

## Oil Test Will Be Drilled at Cato, Faulkner County.

2-24-38

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Feb. 23.—Cato, in southeastern Faulkner county near the Pulaski line, has hopes of becoming an oil and gas field, Ralph B. Harrell, ginner and landowner of that community, said here today. With 11,000 acres blocked in leases in the vicinity of Cato, R. C. Smith of Morningsport, La., an oil producer, is making shallow tests with a spudding rig to check the structure, and next summer will bring in a standard drilling rig for a deep test, Mr. Harrell said. Cato is 13 miles southwest of Cabot, where gas flows from ordinary wells and where drilling is in progress.

While Mr. Harrell was drilling a water well for his gin last August a gas sand 20 feet thick was struck at 134 feet. Pressure was estimated at 50 to 90 pounds. At a depth of 252 feet an oil sand one and a half inches thick was discovered. A good showing of oil appeared.

## Plans Made to Drill Democrat 5-22-38 In Southeast Faulkner

Conway—According to a report Saturday by Ralph R. Harrell, gin owner and landowner, drilling of a deep test for oil and gas in the Cato field, some 20 miles southeast of Conway, will begin in the near future, and R. C. Smith, Morningsport (La.) oil producer, will be the sponsor. Mr. Smith's geologist is to arrive Monday to make tests to determine the site of the well, for which a Parkersburg rig equipped to drill 5,000 feet, will be provided.

Mr. Harrell said Mr. Smith's illness has prevented work on the oil and gas test. The Cato field attracted notice last August when a water well at 134 feet uncovered a gas sand, where pressure was so strong that a column of water was thrown over the drilling rig. Drilling was continued to 252 feet, where what apparently was an oil sand, was found. Mr. Harrell then began the assembly of leases and his total stands at 12,000 acres. He consulted Mr. Smith and Dr. Ed Blouche, Tulsa geologist, was sent to Cato for a four-day survey. In the second well, gas sand was found at 114 feet.

According to Mr. Harrell, no stock company is proposed and no offering of stock will be made the public. Landowners retain a one-eighth royalty interest in leases.

## Test Oil Well to Be Drilled on Faulkner-Pulaski Line.

8-16-38

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Aug. 15.—With a rig on the ground drilling of the first deep oil test in the Cato field, 20 miles southeast of Conway on the Faulkner-Pulaski county line, will be started within 30 days, R. R. Harrell of Cato said here today.

The location is in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 35-4-12, Faulkner county, on a tract belonging to Mr. Harrell. The well will be within 200 yards of the Pulaski line, and most of the 12,000-acre block of leases obtained for the test lies in Pulaski county.

A group of Little Rock and Faulkner county business men, incorporated as the Atoka Gas and Oil Company, is financing the venture.

The rig is a modern outfit capable of drilling 5,000 feet. C. J. Emreich, a Pennsylvania driller of 45 years' experience, will be in charge.

The Cato structure has been surveyed by many geologists, all of whom have found indications favorable to oil. Col. C. W. Adams of Texarkana, a former government geologist and one of the most recent to examine the field, discovered an oil seepage two miles from the site selected for drilling, which he selected after determining the pitch of the strata from the seepage.

## Oil Showings Reported on New Well at Cato.

10-9-38

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Oct. 8.—With many encouraging surface and shallow well indications, the newly organized Cato Oil Company has made a good start on a deep well test at Cato, R. R. Harrell, secretary and general manager of the company, said today.

The well, spudded in last week, has reached 100 feet with a 12-inch hole, and 12-inch casing has been placed at that depth. A Parkersburg standard rig, with cable sufficient to drill 3,500 feet, is being used. J. E. Emrick and E. O. Lynn are in charge. The well is nearly on the line between Faulkner and Pulaski counties, on Mr. Harrell's land, in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 35-4-12.

Several thousand acres of leases on both sides of the Pulaski-Faulkner line have been assigned by Mr. Harrell to the new company, whose capital stock of \$5,000 is all paid in. No stock is for sale, he said.

Other officers of the company are

Dr. Joe C. Shuffield, Little Rock, president; John C. Riley, Little Rock, vice president, and Sam Adkisson, Mount Vernon, and R. C. Smith, Morningsport, La., directors. Mr. Riley and L. E. Moore, a stockholder, have been operating in the Lisbon (La.) oil field, and Mr. Smith owns seven producing wells near Shreveport.

## Drilling of Test Well To Start.

11-6-38

J. R. Lockhart, oil field operator, will begin drilling a test well on a recently acquired block of land in southeastern Faulkner county and northern Pulaski county as soon as drilling rig arrives, lessees of the block said yesterday. The block is in Township 5, Range 11 west, Faulkner county, and is slightly southeast of Vilonia. It adjoins the Russell block where a test well is being drilled.

The site of the proposed well is about seven miles northwest of Cabot.

## Good Progress Reported in Oil Test Near Cato.

Special to the Gazette 1-21-39  
Conway, Jan. 20.—Good progress is being made on the oil test at Cato, following a three weeks' delay by a fishing job for a lost bit, R. R. Harrell, president of the drilling company, reported today. He said that from 25 to 40 feet a day is being drilled and a depth of 1,100 feet has been reached.

Gas pockets are penetrated frequently. "Judging from the geological studies that have been made we expect to pick up a productive sand at around 1,300 to 1,400 feet, although we are prepared to drill much deeper if necessary, Mr. Harrell said.

## Gas Pressure Strong in Cato Oil Test

6-27-39

Special to the Gazette.  
Cato, June 26.—Residents of this small rural community, just over the Pulaski line in southeast Faulkner county, have refused to get unduly excited over the prospect of oil as operators sank the Harrell No. 1 nearer and nearer pay sand the past year. "But today the 150 residents of the village were confident that success will crown the efforts of Ralph Harrell and his associates, come what may in the next 100 feet of drilling.

Gas pressure at the well was estimated at 1,000 pounds today, and was increasing constantly. Drillers have penetrated only three feet of a lime stratum they believe to be many feet thick, but already the gas pressure is so great that this community is believed assured of a permanent natural gas supply, even if oil never is reached.

Well Down 2,370 Feet.  
However, it's heresy to mention to Mr. Harrell the possibility of oil not being struck. Two years of effort have gone into punching a 2,370-foot hole in the

middle of his cow pasture. Drilling was begun only last fall, but the assembling of a 12,000-acre block to protect the property of residents in the section and to make entry of a major oil company attractive if oil were struck, required considerable work. Just below 900 feet the drill stem was lost, and two weeks drilling time was lost. Other delays have resulted.

Gas pressure of 100 pounds was reported when the first foot of the present lime structure was penetrated. When the well was sunk two feet deeper, the pressure increased to an estimated 1,000 pounds. Drilling immediately was halted, pending laying of casing. Purchase of the casing became necessary to prevent the increasing liquid gas from saturating the walls of the well, which might cause them to crumble.

A. Z. Blankenship, Oklahoma geologist on the job, said he expected production after penetration of 100 feet of the Dutcher sand, which he believes lies under the lime. Formations thus far have checked with fault findings reported by Munn & Munn, Texarkana geologists.

Last fall Mr. Harrell amazed a newspaper man by frying an egg on a gas flame emanating from his water well, several hundred yards from the oil test. The present gas supply is sufficient to fry eggs for all Little Rock.

## Harrell Test At Cato Will Be Completed

7-26-39

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, July 25.—Arrangements have been completed with Little Rock

and North Little Rock business men to finance completion of the Harrell gas and oil test at Cato, Ralph H. Harrell, president of the Cato Oil and Gas Company, said during a visit here today. Funds will be provided for the purchase of 2,400 feet of casing, he said. Due to heavy gas pressure considerable caving has occurred in the well during the several weeks drilling has been suspended, Mr. Harrell said, and a week or more may be required to clean out the hole before casing can be set.

## PLANS PREPARED SHOULD NEW GAS SUPPLY DEVELOP

8-6-39

## Based on Hope Of Cato Project.

Possibility of a cheaper natural gas supply for Little Rock if a new field at Cato, 15 miles north of the city, develops sufficiently to provide an adequate quantity, as its sponsors believe it will, was disclosed yesterday.

A group of Little Rock business men obtained an option to purchase, at four cents per 1,000 cubic feet, the output of the Cato field, located in Faulkner county 100 yards from the Pulaski county line. Officials of the Cato Oil Company say they expect to develop into a large natural gas field.

Ralph R. Harrell, general manager and secretary of the Cato Oil Company and driller of the Harrell No. 1 gas well in the 12,000-acre Cato field, said a contract has been signed by the company and Verne McMillan, Little Rock lawyer, as trustee for a group of Little Rock business men, whereby the Little Rock group has obtained an option to buy a minimum of 100,000,000 cubic feet of gas a month from the company at four cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

He reported the option was exercisable when the company proves it has a well of 10,000,000 cubic feet a day capacity. He said the Little Rock business men put up \$2,500 to complete the well in exchange for the option.

## Gas From Cato Well to Be Used As Drilling Fuel.

10-29-38

Special to the Gazette.  
Cato, Oct. 28.—So much gas has developed in the Harrell No. 1 well being drilled here that the operator, Ralph H. Harrell, announced today that he would attempt to set tubing and use the gas for fuel in continuing drilling.

The gas developed between 190 and 200 feet in what Mr. Harrell said he believed was the Fayetteville shale.

The Coker well, two and three-fourths miles northeast of here and a mile north of Olmstead, scene of recent water well trouble, is spudding in at about 300 feet.

Mr. Harrell said the contract specifies that the Little Rock company shall begin laying a pipeline from Cato to Little Rock, a distance of 15 miles, within 30 days after the requisite pressure is assured. The contract also provides that the Little Rock group must pay the Cato company \$1,500 a month six months after the gas starts flowing at the 100,000,000 feet a month contract rate whether the Little Rock company accepts it or not.

## Option Signed For Little Rock Business Men.

Mr. McMillan admitted last night that he had signed the option as trustee for a group of Little Rock business men, whose names he said he could not reveal. He said the Little Rock group planned to buy the gas for resale in Little Rock.

Asked about plans for distribution, Mr. McMillan replied: "The first object is to obtain a supply. Distribution plans will come later." He refused to say whether the Little Rock group planned to construct its own distribution system or seek to purchase the system of the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company.

Mr. Harrell said the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company offered to purchase the entire output of the field at four cents per 1,000 but that he refused the offer.

## STRANGE GOINGS ON



Gazette 10-11-38

The photographs, taken by a Gazette reporter yesterday, illustrate two of the natural phenomena that have gotten residents of northern Pulaski county all excited.

At the left, Ralph H. Harrell accommodatingly fried an egg for the reporter's benefit by igniting gas that flows through a pipe that was supposed to furnish water for his gin at Cato. The pond at Mr. Harrell's gin is fed from a well. Recently the well was deepened to 234 feet and began to yield gas as well as water. When the photograph was taken a fierce blue flame was burning directly below the frying pan but the flame would not photograph. It required less than a minute to fry the egg as hard as the most exacting con-

## Driller Believes Cato Field Has Great Possibilities.

Mr. Harrell was enthusiastic over the prospects of the Cato field. The Harrell No. 1 well Friday night was making what he estimated at 5,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day. He said pressure was estimated at 1,200 pounds, although the drillers have not permitted the well to reach that figure. The well builds up 100 pounds pressure on gauge in 30 minutes and is not allowed to go higher than 200 pounds as the casing must be cemented in, Mr. Harrell said.

A crew from an El Dorado company will arrive this week to perform this squeeze job, Mr. Harrell said. The well now is bottomed at 2,300 feet, and the flame from the well rises 40 feet, the driller reported.

The Cato Oil Company is headed by Dr. Joe Shuffield, Little Rock, president; John R. Riley, Little Rock, vice president; Mr. Harrell, with Sam Atkinson of Mount Vernon, and Tom F. Digby of North Little Rock as directors. Stockholders include Dallas Herndon, L. E. Moore and E. F. Czichos, all of Little Rock.

It was estimated that a 15-mile pipeline from the field to Little Rock would cost from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The rate charged by the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company now is 55 cents per 1,000 feet. The company also has an optional rate, \$1.50 for the first 1,000 feet, 55 cents for the next 7,000 feet, 40 cents for the next 7,000 feet, and 30 cents for all over 10,000 feet.

## Casing Repaired, Replaced in Well at Cato.

12-10-39

Special to the Gazette.  
Cato, Dec. 9.—The Cato Oil Co. has resumed operation in its Ralph Harrell well, located in Section 35, township 4 North, range 12 west, in Faulkner county.

The well was drilled into the gas paying horizon several months ago and showed as a producer of 3,000,000 feet of gas per day and persistently flowed at that rate until casing trouble developed which permitted water to enter the well and check the flow of gas. Since operations have been resumed, the casing which caused the water trouble has been pulled from the well and the defective part replaced. The casing now is being returned to the well. It will be reset and set to hold off the water, and the production of gas will be resumed.

Many oil men and geologists have predicted that a considerable area under and around the Harrell well is productive oil and gas land. The well is at the town of Cato 18 miles north of Little Rock.



—Gazette Staff Photos.

sumer could ask. The pipe leads directly from the pump at the well. The gin is a quarter-mile from the Harrell No. 1 oil test which Mr. Harrell is just spudding in. It is said that the gin lies in what geologists call "The Big Basin" where three tests are scheduled for drilling if the Harrell No. 1 fails to show at 2,000 feet.

The photograph at the right shows the fierce flame caused by an oily substance that comes from a water well that has been in service 65 years, at the store and filling station of George Dorsey at the intersection of the old Hammondville and Olmstead roads. The well was about 25 feet deep but recently its supply began to fail and it was deepened. A new vein of water

was struck but it carried an oily film that made it unusable. Another well was dug on the opposite side of the store building and it yielded the same oily substance. A third well was started at the rear of the house yesterday. The oily substance produced by the well burns readily as is shown in the photograph. Used as fuel it has operated automobiles. Mr. Dorsey is convinced that the stuff is not coming from his gasoline tanks because recently he had them all excavated and tested with compressed air. None showed a leak.

Behind the well is George Wycoff, Little Rock business man, who has leased more than 10,000 acres in the section.

well here, reported tonight that the well's powerful pressure suddenly went into reverse at 5:30 p. m. today, necessitating capping of the well overnight, pending a study of the cause of the phenomenon.

Pressure had been sufficient to raise the water 1,000 to 1,500 feet, assisting drillers in cleaning the well of the last of its water. Mr. Harrell reported the well was completed as a gasser last Friday and he had spent this week preparing it for production at the 2,538-foot level. He planned to continue drilling to 3,000 feet after preparing it for production from the present level. He estimated it was ready to make \$3,000,000 feet a day.

Mr. Harrell said that he was unable to explain the sudden reversal. He reported the situation to Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist.

Other Wells to Be Checked.  
Mr. Harrell said that he will investigate to see if any other wildcats in this territory had been brought in today or had experienced any considerable increase in pressure. The only other wildcat known to be active is the Russell well, 12 miles north of here, which was at 2,270 feet when last reported. However, a fault lies between the two, and it was said that it was improbable the Russell will could have caused the suction on the Cato well. A well was drilled at Olmstead, five miles from here, but it was reported abandoned at 1,800 feet.

The well was capped to prevent the oxygen in the air from entering the hole, as an explosion might result if the gas and oxygen mixed underground and became ignited.

## Drilling to Be Resumed on Oil Test at Cato.

5-3-40

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, May 2.—After several months interruption, drilling has been resumed in the oil and gas test well at Cato, Ralph R. Harrell, president of the Cato Oil and Gas Company, said here today.

Drilling was resumed at 2,538 feet. Mr. Harrell said he had funds to carry the well to 3,000 feet, where geologists predicted a soft sand about 80 feet thick will be encountered.

## Test Well at Cato Reported Down 1,650 Feet.

5-26-40

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, May 25.—The drill in the test well at Cato, on the Faulkner-Pulaski county line, has reached a depth of 2,650 feet and is making steady progress, R. R. Harrell, head of the company making the test, said today. Drilling continues in a sandy shale with a considerable increase in the flow of gas noted during the drilling of the last 50 feet, it was said. Drilling ranges from 27 to 100 feet a day.

## Cato Well Flowing But Pressure Low

3-31-40

Special to the Gazette.  
Cato, March 30.—The Harrell No. 1, gas test here, which suddenly went into reverse yesterday, resumed its outward flow at 3 a. m. today, but with greatly reduced pressure.

Cause of the phenomenon remained a mystery to Ralph Harrell, operator of the well; Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, and W. T. Munn, Texarkana geologist. Dr. Branner and Mr. Munn inspected the well today after the suction had ceased and flow of gas had been restored. It was the consensus that the suction was caused by a pocket created by a cave-in back of the casing. They theorized that the drainage of the water at the bottom of the 2,538-foot shaft completed the vacuum caused by the pocket. When the pocket was filled, the suction ceased and the flow of gas outward was resumed.

Mr. Harrell capped the well last night to prevent too much oxygen from entering the hole. The intake ceased at 3 a. m. today, and the flare began burning again at 10 a. m. Mr. Harrell estimated that his pressure at 4 p. m. was 20 pounds on casing.

## Continued Drilling Urged.

Dr. Branner and Mr. Munn urged Mr. Harrell to continue drilling toward the sandstone which outcroppings have indicated lie below the present depth. Mr. Harrell said he will wait two days to determine if there is any increase in pressure or other change and then will continue drilling. He estimated that 30 working days will be required to place him at the 3,000-foot level, where he expects a strong gas pressure. An 80-foot gas stratum is indicated by the outcroppings at the 3,000-foot depth.

## Cato Gasser Goes Into Reverse

3-30-40

Special to the Gazette.  
Cato, March 29.—Ralph Harrell, operator of the Harrell No. 1 gas test



## Reported Gas Pressure

### In Cato Test Increases

Conway—Averaging 27 to 35 feet per day, the test well at Cato, in southeast Faulkner county, has reached a depth of 2,650 feet and the flow of gas encountered at shallower depths has increased, according to a report by R. R. Harrell, sponsor.

The drillers expect to find oil at 3,000 feet in a porous sandstone. The drill at present is in shale.

### New Test Well Near Cato Said To Penetrate Gas Sand.

Special to the Gazette. 10-5-41

Conway, Oct. 4.—A new test well which he started recently one and a quarter miles south of Cato, location of a previous test, has penetrated a gas sand at a depth of only 157 feet. Ralph R. Harrell of Cato said here today. The sand, Mr. Harrell said was the same as was reached in the Cato well at 2,280 feet. The pressure is 75 to 80 pounds, Mr. Harrell said, and pushes the 157-foot column of water up, forcing it out of the well. The new well, he said, is being drilled only to confirm the structure of the area, but may become a commercial gas producer.

The well at Cato had reached a depth of 3,620 feet when drilling was suspended last spring on account of the army taking over the area. Mr. Harrell said the matter now is in litigation, scheduled for trial in Federal Court this month. He contends his oil leases on the area still are valid. Mr. Harrell said a Houston oil concern had offered to take over his Cato well and leases, reimburse the \$15,000 expended on it and give him a "gamble" for \$150,000 if oil should be discovered in paying quantities.



# City Is Still Without Gas

*Ark. Democrat - 10-19-27*

## Conway Franchise May Be Extended--Conference Under Way.

Conway, Oct. 19.—(Special.)—Conway's chances of having natural gas for domestic and industrial use will depend upon the outcome of conferences now in progress at New York between officers of the Cities Service Company, the parent company of the Public Utilities Corporation, and the Natural Gas and Fuel Company, which operate in Arkansas and Oklahoma. G. D. Donathan, chief engineer of the Public Utilities Corporation, which holds the Conway franchise, said that some announcement probably will be made at the conclusion of these conferences.

As stipulated in the franchise and guaranteed by a \$20,000 bond, the corporation was to install a distribution system by November 1. However, as no construction has been undertaken, that will be impossible of compliance.

With three gassers already tapped in the Clarksville field, the corporation will drill on a block of acreage in the vicinity of London, in Pope county. Mr. Donathan has gone there with Wayne Fletcher, resident engineer, to select the site for the test well.

The city council has not received a request for an extension of time, and the city government will therefore await official word before taking action. However, the grant of further time would likely be acceptable to the citizenship, as the service is much desired for the city.

## Conway Is Promised Supply of Gas by October 1.

*Gazette 4/22/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, April 21.—An unequivocal promise that gas would be supplied to Conway "without fail" by October 1, the date set in the franchise granted by the Conway City Council to the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas, was contained in letters received here today by Mayor H. D. Russell and the Log Cabin Democrat from John W. Lee of El Dorado.

Details incident to the merger of three large utilities with the Doherty interests, owners of the Public Utilities Corporation, have delayed the beginning of construction on the gas supply lines, Mr. Lee wrote.

## WORK STARTED ON CONWAY GAS LINE

### Public Utilities Plan to Supply Fuel to Little Rock.

*Gazette 6/7/28*

Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Jun 6.—Actual construction has begun on the supply line of the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas which will furnish Conway with natural gas and which it is planned eventually to connect Little Rock with the Clarksville field.

This was the information received today by Mayor H. D. Russell in a telephone conversation with John W. Lee of El Dorado, one of the officers of the corporation.

The line will be laid through from the Clarksville gas field to Little Rock, Mr. Lee said. In this way gas can be supplied to consumers both at Conway and Little Rock either from the Louisiana or the Clarksville fields.

Mr. Lee said that engineers and a corps of workmen began the work of securing and clearing the right of way near Little Rock yesterday and are working toward Conway.

Mayor Russell stated that the official assured him that natural gas would be available for use in Conway not later than October 1. The Corporation posted a \$30,000 surety bond with the city

## Drilling Is Resumed at Test in Faulkner County.

*Gazette 6/15/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, June 14.—Setting of approximately 3,000 feet of 6 5/8 inch casing in the Stermer test well eight miles south of Conway was completed yesterday by the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company, and drilling was resumed today, it was said by Jacob R. Halm, an officer of the company. The drilling, he said, will now proceed without interruption to the 3,347-foot level, where what was believed to be an oil sand was encountered last fall.

## TEST WELL IS PLANNED

Search for Oil or Gas May Be Made in Faulkner County.

*1922*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, July 1.—Negotiations are under way for the sinking of a deep test well for oil and gas in Faulkner county. Those backing the project are not yet ready to announce details, but it is said that the test is to be a thorough one. The location of the first well has not been definitely decided upon, but it is believed it will be in the central portion of the county.

## CONWAY IS ASSURED NATURAL GAS SUPPLY

### Corporation Officials Promise Lines Will Open October 1.

*Gazette 6/15/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, June 14.—Renewed assurance that an ample supply of gas would be available for Conway consumers by next October 1 was given here today by a party of officials of the Arkansas Natural Gas Corporation, through whose pipe lines the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas will supply this and other cities along the new line to be constructed from Clarksville to Little Rock.

Laying of pipe will begin as soon as the right of way, on which a party of engineers is now working, is completed, and the approximately 100 miles of line between Clarksville and Little Rock can be laid within 45 to 60 days, it was said.

"We are going to build a pipe line from Little Rock to Clarksville, using steel mains of at least 10 inches in diameter, and having a capacity of several hundred pounds pressure to the inch," Mr. Harris said. "When it is completed Conway will be in a fortunate position, being able to draw gas from either direction, as may be required."

## Showing of Oil Is Reported in Stermer Well.

*Aug 8-2*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Aug. 7.—Showings of oil were reported when the Stermer test, eight miles south of Conway, was bailed yesterday afternoon in the presence of 50 or more persons from Little Rock and Conway.

The bailer was sent down by Driller Henry Coy four times and each time it brought up crude petroleum. At the suggestion of Mr. Coy and J. A. Burdell, a former Oklahoma oil man, bailing was stopped for fear the well might blow in with no preparations to take care of it.

Dr. D. L. Bower, who is conducting the test, expressed the opinion that the well, which is now 3,462 feet deep, is within a few feet of a producing oil sand. Drilling is being held up pending repairs on the machinery and financial arrangements it was said.

## Well in Faulkner County to Be Bailed Wednesday.

*3-12-28*  
A third and final bailing demonstration will be given at the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company's Stermer No. 1, between Mayflower and Conway, in Faulkner county, at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday, it was announced yesterday.

Casing has been set in this well at 3,198 feet and the hole has been drilled to 3,462 feet. Bailing demonstrations were given August 3 and August 6, and officers of the company reported there was a showing of oil each time.

The well is being drilled by a California cable rig duplicate equipment, and the company owns more than 15,000 acres in leases in a block around the well.

## Drilling Operations at Stermer Test Resumed.

*Aug 29 1928*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Aug. 28.—Drilling operations of the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company on the Stermer No. 1 well eight miles south of Conway, which has been suspended for several weeks, were resumed this afternoon. Strong showing of oil had been developed when the work was suspended, it was reported, and those interested in the test expressed confidence that a producing well would be brought in. A new band wheel has just been completed and other repairs made, so that the present equipment is capable of drilling 4,200 feet.

## Test for Oil May Be Made in Faulkner County.

*11-17-27*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Nov. 16.—That another large gas and oil concern, identity of which was unknown, is planning to explore for gas and oil in Faulkner county was revealed today when it was learned that leases are being taken over a large area of the county.

A geologist, who has spent about two months making a survey of gas and oil possibilities in this territory, is completing his work. He spent today in the Southeast corner of the county. Previously he had surveyed two structures in the northern part of the county, including the one upon which Pittsburgh interests, represented by E. A. Becker, drilled to a depth of 4,000 feet in the vicinity of Linder. Both the geologist and H. Elam, who is obtaining the leases, declined to divulge the identity of the concern they represent, but said it was a large and well known company.

## Drilling at Faulkner County Oil Test May Be Resumed.

*Gazette 3/11/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, March 10.—Plans are being made to reorganize the company and resume drilling in the Stermer test well, eight miles south of Conway, at an early date, Dr. D. L. Bower of Little Rock, head of the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company, said today. Work at the test has been suspended since early last winter.

## Drilling of Stermer Test Will Be Resumed Wednesday.

*Gazette 5/18/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, May 16.—A crew will start work repairing the power plant Monday and drilling will start at the Stermer oil test of the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company by next Wednesday, it was announced today by Dr. D. L. Bower and Robert Coker of Little Rock, officers of the developing company. The test well is located off the Little Rock pike eight miles south of Conway.

## Drilling Started Again in Old Stermer Oil Hole.

*Gazette 5/30/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, May 29.—After cleaning out the well at the Stermer oil test eight miles south of Conway, drilling has progressed in the new hole to a depth of more than 2,900 feet, Dr. D. L. Bower and Maj. Robert Coker of the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company stated here today.

The old hole, which had reached a depth of 3,347 feet, was blocked last fall when the tools were lost in it.

## WORK RUSHED ON CONWAY GAS LINE

### Supply May Come From Clarksville Field Instead of Little Rock.

*Sept 4 9-9-28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Sept. 3.—Probability that Conway will be supplied with natural gas from the Clarksville field from the beginning of service here, rather than temporarily from Little Rock, was indicated when it was learned today that construction of the supply line from Conway to Clarksville was to be carried on simultaneously with that between Conway and Little Rock, by the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas, holders of a natural gas franchise here.

The Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas is a subsidiary of the Arkansas Natural Gas Corporation, which supplies Little Rock and numerous south and southwest Arkansas cities with gas.

## WORK ON PIPELINE TO CONWAY BEGUN

### Natural Gas Line From Little Rock to Be Ready by October 1.

*Sept 2*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Sept. 1.—Renewing the promise that natural gas would be available to Conway consumers by October 1, in accordance with the terms of the franchise granted by the City Council to the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas, representatives of that company announced here today that construction work was begun at Mayflower, 10 miles south of Conway, this morning, and that the laying of gas mains connecting Little Rock and Conway would be well under way by the middle of next week.

Two crews of about 30 men were put to work clearing right-of-way in the vicinity of Mayflower today, it was said by L. W. Young of Shreveport, general superintendent of construction of the pipe lines, and Wayne Fletcher, who will be in charge of the Conway construction office.

Forty-three carloads of 10-inch mains, aggregating approximately 120,000 feet, were shipped from a pipe foundry at Lorraine, O., August 28 and 29. Thirteen cars were consigned to Camp Pike, 12 to Mayflower, seven to Marche, five to Gold Creek and six to Conway, to be unloaded at points most convenient to the line. The cars are expected to arrive Tuesday. Upon their arrival, pipe-laying crews will be started at different points between Conway and Little Rock, and the work will be rushed.

Two large trenching machines to be used in cutting ditches for laying the mains were shipped Thursday from Shreveport, and are expected here tomorrow. At least 200 men will be employed when the work gets into full swing next week.

Fletcher said that while gas will be supplied to Conway from the Louisiana fields by way of Little Rock for two or three months, eventually the supply will come from the new field at Clarksville, with the gas from the Clarksville field passing through Conway on its way to Little Rock.

As soon as the line from Little Rock to Conway is completed, construction work will be continued on to Clarksville, and probably will be completed by December 15.

## 1,000 Workmen Employed on Gas Line to Conway.

*9-18-28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Sept. 18.—More than 1,000 men are at work in construction of a 10-inch gas supply line between Little Rock and Conway and, with eight miles of the big mains welded and put into the ground in the first five days of pipe laying work, representatives of the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas today expressed confidence that gas would be available to Conway by October 1.

## GAS SUPPLY LINE REACHES CONWAY

### Burning Flare Signals Completion of Piping From Little Rock.

*9-30-28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Sept. 29.—A burning flare of natural gas on a lot near Prairie street, early tonight, signaled completion of the pipe line from Little Rock to Conway and compliance with the terms of the franchise granted by the city to the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas, which provided that natural gas must be available to consumers here by October 1, John W. Lee of the corporation said this afternoon.

Early this afternoon gas in the main 10-inch supply had reached the junction point three miles west of the city, where a six-inch line carried it to the distribution system in the city. During the afternoon a crew began "bleeding" the distribution pipes of air so that the gas could circulate within them.

In an advertisement in a local paper today, the Public Utilities Corporation announced that it will be ready to begin service to consumers on Monday, October 1. A big rush of piping houses, installing appliances, and making connections is expected.

## Conway Gas Supply Temporarily Cut Off by Break in Main.

*11-28-28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Nov. 27.—Conway had its first experience of being without natural gas since service has begun on October 1, when a break in the main supply line occurred near Camp Pike hill at 3 this morning. Workmen of the Public Utilities Corporation were rushed to the break and by 11:30 had completed the repair. Gas again was turned on here at noon.

## Conway May Secure Lower Natural Gas Rates.

*12/10/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Dec. 8.—Granting of a natural gas franchise by the Russellville City Council to the Public Utilities Corporation of Arkansas at a rate on first consumption lower than the rate prevailing in Conway, is expected to result in the Russellville rate becoming effective here. The Conway franchise granted to the same corporation provided that there should be no discrimination in rates as between Russellville, Morrilton, Atkins and Conway.

As the corporation plans to begin supplying gas in Russellville within 90 to 120 days, it is considered likely that a similar schedule of rates will be put in effect here at that time. The general offices of the corporation, however, are in Shreveport, La., and no representative here was authorized to make a statement.

## Magnolia Company Leases Tract in Faulkner County.

*8-11-29*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Aug. 10.—The Magnolia Petroleum Company has leases on oil, gas and mineral rights on approximately 4,250 acres in Faulkner county, it was learned at the office of Circuit Clerk H. W. Montgomery here today. Practically all leases lie in a rectangular stretch one mile wide, running east and west approximately 10 miles along Cadron Ridge, one mile north of Conway.

Thirty-one leases have been filed at the clerk's office and they cover over one-half of the land within the rectangle, it was said. All the land lies in township 6 north, ranges 12, 13 and 14 west. Practically all the leases have been bought by M. McKay and William B. Vance, agents of the company. Mr. McKay, who formerly was employed by the Magnolia Company at El Dorado, has moved to Conway and is directing the leasing.

## Oil Test in Faulkner County Has Been Abandoned.

*8/30/28*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Aug. 29.—The Stermer test well for oil and gas, located eight miles south of Conway, has been abandoned, it was learned today from authoritative sources. Whether a new well will be started will depend upon action by minority stockholders, it was said.

Drilling on the well has been in progress for more than three years by the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company and it is estimated that more than \$100,000 was expended on the project. Dr. D. L. Bower of Little Rock has been in active charge of drilling. E. B. Edmonds of California, president of the company and who is said to have advanced most of the funds, has returned to his home. Before his departure he left word that if the minority stockholders would contribute their proportionate share he would start a new well on the same location. The company has leased 14,000 acres.

The Magnolia Petroleum Company has begun taking oil and gas leases in all sections of Faulkner county south of the Vilonia highway. The Magnolia is the first of the several big oil concerns leasing lands in Faulkner county to buy leases in the southern part of the county since the Gold Creek concern blocked the acreage.

## Second Test Well on Stermer Tract Near Conway Planned.

*9/20/29*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Sept. 19.—A second test well for oil or gas on the Stermer land eight miles south of Conway will be started soon at a location about 1,000 feet southeast of the well which was abandoned after being drilled for more than two years, Dr. D. L. Bower of Little Rock, vice president of the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company, said here today. Dr. Bower, who is recovering from an illness, came here to arrange with B. F. Stermer to lay out the new location, which will be made tomorrow. The old derrick will be torn down and a new one erected. He said he hoped to spud in the new well within two weeks. The first well was drilled to a depth of about 3,400 feet and showing of oil and gas encountered at various depths.

## Cosden Oil Test Near Rosebud 925 Feet Deep.

*1-7-9-30*  
Special to the Gazette.  
Conway, Jan. 18.—The Cosden Oil Company's test well near Rosebud had reached a depth of 925 feet Wednesday and was drilling in black and blue shale at that level, it was said in the semi-weekly drilling report by M. J. Munn, geologist in charge of the company's operations in Arkansas. From January 12 to 15 inclusive, the drill went down 160 feet, an average of 40 feet a day. Breaking of the pin from the top of the drill stem stopped drilling at the same company's well near Hector, Pope county, Monday. That well had reached a depth of 2,275 and the fishing job was still in progress Wednesday.

Drilling will probably be started soon at the new location on the Stermer tract, eight miles south of Conway, 1,100 feet south of Gold Creek Oil Gas Company's 3,000-foot test, which was abandoned a few months ago, it is said by D. P. Hoffman of Dayton, O., who has spent the past 10 days here. Mr. Hoffman has been associated with Dr. D. L. Bower of Little Rock since the beginning of his operations in the Gold Creek territory, about four years ago.



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**Drilling at Cosden Oil Well  
Suspended Temporarily.**

Special to the Gazette. 7-29-30  
Conway, July 28.—Drilling of the Cosden Oil Company's test well near Rosebud in Cleburne county has been suspended pending completion of the same company's test at Hector, Pope county. No further drilling could be done at Rosebud until casing is set and the prospectors decided to await the final outcome of the Hector test, which is about 1,000 feet deeper. Should the latter prove a dry hole the casing will be pulled from it and placed in the Rosebud test. The Hector well was 4,890 feet deep on July 25.

**Activity in Oil Leases Increases  
Over Three-County Field.**

Special to the Gazette. 11-10-30  
Conway, Nov. 9.—Increased activities recently by geologists and lease men in the wildcat oil area of Faulkner, White and Cleburne counties are believed to indicate considerably widened prospecting operations in this area.

There are only two wells now being drilled in Cleburne county, the Cosden well near Rosebud, which has been shut down for several weeks at 4,360 feet after losing a bit in the hole and awaiting orders for further operations, and the Donnelly well six miles north of Heber Springs, which has been drilled to approximately 3,600 feet and is now engaged in fishing out a lost baller.

No production has been developed in either of these wells, but the formations are said to be encouraging. An Oklahoma oil man who has spent several months in the three counties said that there is both oil and gas underlying the numerous structures in this area and it is only a matter of drilling enough holes until someone will strike it.

Drilling at the Stermer test well eight miles south of Conway has been suspended for several months, but efforts are being made to reorganize the Gold Creek Oil and Gas Company and resume operations. Practically all the major oil companies are represented among the holders of leases and royalties in Faulkner, White and Cleburne counties and it is considered significant that none of the leases have been permitted to lapse since they were taken.

**Rosebud and Hector Oil Tests  
Abandoned.**

Special to the Gazette. 3-4-31  
Conway, March 3.—The Cosden Oil Company has completed removal of casing, drill rigs and other equipment from its two test wells at Rosebud and Hector, which have been abandoned. Equipment is being shipped to Judkins, Tex. A. E. McKenzie, in charge of operations for the Cosden company, said his company is keeping up payments on leases on approximately 200,000 acres in this and nearby counties. The Cosden company has spent more than a half-million dollars for leases and in drilling wells in this section in the past two years.