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GREGG COUNTY DISCOVERY OIL WELL***
ARKANSAS FUEL OIL CO.--F.K.LATHROP A-1*

AFTER 25 YEARS OF UNDAUNTED FAITH IN DISCOVERY OF OIL IN EAST TEXAS, B.A.SKIPPER, SR., ASSEMBLED AN 8300-ACRE BLOCK UNDER LEASE;STAKED THE DRILLING SITE;MADE A DEAL WITH CONTRACTORS SHOWERS AND MONCRIEF;AND AT 3500 FEET PERSUADED ARKANSAS FUEL OIL CO.TO BUY A HALF-INTEREST AND ASSUME OPERATIONS.

WORKING ALTERNATE 12-HOUR SHIFTS WERE THE DRILLERS W.A.ANDREWS AND B.A.FERRELL, ON THEIR CREWS WERE C.R.KAYLOR, R.J.CRISP, C.SPRILL, A.W.OWENS, C.O.CROLEY, D.V.CHIDESTER, GEORGE JONES AND J.V.HUCKABOY.

THE F.K.LATHROP A-1 WAS SPURRED IN ON DEC.3, 1930. IT HIT CAPROCK AT 3569 FEET, AND WAS COMPLETED ON JAN.26, 1931, AT A TOTAL DEPTH OF 3587 FEET.

WITH AN INITIAL POTENTIAL OF 18,000 BARRELS OF OIL DAILY, THE WELL HAS PRODUCED MORE THAN 533,080 BARRELS DURING ITS FIRST 35 YEARS. ⁵⁴

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.**

(1965) ***

*3/4" lettering
**1/2" lettering
***1/4" lettering

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.

George A. Lee

SEAL

Hugh A. Sawyer

This seems to be a
 missprint for "92,000
 square acres" by on
 multiplying 36 by 7 1/2

of the No 3 Daisy Bradford well, extending the field into Smith County...
 .. The Mudge Oil Co No 1 Richardson, 4 mi NW of the Lathrop well on
 May 5, 1931, carried production northward into Upshur County,... and
 by the spring of 1931 it seemed probable that a vast field had been
 found. A few months later this probability had become a certainty.
 Oil discoveries had defined a producing zone 36 mi long and from 3 to
 7 1/2 mi wide, with an approximate area of 92,000 square miles....

Tyler is the East Texas oil capital and consequently a thriving
 industrial center, but it is hardly more prosperous than Longview and
 Kilgore. At Longview one finds a progressive chamber of commerce,
 factories and an airport that would do credit to a city many times
 its size.... [This paragraph from page 401.]

the result is
 only 270 —
 and East Texas
 only claims 200
 square miles as
 the area of this
 field.
 D. Parmele
 12-2-65