

# DRILL WILL START AT MALVERN WEDNESDAY

Democrat - 11-1-21. Oklahoma and Arkansas Capital Will Make Test in Hot Spring County.

Malvern, Nov. 1.—The bit will go down after the "liquid oil" in section 24-4-16, Hot Spring county, Wednesday afternoon. This test is backed by the Holcomb-Burchfield & Reneau interests, assisted by Mr. Crow of Stillwater, Okla., who has had many years of practical experience in the Oklahoma oil fields.

The head driller, J. H. Wilson, is an experienced driller, having drilled in the West Virginia and Old Mexico fields. Chalmers Hedgecock, also an experienced driller, will assist Milson in the drilling of this well.

The tool dresser is Ray Delong, assisted by Geo. Kirkhart. William A. Wall of Little Rock, is probably the most confident man on the job. He is a geologist of note and has examined the formations in this territory and is confident that oil will be found.

Ex-Slave Hopes to Bring It Gusher in Hot Spring County Tuesday.

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Jan. 2.—Taylor Henson, picturesque old negro of slavery days, within 48 hours may be one of the wealthiest men in the state. If Hot Spring county's hope of oil is realized Tuesday when the final test of the Taylor Henson oil well in 19-4-16 is made, the men and women of the county probably will erect a lasting monument to this old negro who has worked for more than 70 years to gain the goal that is almost in sight.

Before the war, Taylor, now more than 70 years old, was a slave of Wash Henson's, a planter of Tulip, on the top of Tulip ridge in the southern part of Hot Spring county. After the war, Taylor Henson, with dozens of other "Tulipites," as they called themselves, came to Malvern and settled on a farm one mile east of Malvern where he has lived for more than half a century. He and his sons had a profitable truck farm, practicing more than 25 years ago the diversified farming that is being so widely advertised throughout the South today.

Is Successful Farmer. When the white farmers of this community were raising cotton and corn, Taylor was growing the finest of sweet potatoes in abundance and his luscious watermelons and cantaloupes were famed for many miles. In 1900, he, with two other pioneers of the county, William Kilpatrick and Col. N. P. Richmond, started to drill for oil at or near what is now known as Kockport station, on the Rock Island railroad, about three miles north of Malvern. After drilling three shallow wells and getting the holes plugged with broken machinery, their funds failed and they were forced to abandon them.

Started Test Six Years Ago. Six years and 10 days ago he began his present well. A story has been told and retold of how he dreamed that a shining angel led him to the spot where his derrick now stands and pointing a flaming sword told him to dig there for oil. But this story is not true. Taylor located the spot on top of a ridge which is the dividing line of the watershed between the Ouachita river and the Saline river. For nearly five years, he financed this well with his savings, and his sons did most of the work.

Inexperienced as he was, he encountered many difficulties. Unskilled drillers got much of his money, his truck farm did not do well because his attentions were directed toward his well and his finances ran low. But the old man's faith never faltered. When asked if he really believed that he had oil, his invariable reply was, "I don't believe; I know it!" On July 20, 1920, someone plugged the well with a railroad iron bearded at the end, forming a row of fishhooks, and bound around the end with manila rope, creating a swab. Tool after tool was made to remove the iron, but it was more than six months of tedious, discouraging work before the barbed points and manila rope were worn away sufficiently to remove it.

Oil Sand Is Found. During the past three months or more Henson has made slow progress. Last week he encountered the treasure he had sought—a sand that promised production. This sand was discovered at 1,376 feet. Compared with certain sands from the El Dorado field, and placed under the acid test, it shows more prolific possibilities than the Union county sand, it is said. He realized that his knowledge was insufficient to bring in the well, and his experience with various drillers had made him distrustful of strangers, but he allowed Drillers Lish,

Lilly and Eggee, all practical drillers who are actively engaged in the drilling of other wells in the county, to take charge of the well. They decided that a good well could be brought in if the water was shut off. But Taylor had no funds to buy the new casing, and two business men of Malvern undertook to finance the final test. Henson agreed to let 50 acres adjoining the well be divided into 50 units, and sold it to raise the necessary funds. This was done and the new casing has been cemented and put down. Monday morning, drilling through the plugs will begin, and the drillers believe that the work will be finished by noon Tuesday.

All Hot Spring county awaits the outcome with the keenest expectancy.

Packer and Casing Ordered for Negro Well Near Malvern. 1-4-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Jan. 3.—The Taylor Henson well, near here, is now down 1,320 feet and operations have ceased pending the arrival of a packer and a string of three and one-half inch casing. The casing probably will arrive from El Dorado late this week and the packer which was ordered from Pittsburgh ought to reach here Monday.

The Henson well is being drilled on 3,000 acres of land owned by Taylor Henson, an aged negro of Malvern. Henson, with the help of other negroes, has been working on the well for five years. Cuttings of the well have been examined by drillers and geologists who report that the sand is identical to the El Dorado sand.

Money to buy supplies to make the test has been raised at Malvern by selling to local people 40 acres close to the well.

CASING HAS BEEN SET Well Near Leola, (Grant County) Will Soon Be Tested. 1-9-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Jan. 23.—Reports from the Harry Winters well, one half mile east of Leola, Grant county, is that casing was put down this morning at a depth of 2,000 feet. It will be 10 or 15 days before a test will be made.

MUST CEMENT AGAIN Plug in the Taylor Henson Well Is Not Keeping Water Out. 1-9-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Jan. 23.—After bailing more than 35 feet of water from the Taylor Henson well, in 19-4-16, Hot Spring county, the drillers this afternoon decided that the cement was not holding sufficiently to cut off the flow of water, and tonight and tomorrow the casing will be drawn and the well will be cemented again. This will cause another delay of about 10 days before the owners will attempt to bring in the well.

Many oil men from El Dorado, Haynesville and Hot Springs stayed all day at the well and announced that they will return for the test.

TO TEST WELL SOON. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Feb. 3.—The pump for the Taylor Henson well, in 19-4-16, which has been shipped from Oil City, is expected here tomorrow. It will be hauled to the well immediately, and the well cemented again. Members of an oil company from El Dorado have taken over the work at the well, and guarantee that the flow of water will be shut off sufficiently to test the well.

PLAN TEST AT MALVERN Drillers of Taylor Henson Well to Start Bailing Tomorrow. 1-9-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Feb. 18.—Drillers of the Taylor Henson well, 19-4-16, two miles northeast of Malvern, will begin bailing Monday to see if the water has been cut off sufficiently to bring in the well. This well yielded an oil sand at the depth of 1,376 feet, which compared very favorably with the El Dorado oil sand, according to drillers who examined it, but the small size of the casing, which is only 3-1/2 inches, has made it difficult to cement the well. A special pump has been secured from Oil City, La., and it is believed that the well will be tested not later than Tuesday.

OIL NEAR THE TOP AT MALVERN WELL Owners Now Turn to Perfecting Titles—Taylor Henson Given News. 2-26-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Feb. 25.—The Taylor Henson well has remained capped since the three ballers of oil were brought up Friday morning at 10:30, and will remain capped until Monday, according to J. C. Miller, one of the men in charge of the well, unless the contents will run through the valves when they are opened tomorrow. Water and oil were within 100 feet of the top, and still rising late this afternoon.

The reaction that usually comes after two days of such intense excitement as Malvern has just gone through has set in on many residents. There is some dissatisfaction because the well was capped immediately, but the owners do not seem to be disturbed and are perfecting their titles and abstracts.

Henson Gets the News. Taylor Henson, the ex-slave, well past 70, who has worked for more than five years without any encouragement but his own convictions, and who has been ill for several weeks, has been told the news, but it did not excite him, as was feared. He merely said that it was no more than he had known.

Many Visit the Well. Despite the rain the well had many visitors today. Much attention is attracted by the two pieces of iron lying on the ground near the gate of the enclosure that serve to remind the visitors of the old negro's six months' labors to offset the work of an enemy who attempted to junk the well. One is a railroad iron bearded at the end to form a row of fish hooks, which had been bound around the top with manila paper to make a swab. Many tools were made to remove the iron, but none were successful until a blacksmith near Sheridan made a long spear, sharpened the blades, attached it to another long rod and by incessant hammering finally cut away the rope and dulled the barbs until the iron could be removed.

The flurry over the Henson well has obscured interest in other drilling projects in Hot Spring county. Three other wells are being drilled in this vicinity. They are: Lesh-Eggee No. 1, in 9-5-17, about three miles southeast of Malvern, which is about 1,000 feet down. It is known as the Manning well. It is located on land owned by John Manning. It is likely that a test will be made soon. J. K. Hall No. 1, in 34-15-17, at Elmore, about eight miles south of Malvern. Work was stopped on this well because the driller was loaned to make the test of the Taylor Henson well. Holcomb, Reneau & Burchfield, in 24-4-16, about four miles northeast of the Henson well, about 600 feet deep.

LEASE HOLDERS' TITLES ARE BAD Many at Malvern Not Worth Paper They Are Written On, It Is Said. 1-9-22. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, Feb. 27.—W. M. Billings, one of the promoters of the Taylor Henson well that caused considerable excitement last Thursday, said this morning that a great many of the Henson leases are in such a tangle that it would be several weeks before they could be straightened and the company proceed with its drilling operations.

"Some of the leases that Henson held are not worth the paper they were printed on," said Mr. Billings. The Hot Spring county courthouse and lawyers' offices are crowded with landowners seeking to perfect their titles and abstracts, and many tales are being told about flows in deeds that render the land of very little value to the holders.

Meanwhile, Malvern is having a greater evidence of an oil boom. More oil scouts and representatives of oil corporations were here today than on any other day since the bailer came out of the well for the first time. "Oil Row," on First street, presents a scene of busy activity. Hotels are crowded, and many homes are being opened to take care of many who have come to the scene in their cars. C. A. Doak, secretary of the Malvern Chamber of Commerce, has employed an assistant, and all available rooms are being listed. Inquiries are being received from all parts of Arkansas and from many other states.

Leases Continue to Soar. The closing down of operations appeared a bad sign to many, but leases continued to climb in price, and there are many would-be buyers and few with any acreage to sell. The oil and water in the Henson well is said to be slowly rising. The contents were within 76 feet of the top this morning. But whether the well proves a good one or only a small pumper, Hot Spring county is assured of plenty of tests. Several contracts for wells have been awarded. Casing for the Lesh well, in 9-5-17,

# ASKS CANCELLATION OF LEASE CONTRACT Taylor Henson Files Suit to Prevent Suspension of Operations. March 5, 1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, March 4.—Taylor Henson, negro, owner of the Taylor Henson test oil well near Malvern, today filed a suit in Hot Spring county Chancery Court to annul a contract he made "over two years ago" leasing 49 per cent of his holdings for two years.

Henson charges that G. E. Henson and J. E. Holmes of Kiowa, Kan., G. E. Bennett of Buffalo, Mo., and A. D. Bennett of Miami, Okla., promised him "three times as much profit" from his land and leases if he would sub-lease to them 49 per cent of his holdings. He says that he gave them the lease for two years, that the time has expired and he asks that the contract be declared void.

According to persons claiming to be on the "inside," the suit was brought after Henson learned that the four men proposed to file a suit in federal court against Henson seeking 49 per cent of the negro's holdings. Such a suit would automatically cause suspension of all further development on Henson's holdings for three years, it is said. The case will be heard here at the next session of Chancery Court, which will convene March 27.

# ANOTHER TEST WELL Contract Let for Sinking the Hole in Hot Spring County. 1-9-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, March 20.—Contract for a well to be put down by Nelms & Browder was signed today. This will be drilled in 32-4-16, two miles south of the Taylor Henson well. Mr. Nelms was in charge of the cementing of the Henson well at the time of the test. A fine specimen of lime rock was brought from the Holcomb well Saturday afternoon, and is on display at the office of Holcomb, Burchfield & Reneau in the Commercial hotel building. Experienced oil men say that it is splendid evidence that oil will be found in this well. The well is 750 feet down and drilling is going on continually. It is recalled here that the first evidence that the drillers at the Henson well had of oil was the lime rock brought from the well when it was 500 feet down. Many oil men from adjoining towns came back to Malvern this morning, and lease trading is very active.

# HENSON WELL TO BE OPENED TODAY Oil Men Will Measure It to Ascertain Depth of Water. 3-28-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, March 27.—The Taylor Henson well, which has been closed for several weeks, pending litigation over the leases, will be opened tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, one of Henson's sons said this afternoon. He said that it will be done to let the oil men who are interested in the development in sections near the Henson well measure the depth of the well and ascertain how much water is standing in the well.

Bailing of the Lesh-Eggee well No. 1, in 9-5-17, will be started again in the morning and will continue until it is known whether they have oil at the depth of 872 feet, according to Frank Lesh, one of the drillers. "We believe that we have an oil well," said Mr. Lesh this morning, "but we will not know for certain until it is found that the water is shut out and we can make the real test."

Mr. Lesh said that if the test is not satisfactory they will drill deeper. The Knox well No. 1, in 21-4-16, is reported to have drilled 400 feet in the first 24 hours, despite the heavy rainfall. Drillers expect to test the well some time this week. There is more activity in the lease market today than for several days, and many newcomers are in Malvern. It is said that there will be a large delegation of oil men and spectators here tomorrow from Hot Springs.

# OIL SHOWING REPORTED Operations Suspended at Dulaney Well Near Malvern. 4-17-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 14.—Drillers of the Holcomb, Reneau & Burchfield well, known as the Dulaney No. 1, yesterday finished drilling through the shale and went into the second strata of oil sand. Drilling operations were suspended, the well was bailed and indications of oil showed in the slush pit. Much excitement prevailed in Malvern when it was reported the well had come in with a

strong flow of oil, and many persons visited the well last night. Mr. Holcomb said the flow of water was entirely shut off and drilling would begin tomorrow. They expect to drill about 50 feet into the sand before making a test.

DIRECTORS' MEETING. Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 16.—A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Taylor-Henson Oil and Gas Company will be held at Malvern tomorrow. At this meeting it will be decided whether the Henson "discovery well," which has been closed since February 23, will be opened. It is said that the majority of the board will be in favor of bailing the well, and if this is decided upon, operation probably will be started Tuesday.

# GET GOOD OIL SHOWING April 17, 1922. Drillers of Dulaney Well, Near Malvern, Hopeful of Producer. 4-17-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 16.—The Holcomb Reneau & Burchfield well, the Dulaney No. 1, in 24-4-16, which has been closed since the strong indication of oil showed in the slush pit Thursday night, was opened yesterday morning to ascertain whether the water was entirely shut off. The bailer was lowered into the well, and when brought up was found to contain very little water and more than six gallons of crude oil, which experienced oil men say is of a high quality. The well is down about 914 feet, according to Mr. Holcomb, and operators say they are just in the edge of the second oil sand. The first sand was found at 850 feet and showed good indications, but the owners believe they will have a better well in the second sand.

Many Malvern residents and oil men were invited to witness the opening of the well. The well is closed awaiting the arrival of Reneau and Burchfield, who are expected Monday. Drilling and bailing will begin Tuesday and a final test is expected soon as eight-inch casing is in the well.

# TO DRILL NEAR MALVERN Shreveport Operator Closed Contract for Well in Section 32. 1-9-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 18.—Shad Harper of Shreveport, La., has closed a contract to drill in section 32-4-16, and the derrick will be erected this week. Mr. Harper is said to have drilled the first producing well in the Mexia (Tex.) field, and has drilled many other producing wells in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Everything is in readiness for the test of the Dulaney well No. 1, in 24-

4-16, tomorrow morning. Many oil men are coming to Malvern to see the well tested. Drillers of the Knox well No. 1, in 21-4-16, still are fishing for the broken drill stem, which has been in the hole since last Wednesday. This well was waiting for casing for a test. It is said a test can be made within 60 hours after the fishing job is completed.

# DULANEY NO. 1 IS OPENED UP AGAIN Operators Waiting for Gate Valve Before Bringing It In. 1-9-22

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 22.—The Holcomb, Burchfield & Reneau well, Dulaney No. 1, in 24-4-16, was opened again yesterday to show visiting men the quality of oil and sand from the bottom of the well. It was capped after one bailer had been brought out of the hole. Many visitors were present. Operations of the well are suspended, awaiting the arrival of a gate valve, which has been ordered from Tulsa, Okla. It is said that storage tanks have been ordered, and the well will be drilled a few feet deeper into the oil sand and brought in. Experienced oil men are of the opinion that the Dulaney would make a small flowing well, as it now stands, with only three feet in the sand. The depth of the well is about 920 feet, according to Mr. Holcomb.

The Knox well No. 1, in 21-4-16, finished the "fishing" job Wednesday afternoon, after a week of work to recover a broken drill stem. The hole now is being reamed, preparatory to setting the casing. Water and mud are being pumped into well to hold down the gas pressure, which threatened to blow in the well more than two weeks ago. A test will be made as soon as the casing is set.

The Lesh-Eggee well, Manning No. 1, in 9-5-17, is having all the trouble that usually attends a wild-cat well. The casing has been pulled four times and set again, and much trouble is being experienced with the strong flow of water. This well is three and a half miles southeast of Malvern. Drillers of the Rowe well, in 18-4-16, are in hard rock, and little progress is being made. Promoters of this well evidently are not discouraged, for it is said they have leased 80 acres near the Holcomb well and will start several rigs in the near future.

Many Contracts Awarded. Many contracts were awarded this week. Among them was one by John G. Knox, contractor of the Knox well

In 21-4-16, who signed to drill in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of 13-4-16, the north 40 offsetting the Holcomb well. The derrick will be commenced Monday, and drilling will begin soon.

W. H. Harper of Mexia, Tex., yesterday perfected the organization of the Malvern Petroleum Company and closed a drilling contract to begin operations not later than May 1. The drilling will be in section 32-4-16. The company is composed of local and outside men and is said to be a strong one.

The Danciger Oil and Refining Company of Kanass City, Mo., closed a contract to drill for oil in section 19, on the 40 acres adjoining the Taylor Henson well. The company will begin at once, and the well is to be drilled to a depth of 1,500 feet unless oil is found before that depth is reached.

A new contract was awarded for the completion of the J. K. Hall well, in 34-5-17. The new company will begin operations in a few days. This well is eight miles south of Malvern.

Greenwood & McDuff "spudded in" their well in 12-4-17 this week, and the rig for the Marr-Johnson well to be drilled in 36-4-16 arrived yesterday and will be hauled to the site today. The derrick for the well has been erected and drilling will begin at once.

## MALVERN FIELD IS GETTING BIG PLAY

Operators Are Confident That Producers Soon Will Be Brought In.

4-26-1922

By FLETCHER CHENAULT, Staff Correspondent of the Gazette. Malvern, April 25.—While the rest of the world is singing its song of sixpence and a pocket full of rye, the oil men of Malvern are quietly striving for pioneer honors in the oil game in the Hot Spring county metropolis. They go about this task with kind hearts and willing hands, hopeful for the best. The volatile enthusiasts speak reverently of the "Malvern oil field," but we have not yet reached the point to designate it so.

Not because we are lacking in optimism, but because our rule is to abide by established facts. If Malvern had an oil field the price of leases would be \$3,000 an acre instead of from \$25 to \$150. The element of chance and speculation then would be entirely removed.

But we ought to give the boys credit for a certain degree of intelligence. There are four or five wells in Township 4 alone, and these wells were not drilled because the owners were tempted to throw their money away. There was a motive behind this drilling campaign and a reason for all this activity.

The reason, as a man with half an eye can see, is that Malvern bids fair to present Arkansas with its next oil field, its first shallow field. Good oil showings have been found, not in one well only but in a half dozen, and in two that are nine miles apart as the crow flies. Gas showings have been reported also, but we can't swear to that. But it's a good gamble, apparently, if a wildcat gamble ever is good.

**Tests Are Due Soon.**  
Two or three wells are ready to be tested. It is likely that the Holcomb, Burchfield and Reneau, Dulaney No. 1 and the Knox "mystery" well will be tested this week. Tests have been delayed with first one excuse and another, which always arouses suspicion in some quarters, but it is human nature for a man who thinks he has an oil well to want to tinker with his titles and trade leases and royalties. You can't blame them for that because it is good business.

The steady downpour today drove the oil field migratory birds indoors. They clustered before the big maps painted on the walls in the office of lease brokers and gossiped about formations, rigs, and wild days in El Dorado and Burk Burnett. They are keen-eyed seasoned operators, fond of assembling the parts of speech into strings of masculine gossip. When one got close, one found they were not talking of home and mother, but of how Bill Rowe wore out three bits in a night on hard formation at Kroenberg No. 1.

My wanderings brought me in contact with Mr. Holcomb of the Holcomb, Burchfield, Reneau Company and N. S. Burton, who yesterday bought a half-interest in the company by trading equipment valued at \$15,000 and agreeing to give \$24,000 worth of oil. They impress the casual traveler as men who know their business and who are confident of production. And when they tell you what is going on at this well you can't visualize the possibility of failure.

At a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Day, with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Adams, we met young John

Knox and his wife and son, Jack Knox, who aspires to be a horse trader. Knox has followed the ups and downs of the oil fields and his wife has followed him through these vicissitudes.

His well is down 960 feet. He is reaming now, preparatory to setting casing, and a test is due soon. This well is known as the "mystery well" because Knox has adopted the habit of saying very little about it. Information obtained about the Knox well is not shouted from the housetops, and that very likely is the best policy to pursue.

**Field Gets Publicity.**  
Talk of publicity calls to mind the debt of gratitude the people of Malvern owe Claud Mann of the Times-Journal, J. H. Beerstecher of the Daily Record, the editor of the Malvern Meteor, and Mrs. Ralph Adams, the Gazette's correspondent, who have advertised Malvern in a creditable manner to the world. Mrs. Adams' reports to the Gazette have been commended often for their accuracy and fairness, and Beerstecher is publishing a daily paper which is attaining a large street circulation.

The play now is in a semi-circle east of Malvern, extending from the Taylor-Henson well two and a half miles east to the Holcomb well about nine miles east. The only exception now is the Lesh-Egre well, three and a half miles south, although other locations south have been selected.

**Wells and Locations.**  
The operations under way follow: Rowe's Kroenberg No. 1, in 18-4-16; three miles northeast; drilling in hard rock about 930 feet.

Holcomb, Burchfield, Reneau, Dulaney No. 1, in 24-4-16, about eight miles east; showing at 917 feet; waiting for gate valve.

Taylor-Henson well, in 19-4-16, two and a half miles east; down 1,300 feet; operations suspended because of legal controversy.

John D. Knox's Burchfield, Reneau No. 1, in 21-4-16; about 4 1/2 miles east; reaming for casing, at 960 feet.

Danciger Oil and Gas Company; offset to Taylor-Henson in Section 19, and Knox offset to Holcomb well locations. Marr-Johnson well, in 36-4-16, nine miles southeast; derrick up and rig on ground.

Malvern Petroleum and Gas Company, in 32-4-16, four miles southeast; timbers hauled for derrick.

Greenwood-McDuff, in 12-4-17 "spudded in" a week ago, drilling in about 300 feet; two and a half miles north-east.

Lesh-Egre Manning No. 1, three and a half miles south, in 9-5-17; trouble with casing at 950 feet.

J. K. Hall No. 1, in 34-5-17, about eight miles south; started drilling two years ago; operations to be resumed soon.

## WELL AT MALVERN TO BE REOPENED

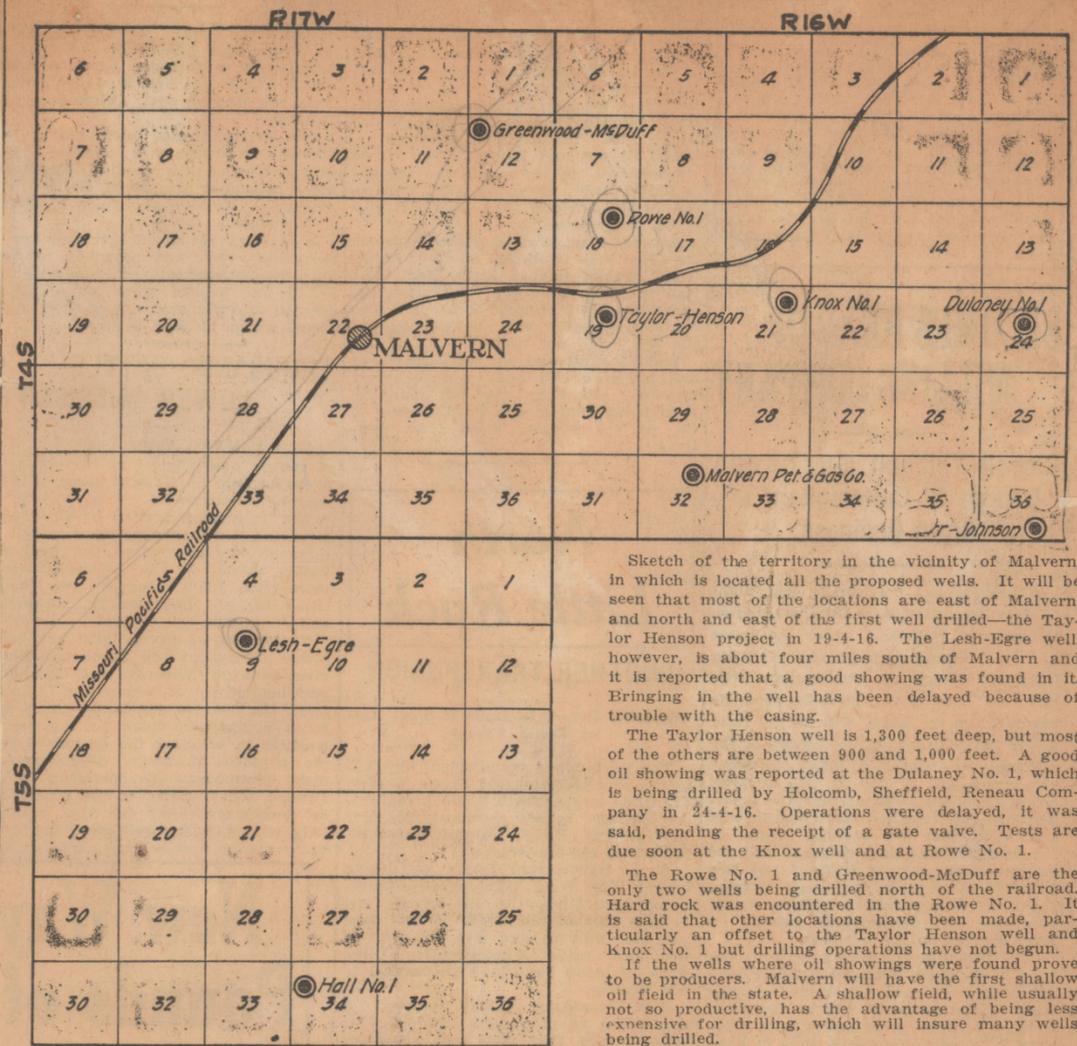
Owners of Taylor Henson Test to Resume Operations Tomorrow.

1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 27.—The Taylor Henson "discovery well," in 19-4-16, which has been closed for two months pending litigations, will be opened Saturday morning. If the water has not broken into the well, it will be bailed dry, according to E. H. Frisby, a member of the Board of Directors. The directors are: E. H. Frisby, Jim Airmann and Taylor Henson, negro, all of Malvern, and John Yergler, negro, of Hope. N. S. Burton, who recently purchased a half interest in the Holcomb, Burchfield & Reneau well, Dulaney No. 1, today said that the well will be opened Monday, the gate valve placed in position and drilling resumed in an effort to bring in the well.

The strong flow of water that gave drillers of the Lesh-Egre well, Manning No. 1, in 9-5-17, much trouble, has been shut out and drilling has been resumed.

## Sketch of the Vicinity of Malvern, Showing Nine Wells Now Being Drilled by Operators



Sketch of the territory in the vicinity of Malvern, in which is located all the proposed wells. It will be seen that most of the locations are east of Malvern, and north and east of the first well drilled—the Taylor Henson project in 19-4-16. The Lesh-Egre well, however, is about four miles south of Malvern and it is reported that a good showing was found in it. Bringing in the well has been delayed because of trouble with the casing.

The Taylor Henson well is 1,300 feet deep, but most of the others are between 900 and 1,000 feet. A good oil showing was reported at the Dulaney No. 1, which is being drilled by Holcomb, Sheffield, Reneau Company in 24-4-16. Operations were delayed, it was said, pending the receipt of a gate valve. Tests are due soon at the Knox well and at Rowe No. 1.

The Rowe No. 1 and Greenwood-McDuff are the only two wells being drilled north of the railroad. Hard rock was encountered in the Rowe No. 1. It is said that other locations have been made, particularly an offset to the Taylor Henson well and Knox No. 1 but drilling operations have not begun.

If the wells where oil showings were found prove to be producers, Malvern will have the first shallow oil field in the state. A shallow field, while usually not so productive, has the advantage of being less expensive for drilling, which will insure many wells being drilled.

## TO RESUME WORK ON DULANEY TEST

Drillers Expect to Continue Operations Until Producer Is Brought In.

1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, May 6.—The Holcomb-Burchfield-Reneau-Burton well, Dulaney No. 1, in 24-4-16, which has been capped for several weeks, will be opened early Monday morning. The drill will be placed in the sand in an effort to bring in the well, and operations will continue until a complete test is made. Oil men who have been interested in the test of the Hot Spring county wells are making plans to be in Malvern, and J. A. Brake, state oil and gas inspector, has accepted an invitation to be present.

Work on the machinery of the Taylor Henson "discovery" well is about completed, and operations will begin there Monday or Tuesday.

The J. K. Hall Co. has built a new derrick and installed new machinery at its well in 34-5-17, and drilling will begin Monday. The depth of the well is 1,000 feet. Mr. Hall recently awarded another contract for a well in 22-5-17 to Mr. Sutton, who will start operations soon.

The Danciger Oil and Gas Company of Mexia, Tex., whose contract calls for drilling in 18-4-16, on a 40 adjoining the Henson well, is preparing to erect a derrick. They will "spud in" within 10 days.

The Malvern Petroleum and Gas Company has moved its derrick from 29-5-16, where it had been placed through an error to 32-4-16, and is ready to begin drilling.

Drillers of the Rowe well, Kroenberg No. 1, and the Lesh-Egre well, are drilling day and night. Greenwood-McDuff, in 12-4-16, and Marr-Johnson, in 36-4-16, are making good progress.

## ANOTHER SHOWING AT MALVERN WELL

Bailer Bring Out Large Quantity of 38 Gravity Oil, It Is Reported.

1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, April 30.—The Taylor Henson "discovery well," in 19-4-16, was opened yesterday. Although the bailer was lowered into the well only six times before operations were discontinued on account of the worn out machinery, the contents of the six bailers apparently pleased the owners and oil scouts who were present. About three-fourths of the contents of every bailer brought out of the hole was oil that tested 38 gravity, it is said.

E. H. Frisby, president of the company, said that it was dangerous to use the rig in its present condition. Evidence of the truth of his statement was shown when a rotten timber half way up the derrick fell and struck a negro helper, inflicting a severe cut on his head. The machinery will be repaired and work will begin Monday. Mr. Frisby said that it is the opinion of the drillers that the water is shut off and if the machinery holds up they will have a producing well. Operations are in charge of Frank Lesh, one of the owners of the Lesh-Egre well, now drilling in 9-5-17.

The Henson well was started six

years ago by an aged negro, and the machinery is of the cheapest and very crude. The casing is only 3 1/2 inch, which makes operation difficult. The depth of the well is 1,300 feet, but Henson says that he had a better sand at a depth around 900 feet. Other wells in Hot Spring county are preparing to make tests around 900 feet.

**Another Drilling Contract.**  
The Danciger Oil and Gas Company has been awarded a contract to drill in a 40 offset to the Henson well. The well is to be drilled to a depth of 1,500 feet, if oil in paying quantities is not found before that depth is reached.

The owners of the Holcomb, Burchfield & Reneau well, Dulaney No. 1, in 24-4-16, will adjust the gate valve early this week and drill deeper in the sand in an effort to bring in the well. The Knox well, Burchfield & Reneau No. 1, in 21-4-16, is being reamed preparatory to setting the casing. It is the opinion of many oil men that the Knox "mystery well" will be the first producing well in Hot Spring county.

Owners of acreage in section 29-4-16 were surprised to find a derrick being erected on their holdings. Investigation proved that it was the derrick for the Malvern Petroleum and Gas Company well and should have been located in 32-4-16. The derrick was moved and the well will be "spudded in" early this week.

It is said that drillers of the Greenwood-McDuff, in 12-4-17, have encountered rock at less than 300 feet, and little progress is being made. The drill bits of the Rowe well, Kroenberg No. 1, have been working in this hard rock for several weeks.

The water has been shut out of the Lesh-Egre well, Manning No. 1, in 9-5-17, and drilling has been resumed.

## GIVES UP MORE OIL

Taylor Henson Well Expected to Be a Good Producer.

1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, May 9.—The Taylor Henson well, two and one-half miles northeast of Malvern, gave up a considerable quantity of oil today, according to persons who watched the operations. The bailer was put into play this morning, and it is said that each time it was brought to the top it contained oil. At about 600 feet down a pool of clear water was struck, and then more oil. There was a good showing of gas of sufficient pressure to cause bubbles. The 25 or 30 feet of "junk" in the bottom of the hole will necessitate more drilling, and after this is completed, a test will be made. The hole was started several years ago by Taylor Henson,

## RIG IS MOVED. 1922

Special to the Gazette. Malvern, May 28.—W. H. Rowe of the Rowe-Kroenberg No. 1 has moved his rig from 18-14-16, where he drilled to a depth of 1,342 feet in rock without indications of oil or gas, to 13-4-16, a mile from the Holcomb-Burchfield-Reneau-Burton well, the Dulaney No. 1. The new derrick has been erected, and the crew will spud in early next week. A. M. Sutton & Son of Bowling Green, Ky., who have been in the field for several weeks, have secured a location in 22-4-17, and soon will begin operations.

### Texas Oil Operators Plan Tests in Hot Spring County.

Special to the Gazette. 7-25-30  
Malvern, July 24.—Cleary Brothers of Vernon, Tex., will drill for oil and gas between Malvern and Gifford in Hot Spring county on the Taylor Henson lease, about four miles from Malvern, and are ready to spud in a deep test well. This is the lease upon which the discovery well was drilled in 1923.

Drilled to shallow depth the Taylor Henson well had three showings of oil several years ago, with the best showing at 1,324, where 17 barrels of live oil were brought to the surface and tested high grade. Losing the bailer and fishing tools in the well, the driller became discouraged and left. Since then the lands of the Henson estate have been in litigation. Taylor Henson having died soon after oil was discovered.

James Airsman, a former Malvern man, who has been working the past nine months obtaining leases and titles in order that the Cleary brothers might be induced to come to Malvern.

Two carloads of tools and casing have been unloaded at the site of the well, and the rig was shipped Monday from Oklahoma. Both the Cleary brothers, H. B. and Daniel are experienced oil men and are said to own producing wells in three different fields.

### Hot Spring County Oil Test Well Spudded In.

Special to the Gazette. 7-31-30  
Malvern, July 30.—The Cleary Brothers spudded in their new Henson test well. Work began on the rig Saturday and was completed Tuesday. The rig is of standard make and drilled 2,800 feet in 45 days in the Oklahoma field. The Cleary Brothers expect to reach a depth of 2,000 feet within 40 days.

Two crews are at work day and night at the well and two drillers are in charge of drilling operations. The new well is located about 75 feet from the old Taylor Henson well, which had several good oil showings.

### NEW FIRM PLANS TO DRILL FOR OIL

### Acreage Reported Leased in Hot Spring County by Star Company.

Special to the Gazette. 9-16-30  
Plans for drilling in Hot Spring county have been made by the Starr Oil Company, an attorney for the concern announced yesterday after certificates of incorporation were filed with Secretary of State Jim B. Higgins and Pulaski County Clerk W. S. Rogers.

Chairman Dwight H. Blackwood of the state Highway Commission, Victor A. Kleiber, auditor for the Highway Department; C. G. Hall, C. E. Starr, all of Little Rock, and J. J. Adams, Malvern, are the incorporators. It was said that the new company has two sections under lease in Hot Spring county, where it plans to prospect for oil.

Issuance of 25,600 shares of stock with par value of \$1 each is authorized, and \$1,000 was reported paid in. Headquarters of the company are in Little Rock. Its attorney said a contract probably will be awarded soon for the drilling.

### Starr Company to Spud In This Week Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. 9-13-30  
Oil development in Hot Spring county near Malvern, which attracted some attention several years ago when a well drilled by Taylor Henson, a Negro farmer, with an old Star rig, was reported to have an excellent oil showing, is due for another play, according to an announcement yesterday by C. E. Starr, president of the Starr Oil company, which will spud in Wednesday or Thursday.

The company was granted a permit by the Blue Sky Department recently to sell 12,000 shares of stock at \$1 each. Other officers are: Dwight H. Blackwood, vice president; C. G. Hall, vice president; V. A. Kleiber, treasurer, and J. J. Adams of Malvern, secretary.

Mr. Starr announced that the drilling contract has been let to John M. Watkins of Little Rock, who operated in Smackover, Stephens and other fields. A rotary rig will be used with a 114-foot derrick, and every change of formation will be cored. The geological formation was worked out by Dr. Arthur A. Herman and Mr. Wheeler. The pits have been dug on the location and the silts are in place.

It was announced that oil sands are expected at 1,800 feet, or perhaps a little less than that.

Mr. Starr formerly operated in the Wyoming and Oklahoma fields. He is interested in a well in Clay county near Piggott, the first well to be drilled on Crowley's Ridge. Others interested in that enterprise are J. E. Anderson, Louann; E. P. Jeffus, Rector, and Jess Wells of Prescott.

The Starr well location is the northwest quarter of Section 11, township 5 south, range 16 west, and will be known as Cunningham No. 1. It is near the Grant county line eight miles from Malvern.

### Old Taylor Henson Tract Near Malvern Being Tested.

Special to the Gazette. 9-23-30  
Malvern, Sept. 22.—About eight years ago an aged Negro of Malvern, Taylor Henson, who knew nothing whatever about drilling for oil, perfected a well on his place near here and had what oil men all declared to be an excellent showing at 1,350 feet. Henson was induced to drill because of what he called a "vision" and he drilled his well without any previous experience, with a water well drilling outfit.

There has been a revival of interest in oil here as a result of another well being drilled on the old Taylor Henson tract, this time by Dan and Herbert Clary of Wichita Falls, Tex., experienced drillers, associated with Jim Arisman, formerly of Malvern, who lives in Texas.

The Clarys and Arismans came here and obtained the Taylor Henson acreage and started a well. They have been drilling 30 days, night and day, and are down 1,150 feet. Within 24 hours, they reported today, if nothing happens, they will be at the depth where Henson found oil, and they claim prospects for a well are excellent.

Taylor Henson lost his first well because he didn't know what to do with it after the oil showing, and had started to drill another well when he died. The acreage he had obtained was tied up in litigation and the Clarys and Arisman spent three months perfecting title. The well they are drilling is two and a half miles northeast of Malvern.

### PAY SAND REPORTED AT MALVERN WELL

### Cleary Brothers Wildcat East of Town May Be Producer.

Special to the Gazette. 10-9-30  
Malvern, Oct. 8.—Pay sand was reported struck at the Cleary brothers' wildcat test well, two miles east of here today. The oil strata is said to have been encountered at about 1,350 feet at 5:30 this morning after several weeks of drilling.

Work was stopped at the well at 11:30 tonight but the operators said that they would begin balling at 6:30 a. m. tomorrow.

Sunday, water from the well showed heavy traces of oil and interest here has been intense. The Cleary brothers are from Wichita Falls, Tex., and are said to own producing wells in Texas, Oklahoma and Mexico.

The well near here, the Henson No. 1, is a short distance from the old Henson well, which was abandoned in 1922.

Indications are, it was said, that the well will prove to be a producer, although not a large one. Plans of the Cleary brothers are not known here.

### Drilling Resumed at Cleary Well Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. 10-12-30  
Malvern, Oct. 11.—The Cleary brothers' oil well, three miles from Malvern, continues to hold the interest of residents of this section. Oil experts from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Louisiana were here today investigating the field.

After a good showing of oil at 1,250 feet, the drillers decided to go further and drilling was resumed. Under-reaming will be started tomorrow. The casing is set 1,250 feet and this will be under-reamed at 1,315 feet. It is expected that another pay sand will be reached at 1,415 feet and the well brought in.

The rotary rig of the Starr Oil Company, of Oklahoma, arrived today for a well in section 11-4-16, west, seven miles east of Malvern. The well will be spudded in early next week.

### Hot Springs Party Sees Spudding In of Well Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. 10-22-30  
Hot Springs, Oct. 21.—A party of local citizens interested in oil development in Hot Spring county today went to Malvern to witness the spudding in of the second oil test in that vicinity. The Starr Oil Company started drill-

ing on its location in the northeast of the northeast of section 11, township 5 south, range 16 west.

The delegation also visited the Cleary Bros. well, which last week was reported to have shown oil indications.

The Starr company is headed by C. E. Starr, formerly of Casper, Wyo., but who has operated extensively in the Oklahoma fields and Texas. Associated with him are Dwight H. Blackwood, state highway commissioner, and C. G. Hall, Little Rock, vice presidents; V. A. Kleiber, also of Little Rock, treasurer, and J. J. Adams, Malvern, secretary. John Watkins is the drilling contractor.

Drillers of the Starr well expect to strike producing oil sands in the Pennsylvania formation between 1,500 and 1,700 feet. The test is located on the southeast flank of what Dr. Frederick Clapp, well known New York geologist, described as the Great Axis No. 1 of Arkansas, and is said to have special geological advantages because it is far enough south of and on the upthrow side of the noted Hot Springs-Magnet Cove fault.

### Test to Be Made of Oil at Well in Hot Spring County.

Special to the Gazette. 10-29-30  
Hot Springs, Oct. 28 — Oil scouts who have been watching Hot Spring county's prospective oil field reported this afternoon on their return to this city that the Cleary brothers were preparing to make a test of the oil showing they had a couple of weeks ago, and that those connected with the test believed prospects were bright for a small well.

The Cleary brothers' test is located in the northeast of the northeast of Section 19, Township 4 south, Range 16 west. Two weeks ago a very strong showing of oil was found. Since that time the well has been given the most careful attention, according to reports brought here today, and everything appears in readiness to make an effort for a small producer.

Surface casing, it also was reported, has been set in the Starr Company's test in the northeast of the northeast of Section 11, Township 5 south, Range 16 west, which was spudded in last week, and in which a number of state officials are interested.

Scouts said that considerable optimism has ensued in Hot Springs county since the distribution of what is known as the "Magnetometer Survey Map," recently issued by the United States Geological Survey. The map, it was said, clearly shows a "magnetometer high" east of Malvern which, it was said, coincides with the structural trend of the Malvern field. The magnetometer method of prospecting for oil has been adopted by the major companies and has supplanted the former mediums, and is said to have had successful results, in some fields the average being 90 per cent production of wells drilled. The fact that the United States Geological Survey map contains the magnetometer feature is responsible for greater hopes that present tests may get results desired.

### Gas Showing Found in Test Well Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. 11-25-30  
Malvern, Nov. 24.—Gas showing at the Cleary oil well about two miles northwest of Malvern on the old Taylor-Henson location, yesterday afternoon, has created interest in oil circles. The showing was had at 1,604 feet during drilling operations. Drilling was stopped, as it had been going on in 1,400 feet of water. Rainbows showing in the slush pit indicated that oil has been found.

Casing will be set immediately in order to shut off the water and give a chance for a test. It probably will be several days before the casing is set. About a month ago a good oil showing was had at a depth of 1,340 feet. Feeling that only a shallow oil sand had been struck the Cleary brothers drilled further. Yesterday's showing is the first gas they have had in this test.

### Good Indication of Oil Believed Found Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. 5-15-31  
Hot Springs, May 14.—Residents of Hot Springs, who returned from Malvern this afternoon said there was every indication that Hot Spring county would soon be attracting attention of oil men of this and others states because of a test being made about eight miles southeast of Malvern by the Starr Oil Company, which, local residents said, had received the financial backing of the Wisconsin-Arkansas Lumber Company.

The test is being drilled by George J. Rice, who has operated in the El Dorado and Smackover fields. The Starr test is down almost 500 feet, it was reported, with surface casing set. The company has a solid block of about 4,800 acres.

### Good Showing of Oil Reported in Test Well Near Malvern.

Special to the Gazette. June 4-31  
Hot Springs, June 3.—Reports from Malvern and Sheridan indicate a good showing of oil has been obtained at the Starr Oil Company's test about seven miles north of Malvern, near the Grant county line.

The showing, it was said, came from a sand believed to be the Atoka, which was reported reached at 1,200 feet.

See Clark Co. for wells near Donaldson