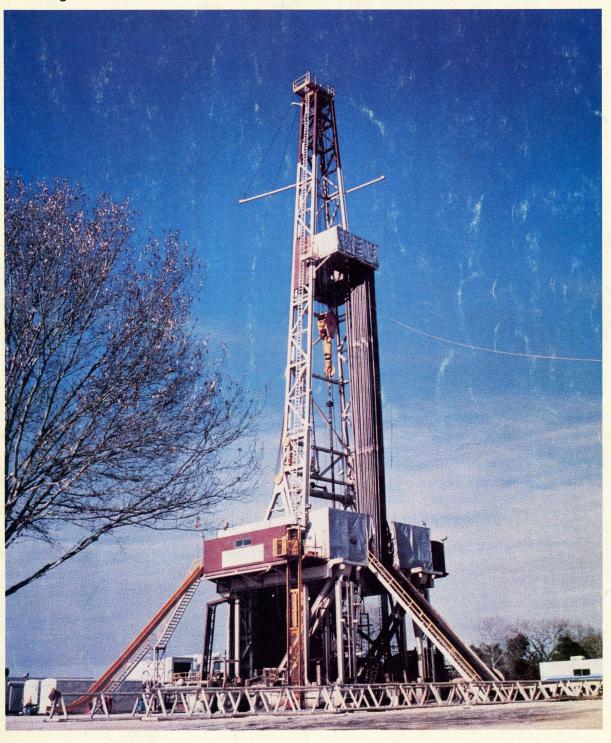
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PURPOSE

DRILLING CONTRACTOR is published for IADC to communicate with drilling contractors; with the operators whom they serve; with manufacturers, suppliers and service companies that serve the oilwell drilling industry; and with other interested parties. The Aim of DRILLING CONTRACTOR is to promote understanding and cooperation among these groups, and to foster the safety and welfare of the men, equipment and firms engaged in drilling and equipping the world's wells. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors

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Front Cover: Latshaw Drilling's Rig No. 2 is pictured drilling a 15,000-ft exploratory well for Arco in Lavaca County, TX. The photograph of the 25,000-ft capacity diesel-electric SCR drilling unit was taken by Trent B. Latshaw, company president. The rig has since moved on to another well for Arco, a 17,000-ft exploratory well in Bee County, TX.