

## RESUME OF THE OIL INDUSTRY IN WYOMING FOR 1930

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The oil business in Wyoming for the year 1930 was marked by a general decline due to the over-production of crude all over the country, the consequent decline in the market price, and a sharp reduction in the buying of petroleum products due to the general business depression that struck the Nation during this year.

Notwithstanding the above conditions, several strikes of great importance to Wyoming were made over this State and as the year closes, the indications point to a great future for the oil industry when the present low price conditions revert back to normal and the buying power of the public demands the petroleum products that Wyoming is so eminently situated to produce.

The Producers & Refiners Corporation drilling a deep test in the Sand Draw Field, Fremont County, discovered a new gas horizon in the Dakota sand and thereby opens up a new gas resource. in the The Ohio Oil Co. drilling in the Garland Field, found both gas and oil in commercial quantities in the Madison Lime, on Section 35-56-97 at a depth of 3,787 feet and 4,420 feet respectively. This strike makes a new oil field and a new gas field probable in that area.

The Argo Oil Co. drilling a deep test in the Mule Creek Field, Niobrara County, discovered a high gravity crude oil in the Mammelusa sand and thereby opened a new pool for production when the needs demand.

The Ohio Oil Co. drilling in the Lance Creek Field discovered a deep pay that opens a new horizon in that field to production when such production is required.

The Yellowstone Oil Co. drilling on the west side of Beaver Creek, in the Osage Field, Weston County, extended the west side of the Osage Field across Beaver Creek in territory that has previously been considered dry and opens up an area for prospecting that is expected to yield several pools.

In the Badger Basin structure, northwest Wyoming, Park County, the Peters syndicate discovered both gas and oil in the Frontier sand

and as the year closes, the well is preparing to drill in with every prospect of opening up a large wildcat area to the commercial production of both oil and gas.

On the Pitchfork Dome, Park County, the Producers & Refiners and the California Exploration Co., drilling a joint test, discovered a new black oil field. The well will make 250 barrels.

On the Spring Creek Dome, Park County, the Johnson interests drilled in a wildcat test that will make 175 barrels daily. Thereby opening up a new field.

The Midwest Refining Co. drilled a deep test on the Midway Dome, about 12 miles north of Casper city and found production in the second Frontier sand at about a mile depth. The well is producing about 150 barrels daily of a paraffin base crude.

Outside of the new fields opened up, there are several items of interest to the oil business. The Northern Utilities Co. completed the laying of an 8 inch pipe line from the Billy Creek Field in Johnson County to Buffalo and Sheridan. The New York Oil Co. completed the laying of a line from a point near Hudson in Fremont County, to Fort Washakie, giving gas service to the Fort through same.

F. B. Dykeman and others moved a carbon black plant into the Buffalo Basin structure in the Red Desert Country and expect to start manufacturing carbon black from the well there as soon as spring conditions permit work to be started on this plant.

The year 1930 saw the lowest prices quoted for crude oils in Wyoming fields since 1916 when the price of Salt Creek crude rose from 75 cents to \$1.10. The price quoted for Salt Creek crude of the best grade, at the close of 1930 was 98 cents per barrel.

#### FUTURE OUTLOOK

Wyoming black oils have been found to be the best grade for road making of any crudes. The tenacity of the Wyoming black oils exceed those of other regions and the only drawback to the Wyoming crude is the sulphur content which must be removed before the oil is fit for road and highway building. This removal of the sulphur content is a matter of refining and the process is neither complicated nor hard. Most of the black oil in this

State also contains some naphthas and lighter oils which must be removed also from the road building material, but these lighter cuts represent a distinct profit to the refiner that is welcomed.

Because of the excellence of the Wyoming asphaltic oils, a great industry is even now starting to build up, looking to the servicing of the Nation for its future needs of road tars and oils. Mixed base oils, comprising tars made from the paraffin base crudes and mixed in varying proportions with asphaltic base crudes have been found to be suitable for road building work. The results have been excessive pitting of the road or highway and gradually wearing away of the surface by the enlargement of the holes. On the other hand, the all-asphaltic binder shows very little depreciation even when mixed in lean quantities, although when too rich a mix is used, an objectionable wavy surface appears under the traffic.

While several fields in Wyoming have been drilled and tested to the deep sands during the past two years, the greater number still remain to be so tested. Judging from the results obtained so far, we can confidently expect to more than double the present number of deep productive horizons that have so far been discovered.

The Phillips Petroleum Co. is now interested in the exploration of a deep sand structure in Niobrara County and as the year closes, the Midwest Refining Co. is drilling a deep test on the Geary Dome. Two deep wells are drilling in the Big Muddy Field and a general move on the part of the oil companies to the use of the rotary method of drilling is evidenced by the recent importations into Wyoming of rotary drillers and equipment.