



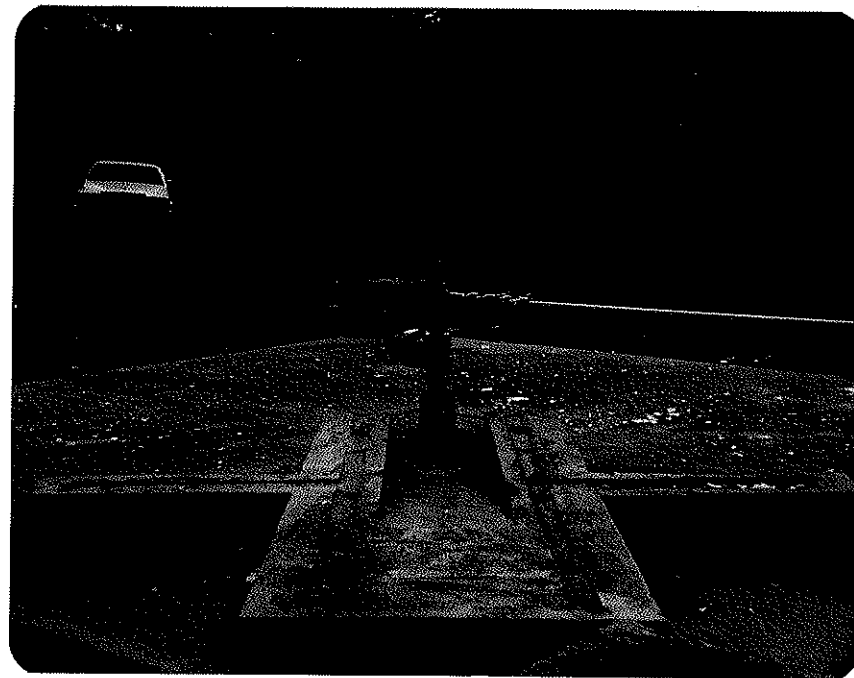
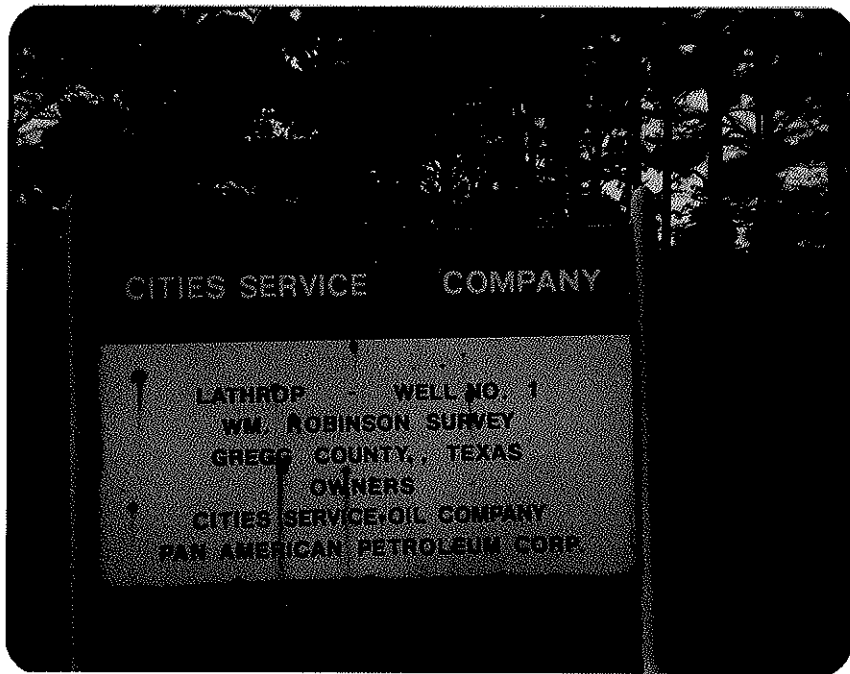
Norman Black, D.D.S.

"Arkansas Fuel Oil Co. - F.K. Lathrop A-1"
H.M.

This (following information)
not received from T.H.C., but
from microfilm from Texas
State Library - in G.C.H.C. files

Other information received 2-21-90
after request to T.H.C.

417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75602, (214) 757-2261





W. D. NORTHCUIT, III, D.D.S.
201 SOUTH GREEN STREET
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

PLATE 8-7001

December 7, 1965

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee
Director of Research
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
P. O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mrs. Parmelee,

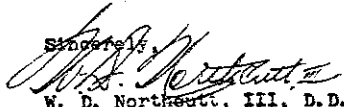
Enclosed you will find the check in the amount of \$400.00, for which we have all been waiting. I do hope the delay has not jeopardized the completion of the marker by January 26.

The Committee has decided to place the historical marker at the site of the discovery well and; therefore, the title can be: "Greg Co. Discovery Well." The initials F.K. are correct in reference to the Lathrop name.

On further investigation I found the drilling contractors accurately listed as Showers & Moncrief. The E. A. Ferrell is correct as is. A Mr. Farrell was involved with the drilling contractors, but the company name was verified as Showers & Moncrief.

We greatly appreciate your indulgence in forgiving our delay.

Sincerely,



W. D. Northcutt, III, D.D.S.

WDR:ps

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1965

MAIL ROOM RECEIVED ROOM
DEC 11 1965

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Longview, Texas

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, B. A. Skipper, Independent Oil Operator, Developer, Realtor, and citizen of the City of Longview, County of Gregg, State of Texas, being the original promoter of the discovery well in the area of Longview, and

WHEREAS, B. A. Skipper assembled a block of some eighty-three hundred acres (8300) over a period of years and spent a considerable sum of money in preliminary geological work, and

Whereas, He wrote seven-hundred and fifty (750) letters to all major oil drillers and contracting oil operators offering the block, and finally with J. E. Farrell et al succeeded in getting the Arkansas Gas and Fuel Company to develop this property in the year of 1930, and

WHEREAS, the Longview Chamber of Commerce of that period offered a cash bonus of ten thousand (10,000) dollars to anyone who brought in or caused to be brought in a Commercial Producing Well within a radius of twelve (12) miles of Longview, and in the County of Gregg, and

WHEREAS, The Arkansas Gas and Fuel Company and J. E. Farrell et al brought in on January 26, 1931, Lathrop No. 1, which produced twenty-five thousand (25,000) barrels of oil per day on the eighty-three hundred (8300) acre block mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, The Longview Chamber of Commerce collected and paid approximately eight thousand (8000) dollars to the oil drillers and roughnecks who worked on Lathrop No. 1 of the promised ten-thousand (10,000) dollars in compliance with their offer, and

WHEREAS, The original promoter, developer, B. A. Skipper did not participate in the bonus money, we the present directors, and members of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, knowing full well that money cannot reflect the feeling of our hearts, and that the said B. A. Skipper would not accept money as a bonus; the present local Chamber desires to bring to the attention of the general public that, after full examination of the facts, we believe that, more than anyone else, B. A. Skipper was responsible for the drilling of oil in Gregg County, as County records and newspaper articles published at that time show that even in the face of ridicule at that time and for a period of more than twenty-five (25) years previously, even at a time when Mr. Skipper was himself hard-pressed financially, he begged farmers who thought to release their mortgaged land to the mortgagor not to do so, but to hold fast, as oil would be discovered in Gregg County, and they would reap the benefits if they would hold on.

NOW THEREFORE, We the committee appointed to investigate this matter, the Board of Directors and the membership of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, resolve and direct our President George A. Lee and our Manager Hugh Sawyer to present this scroll to B. A. Skipper in recognition of his pioneer spirit, integrity, leadership, and unselfish character and to recognize that he, more than anyone else, was the driving force that was responsible for the discovery of oil in Longview and Gregg County.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands, and caused the seal of the Chamber of Commerce of Longview to be affixed at Longview, this thirteenth (13th) day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, One thousand-nine hundred and fifty-three.

From Oil Titan of the Southwest, by Carl Coke Rister (Norman, Okla., 1949), pages 310 ff.

THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD

The Dallas Morning News of October 6, 1930, evidently regarded Joiner's well as unimportant, for it relegated the news of it to the Sports Section. But it did supply important details about the discovery. ... Tyler, Kilgore, Longview, Gladewater, Henderson and Overton also caught the oil fever. ... The East Texas oil field expanded from and finally consolidated about three key wells--the No. 3 Daisy Bradford, the No. 1 Lou Della Crim, 12 mi north of Joiner's discovery well, near Kilgore; and the No. 1 Lathrop, about 4 mi west of Longview and a shorter distance from Gladewater. ... By the spring of 1931, it seemed probable that an enormous new field had been discovered, a probability that grew into a certainty a few months later. ... When fully developed, the East Texas field was found to be on the west flank of the Sabine Uplift, where the normal regional dip was westward. It embraces a large stratigraphic trap along an old shore line where the Woodbine formation pinches out between the Austin chalk above and the Georgetown of the Lower Cretaceous below. (See "Major Oil Fields of the United States," MS in E. DeGolyer's Library, Continental Building Dallas, Texas.) ... Ed W. Bateman of Fort Worth had acquired a Kilgore lease belonging to the Crim family. On December 17 the Dallas Morning News reported ... his first test. ... and 11 days later announced that on the previous day (Sunday) it had broken loose under a tremendous gas pressure for an estimated 22,000 bbl of crude oil daily. ... Wm. E. ("Checkbook Bill") Cain, contractor on the well, brought it under perfect control, marking his sixth discovery well. ... Kilgore was the "most seething, wildly excited and booming oil town" that W. R. Smith, president of the Oriental Oil Co of Dallas "had ever gazed upon". ... He said "there is literally standing room only in the town itself". ...

Longview wanted a part of Kilgore's prosperity. As yet the field was undefined, and Longview had hopes that it would come its way. The chamber of commerce offered \$10,000 for the first well in Longview's trade territory. The J. E. Farrel, W. A. Moncrief and Arkansas Fuel Company's No. 1, J. K. Lathrop well, in the William Robinson survey, about 15 mi due north of the Crim well and 6 mi NW of Longview, won the \$10,000. The award was given to the drillers, Foster and Jeffries.

A week before the well was completed a saturated core taken from it created intense excitement. Telegraph and telephone wires hummed at night; and by daylight fast cars whizzed in from El Dorado, Tulsa, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and other oil centers, following all-night drives, while trains and busses discharged their human cargoes. Longview's hotel lobbies, sidewalks, streets, two local banks, and the Gregg County courthouse were alive with people, mostly strangers, while at night hotels and rooming houses had proof of the old adage "as thick as three in a bed". ... Oil money brought new life to Longview. ...

Meantime, nearby leasing was lively. B. A. Skipper, a Longview real-estate operator, a short time before the Lathrop well was completed, sold a 10-acre tract near the well for \$750. When the big gunner assured this area of a great field, he offered the leaseholder \$25,000 for the 10 acres only to be told the lease was not for sale. ...

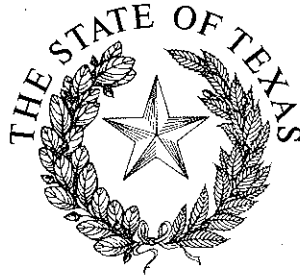
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square miles as
the area of this
field. D. Formica
12-2-65



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

February 19, 1990

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chair
Gregg County Historical Commission
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Dear Norman:

I have finally had a chance to check the historical marker file labeled "Arkansas Fuel Oil Co.-F.K.Lathrop A-1". The information in our file is exactly the same as that found on your microfilm copy, but I have enclosed copies of the originals to enhance the readability of your files.

Hope to see you in Abilene in April.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

/fr

Enclosures

HENRY O. GOSSETT, JR.

PETROLEUM BUILDING
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

P. O. BOX 88

PHONE 753-4442

ORIGINAL NAME: Arkansas Fuel Oil Co.- F. K. Lathrop A-1

TRACT: F. K. Lathrop tract of 96 acres, later corrected to 85.80 acres

CONTRACTOR: + Farrell & Moncrief were the drilling contractors; drilled to 3500 feet and shut down and sold interests. Arkansas Fuel Oil Co. bought 1/2 interest in the well and block of acreage and took over the operations.

SPUD DATE: December 3, 1930

FORMATIONS: Cap Rock at 3569 feet
Woodbine Sand 3569 feet to 3587 feet

TOTAL DEPTH: 3587 feet

CORE: Cored from 3524 to 3562 feet

COMPLETION: Set 3560 feet of 7 inch O. D. Casing drilled additional 55 feet (commonly called "rat hole")
Set 5 3/16 " perforated liner
Ran 3575' of 2 1/2 inch upset tubing

INITIAL POTENTIAL: 18,000 barrels of oil daily

COMPLETION DATE: January 26, 1931

TOTAL PRODUCTION: 526,920 bbls. through October, 1965
Estimated 533,080 bbls. first 35 years.

DRILLING CREWS: Worked 12 hour shifts. During the period of drilling there were changes in the members of the crews, but the principal crews were:

Driller:	W. A. Andrews	Driller:	B. A. Ferrell X
Fireman:	C. R. Kaylor	Fireman:	R. J. Crisp
Derrick Man:	C. Sprill	Derrick Man :	A. W. Owens
Helper:	C. O. Croley	Helper :	D. V. Chidester
Helper:	George Jones	Helper :	J. V. Huckaboy

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Longview, Texas

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George A. Lee

SEAL

Hugh A. Sawyer

From Oil! Titan of the Southwest, by Carl Coke Rister (Norman, Okla., 1949), pages 310 ff.

~~XX~~

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D. Parnell
12-2-6.

W. D. NORTHCUTT, III, D.D.S.
501 SOUTH GREEN STREET
LONGVIEW, TEXAS
Plaza 8-7001

December 7, 1965

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee
Director of Research
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
P. O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
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Dear Mrs. Parmelee,

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WDN:ps

RECEIVED
DEC - 6 1965

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE

PRESS CLIPS
TEXAS
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
1714 SAN RAFAEL ST. - AUSTIN, TEX. 78701
Telephone 7-5755

Daily News
Longview, Texas
JAN 28 1966

Governor Heads Oil

Dedication Notables



GOV. JOHN CONNALLY
... To Accept Markers



RRC BEN RAMSEY
... To Introduce Tunnell



Dedication Set For 11 A.M. At Site Of Well

Gov. John Connally, Railroad Commissioners Ben Ramsey, Jim Langdon and Bryon Tunnell, high-ranking executives of various oil companies and prominent figures on the political scene will be among the hundreds participating Thursday in the 35th anniversary celebration of Gregg County's discovery well, the Lathrop Number One.

Sponsored by the Longview Chamber of Commerce, the celebration will be divided into two parts: a dedication ceremony

The dedication ceremony will be held at the well site as planned unless continuous rain should occur, Longview chamber officials announced. The forecast for Wednesday night is for fair and colder weather with temperatures ranging from 25 to 43 degrees.

at the well site at 11 a.m. and a luncheon at the Exhibits Building of the Gregg County Fairgrounds.

The governor and Railroad commissioners as well as other prominent guests from Austin are expected to arrive at Gregg County Airport at 9:30 a.m. They will be escorted to the discovery well, located off the Pine Tree Road north of the Greggton area. The route has been prominently marked with red flags.

The national anthem will be played by the Pine Tree High School Band and the invocation will be given by the Rev. Charles Williams, pastor of the First Methodist Church.

Rep. John Mobley will introduce special guests at this time and Howard Coghlan, who will (See GOVERNOR, Page 3-A)

GOVERNOR--

(Continued from Page 1)

serve as master of ceremonies, will present Gregg County oil industry pioneers.

Rep. John Allen will introduce Tunnell, who will dedicate the historical markers. The unveiling of the markers and monument will be accomplished by Mrs. B. A. Skipper, Oliver Daniel, general chairman of the anniversary event, and John Ben Sheppard, chairman of the state historical survey committee.

Governor Connally, who will be introduced by Sen. Jack Strong, will accept the markers and monument on behalf of the state.

The Kilgore College Ranger band will play "God Bless America" and the famed Kilgore College Rangerettes will present a flag routine.

During the unveiling, the Longview High School Band will play "America the Beautiful."

To be displayed at the well site will be automobiles from Pat Ferchill's antique automobile collection featuring those models popular during the boom years.

Also to be displayed will be a huge aerial map of Longview at the time oil was discovered. The map has been donated to the Gregg Historical Society by Fritz Cornelison.

From the well site the celebration will move to the fairgrounds. A luncheon, for which more than 500 reservations have been made, will be held there.

The luncheon speaker will be Tunnell, who will be introduced by Ben Ramsey. Remarks will also be made by the governor, who will be presented by House Speaker Ben Barnes.

Coghlan will also serve as master of ceremonies at the luncheon and introduce distinguished guests. The invocation will be given by Williams.

In addition to those participating in the ceremonies, to be seated on the dedicating platform roster will be Mrs. A. F. Sheppard of Gladewater, W. W. Lechner, one-time lease holder, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brent, present land owners, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sample, royalty holders, Perry Blanton of the U. S.



RRC BYRON TUNNELL
To Dedicate Markers



RRC JIM LANGDON
Distinguished Guest



OLIVER DANIEL
General Chairman



HOWARD COGHLAN
Master of Ceremonies

Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.; congressmen Lindsey Beckworth and Ray Roberts; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Watson of Daingerfield; Anita Lathrop Mitchell and her husband; and two members of the original drilling crews, James Huckabay of Kilgore and Clarence Spruell of Winfield.

Railroad Commission officials will include Arthur Barbeck, Bob Harris, Bob Johnson, Roy Payne, George Singletary, Bill Watson, Earl Dutton, Walter Wendlandt, Frank Harvek, Robert Wicker, Herman Wilkins and Harry Hardcastle.

Humble Oil and Refining Company representatives seated are Carl E. Reisle, chairman of the board; Jim H. Gallo-way, director; Ray H. Horton, Nelson Jones, Frank Homesty, W. R. Niblick, John Bell, H. P. Pressler, John S. Boldrick, H. M. Krause Jr., R. C. Barbour, Charlie Yust, Dick Hicklin, Billie Ingram, Chris McNeil and Ed Neath.

Representing Pan American Petroleum Corporation will be J. C. Johnston, vice president, Houston; G. N. Stovall and F. A. Scheff Jr., both of Tyler. Cities Service Oil Company's representatives include Harry C. McLeod, John Welch, Gerald Estes, A. H. Weyland, E. L. Cook, R. A. Grady, all of Shreveport, La.; Robert Kidd, Reece Tucker, C. R. Smith, J. P. Straight, D. L. Kastner, E. W. Dissler, Aubrey O. Weather-



SPEAKER BEN BARNES
To Present Governor

holt, John H. Purnell and John Steiger, all of Bartlesville, Okla.; J. E. Heston of Oklahoma City; Fred. Ramseur Jr., Tulsa, Okla.; and A. G. Schuler, Houston.

Other prominent oilmen to be present are Robert J. Derby, vice president of Texaco, Houston; R. E. (Bob) Smith of Houston, an independent; and J. L. Womack, vice president of Scurlock Oil, Houston.

Lone Star Steel Company personnel include Howard Jensen, vice president; L. D. (Red) Webster, vice president; Walter Moreland, vice president of sales; B. C. Robertson and Joe S. Shepherd, all of Dallas; R. C. McDonald, vice president of operations; Jack Ponder, G. C. Graves and Albert Tarbuton, all of Daingerfield.

Plans for the anniversary celebration have been under the direction of Coghlan, chairman of the Longview Chamber of Commerce oil and gas committee; Oliver Daniel, general chairman of the event; Jack Williams, co chairman; and Bill Caver, site preparation

TAKE TWO

This historical marker under lock and key

Q **UESTION:** On Tenneryville Road, going west past the intersection with Pine Tree Road, there is a sign that says "Historical Marker" with an arrow pointing to the right. I have driven down that road, but cannot find the marker. Can you find out where it is?

ANSWER: Oh, dear! How would Nancy Drew solve "The Mystery of the Hidden Historical Marker"? Let's start with the all-knowing Internet, move on to the creaky Gregg County Historical Museum, from there talk with kindly Dr. Norman Black of the Gregg County Historical Commission, who sends us to meet the nice lady with the silver key, and finally take the children tromping through the woods to find the treasure!

This marker is under lock and key because of vandalism to the drilling equipment nearby. From Tenneryville Road, turn right onto Brent Road. Stop in at Bass Engineering at 3200 Brent Road and politely request entry to the historical marker. The nice lady will unlock the gate for you, which is about one-tenth of a mile down Brent

Road. On the right is a chain link fence with a locked gate. A brown sign on a pole says "Historical Marker," and a small white sign on the fence says, "For Key Check Office." After thanking her for letting you in, walk down the dirt road about 100 yards, and there you will find the marker and a monument.

The marker commemorates the drilling of the Gregg County Discovery Oil Well, Arkansas Fuel Oil Co./F.K. Lathrop A-1, one of three oil wells that define the Great East Texas Oil Field. Information about the struggle to get the well drilled is on the marker. The monument honors B. A. Skipper, who purchased the land, drilled the well and was "the driving force" behind the discovery of oil in Gregg County.

Q: I am not asking for legal advice, but want your comment on adoptions. It is my understanding that adoptions are sealed, for no one to have access to

ANSWER LINE



**BEECHER
THREATT**

them. Is that correct? They have to be on record at the courthouse or somewhere. Just your comments, please.

A: Adoption proceedings are sealed, meaning that no one has access to them, even though they are physically filed in the courthouse. The only exception is that the district judge in the court where the adoption was filed may allow access to the file, upon a showing

of good cause. The law does not define good cause, and it varies with judges across the state. Some have lenient standards, while others may rarely allow access. Judge Robin Sage in Gregg County will usually open the file for an adult adoptee with a good reason, but she reviews the file first for any potentially disturbing information.

Q: What is the address and phone number of state Rep. Robert Glasgow of Stephenville? We served in the mili-

tary together, and I would appreciate some way of contacting him.

A: Robert Glasgow was a state senator through the 1991 session of the Texas Legislature. He now practices law at 505 N. Graham, Stephenville, TX 76401-3548. The telephone number is (254) 965-5069.

Q: We enjoy reading Answer Line and hope that you can help us. We have three Schwinn bicycles that we would like to donate to the man who repairs them and gives them to children at Christmas. The Longview News-Journal printed articles on him in the past.

A: Lester Gebert is the bike Santa. He will take used bikes in any condition, refurbish them or use the parts, and give them to children. Take your used bikes to Gebert's workshop at 105 Tuttle in White Oak or call him at (903) 759-1947. You also can drop them off with the elves at Woolley G's Bike and Fitness, 4344 U.S. 259 N. in Longview, where Gebert periodically picks up donated bikes.

Send your questions to answerline@longview-news.com or leave a message at (903) 232-7208.



GRAND DAWG DISCOVERY OIL WELL

ARKANSAS FUEL OIL CO.—F. K. LATHROP A-1

AFTER YEARS OF UNDAUNTED FAITH IN DISCOVERY OF OIL IN EAST TEXAS, B. A. SKIPPER, SR., ASSEMBLED AN 8300-ACRE BLOCK UNDER LEASE, MADE A DEAL WITH J. E. FARRELL, W. A. MONCRIEF AND E. A. SHOWERS, HAD THE WELL DRILLED TO 3500 FEET. AT THIS POINT ARKANSAS FUEL OIL CO. (NOW CITIES SERVICE OIL CO.) BOUGHT A HALF INTEREST AND ASSUMED OPERATIONS. DRILLERS WERE W. A. ANDREWS, J. A. FARRELL AND JAMES H. LOWERY. CREW MEMBERS WERE C. S. KAYLOR, R. T. CRISP, C. SPRUILL, A. W. OWENS, C. C. GROLEY, D. W. CHESTER, GEO. JONES, J. V. HUCKABOY, R. E. ROE, B. E. HOUGHIN AND R. H. SUMMERS.

THE F. K. LATHROP A-1 WAS SPUDDED IN ON DEC. 3, 1930, HIT CAPROCK AT 3569 FEET, WAS COMPLETED ON JAN. 26, 1931, AT TOTAL DEPTH OF 3597 FEET. WITH AN INITIAL POTENTIAL OF 18,000 BARRELS OF OIL DAILY IT HAS PRODUCED OVER 527,000 BARRELS IN ITS FIRST 35 YEARS.

OIL FEVER RAN HIGH WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE JOINER NO. 3-DAISY BRADFORD AT TURNERTOWN, OCT. 1930; THE E. W. BATEMAN NO. 1-L. D. CRIM AT KILGORE, DEC. 1930, AND CLIMAXED HERE WITH THE F. K. LATHROP A-1. HOWEVER, FEW COULD IMAGINE THAT SOON THESE THREE WOULD BE LINKED AND EXTENDED TO FORM THE GREAT EAST TEXAS FIELD, WHICH COVERS SOME 200 SQUARE MILES AND HAS MADE A WORLD RECORD AS THE LARGEST OF ITS TIME.

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