

Oil, gas production problems

Broker says Texas officials must join to solve problems

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A Panhandle oil and gas broker said Tuesday the state's elected officials should join together to solve oil and gas production problems in that region, including the "white oil" dispute.

John Slover of Amarillo, who identified himself as a "volunteer spokesman" for mineral and royalty owners, said major oil and gas companies are not playing fair in the Panhandle and he did not specify any company.

Slover said if the majors "don't get someone out there drilling for oil and gas, they force them out of the field. It's just that simple."

Panhandle oil and gas production is likely to become the political hot spot of the 1986 statewide political campaign if something isn't done very soon about it," Slover said.

He said Gov. Mark White, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Speaker Gib Lewis, Comptroller Bob Bullock and Texas railroad commissioners need to get together "in a big room and say, 'Hey folks, let's cure this problem' — No. 1, identify it, and No. 2, set about to cure it."

Slover said White, Hobby and Lewis also should write the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and tell the commission to "get the heck out of our business."

He said if he were a Panhandle oil producer he would ignore a Railroad Commission letter against reporting "white oil" as crude oil. Two legislative committees are reviewing whether the water-white liquid produced by chilling vapors to as low as 20 degrees below zero should be considered crude oil.

Asked if the committee's recommendations might be the answer to the problem, Slover said, "Heck no, not by any means."

White oil operators lost their argument in state district court to count the liquid as oil, and the case filed by white oil interests was appealed to the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin.

Counting the liquid as crude oil enables certain operators to meet commission standards for classifying a well as an oil well, which has pricing and production advantages over gas wells.

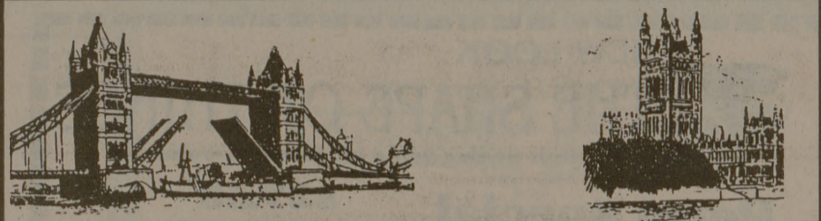
In September, the commission sent letters to the operators of 541 wells that had been retested without refrigeration, or LTX, units, and ordered 271 wells shut-in, effective Oct. 1. Some later passed the oil well test of at least one barrel of oil per

100,000 cubic feet of gas and were reinstated as oil wells.


At the same time, the commission notified all Panhandle field operators that they would have to start storing, measuring, and reporting LTX liquids separately from well-head liquids, beginning with January production.

"If I were an oil producer in the Panhandle, I would personally disregard that letter and would report all lease production as being lease production," Slover said.

He said the letter from Jim Morrow, director of the commission's Oil and Gas Division, "constitutes a blatant disregard for small oil and gas producers, mineral owners, state and local taxing entities, and even for the commission's own formal proceedings and orders."



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Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the Texas A&M University Police Department through Monday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
• A Seiko watch and \$4 were stolen from a room in Dorm 4.
• About \$62 was stolen from a wallet in the Read Building.
• A wallet was stolen from a room in Dorm 10.
• Three wire wheel covers were stolen from a 1985 Chevrolet parked in lot 32.
• Three wire wheel covers were stolen from a 1981 Oldsmobile parked on Ball Street.

FELONY THEFT:
• A 1977 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck was stolen from PA 10.
• A 1977 Chevrolet pickup was stolen from PA 71.
• A 1979 Mercury Cougar was stolen from PA 67.
• A backpack and contents were stolen from the Commons.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:
• An oxygen regulator, acetylene regulator, two hoses and cutting torch were stolen from 40 Zachry Engineering Center.

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:
• Two Model 1 stereo speakers were stolen from a 1976 Datsun 280-Z parked in PA 9.

BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED MACHINE:
• About \$300 was stolen from

a bill changer on the third floor of the Zachry Engineering Center.

ASSAULT:

• A woman reported that while she was on Ball Street, two men wearing cowboy hats drove by and made disturbing comments about her and her husband. She said she became frightened when she overheard one of the men mention something about killing her.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

• A woman reported seeing two men fighting in the Memorial Student Center fountain area.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS:

• A woman reported that while she was sleeping in Briggs Hall, she was awakened by a man standing by her. She said she yelled at him and he ran out of the room.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS/ASSAULT:

• A woman reported that while she was sleeping in Spence Hall, she was awakened by a man who was touching her. The woman said she asked what the man was doing and he replied, "Do you want to make love?" The woman said "No" and the man left the room.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

• A University Police officer reported seeing tire tracks on the drill field by Dorm 11. He said a vehicle had done several doughnuts on the field and had driven over two bushes.

Residents ask state to prohibit issuing of sewage permits

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Residents of Eagle Mountain Lake have asked the state to prohibit new sewage permits in the wake of an influx of thousands of gallons of effluent into its once-clear waters.

One lake resident said he remembers when its waters were so clear that he could read the manufacturer's name on his water skis.

"The clarity of the water just isn't there anymore," Gilmor Lauderdale, 41, said.

The Texas Water Commission in Austin will hear a request Wednesday by members of Save Eagle Mountain Lake Inc. for a moratorium on new sewage permits.

Tarrant County and Fort Worth legislators and the Tarrant County Water District have supported the proposed moratorium.

Save Eagle Mountain Lake, organized by property owners, claims that experts have confirmed the waters are not as clean as they once were. Residents have spotted foam floating on the water and "gobs of green slime."

"It's like something from a horror movie," Lauderdale said of "green globs found near discharge systems."

Residents who once swam in the lake now avoid it.

"I won't swim in it anymore," said Roy Buie, who moved to the lake in 1948. "It used to be clean. Now, it's murky. There's a constant froth."

Lawyer Hal Sparks, who moved to the lake three years ago, said he envisioned fresh air and water and country living.

"It smells horrible in some of the sloughs," Sparks said. "When we first moved here, I had no inkling that anything was amiss. We thought we had moved to a haven free from auto pollution. It turns out we've simply traded one pollution for another."

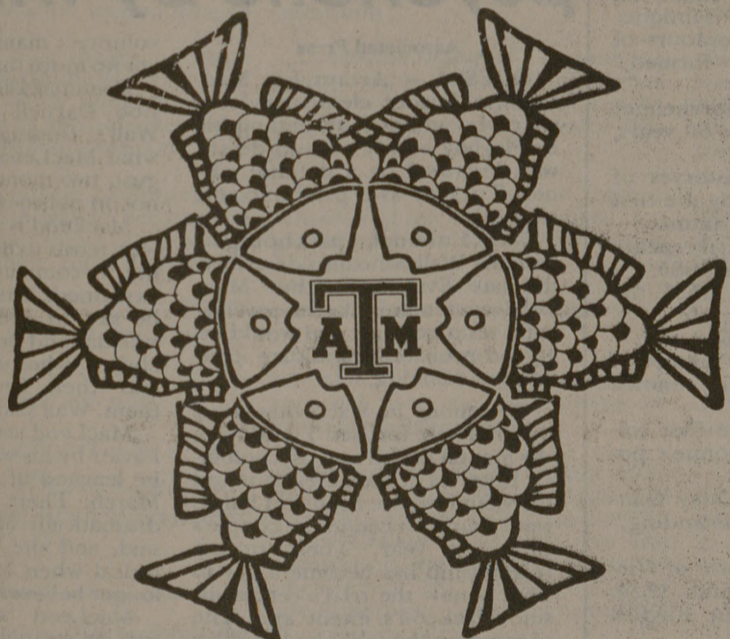
Save Eagle Mountain Lake was organized after the water commission sent notices of a permit application for more wastewater disposal in the lake.

The anti-pollution group has grown from 11 members who met for the first time last March to more than 300 members. They have spent about \$30,000 in legal and research fees.

The group learned that 12 permits, including those of the cities of Azle and Newark, allow nearly one million gallons of wastewater to enter the lake daily.



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