Dateline

VOLUME 74—ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER, 2024

Greater Knowledge - Greater Service

Two Great Field Trips in October

Home Run!!

#1 XYLO WOOD BATS
Wichita Falls, TX

&

#2 FIREHOUSE STATION No. 8

Inside this Issue

Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls

2024 Board of Directors

President: Rena Shaffer
Vice President: Tracy Flynn
Secretary: Nichole Harney
Treasurer: Lauren Martin
2 Year Director: Debbie Hicks
1 Year Director: Shirley Bridwell
Immediate Past President: Sheila McGaughey
Parliamentarian: Diana Walker

Monthly Board Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month in the office of Eagle Oil & Gas Co. at Noon. All members are invited to attend.

Eagle Oil and Gas Co.
2525 Kell Blvd, Ste 510
Wichita Falls, TX
76308

Club Purpose

The Purpose of the club shall be to promote the educational and professional development of individuals employed in or affiliated with the petroleum, energy and allied industries, and to educate the general public about these industries.

Club Motto

Greater Knowledge—Greater Service

Official Colors

Black and Gold

From the Editors:

In this Issue: We hope you see how pivotal the oil & gas is to our very existence.

- Our Industry Appreciation Luncheon was presented by William Keffer, Law Professor at Texas Tech, he presented some key points on how crucial oil and gas is to our every day lives. We were all captivated!
- We learned through a field trip to Xylo Bats how to make the perfect bat that all players want, one that will let us hear the "crack" sound of the bat and seeing the perfect home run from our favorite players. It is a loud sound and a desired quality and a point of pride for Xylo Bats.
- We visited Firehouse Station No. 8 and learned how brave and courageous our local firefighters are and how all of their life-saving equipment is a byproduct of oil and gas.
- It's football season! In our *Fuel for Thought* we will see how oil and gas is helping create safer helmets for our favorite football players. *Go Cowboys!*
- Our *From the Derrick Floor* is showing us different fire fighting techniques used in oil field fires; from cannons, wind, explosives, to even using nukes.
- We will also show you "9 Ways Oil & Gas will Help Fuel Your Thanksgiving Holiday", from flying or driving to see family; to fixing that favorite pumpkin pie.

Hope you all have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!

Editors: Sheila, Nichole and Ashley

Association of Desk & Derrick Clubs

Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls

Board of Directors

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President

Tracy Flynn
Vice President

Nichole Harney
Secretary

Lauren Martin
Treasurer

Shirley Bridwell
One-Year Director

Debbie Hicks
Two-Year Director

Sheila McGaughey
Immediate Past President

Diana Walker
Parliamentarian

November 2024

WOW – What a fantastic 73rd Industry Appreciation Luncheon! William (Bill) Keffer, with the Texas Tech University School of Law, presented "Let's Cancel Oil and Gas – No, Wait…" and it was a hit! He was so interesting and is a true advocate of our industry. He sent his power point presentation to our club so let me know if you didn't receive it. If you weren't able to attend, you missed a great luncheon. Three of our MSU scholarship recipients were in attendance – Indigo Burke, Anna Kough, and Audrey Lane. MSU professors Dr. Andrew Katumwehe and Steven J. Rosscoe were also there. We always enjoy meeting our recipients and professors!

Special thanks to our IAL Chairman, Diana Walker, and her committee – Tracy Flynn (Program), Debbie Hicks (General Arrangements), Nichole Harney (Secretary), and Sheila McGaughey (Bulletin/Power Point presentation). Tracy located a great speaker! The room was decorated with our red boots and Texas wildflowers, bandanas and lanterns, and Bistro provided another delicious meal. Thank you so much for your hard work!

Our October 19 field trip to Xylo Wood Bats and Fire Station No. 8 was COOL and HOT! It was really Cool to watch the process of a bat being made and hear the story of how he got started. It was really Hot seeing the equipment used to fight fires. The firemen showed us the fire truck, ladder truck, rescue cart and boat, along with their living quarters. They pulled the ladder truck from the garage and extended the ladder around 100 feet in the air. That's tall – NO ONE wanted to climb that ladder! I even got to wear their firefighting equipment – pants, boots, jacket, fireproof head protector, mask, helmet, oxygen tank and then they handed me the hatchet and some other tool. All that weighed 75-80 pounds. I couldn't move….it was so heavy, but I enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you Sheila for another great field trip!

Please make your reservations to attend our November meeting for our 2025 Election of Officers. An email was sent giving information on the membership meal cost increase to be voted on at the November meeting.

November is a closed meeting – no guests allowed. But invite guests to our evening December 18th meeting to install our 2025 Officers with our Christmas party and gift exchange to follow.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Rena Shaffer

Board of Directors

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Carl E. Gungoll Expl. LLC

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Kathy Martin
Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.

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Kelli Hiltbrand
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Angie Corvers
Retired

WEST REGION DIRECTOR
Heather Woods
Whiptail Midstream

Michelle Burgard
2024 Region Director
333 W Sheridan Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
405-552-6642
Michelle.burgard@dvn.com

November 2024

Hello Members,

I love this time of year when the leaves turn pretty colors, the weather gets cold and I get to change my wardrobe! Most of all the exciting start of the holiday season.

An update on the ad hoc committee. I've listed the members below and they have a deadline of 12/31/2024. They have had one discussion so far and we heard it went really good and they have a lot of ideas. But I want to reiterate that this will only be a recommendation and then any proposed change would need to be submitted by the due date in February.

Ad Hoc Committee members are:

Kelli Hiltbrand - Chairman
Jamie Gilmore - Central Region
Penny Jacobs - Northeast Region
JoAnn Weiss - West Region
Malissa Carroll - Southeast Region

I know this group is working hard to come up with a great compromise and resolution.

If you haven't already make sure you sign-up to help on 2025 committee either for Central Region to help Nichole out or ADDC committee to help out Kathy Martin. I know it's not always easy and challenging but if you can give some time and help out, I know we can have a great 2025. We need all of you to make this Association the best ever!

I hope all of you have a great Thanksgiving! I hope you get to spend quality time with your families.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Michelle Burgard,
2024 Region Director

Wendy Sparks
2024 ADDC PRESIDENT
34627 E County Rd 1517, Paoli OK 73074
405.760.2884 (cell)
wsparks@cegx.net

Board of Directors

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Angie Corvers
ExxonMobil Chemicals

WEST REGION DIRECTOR
Heather Woods
Whiptail Midstream

November 2024

ADDC Membership

I'm so excited about some cool weather and temperatures! It is 90 degrees today in Oklahoma but I'm holding out hope that Fall will soon arrive!

Kathy Martin is looking for volunteers for Committee Chairman and region reps for various committees for 2025. Looking for some fresh eyes and ideas on the committees. Please reach out to her or any 2025 Region Director to see what is available.

Soon clubs will be voting on new officers for 2025. It is VERY important that as soon as elected you fill out the New Officer Form (AD031) and email it to ado@addc.org. Please also send a copy to your 2025 Region Director. This is a very important step to get all the club Presidents listed correctly on the website. Also, please remember if you have officer changes during the middle of the year you will need to fill out another AD031 and send it to ADO.

Philana Thompson and the FRC Committee are reviewing the convention financials along with Q3. All indications point to the fact that we will end up in the black for Convention! Val Williams and her committee did an excellent job researching and sticking to their budget. Thank you again to the Central Region and all the clubs that gave monetary and in-kind donations.

"Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas." —Charles Kettering

Sincerely,
Wendy Sparks

2024 COMMITTEES

BUDGET & FINANCE

Diana Walker - Board Contact

Diana Walker - Chairman

Lauren Martin, Tracy Flynn

BULLETIN/SCRAPBOOK

Sheila McGaughey— Board Contact

Sheila McGaughey— Chairman

Nichole Harney, Ashley Pierce

BYLAWS

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact

Barbara Pappas - Chairman

Tracy Flynn

EDUCATION

Shirley Bridwell - Board Contact

Jordan Moss - Chairman

Doris Sterling

FIELD TRIP

Sheila McGaughey - Board Contact

Sheila McGaughey - Chairman

Cecil Duke, Nelva White

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Debbie Hicks - Board Contact

Debbie Hicks - Chairman

Shirley Bridwell

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact

Tracy Flynn/Vickie Young—Co-Chairman

Casie Mass, Jordan Moss,
Sheila McGaughey

MEMBERSHIP

Diana Walker — Board Contact

Barbara Franklin/Diana Walker
— Co-Chairmen

Nelva White

PROGRAM

Tracy Flynn - Board Contact

Tracy Flynn - Chairman

Nichole Harney, Barbara Pappas,
Vickie Young

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nichole Harney - Board Contact

Nichole Harney - Chairman

Jordan Moss

Let's Cancel Oil and Gas – No, Wait . . .

William R. Keffer

Texas Tech University School of Law
Janet Scivally and David Copeland Endowed Professor of Energy Law
Director, Energy Law Program
Assistant Director, Bar Preparation Resources

Submitted by Tracy Fynn

When students have Mr. Bill Keffer for a law professor at Texas Tech University, they start the year being energy illiterate . They fill up their car with gasoline, but don't give oil and gas much more thought. They don't have any knowledge or education about energy and what is important about oil and gas.

Headlines over the last several years indicate that fossil fuels are on the way out, they need to be defeated, and nations should sign treaties ending the production of fossil fuels. What students think they know is usually wrong because of this type of information.

But what is reality? In 2023, 83% of our energy in the US came from fossil fuels, with oil and gas almost even at 38% and 36% respectively, and coal adding another 9%. The focus is pointing to solar and wind, but they make up a mere 2.5% of our energy.

What powered the world in 2023? The ratios are different than in the US, with coal in leading at 32%, natural gas coming in second at 26% and oil at 23%. Our totals are very similar as the world uses 81% to our 83%. In fact, every region of the world gets raround 80% of its energy from fossil fuels.

Mr. Keffer referred to a video he has that shows a family of four going about their day, and the things they use every day that come from oil and gas start to disappear. They lose clothes, shelter, appliances and cars. Some studies say 90-95% of all manufactured products come from oil and gas. Gasoline is just the tip of the iceberg.

When people talk about transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables, there is no transition. Wind and solar are not able to substitute our consumption of oil and gas. Robert Bryce wrote, "If oil didn't exist, we'd have to invent it." Oil and gas permeate everything we do. If we didn't have it, we wouldn't be living the way we do today.

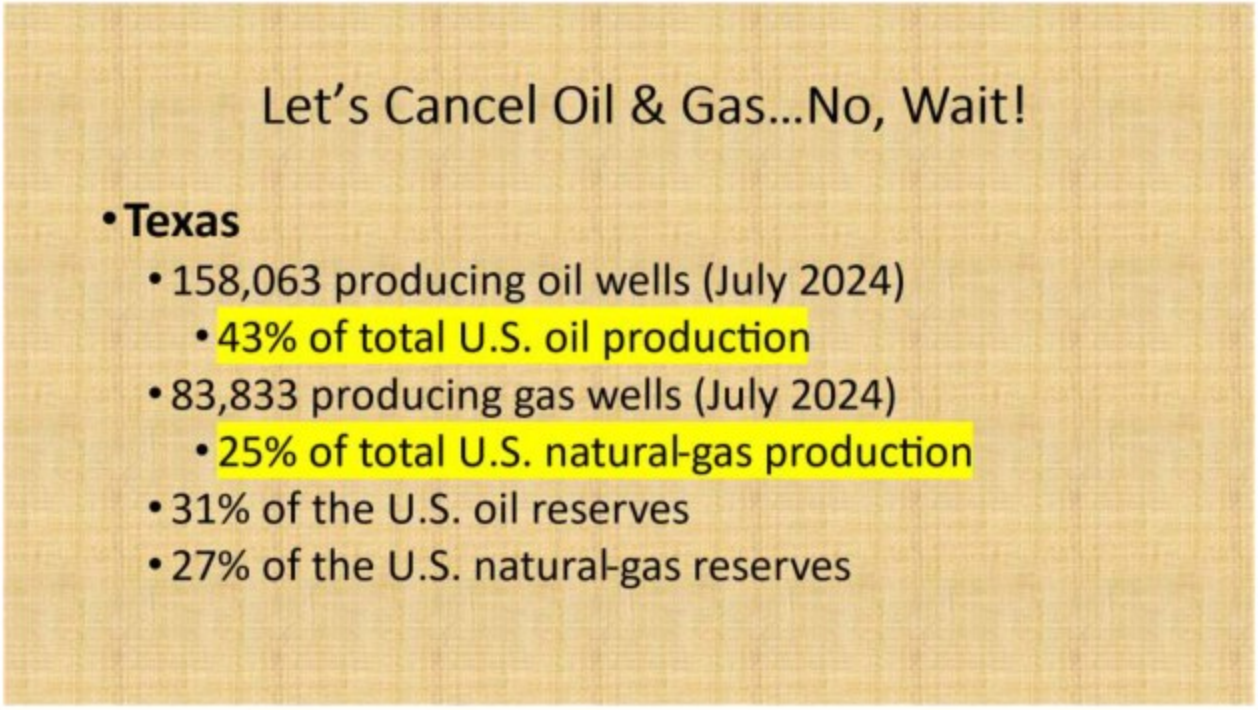
In 2021petroleum products accounted for 90% of the total US transportation sector energy use. People are talking about EVs, getting our heavy-duty long carrier trucks to run on electricity or that fleet of school buses. All of these are just little pinpoints in a

vast ocean of what is dependent on oil for our transportation Trucks, trains, boats, ships and airplanes. These are all ways we travel and move cargo and merchandise across the country and across the world.

In 2012, after a huge decline curve since the 1970's when we thought we were running out of oil and gas, because of the shale revolution, US crude oil production increased more than any year in the history of the domestic oil industry (dating back to 1859 when the Drake well was discovered in Pennsylvania) by 779,000 bbls/day for a total of 6.5 million bbls/day. Those were impressive numbers at the time. We jumped up three years later to 9.4 million bbls/day. In 2018 we were at 10.9 million bbls/day (previous record – 9.6 million bbls/day in 1970). And we keep going up. Just this past August, we were at 13.4 million bbls/day, a new daily record.

The U.S. is the #1 producer in the world of petroleum, natural gas and crude oil, even more than Saudi Arabia or Russia.

In the U.S., Texas is #1 in crude-oil production, #1 natural-gas production, #1 in wind-energy production and #2 (closing in on #1) in solar-energy production. The state of Texas produces more oil and more natural gas than any other state.



The state of Texas has a "Rainy Day Fund", which was only started in the 1980's. The current balance is $19.63 billion and the 2025 ending balance is estimated to be $26 billion. Where did this money come from? Oil and gas severance taxes. No other state has this kind of safety net. But if we get rid of oil and gas, we will also no longer be the source of this Rainy-Day Fund. Other sources of energy, i.e. wind and solar, don't pay any severance taxes. They do not contribute to the state the same way oil and gas do.

It makes a huge difference that we have oil and gas and that we are as productive as we are. That will not be able be duplicated by renewable energy sources. We have a lot of advantages that other states do not have.

Let's Cancel Oil & Gas...No, Wait!

- In 2022 for Texas -
  - $24.7 billion – state and local taxes and state royalties
  - $1.65 billion – school districts (property taxes)
  - $608 million – counties (property taxes)
  - Pays >6x more in taxes on a per-job basis than the average of the rest of the private sector

Let's Cancel Oil & Gas...No, Wait!

- $2.1 billion – Permanent University Fund (PUF)
- $2.1 billion – Permanent School Fund (PSF)
- (In fiscal 2024) - $5.45 billion – Economic Stabilization Fund ("Rainy-Day Fund")
  - ($3.05 billion - State Highway Fund)
  - $19.63 billion – current balance
  - $26 billion – estimated balance in 2025

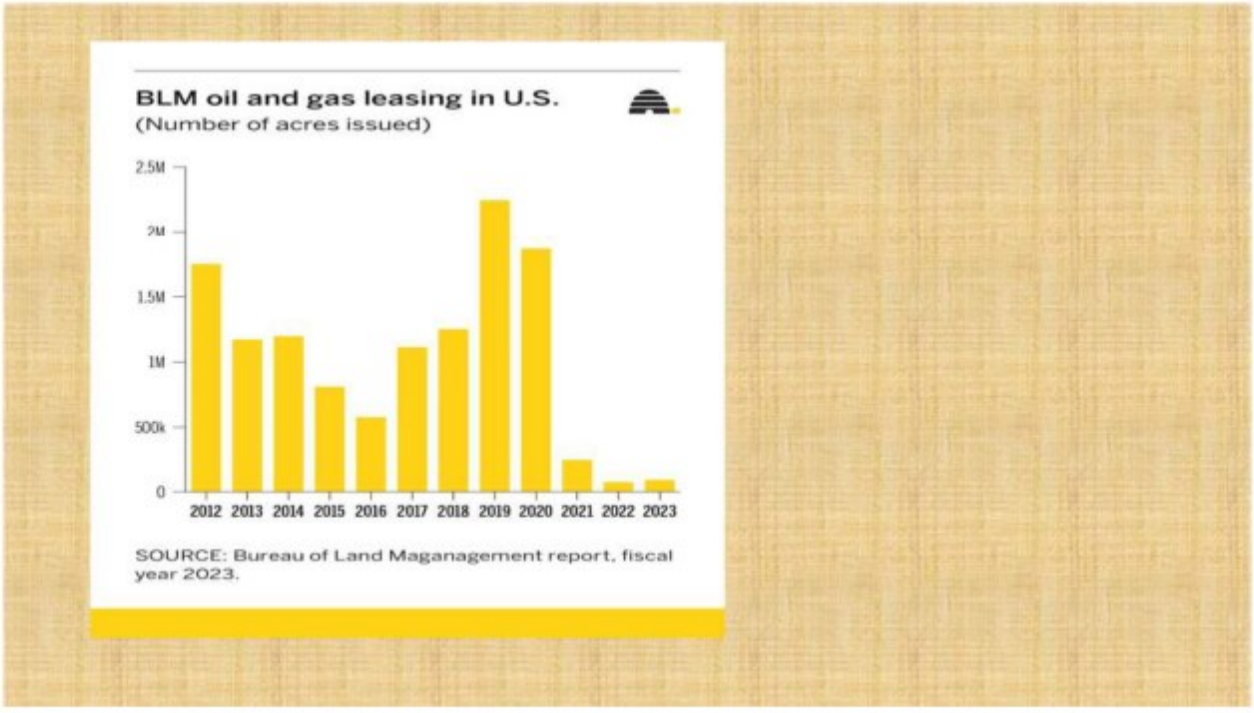
The Permian Basin is the top-producing field in the world (more than the huge Ghawar field in Saudi Arabia). It produces 68% of Texas' oil and it produces 40% of Texas' natural gas. That's after 100 years of production.

Texas has the largest refining center in U.S. with 31 refineries and 31% of U.S total refining capacity. (Not counting the U.S.), Texas, by itself, is the world's third largest oil producer (after Russia and Saudi Arabia) (2019).

We have got this incredible opportunity for many years to come, to take advantage of having these natural resources available to us right under our feet.

What difference does it make if the U.S. Government produces policies that prevent oil and gas development on federal lands? The federal government owns roughly a quarter of the total land area in the U.S. Five states have more than 50% of their lands owned by the federal government. Nevada leads with 85%, followed by Utah with 65%, Idaho with 62%, Alaska with 61% and Oregon with 53%. Wyoming and California are not far behind. That's a lot of land that could be developed for our use. .

If we get into a situation and find ourselves slipping into energy poverty, it will be self-imposed. We know it's there, but we don't have access to it.



Oil and gas production on Native American land was down over 25% and 10%, respectively, under the Biden-Harris administration compared to the previous administration.

The Trump administration saw the highest production levels from Native American lands in over a decade, at over 100 million barrels of oil and nearly 400 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

The federal government even owns 1.7 billion acres offshore. 87% of those 1.7 billion acres are off-limits to oil and gas developers. .This is the first year since 1958 that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held no offshore oil and gas lease sales. They wouldn't have offered offshore oil and gas lease sales in 2023 either, except for a requirement in the Inflation Reduction Act

As the country moves away from oil and gas and into renewables, are we really going to be better off? Will we have to have a crisis before we wake up and see what is happening? Mr. Keffer is doing his part to keep the discussions about the need for oil and gas alive.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Keffer offered attendees the opportunity to ask him questions at the end of the meeting.

In addition, Mr. Keffer brought some flyers and information related to Texas Tech Law School for anyone who was interested.

Let's Cancel Oil & Gas….
No, Wait!
Comedy or Tragedy?
(it remains to be seen)

William (Bill) Keffer
Texas Tech University School of Law

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
School *of* Law™

LIFE WITHOUT OIL

NOT AS SIMPLE AS YOU MAY THINK

A FEW PRODUCTS MADE FROM OIL: Medicine, Cosmetics, Plastics, Synthetic Rubber, Cleaning Products, Asphalts and thousands more!

MSU TEXAS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Anna Kough
Indigo Burke
Andrey Lane
Not pictured: Zantia King

"'Civilization will crumble' (said Elon Musk) if the world halts the use of oil and natural gas. Musk called for continued drilling and exploration of fossil fuel sources." - Reuters

TEXAS

#1—Crude oil production
#1—Natural-gas production
#1—Wind-Energy production
#2 (closing in on #1) - Solar-energy production

Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls

Proposed Slate of Officers 2025

President: Tracy Flynn

Vice President: Diana Walker

Treasurer: Lauren Martin

Secretary: Sheila McGaughey

1 Year Director: Debbie Hicks

2 Year Director: Katie Curl

Immediate Past President: Rena Shaffer

Parliamentarian: President's Choice

In accordance with Article X, Section 2 and Section 3 of the Desk and Derrick Club of Wichita Falls bylaws, "Officers and Directors shall be elected at the November meeting and a majority of all votes cast, quorum being present, shall constitute an election."

Therefore, the Nominating Committee consisting of Chairman, Sheila McGaughey and members: Nichole Harney and Diana Walker put forth the following slate of officers for the membership's consideration for the year 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGaughey, Chair
Nichole Harney and Diana Walker
October 1, 2024

Field Trip #1—October 19, 2024

Xylo Wooden Bats

A Passion, A Dream and Lots of Prayers

Submitted by: Sheila McGaughey

His story: (from Xylo website)
Founder and Owner, Leland Wetzel, grew up playing and loving the sport of baseball. The dream at a very young age was to play college ball, and possibly pro ball. After suffering shoulder injuries through his junior high years and eventually going through 2 shoulder surgeries, one during his sophomore year of high school, and the other during his freshman year of college, any baseball after high school was out of the question.

Leland also grew up with a love for wood working, following in his grandpa and dad's footsteps, so he decided to put the love of baseball and woodworking together. In July of 2012, Leland thought of the idea to make a wood bat for his nephew who would be turning one year old in August of that year. After talking to his grandpa, they went and met up with a wood-turner, Joe Broyles, who let Leland borrow his lathe to make the bat.

When Leland pulled up to the man's house to make that first bat he sat in his car and prayed. The prayer was simple, but Leland had no idea what the Lord had planned for the future.

Leland prayed, "Lord, if you want this to be a hobby for me or maybe something even more than a hobby, give me a passion for it". And He did just that.

****

He went on to tell us that after the first bat, he spent the next few months researching and learning all about wood, the best practices of wood-turning and testing bats. And Xylo Bats, LLC was created. He chose the name because the Greek prefix "xylo" means "made of wood".

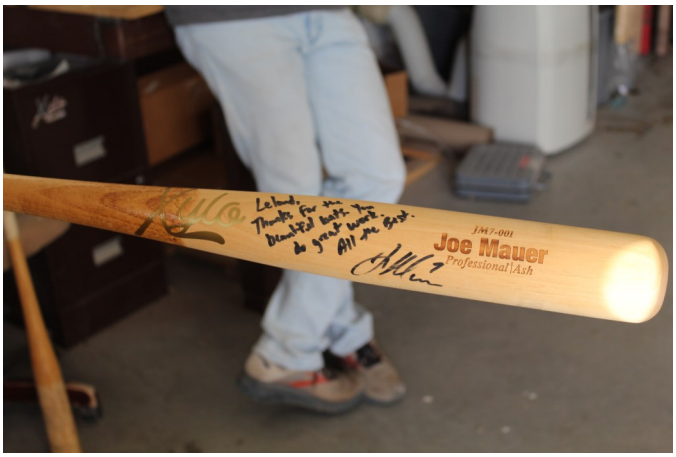
He said he will never forget that feeling of hitting a ball with the first bat he ever made for himself, his second bat, that he keeps in his workshop.

In October 2016, some friends of the Wetzels who were from Minnesota, said they had a very important baseball connection. The family's grandfather was friends of Joe Mauer, a first baseman with the Minnesota Twins. They said Mauer's birthday was coming up and asked if he could make the player a bat. (Joe Mauer was inducted in the Hall of Fame in 2024).

He jumped at the opportunity to make a bat for someone he had watched growing up. He made a bat for Mauer to use in the off season. He learned that baseball bats used during Major League Baseball (MLB) games must go through a strict vetting process and must be pre-approved. To be a bat distributor for the MLB the company has an annual cost of $14,000, plus they must carry $15,000 in insurance.

In January 2017, Leland said he was considering closing the Xylo business. He prayed about it with his family. He eventually told his wife, Rachel, he felt the Lord was guiding him toward continuing his passion – one bat at a time.

Months went by before one day Leland received a text from his friend saying that Joe loved the bat and is interested in talking about more for the season. Leland quickly made three bats to Joe's specs and got the opportunity to take the bats down to The Ballpark when the Twins played the Rangers and hand deliver them to Joe in April 2017. Mauer loved the bats, kept two, hit a home run with the other, signed it and gave it back to Leland to keep. After hearing feedback from Joe and other players, they quickly produced 275 bats in 2017.



That summer, Leland realized that he had more work than he could handle. He was working at the hospital, helping his father-in-law train cutting horses, and trying to spend as much time as possible with this wife and daughter. He wanted to keep the business in the family and brought in Ross Harrison, his brother-in-law, as a business partner.

In September, they hit a stumbling block. Short on funds, they did not have enough wood to supply all the bats he needed to make. He prayed that God would provide a solution. "You have to believe that God is big enough to do crazy things," he said.

A couple of weeks later, he was on Instagram and saw the Chipstarter contest put on by Chip and Joanna Gaines, stars of television show Fixer Upper. They quickly prepared a video talking about Xylo and his dream of making bats for MLB. Chipstarter contacted him back and told him out of 2700 contestants from all over the world, he was one of the top six finalists. Leland was invited to Waco to meet the Gaines and was awarded $25,000. The winnings went toward the purchase of two pallets of billets (wood for bats). Wetzel and Harrison needed to make 100-200 bats for MLB spring training.

In 2018, they became an approved wood bat company for the MLB and produced 683 baseball bats that year. In 2019, they doubled their production with 1,300 bats shipped to all 50 states, as well as Canada, Germany and Australia.

They also partnered with the Miracle League in 2020 as the official bat maker. This is a fun experience and great opportunity for people with special needs to play the great game of baseball.

The business has grown to produce around 2500 bats a year in a small 900-square-foot space, with plans to reach the 5000 bat mark.

The Process:

The billets are from 40 year old maple trees in upstate New York. The tree is cut down and hand-split to create a billet (cylinder piece of wood before it is a bat). Having a bat that is from a hand split tree is very important because it, rather than being sewn, will always split with the grain, helping that billet to have the straightest grain and keep the integrity of the wood. Maple provides a solid feel and increased power. Leland explained that professional players prefer specific types of wood. The natural wood approach in making Xylo bats, sets them apart from other companies and contributes to their durability. The billets are inspected and weighed and will sit for 2 weeks in order to acclimate to the climate of our location. He expressed a love for the science behind the wood and is constantly thinking of ways to improve the product.

The billet is then placed on a CNC lathe to provide the rough cut of the bat. Using a CNC allows every bat model to measure exactly the same. We were amazed that this process only took a few minutes. Leland explained the "sweet spot" of a bat is the area where the ball makes optimal contact, resulting in maximum energy transfer and minimizing vibration in the hands. Understanding the placement of the sweet spot is crucial during the shaping process.

Shaping the bat on the lathe.

The bat then moves to a smaller lathe for the "trade secret" deer antler hardening process (no one else uses this unique technique) and sanding. The deer antler is an extremely hard item, allowing the outer surface of the wood bat to compress, which creates a very hard hitting surface. They believe this part is very important because they want their customers to have the hardest bat in the game.

Hardening the wood with a Texas deer antler.

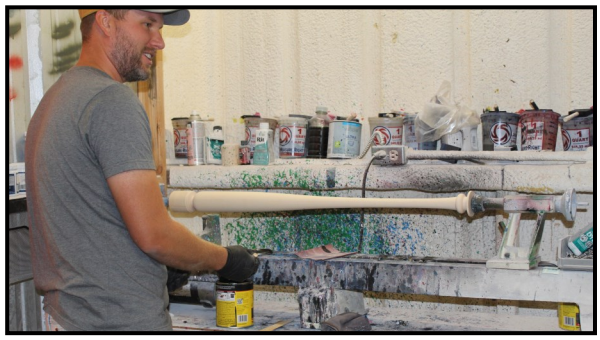
Once the bat is smooth and hardened, it then moves to the staining/finishing process. Using stain allows the beautiful wood grain to show, but still provides rich looking colors. Once the bats are stained to the customers choice, it is finished with a gloss, water-based sealer to help provide protection of the bat.

Lastly, the bat moves to the engraving process to really give the bat customization. This allows customers to place anything they would like on the barrel of the bat to really help personalize it. Once the engraving is finished, the bat is packaged and shipped to its new home.

Doris Sterling feeling how smooth it was after sanding.

Wooden Bats and the Oil and Gas Industry

When it comes to traditional wooden bats, petroleum products are not directly involved in the creation of the bat itself, however, there are indirect ways in which our industry plays its part:



The Finishing process.

1. Wood Treatment and Finishing: Some finishes, paints, or sealants used on wooden bats may contain petroleum-derived solvents or additives.
2. Machinery and Equipment: The machinery used in the cutting, shaping, and finishing of wooden bats often runs on fossil fuels or electricity generated from fossil fuel sources.
3. Transportation: The transportation of raw materials (wood) to manufacturing facilities and the distribution of finished bats to retailers or customers typically relies on fossil fuels, such as gasoline or diesel.
4. Packaging Materials: The packaging used for shipping wooden bats may involve plastics or other materials derived from petroleum. This includes plastic wraps, boxes, or other forms of protective packaging.

Leland has developed an art in making a wood bat. Each bat is a product of careful selection, precise shaping, and detailed finishing, resulting in a unique bat that can significantly impact a player's performance on the field.

Xylo Bats "Knocked It Out of the Park" with this field trip.

Rena Shaffer presenting Leland Wetzel and his daughter with a Certificate of Appreciation.

XYLO WOOD BATS

Leland Wetzel, Owner

Field Trip #2 —October 19, 204

Wichita Falls Fire Department—Station No. 8
Heroes Among Us

Submitted by: Sheila McGaughey

QUESTION FOR YOU: Are firefighters *really* heroes? What type of person is considered a hero? Wikipedia's definition is: "A hero (or heroine) is a real person , who in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage, or strength". Merriam-Webster says a hero is "A person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities". We had the pleasure of meeting some real life heroes, hear some of their stories and learned how much each of them love their job and the Wichita Falls community in which they live.

It all started when Tracy Flynn procured Cody Melton, Deputy Fire Chief here in Wichita Falls for our September program. We all loved his presentation and it was so informative, so when he offered to give us a tour of one of the fire houses in town, well, we jumped at the chance.

But, What makes a Firefighter a Hero?

Firefighters are called the unsung heroes, braving the flames to protect lives and property. They are also our first responders, they are able to arrive before the paramedics and provide assistance or assess the scene of an emergency. They do so quietly, in the way they serve their community, a true heart to serve people. They mentioned that they are not in it for fame, pride, or wealth, they just want to help others, and that's the driving force behind their behavior, always thinking of others instead of themselves.

Firefighters are courageous. They know that there's a chance that things might not go their way. Yet, they push through and do it anyway. General Norman Schwarzkoph Jr. once said, "True courage is being afraid, and going ahead and doing your job anyway, that's what courage is."

They work long and unpredictable hours. They cannot control when a fire starts; they are always on call. The firemen don't just show up, do their job, and go home. They care about the community and do everything they can to keep it safe. They have a passion for helping people (and pets) and saving buildings if that's possible. Putting their lives at risk, well that's just part of the job.

Firefighters must be physically strong enough to carry out the duties of the job. Fire-suits which include an air pack, boots, gloves, a coat, pants, a hood and a helmet—weigh about 75 to 120 pounds or more.

Fire hoses aren't lightweight either. About 50 feet of fire hose weighs 20 pounds if the hose if 1 3/4 inches. If the hose is four inches in diameter, then 50 feet of hose is around 40 pounds.

Firefighters must be capable of navigating through any emergency in their fire suits and other heavy equipment.

Fire Station Operations and Driver Responsibilities

They first showed us a map that covered the entire wall in their dining room. It was a map of Wichita Falls and highlighted the coverage of each station. The map is updated every 6 months because of the everchanging construction and adding new streets. A driver needs to familiarize themselves with this map and will

occasionally drive around to scout new developments. They are also constantly training on apartment complexes. A driver also knows the importance of not interfering with the tactical operations of the incident group. The training process for each driver teaches them to make sound decisions based on the situation.

Fire Engines

Fire engines usually get to the scene before fire trucks. Fire engines are also used for putting out fires, they carry about 750 gallons of water on each fire engine. They also include equipment like hoses, pumps and water tanks. The firefighters will use water from the water tank to begin working on the fire, while the engineer will be looking for a fire hydrant and begin hooking up the hoses.

Fire Truck

Fire trucks do not carry water pumps. Like a fire engine, the firefighters will ride in the fire truck to get to the scene. Then, if the fire engine staff needs help, the fire truck's firefighters are ready to assist. Fire trucks work to find victims so the fire engine firefighters can do their job without distractions.

They also showed us the hydraulic ladder. It is a crucial piece of equipment on a fire truck that allows the firefighters to reach the heights necessary to do their job. They raised it for us and it was really cool!

Equipment

They showed us a thermal imaging camera to detect barriers, darkness, smoke and areas of heat. A firefighter can rely on the camera to find victims who may be hurt, unconscious or buried under rubble and cannot escape on their own.

They also demonstrated the Jaws of Life and other extrication tools. The Jaws of Life is a hydraulic-powered piston-rod tool used as rams, spreaders, and cutters. They did mention that they are receiving special training on how to deal with an electric vehicle, the jaws of life can be very dangerous on these types of vehicles.

Fire engines and Fire Trucks are very similar. Here are some key points to distinguish between the two of them.

If a Fire has People in the Building, You need a Fire Truck.

If a Building is on Fire, You need a Fire Engine.

If Victims are Stuck or Lost in the Building, You need a Fire Truck.

If a Fire is Out of Control, You need a Fire Truck and a Fire Engine.

Firefighting Equipment and the Oil and Gas Industry

Firefighting equipment made from petroleum byproducts typically includes a variety of materials and products that can enhance firefighting capabilities. Here are some examples:

1. Fire Hoses: Many fire hoses are made from synthetic materials derived from petroleum, such as polyester or nylon. These materials provide durability, resistance to abrasion, and the ability to withstand high pressures.

2. Firefighter Suits: Firefighting suits often incorporate materials like Nomex or Kevlar, which are synthetic fibers made from petrochemical processes. These materials are designed to be flame-resistant and provide thermal protection.

3. Foam Fire Suppressants: Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) and other fire suppression foams are often derived from petroleum based chemicals. These foams are effective in smothering flammable liquid fires by creating a barrier between the fuel and the air.

4. Fire Blankets: Fire blankets are often made from fiberglass or other synthetic materials that can withstand high temperatures, many of which are derived from petrochemical resources. They told us that is takes too much water to put out a EV fire and that they would have to use a fire blanket and just let it smoother out.

5. Fire Extinguishers: Components of fire extinguishers, including the casing and some of the internal material, may be made from plastics or composites derived from petroleum products.

6. Protective Gloves and Boots: Firefighter gloves and boots often use synthetic rubber and plastics, which are based on petroleum products, to provide protection and durability.

7. Fire Truck Components: Many components of fire trucks, including the body, hoses, and various fittings, are made from plastics and composites derived from petroleum.

We really loved this field trip and came away with a newfound respect and admiration for our local firefighters *and* our industry. The Captain of the squad told us more than once that "this is *your* station, come by and see it anytime you want". We may just take him up on that!

So, to answer the question proposed to you earlier…..Are firefighters *really* heroes?

Yes... You bet they are, no doubt about it!!

Ethan Twillegear showing Rena the control panels of the Fire Engine.

Ethan Twillegear (Rookie year) pointing out the different sizes of fire hoses on the Fire Engine.

Nate Kennedy—Firefighter (Rookie year) showing us the various equipment used to free someone from a car and/or building.

Captain Milton Seymore discussing the different parts of the ladder. Nate Kennedy—Firefighter and Daniel Washburn—Firefighter Emergency Operations on top.

Fire Engine leaving for an Emergency Response call.

Thank you Kirk Shaffer for taking the pic!

On Ladder: Nate Kennedy—Firefighter; Daniel Washburn—Firefighter Emergency Operations.

Bottom: Greg Schmidt, Nichole Harney, Doris Sterling, Debbie Hicks, Katie Curl, Chad Thomas-Firefighter; Greg Tumey—Lieutenant; Sheila McGaughey, Rena Shaffer, Milton Seymore-Captain; Ethan Twillegear—Firefighter.

FIREHOUSE STATION NO. 8

Rena Shaffer in the different stages of getting dressed in the necessary fire fighting equipment. It is very heavy— 100 lbs. or more with full gear and very hot. The firefighters can put all this on in 1 min 30 seconds—while the truck is en route to an emergency. High respect for these guys.

WICHITA FALLS' UNSUNG HEROS

Jaws of Life

Our Wichita Falls Firefighters exhibit: Selflessness, Adaptability, Kindness, Perseverance and most of all Bravery.

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

SPOTLIGHTING OIL AND SOME OF THE BY-PRODUCTS CREATED FROM THIS BLACK GOLD

For the nearly $8 billion dollar business that is the NFL, so much of its yearly profit weighs heavily upon the brains and brawn of starting QBs.

Several of the NFL's starting quarterbacks are earning above $20,000,000 per year (with the Colt's Andrew Luck leading the pack with a$24,594,000 price tag in 2016). It seems almost a universal and unspoken rule across the NFL to pay the star quarterback considerably more than any other position player on the team sometimes even *if* there star-status is up for debate, according to Forbes contributor Brian Goff.

Note from Editor: Updating the 2024 seasons highest paid QB: Dak Prescott (Dallas Cowboys) - $60 million (GO DALLAS!); Joe Burrow (Cincinnati Bengals) - $55 million; Jordan Love (Green Bay Packers), Trevor Lawrence (Jacksonville Jaguars) are tied for the second spot at $55 million annually.

It makes sense, then, that the NFL along with the 32 individual team owners are excessively concerned with the technology that keeps these players safe, healthy, and generating a profit and, *perhaps*, winning games, too. Naturally, seated atop that proverbial dog pile of cutting edge technologies designed to make the brutal sport of American football a far less dangerous one, are helmets.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL HELMET

Early 1900s
Soft leather harness style, YMCA team from Latrobe, Pennsylvania

1915
Soft leather flat-top style. Typical of early pro team Canton Bull-dogs. YMCA team from Latrobe, Pennsylvania

1920s Soft leather helmet. Typical of the NFL's Duluth Eskimos.

1930s, early 1940s
Hard leather style. Typical of the NFL's Chicago Bears.

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

SPOTLIGHTING OIL AND SOME OF THE BY-PRODUCTS CREATED FROM THIS BLACK GOLD

1940s
Hard leather, first graphics. Los Angeles Rams.

1950s, 1960s
Plastic helmet. Detroit Lions

1970s, early 1980s
Plastic helmet. St. Louis Cardinals.

1980s to present
Plastic helmet. Minnesota Vikings

Riddell Revolution helmet.

ProCap, a polyurethane pad that attaches to the outside of the helmet, is an added safeguard against concussions.

IMAGE FROM EXTREMETEAMSPORTS.COM

Head injuries, unsurprisingly, are *extremely* common in the NFL.

Nonetheless, the numbers themselves are more than a bit unsettling; earlier this year, a new study revealed that 40% of former NFL players are suffering from brain injuries. Opening The Washington Post's article on the subject is the fresh face of 25-year-old, former 49ers linebacker, Chris Borland. For the uninitiated, Borland retired after a promising rookie season due to concerns over head trauma.

While the NFL assures its many fans that its Head, Neck and Spine Committee continuously evaluates research on new technology, including in-helmet sensors and other methods of preventing, detecting and treating injuries, there are still those players like Borland that retire to their beds on Sunday evening a bit more shaken up than usual.

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

SPOTLIGHTING OIL AND SOME OF THE BY-PRODUCTS CREATED FROM THIS BLACK GOLD

Without question, fans and skeptics alike are pulling for a technology concrete enough to prevent small losses, such as Borland's early retirement, and far greater losses, such as those evident in the tragic story of former Chief's linebackers Jovan Belcher. As profits continue to grow year after year, the NFL is capable of investing more time and money into helmet research, but the rules on helmet to helmet contact continually seem to fall in a bit of gray area; just earlier this season, Panthers QB Cam Newton was hit three times in the head by a Broncos defender yet the flag never flew.

Thankfully, Cam and a slew of other players this season have come out of the game feeling fine, as far as we can tell and that's a great compliment to the improved technology of NFL football helmets.

NFL helmets are made from a hard plastic known as polycarbonate, which is made from the petrochemicals bisphenol A and phosgene. Petrochemicals are derived from petroleum and are obtained via fluid catalytic cracking (FCC); this same process is capable of producing gasoline, olefinic gases, and many other products. This process was formerly achieved via thermal cracking, but this process has been replaced by FCC largely due to its higher-quality resulting product. While there are other fossil fuels that contribute to the manufacturing of polycarbonate, petrochemicals derived from petroleum are by and large the most popular. Furthermore, the internal padding, most often made from a type of foam called polymeric vinyl or polyethylene, is also a petroleum product. This generation of helmets (while steadily growing) has been more or less in the same field of protection since the mid 80s.

While it may not be perfect, the improving petroleum-based technology is the best shot we have at protecting our NFL players over the next century.

Go Boys!

Petroleum Services Company Oct 21, 2016

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Petroleum Service Company—Headquartered in Eastern Pennsylvania, Petroleum Service Company (PSC) was founded in 1924 and incorporated in 1930. We are homegrown, yet international. You may know us a local brick-and-mortar distributor of oil and lubricants, but we've grown to become.

Membership News

November Birthday

Lauren Martin 11/15

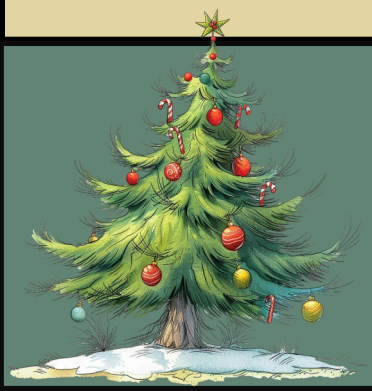
Be sure to attend the November Meeting!

We will be voting on the 2025 Board of Directors!

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Wishing you abundant blessings, peace, and happiness.

Now and always.



mingle & jingle

Make Your Reservation for the Desk and Derrick Christmas Party!!

December 18 , 2024 * 6:00 pm

See details on page 37

Congratulations to Rena Shaffer and the IAL Committee on another successful luncheon!

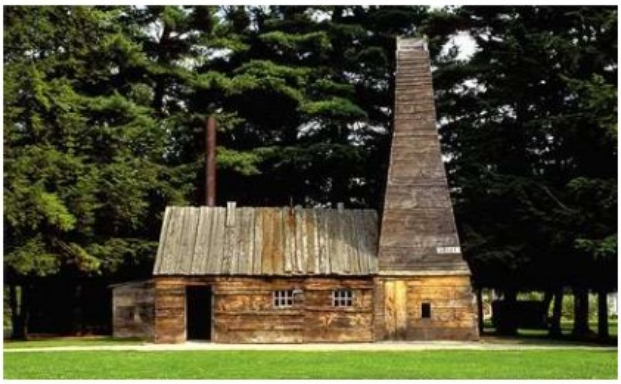
FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

A "Bit" of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Oilfield Firefighting Technologies

In this flammable workplace, danger can come from anywhere, including the sky.

Whether ignited by accident, natural phenomena, or acts of war, oilfield fires have challenged America's petroleum industry since the earliest wells. Catastrophic fires have threatened the search for oil and natural gas since the first U.S. oil well (Drakes' Folly), completed on August 27, 1859, along a Pennsylvania creek.



Drake Well Museum exhibits in Titusville, Pennsylvania, include a replica of the cable-tool derrick and engine house that drilled the first U.S. well in 1859.

Just six weeks after his discovery, Edwin L. Drake's well caught fire when driller William "Uncle Billy" Smith inspected the well with an open lamp, igniting seeping natural gas. Flames consumed the cable-tool derrick, engine-pump house, stored oil, and Smith's nearby shack.

Today, visitors to the Drake Well Museum at Titusville tour the latest reconstructed cable-tool derrick and its engine house along Oil Creek where the former railroad conductor found oil at a depth of 69.5 feet. He revealed a geological formation later called the Venango sandstone.

Another Drake Well Museum exhibit preserves the Titusville Fire Department's coal-fired steam pumper. As the new U.S. petroleum industry learned from hard experience, firefighting technologies evolved in northwestern Pennsylvania's "Valley that Changed the World."

Early Firefighting Lessons

In 1861, an explosion and fire at Henry Rouse's gushing oil well made national news when he was killed along with 18 workers and onlookers (Rouseville 1861 Oil Well Fire). In 1977, the Smithsonian American Art Museum acquired landscape artist James Hamilton's "Burning Oil Well at Night, near Rouseville, Pennsylvania," painted soon after the fire. The dangerous operating environment of a cable-tool rig included a spinning bull wheel, a rising and falling heavy wooded beam, a steam boiler, and crowded spaces.

Preserved by the Smithsonian, "Burning Oil Well at Night, near Rouseville, Pennsylvania," circa 1861, a paining by James Hamilton, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC.

The pounding iron drill bit frequently needed to be withdrawn and hammered sharp using a small, but red-hot forge—often set up just feet from the wellbore.

Lightning striking derricks and oilfield tank farms also would prove challenging.

Late 19th century oilfield fire prevention remained rudimentary as exploration moved westward. Safety lamps like one with two spouts popularly known as the "Yellow Dog" lantern were not particularly safe. The rapidly growing petroleum industry needed new technologies for preventing fires or putting them out.

As drilling experience grew, refineries responded to skyrocketing public demand for the lamp fuel kerosene. Production from new oilfields in Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma led to construction of safer storage facilities, but advances in drilling deeper wells brought fresh challenges.

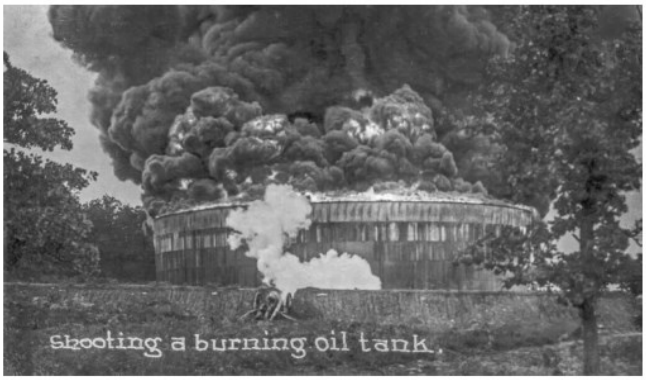
FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

A "Bit" of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Firefighting with Cannons

Especially in early oilfields, working in such a flammable workplace could bring danger from everywhere—including the sky. Lightning strikes to wooden storage tanks created flaming cauldrons.

In the rush to exploit early oilfields, wooden derricks often crowded an oil-soaked landscape, leaving workers—and nearby towns—dangerously exposed to an accidental conflagration. Many oil patch community oil museums have retained examples of early smooth-bore cannons used to fight fires.

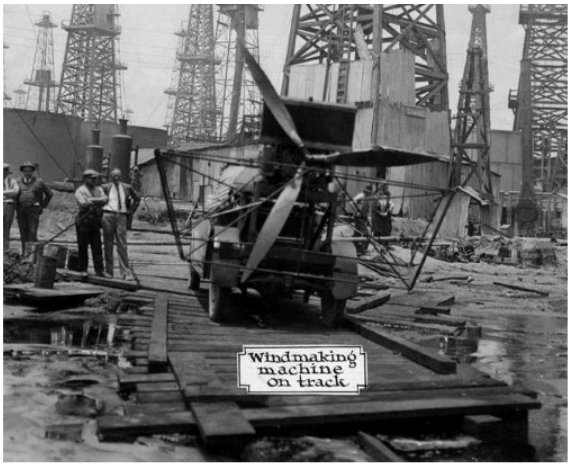


A circa 1915 photo of a cannon — possibly a "Model 1819," according to *The Artilleryman Magazine* (Fall 2019, vol. 40, no. 4) — firing solid shot in an attempt to create a hole to drain the burning oil tank. "No one appears to be near the gun, so it may have been fired using fuse or electrically." Photo courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society.

A civil-war field cannon exhibit in Corsicana, Texas, tells the story of a cannon from the Magnolia Petroleum Company tank farm. "It was used to shoot a hole in the bottom of the cypress tanks if lightning struck," a plaque notes. "The oil would drain into a pit around the tanks and be pumped away."

Firefighting with Wind

In 1929, about 400 volunteers took on a raging oilfield fire that had destroyed seven derricks and two oil well "heavy producers" at Santa Fe Springs, California. "Roaring Flames Turn Black Gold to Smoke," proclaimed a Los Angeles Times headline on June 12.



The Santa Fe Springs Hathaway Ranch and Oil Museum, "a museum of five generations of Hathaway family and Southern California history," has preserved rare motion picture clips of a propeller-driven "Wind-making Machine" in action—although the wind proved no match for the flames.

"The machine that made the wind that conquered a fire in a Santa Fe Springs oilfield on June 15, 1929," used a three-bladed airplane propeller and a powerful motor to blow heat away from the men at work fighting the fire. "A track of boards was built for the machine over a lake of oil, mud and water in the "hot zone" of the big fire." Hathaway Ranch Oil Museum, Santa Fe Springs, California.

The fire depicted in the silent film is intense, "so firefighting equipment is appropriately distant from the well head, including the wind machine," explained museum Curator of Media Archives Terry Hathaway.

"It looks like its use is more or less limited to blowing hot air, smoke and steam (from firefighting water hoses) away from the workers and toward the fire," he added.

Hathaway explained that the wind machine on the back of a truck probably had no direct influence on the fire itself, due to distance and the ferocity of the high-pressure well blowout, "but apparently may have made things more tenable for the firefighters by keeping them relatively cool and smoke free."

A modern version of the 1929 wind-making machine returned in 1991, after Saddam Hussein's retreating Iraqi army set hundreds of wells ablaze in Kuwait oilfields. Firefighting technologies by then had evolved into using jet engines. MB Drilling Company of Szolnok, Hungary, sent a three-man team with "Big Wind," a modern version of the 1929 wind-making machine.

FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

A "Bit" of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Instead of a piston-driven propeller on a vintage truck bed, twin MIC-21 turbojets were mounted in place of the turret on a World War II era Soviet T-34 tank. The jet engines generated 700 mph of thrust, which blasted hundreds of gallons of water per second into the flames.

Image from Romanian video of 1991 Kuwaiti oilfields: "Twin MIG-21 turbojets mounted on a World War II era Soviet T-34 tank dubbed "Big Wind" generated 700 mph thrust blasting hundreds of gallons of water per second into the fire."

The Hungarian team members put out their assigned fires and recapped nine wells in 43 days, according to a 2001 *Car and Dr*iver article, "Stilling the Fires of War."

Firefighting with Explosives

Many firefighting teams went to Kuwait following the Persian Gulf War, including Paul "Red" Adair, whose dramatic oilfield feats had been popularized in the 1968 movie "Hellfighters." Adair and his team extinguished 117 Kuwait oil well fires by robbing the flames of oxygen using explosives.

As the Hungarian crew chief of "Big Wind" observed at the time, "Would you really want to walk up to a 2,000-degree flame through burning heat and oil rain carrying explosives?"

A century earlier, Karl T. Kinley did just that. Kinley, a California oil well "shooter" during the early 1900s, learned from first-hand experience that a dynamite explosion could "blow out" a well-head fire. Kinley's son Myron Kinley established the pioneering oilfield service business M.M. Kinley Company after learning from his father's highly dangerous experiments.

Myron M. Kinley (at left), Paul "Red Adair (center), and a welder examine a nitroglycerin bomb barrel. Myron Kinley has been called the grandfather of modern oil well fire fighting, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society. Photo by A.Y. Owen courtesy OHS Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection.

Reader's Digest in 1953 declared Myron M. Kinley "the unrivaled world-champion fighter of oil fires." A *TIME* article described him as "the indispensable man of the oil industry." But with chance of terrible injuries or death ever present, firefighting success was not without cost, Kinley's brother Floyd was killed by falling rig debris in 1938 as they fought a runaway well fire new Goliad, Texas.

Kinley, a mentor of "Red" Adair, developed technologies at M.M. Kinley Company that inspired other firefighting experts, including Joe R. Bowden, Sr., who founded Wild Well Control in 1975 to provide emergency response, safety training, and relief well engineering, and Bobby Joe Cudd, who established Woodward, Oklahoma-based Cudd Well Control Company in 1977 with eight employees and a "hydraulic snubbing unit.".

After they had worked for the Red Adair Service and Marine Company, Asger "Boots" Hansen and "Coots" Mathews in 1978 opened an office in Houston for what would become Boots & Coots International Well Control (today a Halliburton Company). Adair had joined Myron Kinley's California oilfield service company after serving with a U.S. Army bomb disposal unit during World War II. After starting his own company in 1959, "Red" improved firefighting technologies, developing new tools, equipment, and techniques for "wild well" control.

FROM THE DERRICK FLOOR

A "Bit" of Oil and Gas History Through the Years

Adair was 75 years old when he successfully tamed roaring fires in Kuwait's scorched oilfields. As early as 1962, his Red Adair Company had "put out a Libyan oil well fire that had burned so brightly that astronaut John Glenn could see if from space," the Los Angeles Times reported.

Firefighting with Nukes

Between 1966 and 1981, the Soviet Union of Soviet Socialist Republics snuffed out runaway fires at natural gas wells using subsurface nuclear detonations. The experiments, part of the broader "Program No. 7—Nuclear Explosions for the National Economy," imitated a U.S. initiative, "Plowshare," seeking peaceful uses of nuclear bombs.

According to the Lawrence Livermore National laboratory, USSR scientists code-named five secret attempts Urta-Bulak, Pamuk, Crater, Fakel, and Pyrite.

The first experimental detonation, Urta-Bulak in 1966, came after three-years and failed conventional attempts to extinguish a blazing natural gas well in Southern Uzbekistan. Scientists positioned a special 30-kiloton package within 300 feet of the borehole by slant drilling.

Detonated in clay strata at a depth of 4,921 feet, the nuclear explosion's shock wave sealed the well within 23 seconds, staunching the daily waste of 423 million cubic feet of natural gas, reported Russian television .

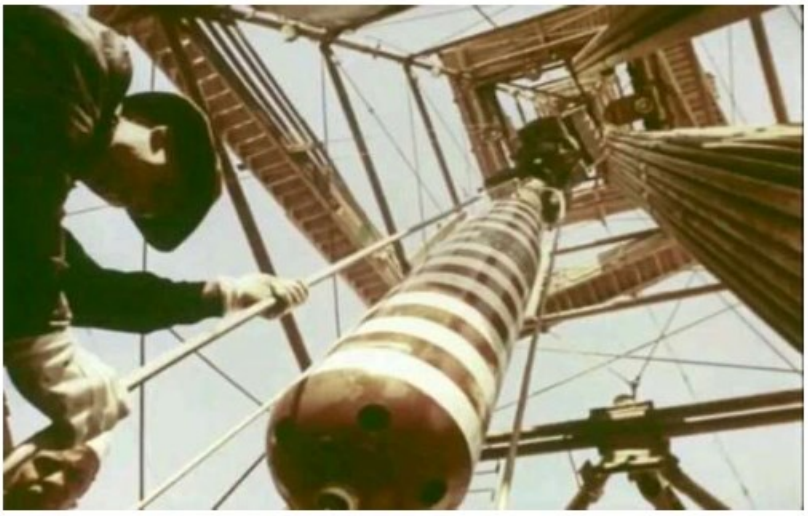
In 1968, the Pamuk well explosion used a larger, 47-kiloton nuclear device that measured 9.5 inches by 10 feet. Two years of uncontrolled natural gas and saturated surrounding landscape yielded to the nuclear detonation at a depth of 8,000 feet. The runaway gas well died out seven days later.

Twice in 1972, USSR scientists used lower-yield detonations to extinguish massive fires. The smallest of the nuclear firefighting devices (3.8 kiloton) on July 7 squelched a runaway gas well fire in the Ukraine, about 12 miles north of Krasnograd.

The USSR program's only recorded failure came in 1981 with the last Soviet use of firefighting nukes. On May 5, a nuclear device failed to shut down a 56 million cubic feet per day out of control natural gas well. The code-named Pyrite device had been positioned proximate to the well at a depth of 4,957 feet.

The 37.6-kiloton detonation in a sandstone-clay formation failed to seal the gas well, according to the USSR Ministry of Defense, which provided little more information. By the 1950s, America was considering how to use nuclear weapons for constructive purposes—"Atoms of peace." In December 1961, Project Plowshare began examining the feasibility of various projects, including ways to improve natural gas production.

Neither the Project Plowshare nor the Soviet Union's Program No. 7 produced desirable results. With or without nukes, oilfield work then and now remains among the most dangerous jobs in the world. Fortunately , safety and prevention methods have improved along with the technologies for "making hole" and producing oil since the industry's earliest wells in northwestern Pennsylvania.



Video image showing USSR nuclear device being lowered into well for detonation shockwave to extinguish runaway oilfield fire. A Russian newspaper reported nuclear blasts first used in 1966 to put out a natural gas well fire in Uzbekistan.

aoghs.org

October 16, 2024

From the Desk of Alex Mills…..

Energy prices will be about the same this winter

By Alex Mills

As winter approaches, forecasters predict the weather in the U.S. will be a little colder this year, but energy costs will be about the same as last year.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) at the U.S. Department of Energy issued its winter forecast recently stating most U.S. households will spend about the same or less on energy than they did last winter.

"Generally, retail energy prices in our forecast are less than they were last winter, but temperatures across much of the country are set to be colder this year, meaning homes will use more energy for space heating," EIA stated. "The combination of lower prices and colder weather results in relatively little change in expenditures."

Natural gas is the largest energy source to generate electricity and heat homes and businesses. EIA said the Henry Hub natural gas spot price will average around $3.10 million British thermal units (MMBtu) in 2025.

EIA estimated the cost of energy across the U.S. and said the South will have the lowest cost at $487 followed by the West at $573 and the Midwest at $586. The Northeast had the highest estimated cost at $772.

Fuel inventories are an important source of winter supply and natural gas and propane currently have high inventories compared with their previous five-year (2019–2023). "These relatively high inventories have helped keep prices for those fuels below year-ago levels," EIA stated.

"We assume this winter will be colder than the last winter across much of the country, especially in the Midwest," EIA stated. "Our assumption is that temperatures this winter will be closer to average following a very mild winter last year."

Weather can affect household heating expenses in two ways, EIA said. "First, cold weather raises the amount of energy required to keep a house at a specific temperature. Second, because cold weather raises aggregate demand and can disrupt supply, it can cause energy prices to rise. These price increases can be more severe if fuel inventories are relatively low."

In a separate report, EIA reduced its forecast for the price of crude oil. EIA said Brent crude oil, which is traded internationally in London, will average $78 per barrel (b) in 2025, $7 less than expected in last month's forecast. West Texas Intermediate, which is traded on NYMEX, generally brings $3-$5 less than Brent. EIA does not issue a forecast for WTI.

-30-

Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

October 30, 2024

From the Desk of Alex Mills…..

America's oil, gas industry's increased production reverses net oil imports

By Alex Mills

Fifty years ago, America's economy and national security was thrown into chaos following the oil embargo. As a major importer of oil, the United States suffered from higher oil prices, shortages of petroleum products form coast-to-coast, gasoline lines, and inflation.

Much has changed since 1974. Today, the U.S. is a net exporter of oil and other energy sources, according to a report from the Energy Information Administration at the U.S. Department of Energy.

"In 1974, the United States consumed more energy than it produced domestically and was a net importer of energy from other countries," EIA stated in its recent Monthly Energy Report. "Today, the United States produces more energy than it consumes domestically and is a net exporter of energy to other countries."

EIA said U.S. energy production increased 68% from 1974 to January-June 2024 (the most recent data available).

"Increased crude oil and natural gas production, brought about by improvements in drilling techniques such as hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling beginning in the 2000s, drove much of the growth in total energy production," EIA said.

"The increase in energy production over the last two decades has turned the United States into the world's largest crude oil and natural gas producer today and from a net energy importer to a net energy exporter starting in 2019," EIA said. "U.S. net energy imports in the first seven months of 1974 were about 6.8 quadrillion British thermal units (quads). The United States exported a net total of about 5.0 quads during the same period in 2024. The main driver of this shift has been growing exports of crude oil and petroleum products and liquidized natural gas (LNG) over the last 15 years."

EIA also noted U.S. energy consumption has increased steadily since 1974. Energy consumption so far in 2024 is 24 quads compared to 13.2 quads in 1974, which is a 32% increase.

However, total consumption growth is less than total production growth.

"Consumption growth is due to several factors including population growth and increased economic activity. However, primary energy consumption has generally decreased on both a per capita basis and in terms of energy consumed per dollar of GDP since the 1970s. Increased energy efficiency has contributed to these decreases," EIA stated.

-30-

Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

November 6, 2024

From the Desk of Alex Mills…..

Donald J. Trump's victory is welcome news to many companies including those in the energy business.

There is no doubt that Trump supports a strong domestic oil and gas industry. His "drill, baby, drill" slogan was believed to signal to the industry and others that he support policies that will keep the U.S. as the largest oil and natural gas producing country in the world.

Even though crude oil prices remained relatively flat at $71 per barrel, the stock market surged the day after the election. It was the fifth-best one-day on U.S. stock markets, according to the Wall Street Journal. The Dow rose some 1,500 points a 3% increase for a record high. The Nasdaq and the S&P 500 both exceeded 2% gains, while the Russell 2000 jumped 4%.

Energy sector stocks increased an average of 3%. The stocks of integrated oil companies ExxonMobil and Chevron rose 5% and 7% respectively and refiner Valero witnessed a 10% rise while midstream pipeline operator Kinder Morgan's stock was up 8% during the week ending on Nov. 6.

Utility stocks also had gains. NRG had a 2% rise and CenterPoint was up 3%.

Wind and solar, however, were down. Vestas and Orsted, both international wind providers, declined 19% and 9%, respectively, during the week ending on Nov. 6. Solar companies also had a rough week as First Solar's stock dropped 14% and Enphase declined 18%.

President Trump said during the campaign the money that remained in the Inflation Reduction Act for wind and solar subsidies would not be spent if he won.

Trump also clearly stated he intended to counter many of the policies and regulations adopted by the Biden administration.

Biden on his first day in office began reversing many of the regulatory changes implement by the Trump administration during his first term.

The Interior Department revoked the "American Energy Independence" goal, and decided to change the leasing procedures for oil and gas exploration and production on federal lands.

Biden's Securities and Exchange Commission sought a regulation (the ESG Rule) requiring oil and gas producers to consider the economic effects of climate change and other environment social governance factors.

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed new rules governing methane emissions. "Environmental justice" became a major theme at EPA and the Department of Justice.

Biden also proposed additional taxes of $150 billion on the oil and gas industry.

And recently the Biden administration a moratorium on exports of liquefied natural gas while they study it further. A federal court has issued a stay on that order.

Although it is unclear which regulations will be changed, the industry expects a new attitude from the White House. Instead of the President proposing regulations and laws that deter domestic oil and gas production, the new Trump administration looks to work with industry.

-30- *Alex Mills is the former President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.*

DESK AND DERRICK CLUB of WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

November 20, 2024
12:00 NOON

Membership Meeting (*Closed meeting – no guests*)
THE FORUM, 2120 SPEEDWAY AVENUE

PRESIDING	**Rena Shaffer** Eagle Oil & Gas Co.
INVOCATION	**Jordan Campagna Jackson** Arts Council Wichita Falls Area
PROGRAM	**Rena Shaffer -** Eagle Oil & Gas Co. **Tracy Flynn** - Cobra Oil & Gas Corporation

PROGRAM

Review of ADDC Convention
Approval of Slate of Officers
2025 Committee Positions

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED –

Reservations Deadline 4:00pm Thursday, November 14th

Reservations: Diana Walker, dwalker@sjoc.net
Call/text - 940-636-0971 (C), or call 940-716-5344 (O)

MEAL COST: $19.00

You are responsible for payment if you make a reservation and do not attend.
(If paying with cash, please bring exact change)

9 Ways Oil & Gas Help "Fuel" Your Thanksgiving Holiday

There's a lot to be thankful for.

Ready to gather around the table with family and friends for roasted turkey and pumpkin pie?

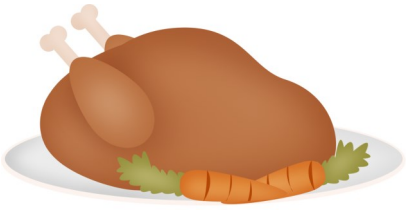
Thanksgiving is one of America's most beloved holidays. But very few of the traditions we've come to know and love would be possible without the energy industry.

As you celebrate on Thanksgiving, consider some of the ways oil and gas help fuel this special day:

1. *Flying out of town?* The day before Thanksgiving is one of the year's busiest airline travel days. Last year, a record 30.6 million passengers traveled on U.S. airlines during the 12-day Thanksgiving air travel period. Fortunately, the U.S. has plenty of petroleum-based fuel to power those jets.

2. Hitting the road instead? If so, you'll be one of 41 million Americans who'll drive an average of 550 miles on Thanksgiving. The abundance of oil produced in the U.S. ensures there is enough gasoline at the pump to get us where we want to go.

3. Forty-six million turkey-based Thanksgiving meals are consumed every year. That means we used about 644 million kilowatt-hours of energy to cook Thanksgiving dinner—enough energy to power a laptop for about 600 days.



4 Don't forget what's needed to cook all those other Thanksgiving staples. Just baking a pumpkin pie requires 2 kWh of energy. That's enough to power an LED lamp for 12 days.

5. Did you know the U.S. produces over 750 million pounds of cranberries a year?
The oil and gas industry plays a big role in getting those red berries from farm to table on Thanksgiving. Fertilizer, irrigation, harvesting and shipping are just a few of the ways the energy industry helps the cranberry industry.

6. Where do you store that turkey? Before you can cook it, that big bird most likely is kept fresh in a freezer or refrigerator. Oil and natural gas keep appliances running at the store and in your home.

7. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, reports the National Fire Protection Association. In 2016, the U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,570 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving. Stay safe this year—a remember that hundreds of life-saving products originate with oil and natural gas, including cell phones, safety glasses,, helmets, hoses, oxygen masks, tubing, surgical equipment, rubber gloves, syringes, bandages, antiseptics and antibiotics.

8, The Macy Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City attracts some 50 million viewers and 3.5 million attendees. Without oil and natural gas, we wouldn't have the polyurethane that makes floats and balloons—or the helium to keep them afloat.

9. Whether you're watching football on television, enjoying the warmth of a gas fireplace or playing a board game, you can thank oil and natural gas for keeping the lights on and producing the plastics that are part of our everyday lives.

2024 Annual Desk and Derrick Christmas Party & Installation of Officers

WEDNESDAY EVENING - DECEMBER 18th

6:00 PM @ THE FORUM

MEAL COST $19.00

RSVP BY DECEMBER 12, 2024 TO DIANA WALKER

DWALKER@SJOC.NET OR 940-636-0971

PLEASE BRING A GIFT

Valued at no more than $10

and a tag tucked away inside

with your name on it.

Help!!

It's RUFF without YOU!

We need articles submitted for the bulletin!

If you have any ideas or suggestions,
please let us know!

Editors: Sheila, Nichole and Ashley

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
FALL BACK 3 Daylight Savings Time	4	5 Board Mtg.	6	7 Deadline for Bulletin	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Lauren Martin	16
17	18	19	20 Membership Mtg	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Mtg.	4	5 Deadline for Bulletin	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Christmas Party	19 Jennifer Rodriquez	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

It's Contest Time!!!

Please send us your photos that you would like to submit for the 2024 Contest!

Requirements: Photo must be energy industry related and taken by an ADDC member in good standing. Must be an original photo. May be submitted in color or black and white.

All photos received will be judged by our Contest Committee and one (1) entry will be picked for contest.

Deadline for entries: Dec 1st.

2024 ADDC Board of Directors

President
Wendy Sparks
Oklahoma City Club

President Elect
Kathy Martin
Lafayette Club

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Kelli Hiltbrand
Tuscarawas Valley Club

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Scan to access the ADDC HOMEPAGE

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