



Most wells in the Kurten area are free flowing wells and do not need a pump to produce oil. Sometimes, however, paraffin builds up in the well and it has to be cleaned out. When wells slow down too much, pumps are put in to increase the flow.

Although profits from some wells are increasing, in other wells they are slowly going down.

Helen West, a Kurten resident who has some land in a pool, said her profits have decreased considerably. When

But the shadows of towering oil well trees, the shiny paint of new pick-up trucks and snatches of passing conversations suggest that since oil was discovered there four years ago, things in Kurten have changed.

the well was first put on the land, she was getting up to \$500 a month. Now she said her profits were down to \$78-100 a month.

Amalgamated Bonanza, Inc. pumps a total of 4,000 barrels of oil a day. A Bonanza official said after the oil flows into the tanks, it is put into pipelines that go into Bryan, where the oil is put on tanker trucks.

Although minor oil spills occur occasionally, many people said the oil fields have not damaged the land.

"I've had a little trouble with oil spills," one man said. "But they were willing to do right by it. They're nice people, but they're a big industry and they can't get everything done all at once."



Oil pumps are a familiar sight since drilling in Kurten began four years ago.

Story by Rhonda Watters

Photos by Lynn Blanco

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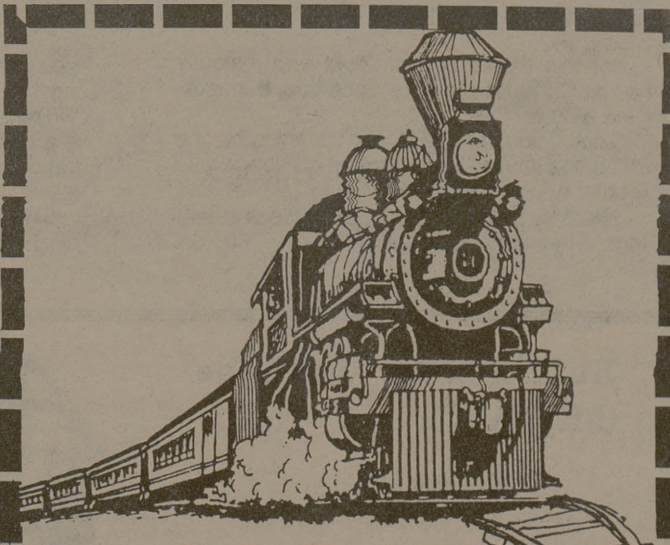
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y want more," says C. L.
Kurten.

located, Yates said. After leasing, the company drills the well on a 150 square yard location. It takes about 15 days complete a well, he said.

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