000 yearly in rentals, with another 1 1/2 million acres available for prospecting.

Since passage of the tidelands law, the gulf states have been moving slowly.

The Texas attorney general's office expects the state to be involved in legal proceedings over the issue for several years.

Texas estimates have been that up to one billion dollars will be yielded by offshore operations

for school development, to which state law has dedicated the state's share of tidelands income.

Louisiana doesn't expect a boom until final boundaries are set. It has not yet determined what use it will make of offshore revenues.

The expense of drilling for oil at sea is the biggest factor militating against wildcat activities. A derrick erected on a platform of oyster shells several miles at sea (Louisiana has one 27 miles out) costs about a quarter of a million to get in operation, about three times what a derrick on land costs.

Offshore operations require a small navy of boats, including multimillion-dollar drilling barges with an acre of floor space and attending air-conditioned barge where crews eat and sleep.

There is tedium and plenty of danger too. Storms and fire are the biggest.

Rigs frequently are buffeted by 125-mile-an-hour winds and 30-foot waves. The watch against storms goes on relentlessly with patrol boats standing by to speed crews ashore if real danger threatens. As great a hazard is fire. A gas or oil blaze 10 or 20 miles from land is a threat to every platform within 25 miles, for the flames can burn downward and lick through pipelines until a whole field is ignited.

That hasn't happened yet. But a recent million-dollar fire off Morgan City took a week to extinguish. Firefighters eventually were able to saw the derrick down by drawing crossed cables back and forth between boats a quarter of a mile apart.

For the future development of offshore petroleum fields, oil men are drawing up plans of bold invention. They are talking about tunneling out from shore or of devising a diving bell big enough to contain a derrick and drilling rig.

They also talk of a midocean landing field, believing it might be assembled in sections and provide a monster drilling platform.

(Tomorrow: California has oil—but Long Beach has more).

PRAYER ROOM

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of Congress soon may have a quiet retreat in which to pray and meditate.

The House Administration Committee approved yesterday a resolution directing the Capitol custodian to equip as a prayer room a now unused cubbyhole off the rotunda hallway between the Senate and the House chambers.

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, 627 Pine St.



LOTS OF FAITH — An unidentified 'believer' at Woodside Community Mission in Greenville, S. C., confirms her faith by holding a puff adder and a copperhead above her head. The snake-handling sect is holding a series of revivals. Minister J. I. Schackelford promises more and larger serpents will be imported for future meetings.

Solon Denied A-Blast Look Grouses AEC Was Unfair

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Robert L. Condon (D-Calif.) told the House Tuesday he believes the Atomic Energy Commission "did not fairly evaluate the information concerning me" when it barred him from witnessing an atom bomb test at Las Vegas, Nev., May 7.

"Furthermore, I deeply resent the manner in which the AEC handled this whole affair," the freshman congressman said. He added that he expects the case to be used "by my political opponents in 1954," and added that he is willing for the voters of the sixth California congressional district to decide the question of his loyalty.

In previous discussion with news

Sgt. Derby Among Returning Vets

SEATTLE (AP)—The Navy transport Marine Adder is due here some time Friday or Saturday from the Far East with 2,017 soldiers. Among them will be M. Sgt. Benjamin H. Derby Jr., 729 W.ocus St., Klamath Falls, and Pfc. Raymond M. Jackson, Beatty.

SIGHT-RIDER

MANILA—Dr. Clara Mari McGigan, a 90-year-old American on a round-the-world tour, said today she had ridden an elephant in India, a camel in Egypt and a donkey in Spain. Asked if she wanted to try a Philippine water buffalo, Dr. McGigan only chuckled: "I want to see things yet."

men Condon had said the ban was raised against him on security grounds.

Condon said he did not plan originally to attend the Las Vegas demonstration to which all members of Congress had been invited, but decided to go because the Navy invited him to make the dedication speech at the launching of a minesweeper at Mare Island on May 11.

He considered Las Vegas "a stopover on my journey to California," Condon said.

Shortly after the congressional party arrived at Las Vegas, Condon said, "I was informed by two employees of the Atomic Energy Commission that they had received instructions that I was not to be allowed to witness the blast."

He said the action came as a complete surprise to him and he demanded an explanation.

He said he was told the two employees were acting under instructions from Gordon Dean, then chairman, and only Dean could give the explanation.

So he left Las Vegas and went to Mare Island and made the dedication speech, he said, and upon his return to Washington discussed the case with Dean.

"At our first meeting Mr. Dean had little information to give me," Condon said. "In fact, it appeared that he had not personally issued the order. This had been done by a subordinate in his name."

Subsequently, he said, Dean gave him further information and "after full discussion with him, I left satisfied that the episode was closed."

--KNOW YOUR GUARD--

Battery D 732nd Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion Oregon National Guard

Cpl. Richard K. Lundsten, ex-Pelican sports star enlisted in Battery D Jan. 28, 1952. Dick is a 1953 graduate of KUHS, where he participated in football, basketball and baseball in addition



RICHARD LUNDSTEN

to being vice president of Boys' Alliance, a member of the K club and a cappella choir.

At present Lundsten is lateral gun pointer on one of 1st platoon's 40 MM anti-aircraft guns.

Cpl. Lundsten, who has attended his second National Guard summer training encampment, received his present rank of corporal June 1, 1953. He received his promotion from Pvt. to Pfc. last September.

At present Dick is an employee of Metler Bros. mill.

Dick was born Aug. 2, 1953 in Klamath Falls. He is the son of

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lundsten, 1818 Kane Street.

The local training program is again in full swing after the unit's return from camp. This local training offers advancement in the community in our national guard defense program. The local National Guard unit is

doing a fine job in training men in case of a national emergency. If you are over 17 years of age, join this group of men who are proud to serve with America's oldest military organization. For fur-

ther information phone Battery D at 6360 or contact Captain Purgen A120.

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