

# Carbon Black Plant For Miller County

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El Dorado, July 29.—C. E. Harris, chief conservation agent for the Arkansas State Board of Conservation, announced today that the commission had issued a permit to State Senator H. M. Barney of Texarkana for erection of a carbon black plant to be built in the southern part of Miller county. The application was filed several weeks ago.

It is reported here that Senator Barney represents Eastern capitalists and that casinghead gasoline from the Rodessa Field in northern Louisiana will be burned in the plant.

At Texarkana tonight, Senator Barney said that the plant will be built near the McClanahan discovery well at a cost of between \$350,000 and \$400,000. He said that it is hoped to have the plant in operation before the end of the year. He said that it will employ 100 men.

## RESIDUE GAS TO BE UTILIZED IN FUTURE PROCESS

Shreveport, 1937  
Journal August  
Discovery by Schoch of State University Uses Electric Arc to Make Carbon-Black and Acetylene.

Seven years of laboratory research and labor by Dr. E. P. Schoch, director of the bureau of industrial chemistry at the University of Texas, has resulted in the discovery of a method of processing natural gas into various by-products of great commercial value it was announced in a recent issue of the Kilgore (Texas) Daily News. The process, when applied at the well or elsewhere, may add untold millions of dollars to the wealth and annual income of Texas. The discovery, as explained by Dr. Soch, is that of learning how to control electric discharges or electric arcs through natural gas, thus making possible the production of a definite desired product, including carbon black, acetylene and others of commercial importance.

The application of the new discovery promises to bring widespread economic benefits, both to the state and the people at large, it was pointed out. Dr. Schoch has a patent pending on the new method he has found for utilizing gas and when it is granted he will turn it over as a gift to the state of Texas, he said. He declared that by the use of electrical discharges in the processing of natural gas into a variety of products, the vast volume of gas, valued at \$200,000,000 annually, now going to waste in Texas, would be saved and converted into wealth of many times that sum. The possibilities of the momentous discovery are manifold, as pictured by Dr. Schoch. He envisaged the possibility of innumerable processing plants being established at individual wells in the Panhandle and other parts of the state, and the additional employment of many men.

Assisting Dr. Schoch at various times in his research work that has resulted in the new discovery have been a number of graduate students who have written their doctor of philosophy thesis on the subject—four of them this year.

"All of these theses have been placed under lock and key, and none will be available to the public until the patent rights to the discovery are obtained," Dr. Schoch said.

The students who have secured their doctor's degree by their research on this problem are Dr. Judson Swearingen of San Antonio; Dr. Frank V. Patton of San Antonio, now with the railroad commission; Dr. Joe Louis Franklin, Dr. W. B. Franklin and Dr. A. A. Draeger, all of the Humble Oil & Refining Co.; Dr. Claude R. Hocutt of Lyford, Dr. Gray T. Hamblen of Austin and Dr. Joe C. Krejci of the Phillips Petroleum company.

The university provided a \$10,000 laboratory, especially equipped for the purpose of making the research has resulted so successfully, and the legislature at its recent regular session appropriated \$12,000 to the bureau of industrial chemistry for the purpose of making further research of natural gas.

"The educational appropriation bill signed last week by Governor Allred contained the first provision ever made by this state for research for the development of new uses of Texas raw materials, in the sum of \$12,000,000 made to the bureau of industrial chemistry of the University of Texas for research on natural gas," Dr. Schoch said. Small thought it is—and perhaps inadequate to attain an effective result—yet this appropriation is to be hailed as a real step forward and as a hopeful sign that Texas may be entering an era of scientific industrial development of its natural resources.

"It is not long ago that we beheld, in Texas, the spectacle of the slaughter of the buffalo for his hide: the wanton destruction of 2,000 pounds of meat, for a \$1 hide. Yet other animals can—and were—reared in place of the slaughtered buffalo, and their slaughter produced no permanent injury.

"However, today we behold in Texas a far greater, more wasteful, and a really permanent slaughter—that of our natural gas. This great natural asset is now used to an extent and for purposes which nets us only about \$20,000,000 per annum for the whole state; the portion sold should bring at least five times as much, and since an equal portion is now absolutely wasted, it follows that we are losing annually about \$200,000,000 by not developing new uses of natural gas. This loss is equal to the value of our whole cotton crop, with the seed included, and unlike the slaughtered animals, it can not be regrown.

The immediate occasion for the appropriation was the fact that after seven years of work on this problem, I have developed a method of controlling the electric discharge through natural gas which makes it possible to transform natural gas economically into other commodities and I am applying for a patent on this procedure and assigning my rights to the state of Texas in order that this procedure may be further developed. Two outstanding results—a large yield of real carbon black than is now obtained, and an economic production of acetylene—are already shown. Since the annual production of carbon black in Texas is about five hundred million pounds per annum, and since almost every other compound can be made from acetylene, including synthetic rubber which is now made from it, it is seen at a glance how tremendously important even these results are likely to become. And further developments along this line of employing the electric discharge are likely to be still more valuable.

"The value of natural gas is scarcely realized by the general public, even though they enjoy it as a fuel. But the chemist knows that it is the most valuable natural compound of carbon and hydrogen that exists. While the liquid compounds of carbon and hydrogen—crude petroleum—are more readily salable, yet natural gas represents really a vastly superior compound of the same constituent elements. Hence, to the knowing chemist, the use of natural gas as a cheap fuel—for boilers and other purposes—is really like burning furniture to keep the house warm. Yet we advertise from housetops that we will give our industries our valuable gas for fuel at ridiculously low prices in the effort to win them away from the use of coal elsewhere, a sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul procedure, and this in the face of the fact that our gas can only last a few years relatively, while our coal resources are large enough to last us a thousand years or more.

"Why this sad spectacle? Because we have not learned to do anything else with gas. When it is realized that by application of this new discovery every gas well can be the seat of a factory, producing liquid and solid products which will yield a much larger return on the gas than its present fuel value, then the gas waste will stop automatically, just as the throwing away of cotton seed ceased when we learned to make oil from it. Technical men know that there is more likelihood of attaining this end than there is of making industrial progress in any other line in Texas.

"What will such a development bring in its train? It will bring new opportunities for investments, new openings for employment; it will create new wealth, and, finally, it will give us new revenues from taxation. When people have ample opportunities to make money, they do not mind paying their share of the public expense. The greatest problem before the Texas legislature today is to find new sources of revenue for taxes. We are allowing \$200,000,000 worth of gas to slip away annually, either by actual waste or by sacrificial sale. An industry which would save this to the state would actually have an earning power many times this \$200,000,000 even. And this alone could carry our whole present tax load.

"This proposed development is no small job, and it can not be done with inadequate means, just as the Boulder dam was not dug with only a few picks and shovels. The initial appropriation for this stupendous work can only begin the undertaking, yet our gas is passing away from us steadily. How can we hasten the work of its conservation?"

## Two Carbon Black Plants Will Go Up Democrat 3-10-38

An authoritative legislative source said today that "at least two carbon black plants are contemplated for immediate construction in Arkansas" under provisions of proposed legislation to permit the burning of natural gas in manufacture of the product.

The subject is included in the call for the special session convening today. Statehouse sources said Rep. Otto Forehand of Miller county was coming to Little Rock with the carbon black bill to be introduced in the House.

It was said that one plant, costing between \$350,000 and \$400,000 was proposed for the Miller county oil field, and that another plant was proposed for Union county, adjacent to the El Dorado oil fields.