

March 28, 1941

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

UMPQUA

OAKLAND OIL COMPANY

Owners: A. F. Stearns, Oakland, Oregon, president.

Location: Whitman Gap Well in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 8, T. 25 S., R. 5 W., just west of the railroad tracks. Lesper Dome well near the N $\frac{1}{16}$ corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 18, T. 25 S., R. 5 W.

Area: Leases on approximately 4500 acres.

History: The oil activity was first started by the Seattle Oil, Gas, & Coal Assn., then changed to Oakland Oil, Gas, & Coal Assn., and finally to the Oakland Oil Company. Composed principally of Medford, Oreg., and Dunsmuir, Calif. stockholders. Activity started about 1921; drilling started in 1925, and work was abandoned in January 1930. The Company has been disbanded by the Corporation Commissioner.

Development: There is little data on the findings of the two wells. It is reported that a gas flow was encountered in the Lesper Dome Well at 2660 feet. Oil indications were found at the bottom of this well at 2885 feet. No data on the Whitman Gap Well, or any log available.

Informant: A. F. Stearns, Oakland, Calif., and Ray C. Treasher, 3/26/41
Report by: RCT 3/28/41

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Log copied from log book
possessed by A. F. Stearns,
by ROT, 3/26/41

2679-2686 Hard sand
2686-2708 Sandy shale
2708-2710 Hard Sand
2710-2770 Sandy blue shale
2770-2774 Hard sand
2774-2795 Blue shale
2795-2800 shell
2800-2805 shell
2805-2810 Light blue shale
2810-2820 Blue shale, caving
2820-2835 Blue shale, caving
2835-2840 Blue shale
2840-2844 Blue shale
2844-2850 Shell
2850-2854 Shell
2854-2860 Oily shale
2860-2865 Fine hard soil
2865-2867 Shale, hard
2867-2880 Oily shale
2880-2885 Oily shale

BOTTOM

Mr. A. F. Stearns is 86, and his memory of details is not too clear. The only well log available is that given at the left. Mr. C. C. Frites, of Roseburg, Oreg., made a report on the property, copy of which is attached. At the time the well was abandoned the driller and his assistant made affidavits, portions of which are quoted. Philo S. Kinnear, driller, affidavit dated Jan. 25, 1930, worked from Oct. 10, 1929 to date; "traces of crude oil" in cuttings from bottom of the hole, --- strong possibility of encountering commercial production in said well within a short distance." Willard McCollum, worked as tool dresser, said last showing of gas was at 2680 feet.

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DETAILED REPORT

on the

“Leeper Dome” Oil Well

C. C. Fristoe, Consulting Geologist and Mining Engineer, of Globe, Arizona, Reports His Findings to the President of the Oakland Oil Company—Advises That Work Be Continued as Indications Point to Success of “Leeper Dome” Project.

Roseburg, Oregon, October 26th, 1927.

A. F. Stearns, President Oakland Oil Co.
Oakland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to instructions of your board of directors I have made a detailed investigation of your holdings upon which a well is being drilled on “Leeper Dome” about two miles west of Sutherlin, Douglas County, Oregon and beg to submit herewith a report of my findings and the conditions.

LOCATION—You have leases on approximately forty-five hundred (4500) acres in the vicinity of the well now drilling. The leases provide a one-eighth royalty to the respective land owners. The terms and provisions embodied in the leases are fair to both Lessor and Lessee and are similar to lease forms used in established producing oil fields. The Pacific Highway, which is paved across the State of Oregon, north

and south, and the main line of the Southern Pacific railway, are approximately two miles from the well now drilling—making the problem of transporting supplies one of minor importance.

TOPOGRAPHY—In locating and verifying the structural conditions my work was greatly simplified by being accompanied by your Mr. Borleske, who I am informed has been over the structure with other geologists and engineers, and who could lead me instantly to readings which I might otherwise have had to search for for days. In addition I have been greatly benefited by having at hand the United States Geological Atlas of the Roseburg Quadrangle, much of the detail work of which was done by my friend and former instructor in Geology at the Missouri School of Mines, Professor W. T. Griswold.

The atmospheric erosive forces, in Oregon, rain being the most important, have brought this section to a state of rolling hills and narrow valleys. The highest hills are capped with sandstone which affords weathering resistance enough to retard erosion and keep the irregular topography—Camas Swale, the largest valley, is drained by Wilbur Creek, a stream small in proportion to the size of the valley. I mention this to show that the stream beds have migrated in geological ages producing valley fills and changes in topographical conditions that otherwise would be hard to account for. The study of the district indicates the physiographic history of the region has been very complex. The small secondary streams flow approximately parallel to the strike of the rocks, while the major streams flow directly across the beds and cut through the Coast Range to the sea. This may be regarded as inherited, from an early condition of gentle slopes, when much of the material, which has since been removed was in place and the country was flat and near the level of the sea. Since that time the region has been upheaved. The uplifting of the land by which the ancient plain of erosion was raised far above the sea was not uniform and caused folding and faulting of the various strata. The geologic epoch during which this action took place can not be definitely determined, but was near the close of the Eocene.

GEOLOGY AND STRUCTURE—Since commercial oil and gas pools are almost invariably confined to sedimentary strata of marine origin and since the formations of the area of land in question are of this origin, and consist of shales, sandstones, conglomerates and limestone, carrying more or less fossils of known origin, we are first lead to believe in the possibility of oil—second, from the effects of the internal actions

we have folding and faulting causing anticlines, synclines and domes, forming traps or pockets to hold the oil in place. The well now drilling

is situated on what is locally known as the "Leeper Dome." This structure is easily traced. Its form is that of an elongated dome. Beginning near the so-called "Gap Well" on the south and east the formations rise to a point about one-fourth of a mile northeast of the drilling well. The apex of the dome seems to be a short distance north of the drilling well with the major axis running about twenty degrees north of east. There is no visible evidence of other than a complete closure on this structure.

WELL—The well is now down to a depth of two thousand one hundred and seventy (2170) feet. Casing is swinging free in the hole. A standard rig of adequate efficiency in good running condition, with necessary tools and housing quarters for the men constitutes the equipment. No accurate log of the well has been kept. But I am informed by the drillers that the last one hundred and sixty (160) feet of drilling has been in blue shale, with now and then a thin, softer streak containing more or less sand. That the flow of gas has increased with depth—this shows a softening of the stratum and a radical change is justifiably expected with depth. The gas is unquestionably a carbon gas of excellent quality. The writer was present at the bailing of the well, burned the gas and satisfied himself as to the quality of the gas. Oil is sometimes called "the parent" of gas of this composition.

With the quantity of gas showing in this well and the gas possessing the qualities it has we are lead to believe finally that oil will be found in this field. From sections of the core of the "Gap Well" I find evidence that the formation will be loose enough and of coarse enough grain to give the sand a porosity capable of producing wells of commercial value. In the "Gap Well" salt water was found at three hundred and fifty (350) feet; in the "Leeper Dome" well the salt water was encountered at thirteen hundred and some feet, this shows the geological elevation to be about one thousand (1000) feet higher at the "Gap Well" and the other geological evidences along with the difference in elevation seem to prove the "Gap Well" was drilled on a fault where oil and gas could not reasonably be expected.

RECOMMENDATIONS—From United States geological reports on the quadrangle and my investigation of the section, had no drilling been done I would advise the drilling of a test well. But from the work already done, and having the equipment on the ground and paid for, and the perfect structural condition, the uniform sedimentary formations together with the persistent and increasing flow of gas and the loosening of the present formation; while no reputable geologist would be so bold as to make a definite prediction of finding petroleum in com

mercial quantities at the starting of the well, I feel that I am justified in expressing my firm opinion that you will encounter that which you seek, not more than a few hundred feet below the present depth of the well.

Respectfully,

C. C. FRISTOE,
Consulting Geologist and Mining Engineer.

P. O. Box 1479
Globe, Arizona.

MR. FRISTOE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

The following telegrams received attest the worth and ability of Mr. Fristoe:

Globe, Arizona, Nov. 3rd, 1927.

W. L. Cobb,
Roseburg, Oregon.

Mr. Fristoe enjoys an excellent reputation in this district for being a man of honesty and integrity and I take pleasure in recommending him to you as a man in whom I believe you can place entire confidence.

I am,

Very truly yours,

FREDERIC A. SHAFFER.

Bartlesville, Okla., Oct. 27, 1927.

Oakland Oil Company,
Roseburg, Ore.

C. C. Fristoe is honest, capable and trustworthy. Has had experience in oil fields of Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arkansas. Reputation as geologist good.

JAMES BRANN

Bowie, Ariz., Nov. 2, 1927.

W. L. Cobb,
Roseburg, Oregon:

Answering wire of twenty seventh. Good reputation, honest and experienced.

BOB THOMAS

Prescott, Ariz., Oct. 31, 1927.

W. L. Cobb,
Roseburg, Oregon:

Letter telegram received. Fristoe graduate William Jewell College, Liberty Missouri, post graduate course Missouri School of Mines, Rolla, Missouri. Thoroughly competent, absolutely conscientious. Had many years experience geological work and in management oil production properties which will be verified in letters he has telegraphed for, which will be sent you.

P. M. MORGAN