31st ANNUAL ROTARY RIG CENSUS

371 rigs pared from U.S.A. fleet
31st Annual Rotary Rig Census

The 1983 Reed Rock Bit Company’s 31st Annual Rotary Rig Census presented by Drilling, the Weilsite Publication finds that the domestic rig fleet has been reduced by 371 rigs and utilization drops to 48.2 percent. For all the details turn to...

THE ROTARY RIG CENSUS

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About the cover — Rated to 16,000 ft, Latshaw Drilling Company Rig 1 is shown on location in Chambers County, Texas in the days right after Hurricane Alicia. Fifteen miles from High Island, they got 8-in. of water on this location — but the new location on East Bay got 4 ft. Both wells are for Prudential Drilling, an E&P subsidiary of Gulf States Utilities. Photo by Trent B. Latshaw, president, Latshaw Drilling.
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**the morning report**

Location: Grant County, Washington, Sec. 9, T15N, R25E

Well Designation: BN 1-9

Operator: Shell Oil Co.

Contractor: Brinkerhoff-Signal, Rig 53, a National rated to 20,000 ft.

Update: Operator designated the well a tight hole in mid-September with little technical or geological information being released. A show of gas developed in mud returns September 18 from a zone at around 12,000 ft. Gas was being flared at last report. Volume of gas was described as "not much but enough to flare." Drilling was continuing below 12,000 ft.

Significance: Permitted to 20,000 ft, the BN 1-9 is potentially the deepest well drilled in Washington. (See Drilling’s Morning Report, June ‘83) Though far too soon to evaluate, the show of gas offers encouragement for commercial production in a remote region. The well is in the Saddle Mountains about 25 miles west of Othello. Wellsite is about 175 miles east-northeast of nearest production, which is in Oregon's Mist gas fields. There is no commercial oil or gas production in Washington at present. BN 1-9 was spudded December 20, 1982. A fishing job was under way in mid-April 1983 at 5621 ft. By mid-May operator was drilling ahead below 6500 ft. Another fishing job developed in July at 8390 ft. Logging operations were under way in mid-August at 8773 ft.

Location: Beckham County, Oklahoma Sec. 1, T9N, 22W

Well Designation: Robinson No. 1-1

Operator: GHK Petroleum Co.

Update: In mid-July Parker’s Rig 201 was drilling ahead at

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Drilling, October 1983
Robinson No. 1-1
26,969 ft. Spudded 7/6/81; 20-in. to 4994 ft; 13½-in. to 15,437 ft; 7¼-in. to 23,326 ft; lost fish, plugged back to 19,116 ft. Being operated as a tight hole in mid-September, reported to be fishing. Depth at 28,365 ft.

Significance: Permitted to 33,000 ft, the well will be the deepest hole in the U.S.A. if it surpasses the nearby Bertha Roger’s 31,441 ft TD.

Location: Los Angeles County, California.
Sec. 23, T4N, R17W, in the Castiac Junction field area.

Well Designation: NL&F 78

Operator: Exxon Corp.

Contractor: Brinkerhoff-Signal Rig 90

Update: In early July, the well was sidetracked around a fish at 16,122 ft. By September 20, operator was drilling ahead below 18,030 ft toward a 25,000 ft record depth target.

Significance: The 78 NL&F is being followed closely for both geological and technological reasons. A state depth record would be set if the hole reaches below the Sandhills No. 64X-34 drilled by Tenneco and Superior to 22,711 ft in 1974. Previous deepest well in the field is Exxon’s NL&F 65 drilled to 14,426 ft in 1959.

Location: Atlantic Ocean, Wilmington Canyon Block 587

Well Designation: Civet

Operator: Shell Offshore Inc.

Contractor: Sonat Offshore, Discoverer Seven Seas

Update: As of September 26, the BOP riser was in place and they were drilling ahead at 4300 ft below mud line and 10,780 ft below sea level in 6448 ft of water. Rig arrived on location late which will delay second and third holds, the Hyena and Eland wells.

Significance: Shell has scheduled three of five wells in a deep water exploration program. The first well, the Civet, spudded in late July in Wilmington Canyon Block 587. The well will be drilled in 6448 ft of water to a projected depth of 14,600 ft below sea level by Sonat Offshore’s Discoverer Seven Seas drillship (which drilled the current water depth record well, the GLP-1, in 5624 ft of water in the Mediterranean). The next two locations are the Hyena and the Eland to be drilled in Blocks 372 and 586, in waters up to 7800 ft deep.