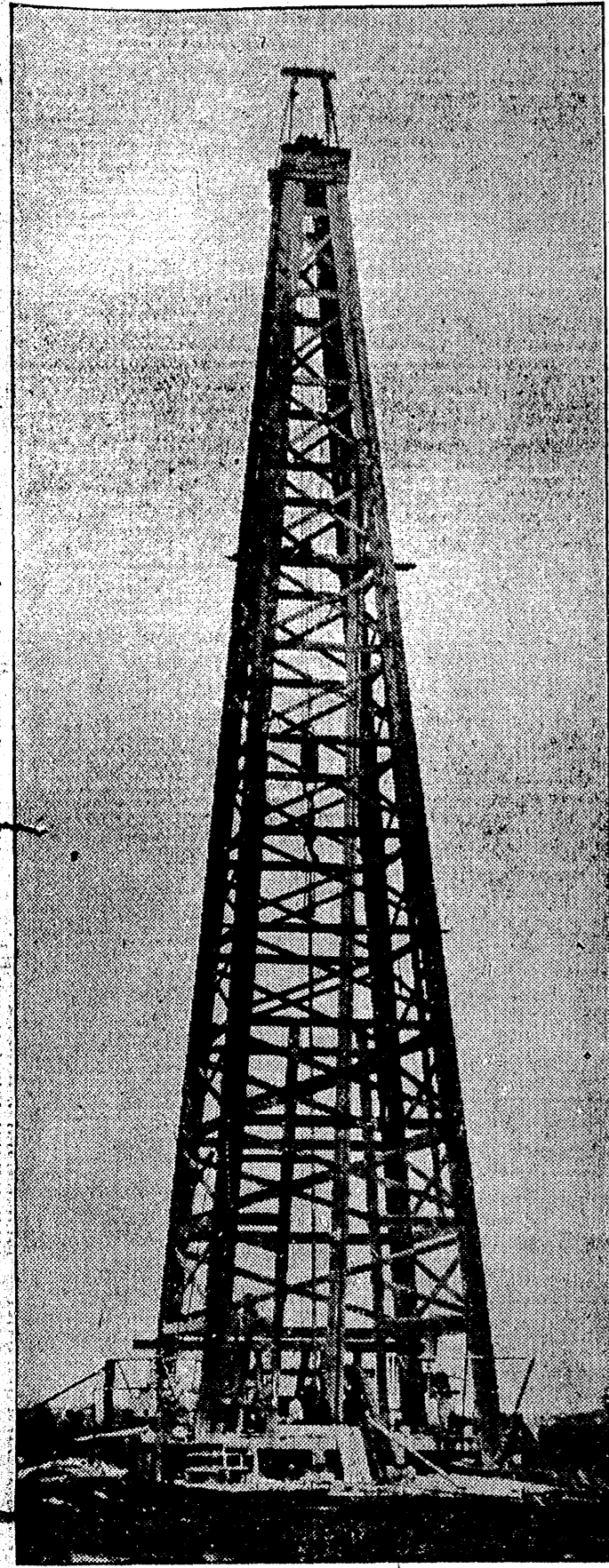
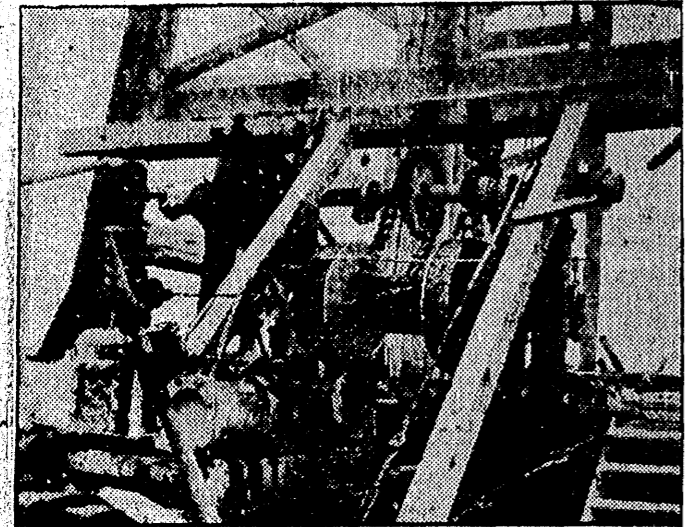


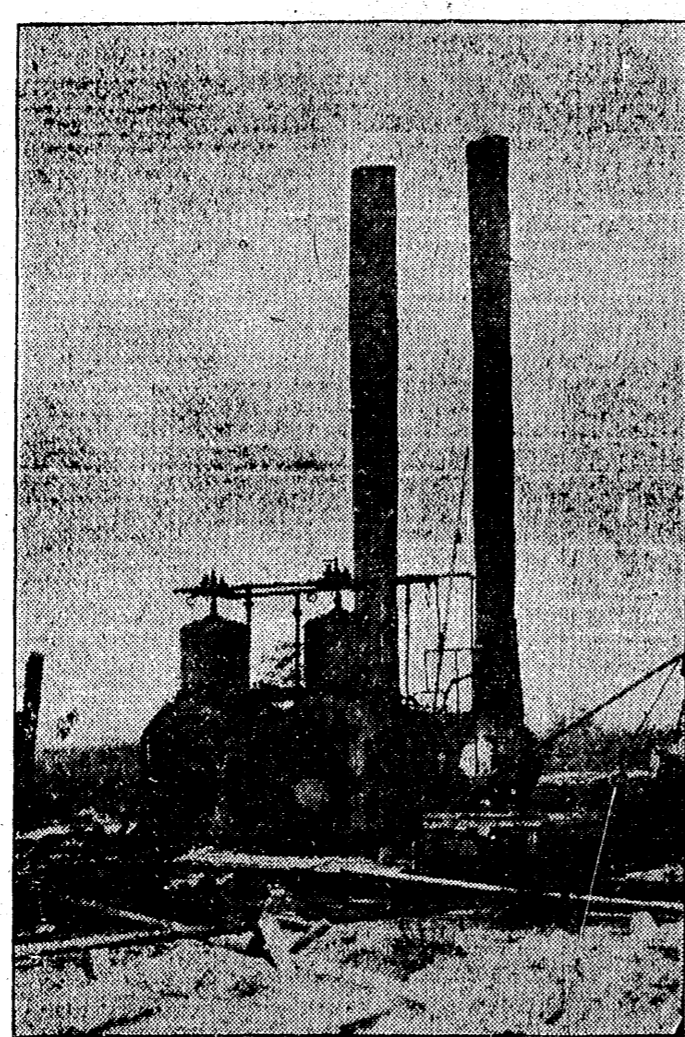
WHY ARE MEN DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE SANDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA?



The derrick tower of the Tamiami Wildcat well as it lifts its 112-foot gauge from the south side of the Tamiami Trail, 42 miles west of Miami.



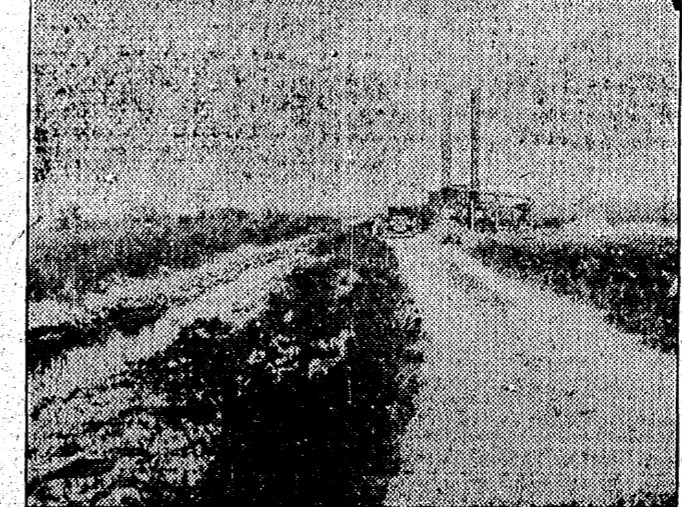
The rotary drill outfit now being operated at the Tamiami Wildcat well, 42 miles west of Miami on the Tamiami Trail. The photograph shows the cable drum used for rotating the drill casing and the engine which does the actual rotating of the drill stem.



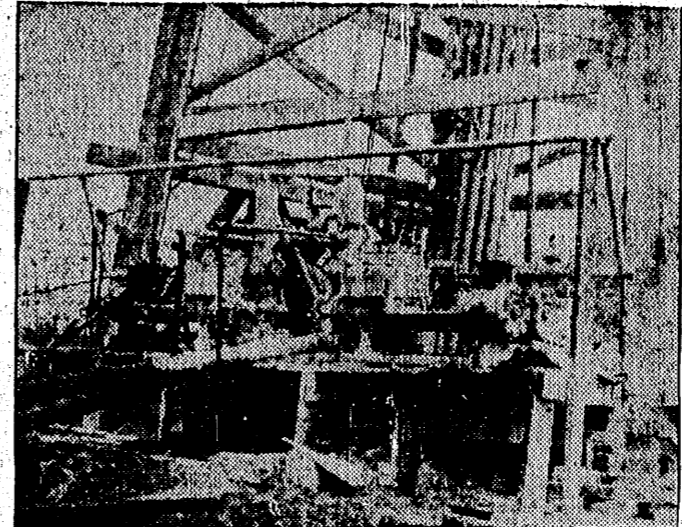
Power for the machinery at the well is furnished by two 60 h.p. boilers, in which crude oil is burned as fuel.



The crew of the day four standing by the elevating equipment at the well in Tamiami Trail. Left to right, they are Roy Fidler, roughneck, more politely referred to as 'holper'; A. L. Young, chief derrickman; L. L. Terrell, roughneck; W. C. Claxton, derrick man, and W. O. Corawell, fireman.



Looking east towards Miami from a point on the Trail exactly opposite the derrick tower. The boiler stacks are seen at right.



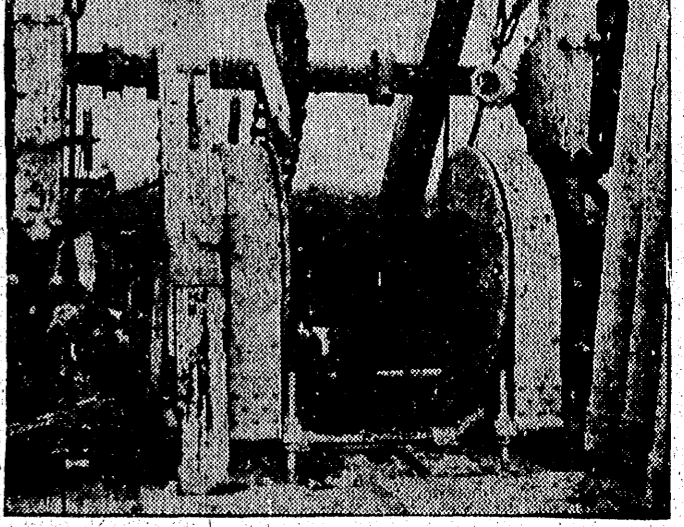
The pumps and Kelly Joint, with which the well is kept flushed out while drilling is in progress.



Neil Scroggins, contractor, in charge of drilling operations at the Tamiami wildcat well.



A close view of the Sharpe and Hughes rock bit, whose cannel hardened, grinding edges will go through the hardest rock stratum, pulverizing the ground-out rock into fine powder.



The cable drum at the well, by which the drill casing is raised, lowered and controlled in its action of drilling out the test hole.

BIG HOLE IN GROUND IS WATCHED FOR OIL

Out of Cavity 2,686 Feet and Nearly Eight Inches in Diameter Has Come, Thus Far, Nothing But Rock, Mud, Sand, Water and Gentle Gases; Fortune Risked in Experiment.

By Guy S. Culliffe
 Staff Writer of the Herald.

There is a big hole in the ground on the south side of the Tamiami trail a few feet west of the county line, 42 miles from the crowd, or blackbird, flies, from Biscayne bay. Out of the cavity, which is 2,686 feet deep and 7 3/4 inches in diameter, nothing thus far has come but rock, mud, sand, water and last Wednesday a few gentle gases which indicated that the drillers of the inquisitive boring had struck an encouraging but unprofitable natural gas pocket.

But the important thing about the well, known as the Tamiami Wildcat, is not what has or has not come out of it in the past. The impressive features of the rather romantic and important project are what may emerge from its top and in the future.

It seems apparent, after an examination of all relevant and available material offered, that there is at least a 50 per cent possibility oil or natural gas will come out of the well within the next six or eight months. Such an eventuality may occur in two weeks, in nine months, or it may never occur at all, but the odds for and against it are certainly no worse than any other conservative gamble.

In this case the auguries are slightly more favorable than in the average daily with fortune in that the indications of the future possible presence of oil are considered better than when the first jab at the hole was made last July.

There is one consideration which will distinguish the Tamiami Wildcat from almost all other test wells wherever sunk. It is that whether or not oil, natural gas or other deposits are found in its core, everyone concerned will have satisfaction of knowing that an honest, full

Company of Duncan, Okla., makers of the revolutionary new Halliburton sand tester for taking formation cores, or samples. He says: "It is my opinion that there is oil in Florida. While it may take many wells to discover it, it is certainly there. Geologists say that the Gulf of Mexico was formerly a fresh water lake. Due to eruptions and upheavals, the land connection between Central America and Florida was broken allowing the Atlantic Ocean to enter. It is reasonable to suppose that if there is oil on the coastal plain of southern Texas and Louisiana, there should be oil in Florida. "With this and other arguments to spur them on, the Miami group proceeded to find a location most likely to carry the work to its successful conclusion, as being the one which most probably would produce oil or natural gas, assuming that these minerals were to be found at all in the southeastern peninsula of the state. The group then gave evidence of its sincerity and earnest desire to reach a full, final verdict on the question by obtaining the services of one of the most reliable and respected oil well contractors in the country, and by subscribing a fund with which to determine conclusively whether or not there was or was not such substances below the derrick's site. "The bringing in through the well of an oil gusher or a commercially worth while natural gas stratum will be a self-evident eventuality. On the other hand if the drillers and their backers report that there is nothing in short, if the drillers find no oil or gas it will be pretty safe to assume that there isn't any to be found. "The Tamiami Trail test well project now is more than a year old, although talk of the possibility of discovering oil in Florida has been current for some time longer. A group of Miami business men got together and did a great deal of inquiring, the result of which was that they decided it would be worth while to invest their money to determine conclusively whether there really was oil in Florida, or at least in the southern part of the state. "In the course of their investigations which included frequent and exhaustive consultations with geologists and authorities on oil producing formations, they found that the territory west of Miami contained no oil or natural gas. On the contrary, they were told, a number of factors pointed to the ultimate discovery of oil there if adequate, properly conducted and energetic tests were made. "The gist of the main argument for believing there is oil in Florida, as expressed by Gene Campbell, representative of the E. F. Halliburton

by Gene Campbell, manufacturer's representative, is an excellent example of the ingenuity which characterizes nearly all oil drilling devices. Mr. Campbell says: "The sand tester tool is made for the purpose of testing not the sand itself but its contents without setting an extra string of casing for that purpose. It must be remembered that the pressure at the bottom of the hole is being continuously circulated, holding back any water flow which otherwise would come in the well. This mud forms a coating on the inside of the hole and with the weight of the mud behind it is able to entirely keep back a tremendous water pressure and prevent the casing in the walls of the hole. It also holds back in place quicksand formations. "Whenever a sand is encountered at the bottom of the hole, the depth of the well, in this instance has a pressure of approximately 1,400 pounds per square inch. "The sand tester has a tapered packer which fits in the smaller hole like a cork in a bottle and prevents the water from rising in the drill stem from a few feet to a few hundred feet, depending upon the pressure in the sand. "The valve is left open for a few minutes to a half hour, depending on circumstances, and then is closed, after which the drill stem is withdrawn into unproductively before any sample of the contents of the sand uncontaminated by the mud-laden fluid previously in the hole. "One gains the impression at the site of the well that the work has only just begun and that several thousand more feet will have to be dug into unproductively before any serious doubt as to the presence of oil will be expressed. Mr. Scroggins' contract calls for a depth of 4,000 feet, and he has so far expressed nothing but optimism in the outcome of the drilling. The well is now down 2,686 feet. "Mr. Scroggins believes that something of value may be discovered at any depth from 3,000 to 5,000 feet or more. When asked if he would discontinue drilling or report that no oil was in this territory if he reached 4,000 feet without success, he said: "There are certain formations between the 3,000 and 4,000 feet levels, and which, if found, should contain oil or gas. When all of these anti-oil formations have been discovered and have not produced oil or gas, but not before then, I shall begin to doubt the existence of oil in this section. "But we may discover some of the formations before reaching 4,000 feet, and others not until we reach 5,000 feet. "Mr. Scroggins, chief driller of the night crew at the well, who has had 18 years' experience in the central producing fields, finds that the formations already found compare favorably with those found in the coastal fields of Louisiana and Texas. He has a personal belief that

SALT WATER FAILS TO STOP OIL DRILLING

Greater Depth To Be Sought By Miami Company; Directors Confident of Success.

Drilling for oil by the Tamiami Oil and Natural Gas Company at its present location, 42 miles west of Miami, will be continued in spite of the discovery of salt water at the present level of drilling, Charles I. Brooks, director of the organization said yesterday.

"While the contract depth is 4,000 feet," Mr. Brooks says, "we hope to strike oil or gas before reaching that depth. It is our intention to continue drilling until a determinative depth has been reached. Notwithstanding the discouraging feature in the finding of salt water, the drilling of an oil well is like traveling on a journey—one finds some good roads and some bad stretches, but one keeps on to the end of the journey. That is the way the Tamiami Oil and Natural Gas Company expects to operate; especially a cap-rock formation of cap rock being any rock that is sufficiently dense as to be impervious to the penetration of oil or gas, therefore holding the oil or gas in place. That structure there is reason for hope that the oil or gas may be found directly underneath. "For that reason, we have arranged with the Halliburton Company to allow its test to be left with Neil Scroggins, our contractor, until our test in this well is completed. This will in the future save not only a great deal of time but money. "This sand tester as it is called, is the most wonderful device ever placed on the oil well drilling market, and is a boon to the wild cat well in particular. "The information given to the public today is in pursuance of our policy to keep people posted whether the information is favorable or unfavorable. "Temporary disappointment should only lead us to act our grip a little tighter and contribute even more generously because of the realization that additional depth must be gained in order to complete our test. We therefore urge the public more strongly than ever to contribute to the drilling of this test well. "The test cannot be completed except with funds from the public. Knowing the public pulse regarding the effect of a successful completion, we feel sure that funds will be sent in hereafter at all times. "J. F. Jaudon, president of the Tamiami Oil and Natural Gas Company, yesterday issued a statement in which he expressed the belief that either gas or oil will be reached at about 3,600 feet. "Miami, Dade county and Florida are awaiting with keen interest the result of our Tamiami Trail, 42 miles west of Miami," he explained. "We have reached a depth of approximately 2,700 feet. "Our hope and belief has been, and is, that before we have drilled to 3,600 feet we will have brought in a commercial paying gas or oil well. "At a depth of 2,686 feet we encountered a very interesting formation of sand which some of us hoped might produce gas or oil. Tests made by Halliburton's representative (experts in this line) has shown that the formation was all that could be looked for, especially the 'cap rock' upon which our drill now sits, but we have not up to now produced oil or gas. "It is not for us to have our desire to create any furor which might lead to the indiscriminate buying or selling of oil leases. We have not at any time been associated with any company to sell leases. "Our desire is to sell enough stock in our company at par, \$10 per share, to assemble sufficient funds to carry out our well down to a depth of at least 4,000 feet, unless oil or gas is found in paying quantities before that depth is reached."

OIL RIGHTS LEASE NEAR WELL SIGNED

21,000 Acres Are Covered in Drilling Contract.

A lease was signed yesterday for a tract of 21,000 acres of land near the Tamiami Trail in Monroe county, for the oil, gas and all other minerals. This tract is about 13 miles west of the well now being drilled by the Tamiami Oil & Natural Gas Company, and extends to within four miles of the Gulf coast. The lease was from the Chevelier Corporation to Conrad Meyer. There has been a bond of \$100,000 posted by Mr. Meyer to guarantee the carrying out of the provisions of the lease, which provides the beginning of a well within the next 90 days, and to sink the well to a depth of 4,000 feet, or until oil or gas in commercial quantities has been struck. The lease and its provisions will involve an expenditure of about \$100,000. Mr. Meyer said yesterday that a geological survey had been going on for the past three months. "Announcement to be changed. Arrangements for the carrying of mail to St. Petersburg from Miami are expected to be made by Postmaster O. W. Pfitman on his return from Miami today. A proposed change in arrangements will permit the mail to be carried direct to the West Coast by the Seaboard All-Florida railway. He has a personal belief that