Fifty Years Ago

(Arkansas Gazette, May 4, 1888)

A body of gentlemen comprising what is known as the Turman (oil) Prospect met last night at the Arkansas Club rooms and decided to carry on the development of the oil fields west of Little Rock. Col. J. A. Woodson was chosen chairman and Mr. J. M. Dill secretary.

It was voted to incorporate as the Arkansas Petroleum Company with the privilege of acquiring oil lands in Arkansas and the Indian Territory and owning and operating oil and gas wells, refineries and pipe lines. Out of town members who are to take part in the management were Messrs. W. D. Lacy of Dardanelle, E. W. Hug of Hot Springs, W. J. Stanfield and C. L. Mayer of Morrilton. Oil experts are now investigating fields in Scott county which are controlled by the Turman Prospect, and it is reported that representatives of capitalists from out of the state have attempted to buy into this area.
SCOTT COUNTY HAS AN OIL SHOWING

Strike Is Reported in Test Being Made 25 Miles From Fort Smith.

Special to the Gazette.
Fort Smith, March 11.—Oil was struck in a test well at Abbott, 25 miles from here, yesterday afternoon, when the drill had reached a depth of 1,600 feet. According to Mr. E. W. Abell, President of the Oil & Gas Company, owners of the well, operations were suspended pending arrival of experts from Tulsa. About one-fourth of an inch of oil is showing in the hole. The drill was working in water when the oil showed, and the drill will be stopped at the top of the sand, officials said. Casing has been set.

The news was astounding the drilling had only been in operation of the well two weeks, having purchased it from another company and they had drilled but 21 inches when the oil showed was discovered. Owners are optimistic, but say they cannot estimate value of the strike.

The Abbott well is one-half mile south and east of Abbott, and three miles northeast of Mansfield. It is located last October by the Arkansas Developing Company. About two weeks ago the property was taken over by Mr. Abell and his associates in the name of E. W. Abell & Company. The new owners have not organized a company to take charge of the property, Mr. Abell, Mansfield; Mr. Abell, Fort Smith; and Mr. Abell, Mansfield, are the men in charge of the project.

GAS IS REPORTED

Petrol, Okla., Nov. 15.—Showing of petroleum gas was reported to be in the gas well which is being drilled at Blue Ball, Ark., by L. H. Wright and his associates of Huntington. The well had been drilled to a depth of 1,040 feet.

Drilling of Oil Test to Begin at Waldron Today.

Special to the Gazette.
Waldron, Feb. 15.—Drilling for oil will begin today on a new and one-half miles north of Waldron, it is announced by C. W. Whitehead of Whitehead & Bridginton, contractors, Oklahoma City. The exact location will not be announced until tomorrow. Whitehead began unloading an outfit valued at $2,400 yesterday. Plans are to work with both day and night shifts after beginning the drilling between 2 and 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The rig will be equipped with rotary tools before February 1 by members of a Wichita Falls (Tex.) party, Whitehead said.

Oil Test Well Spudded In Near Waldron.

Special to the Gazette.
Waldron, Feb. 15.—One hundred and fifty persons witnessed the spudding of the new oil well west of Waldron, it is announced by C. W. Bridginton, contractor, Oklahoma City. The exact location will not be announced until tomorrow. Whitehead began unloading an outfit valued at $2,400 yesterday. Plans are to work with both day and night shifts after beginning the drilling between 2 and 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The rig will be equipped with rotary tools before February 1 by members of a Wichita Falls (Tex.) party, Whitehead said.

Strong Gas Pressure Reported in Waldron Well.

Special to the Gazette.
Waldron, Feb. 16.—Much excitement was created here today by the announcement of a heavy gas pressure in the well being drilled a mile and a half northeast of Waldron, which was spudded in last Sunday and 5,420 feet deep.

J. W. Whitehead, who is in charge of operations, reported that a gas pressure estimated at 3,000,000 cubic feet was encountered today. The well was permitted to blow awhile and then was shut down. Drilling will be continued.

Mr. Whitehead announced fine prospects here for a large gas field, and there was much oil field.

Test Well Near Waldron Down 1,750 Feet.

Special to the Gazette.
Waldron, Feb. 25.—The test well on the old Hume farm, two and a half miles northwest of Waldron, has reached the depth of 1,750 feet. Drilling is to continue on a 24-hour work basis with two crews. A deep layer of shales was penetrated and a layer of sand has been reached.