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January 26, 1985

## Oil & Gas figures for two counties

The Texas Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association recently released the 1983 hydrocarbon figures for Schleicher and Irion Counties. In its annual survey of the economic impact of the oil and gas industry operations in the significant producing counties of Texas, Texas Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association reported that while Irion County ranked 71 and Schleicher County 118th among Texas' 154 counties on the base value of its market petroleum production. These production figures included condensate and casinghead gas.

Schleicher County's wells produced 1.2 million and Irion County produced 3.3 million barrels of crude oil valued at \$35.6 million and \$97.6 million, respectively. Irion produced 25 million cubic feet of natural gas and Schleicher County 17.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Schleicher's gas value was set at \$39.6 million and Irion's gas production value at \$56.6 million. Owners of royalty in Schleicher County received \$9.4 million and the Irion County's royalty owners shared \$19.2 million, the association noted.

In addition to paying property taxes to cities, counties and school districts, producers in the counties supported state government through production tax payments estimated at \$4.6 million for Schleicher and \$8.7 million for Irion County, according to the Association Survey. Crude oil taxes amounted to \$1.6 million for Schleicher and \$4.4 million for Irion County while natural gas levies totaled \$3 million for Schleicher County and \$4.2 million for Irion County.

Based on Texas Employment Commission figures some 211 Schleicher County residents are employed in the oil and gas industry whereas Irion County boasts 206 industry related employees which supplement the local income to the tunes of \$4.9 million in Schleicher and \$5 million in Irion County.

In the search for new petroleum reserves in the counties, oil and gas producers spent a reported \$25.3 million in Schleicher County drilling 75 wells. In Irion County \$43.5 million was spent while drilling 129 wells. Schleicher County had eight wildcats drilled and Irion County had one. These efforts resulted in the successful completion of 19 Schleicher County oil wells and 87 Irion County oil wells. Twenty-four gas wells were completed in Schleicher and 10 gas wells were completed in Irion County. A total of \$10.8 million was lost in drilling 32 dry holes in Schleicher County and \$10.7 million was lost in drilling 33 dry holes in Irion. As of April 1, 1984, there were 813 producing wells in Schleicher County and 1,424 producing wells in Irion County. Schleicher County's total well count is represented by 373 oil wells and 440 gas wells. Irion County has 1263 oil wells and 161 gas wells.

Petroleum processing also contributed to the counties' economy with Schleicher County having four natural gas processing plants and Irion County has three such plants having a total daily capacity of 101.5 million cubic feet of natural gas in Schleicher County in operation and 46.8 million cubic feet in Irion County.



Elton McGinnes pleasantly reflects back on his career with the Co-op Friday, during his open house reception.

## First committee meeting of Sesquicentennial group held

The Sesquicentennial Committee along with several others who were asked to help plan a celebration, met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Isaacs, Tuesday night, January 22. Many ideas were presented and discussed and much enthusiasm was shown in having a celebration that Eldorado and Schleicher County could be proud of.

Plans now are to combine Schleicher County Days with this celebration as it will draw more people and more interest will be shown.

The following tentative plans were made at the meeting.

1. That the date be set for August 16, 1984.
2. Musical presentation of Texas Music by the Schleicher County School Music Department in their Spring Concert.
3. A Schleicher County Quilt will be made with volunteers making a block. Artists have been asked to help sketch designs to be used. The quilt will be on display at the celebration and will be sold.
4. There will be a display of Arts and Crafts, including antique quilts

or other handwork that has a story behind it. This will be in the Memorial Building.

5. Participate in the Wagon Train in some way. The Train is scheduled to come to Menard, San Angelo and on to Big Lake. Some are interested in riding with the train.

6. Have a Texas Size Parade with many participants. All clubs, churches, schools, hospital, Rodeo Association and anyone who is interested in having a part in the parade. More definite plans will be published later.

7. Ask Highway Department employees to scatter wild flower seeds in the fall of 1985.

8. A musical dramatization of Texas History to be presented before the big day.

9. High School Art students are designing a logo for Schleicher County to be used in many ways. One will be selected to be used.

10. There will be a rodeo Friday and Saturday nights, sponsored by the Rodeo Association.

1. The Golf Club will sponsor a Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday afternoon.

The Committee hopes all citizens of Schleicher County will begin now to help in some way to make this the best Celebration that has ever been in our county. We need all of us working together.

### Mertzson shows love for girl

With all the winners listed in Irion County's Project Show last week, perhaps the biggest winner is Traci Mobley. This 8 year old girl is scheduled for a February 13th kidney operation which has been made possible through the help of Irion County's Helping Hand Fund. But on top of the capital already raised through the Helping Hand efforts, the Irion County's Lions Club voted this week to donate the total proceeds from their BBQ at the project show to young girl for her medical expenses. This figure tallied up to \$1287.84 but, she was also designated to be the recipient of \$740 obtained through an auction held following the stock show by 4-H members. With such generous contributions and gifts of love, little Traci is bound to come through the operation in flying colors.

## Area livestock shows bring in needed dollars

The area Livestock Shows and Project Shows that were held a couple of weeks ago turned out very well, monetarily speaking.

The Schleicher County 4-H/FFA Livestock and Project Show had seventy-six young people participating in the two-day event while Irion County boasted of forty-eight young people turned out for the one day affair in Mertzson.

Eldorado's Premium Sale took in \$15,401.00 and Irion's Premium Sale brought in \$12,095.00

Eldorado's total show grossed

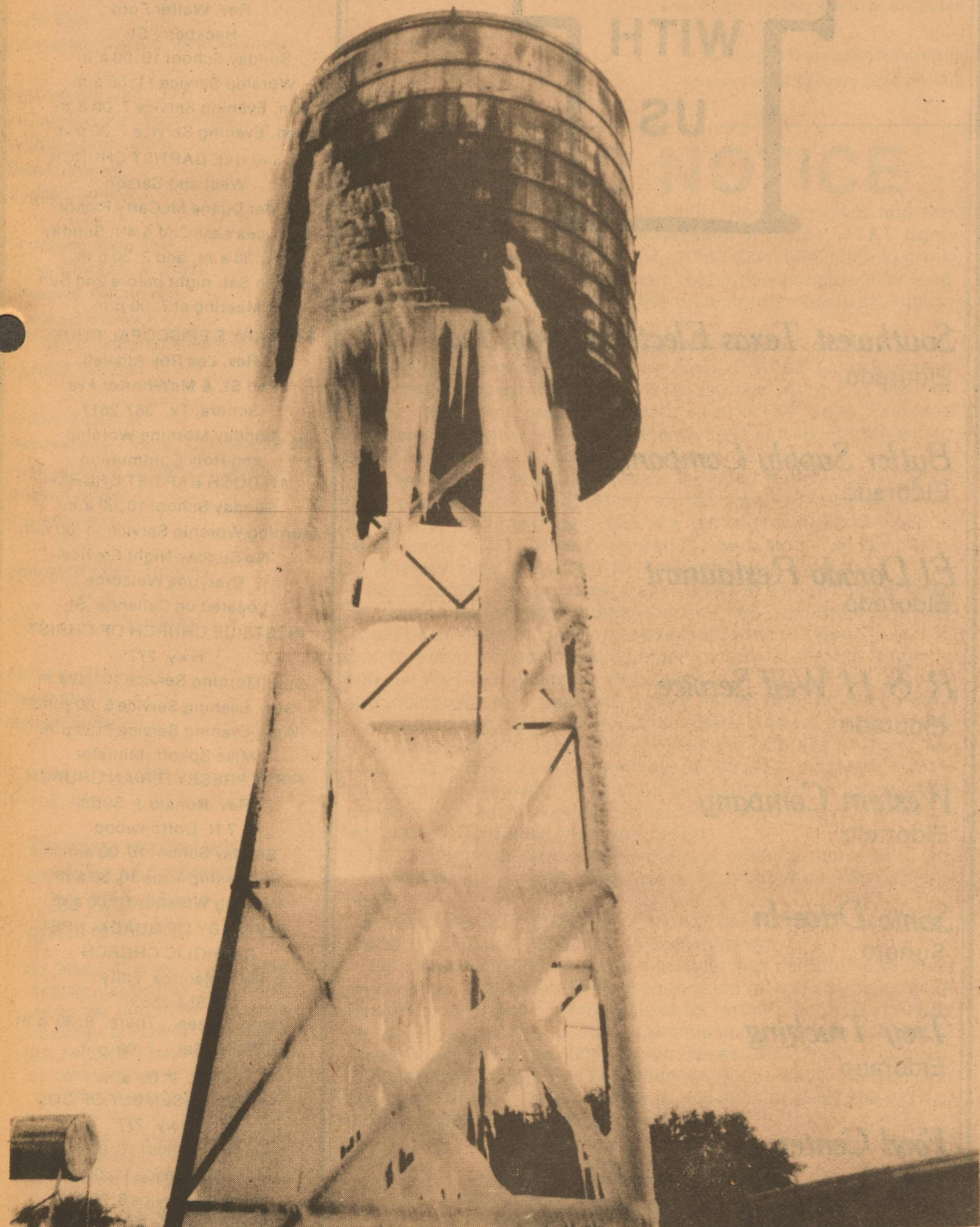
\$25,758.45, which covered the livestock sales, BBQ lunch, arts & crafts sales and food sales. The costs for the show came to \$3730.28 leaving a net for the event at \$589.37.

The auctioned items in Irion County's Show netted \$695.00 which will be divided between the 4-H and FFA according to the number of members with the association retaining 10%.

Spokesmen for both livestock shows blamed the snow and ice for keeping away more prospective buyers, but everyone agreed that in spite of the snow, both countys had

outstanding livestock and project shows and gave the credit to the youngsters who worked so many long hard hours to present their livestock exhibits and projects at their very best.

If the recent stock shows are any indication of the caliber of projects to be presented from this area, then the local members of 4-H and FFA clubs who will be traveling to Fort Worth for the Fat Stock Show January 29th - February 3rd will have no trouble coming home winners again.



Fred Case's water tank becomes a work of art after the Manitoba

clipper passed through with temperatures recorded as low as 11

degrees and winds as high as 70 mph.





## Miss Williams engaged to Rodney Cash

Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Williams of Hobbs, New Mexico formerly of Eldorado and Mr. and Mrs. Jody Taylor of Hobbs announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Tina Rena and Rodney Cash. The couple will exchange vows at 4:00 p.m. March 9, at Taylor Street Church of Christ of Hobbs. The bride-elect is a graduate of Hobbs High School. The prospective bride-groom is a graduate of Hobbs High School and attended Oklahoma Christian College, Abilene-Christian College and College of the Southwest.

## Down Home Diner & Bakery: a unique place to dine

What a nice feeling it is to walk into a clean, attractive place to find a bite to eat among friendly faces in an atmosphere of home.

The Down Home Diner is owned by a hometown girl, the former Jan Hutcherson, and her husband Stanley Wallace. The building was originally owned by Bob Page and was known as the Page Drug Store. The last owner, Cecil Westerman, closed the store more than a year ago for lack of a pharmacist.

The old Drug Store which was owned by Page had a fountain with a counter and stools where one could feel at home while sipping their Cokes, Dr. Peppers or coffee. The counter and stools have been remodeled and are being used again. The windows and across the top of shelves have wide gingham ruffles. The tables have brightly colored print cloths on them. One large table has church pews on each side which makes a unique place to eat.

The kitchen is a busy place where Jan and her helpers are desperately trying to fill short orders while at the same time trying to prepare the noon meal. Cinnamon rolls were gone long before many could get down there to get just one.

The employees were mostly nurses at the hospital who were lending a hand to help get started. They said it could not have been done if people had not been so nice to help out.

It is great to see a vacant building being filled with something useful.

## Child passenger safety enforcement has begun

Texas' number one killer of children may be slowed next year, when the second phase of the child passenger safety law goes into effect. Beginning New Year's Day drivers may be fined \$25 to \$50 if their passengers age 4 and under are not secured in a child safety seat or by a seat belt. Fines may be dropped if the person ticketed shows proof of buying or borrowing a safety restraint within 10 days of the offense.

"The biggest killer of Texas children 4 and under is car wrecks, making the use of child safety seats a major public health issue," said Dr. Robert Bernstein, Texas Commissioner of Health. "If every child was buckled in a safety seat or seat belt when they rode in a vehicle, we could save as many as 70 young lives and prevent the injury of perhaps 5,600 other children in 1985," he said.

The first phase of the child passenger law went into effect October 31, 1984, and requires children under age 2 to be buckled in a child safety seat. Children between the ages of 2 and 4 may ride in a safety seat or wear a seat belt.

The law -- and resulting fines -- are a response to the alarming number of fatalities among child passengers in Texas. In 1983, for instance, 77 children died and 6,603 were injured. Statistics indicate up to 90 percent of the deaths and 85 percent of the injuries could be avoided by the use of safety restraints.

The Texas Department of Health's Safe Riders program, conducted in cooperation with the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation and other organizations, distributes literature and information about the need to use child safety restraints. A bilingual operator answers a hotline and can explain the proper use of safety restraints and direct callers to the nearest low-cost loaner programs.

The Safe Riders number is 1-800-252-8255, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Texas is the 49th state to adopt a child passenger safety law, leaving only Wyoming without similar legislation.

## RRC approves gas rate reduction

The Railroad Commission recently approved natural gas contract changes between Delhi Gas Pipeline Corp. and Lone Star Gas Co. which will reduce rates to Lone Star and its customers by some \$23 million annually. The new rates are effective as of January 1.

Customers of Lone Star will benefit from lower gas costs under the contract changes since the company must pass the reduced costs directly to customers using previously approved automatic adjustment clauses.

Two separate rate reductions are included in the contract changes. First, the rate charged by Delhi for the gas itself will be reduced from approximately \$6.36 per MMBtu to \$3.30 per MMBtu. (There are approximately one million Btus of energy in a thousand cubic feet of natural gas.) Annual savings to Lone Star from this change are estimated at \$23,059,895.

Second, Lone Star agreed not to charge Delhi any transportation fees for gas transported under three agreements between the companies. Estimated annual savings to Delhi are \$292,000.

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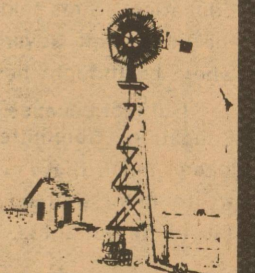
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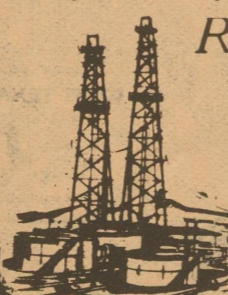


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