



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: The Richardson County Oil Boom, 1938-1942

Full Citation: George C Schottenhamel, "The Richardson County Oil Boom, 1938-1942," *Nebraska History* 60 (1979): 357-370.

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1979RichardsonOil.pdf>

Date: 4/30/2014

Article Summary: Richardson County's first oil boom (1938-1942) was brief. Near the peak of oil prosperity, the valuation of the oil properties was figured at about \$200,000, about one-thirtieth of the total county valuation. The oil boom did not have a substantial inflationary effect upon the cost of living and only a slight effect on the population.

Cataloging Information:

Names: John Morehead, Arthur J Weaver, A R Oaffield, Brick P Edison, Henry Harper, W A Guinn, B G Guinn, Albert Watson, A J Galomba, J C Isaacs, Harold Pritchard, Leonard Stout,

Nebraska Place Names: Salem, Rulo, Humboldt, Falls City, Shubert, Richardson County, Dawson, Auburn, Peru, Barada

Keywords: Rulo Mining Company; Pawnee Royalty Company; Darby Oil Company; Union Oil Company; Dutch Shell of America; Skelly Oil Company; the Meyer farm; Boice Well; *Falls City Journal*; Seismograph Company [Tulsa, Oklahoma]; Searle Refining Company of Omaha; Bucholz Well; Hunton Limestone; Halliburton Oil Rigging Company [Kansas]; The Indian Territory Illuminating Oil and Gas Company [Oklahoma]; Senken and Galomba [Kansas City]; Ed McCord farm; Ogle's Well; Ohio Oil Company; Viola strata; Power Oil Company; D Bohrer Well; Clarence Ord farm; *Richardson County Centennial History*

Photographs / Images: Map adapted from Oil and Gas Journal map, October 31, 1940; Pawnee Royalty Company well number 3; Bucholz number 2

THE RICHARDSON COUNTY OIL BOOM, 1938-1942

By George C. Schottenhamel

In the latter 1930s Richardson County was the scene of feverish excitement. The air was charged with expectation as people thought that any minute might bring news that the prize offered by the Nebraska Legislature for \$15,000 to the first well producing 50 barrels of oil for 60 consecutive days was at hand.¹

Oil contamination had been present for years in a number of southeast Nebraska wells. In 1883 it was reported that an oil vein had been struck at Salem, Nebraska, but the discovery was not exploited. In 1888 the first recorded deep test well in Nebraska—drilled to a depth of nearly 1,300 feet—was made in Rulo by the Rulo Mining Company. Whether the company was searching for coal or oil is unknown, but neither was found.

In 1914 a group of citizens from Richardson County, among them former governors John Morehead and Arthur J. Weaver, gathered a large block of oil and gas leases in western Richardson County south of Humboldt with the intention of drilling a test well for oil and gas. However, World War I intervened, bringing an end to their plans.

As early as November 24, 1938, the *Falls City Journal* announced in carefully guarded language that oil drilling at three sites was under way.² Following that brief announcement the *Journal* fell strangely silent until Saturday, January 7, 1939, when it revealed that A. R. Oaffield of Rockdale, Texas, had already recorded four oil and gas leases but was reputed to have 300 unrecorded leases representing at least 30,000 acres of land in the county. In addition to that, the Pawnee Royalty Company held deeds to 50,000 acres, and Darby Oil Company had started taking oil and gas leases in the vicinity of nearby Shubert, Nebraska.³ The competition grew hot and heavy within a week, when the agent of the Union Oil Company

representing Dutch Shell of America opened an office in Falls City with the announced intention of leasing potential oil and gas land in the vicinity.⁴

The big national companies were now in the game. Dutch Shell was the first. In two weeks it was announced that Skelly Oil Company had entered the competition for leases with the intention of sinking the first well and winning the Nebraska bonus.⁵

By the end of February, the *Journal* sadly admitted that the Pawnee Company's test on the Meyer farm was at an end, but the information gathered from the drilling had indicated to oil men that a large oil formation did exist in the area.⁶ With this encouraging news the reader might have expected that exploratory wells would soon be drilled, but it was eight months before the *Journal* had further news for its readers. On November 6, 1939, it announced that oil was being obtained from the Boice well but that several days of pumping would be necessary before the amount of the flow could be determined.⁷ The next day the announcement came that the Boice well was pumping 130 to 150 barrels a day, far more than enough to meet the 50 barrel-a-day requirement stipulated by the state for the prize.⁸

The Boice well became a big attraction for the curious, who "puddled the oil with their fingers and poured it into pop bottles and tin cans."⁹ The *Falls City Journal* reported that on November 2, 1939, 25,000 people visited the well site.¹⁰ The owner of the property lived on a farm in Nashua, Iowa, and two of his friends visited him to relay the news of his good fortune, expecting him to be overjoyed. However, he seemed sorry to hear about it. "Here I have been getting along fine, and now this oil has got to come along and spoil it." They urged him to accompany them back to Nebraska for an on-site inspection of his property, but he refused, saying, "Nope, maybe I'll go back next summer to have a look."¹¹

As early as November, 1938, Brick P. Edison, representing the Pawnee Oil Company, had appeared in Falls City, quietly taking leases. Within six weeks he had obtained a huge block of acreage in Richardson County, and in May, 1939, Pawnee sent in a team to make a seismographic survey of its holdings. The findings had led to the drilling of the dry hole at the Meyer farm and to the Boice, the first producing well in southeast Nebraska.¹²

The \$15,000 prize for producing the first successful oil well in the state seemed within reach when the *Journal* stated that the Seismograph Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was moving a crew into the area and expected to start exploratory work soon.¹³

Just two days later the news came that the Pawnee Royalty Company intended to sink a new well in the area within the next week, to be located about two miles southwest of the Boice well.¹⁴ Henry Harper, contractor for the Pawnee Company wells, had set up an office in the city. This was regarded as significant because he was the owner of five strings of drilling tools located in Texas.¹⁵

Oil from Richardson County wells was at this time being trucked to Omaha to be refined. The *Journal* took a rather dim view of the contract between Pawnee Royalty Company and Searle Refining Company of Omaha, which called for sending Falls City oil from the Boice well to Omaha. It was confident this didn't "mean that a refinery will never be built in the area."¹⁶ As soon as production was sufficient, a refinery would probably be built in Falls City or Rulo.¹⁷

On November 16, 1939, operators of the Boice well notified the state they were beginning official production. The Nebraska oil bonus competition required it to produce 50 barrels of oil for each of 60 consecutive days.¹⁸ It looked as if the bonus would be theirs, when it was revealed that in the first three days of pumping, the Boice had already produced 188 barrels of oil.¹⁹

Activity in petroleum production had an effect on the population of the area. On November 22, 1939, the *Journal* stated that about 40 persons arrived in the preceding week and all but two of the new families had been successful in securing living quarters.²⁰ The news continued to be good through the rest of the month. The Boice was producing on schedule. The *Journal* said that one source had estimated the potential recovery of oil from the Falls City area during the next few years would be at least 100,000,000 barrels. Not only that, but a Wyoming promoter hoped to build a refinery in the area with Falls City capital.²¹

Just a few days later a pall of gloom hovered over the city when the *Journal* sadly revealed that pumping had halted on the Boice well just as it had nearly finished its 19th day of operation.²² Production was stopped for repairs. However, all was

not lost, for arrangements were under way to drill a new well south of Dawson with a newly invented rotary rig.²³

On January 24, 1940, the *Journal* regretfully stated that the Boice well had already produced enough oil to meet the conditions of the bonus, but Pawnee Royalty Company which operated the well would not win the coveted award because the 60 consecutive day requirement had not been met.²⁴ Production had been halted on the Boice well when it was discovered that it had begun to pump water rather than oil. The company theorized that a layer of water separated two strata of oil. On May 18, 1940, corrective measures were taken—sinking a cement cap around the well.²⁵ On a more hopeful note the paper revealed that the Bucholz well was flowing at the rate of 330 barrels a day.²⁶

Pawnee Royalty Company officials were not easily discouraged. Even while work was progressing in an attempt to correct the situation at the Boice well, they had brought two new rotary rigs into the area and were planning to sink a test hole near the Boice field.²⁷ Their contractor, Harry Harper, undaunted by the adversity suffered by the company, planned to drill a new hole on land he owned just southeast of the gushing Bucholz well.²⁸ His faith was justified, for within a month that well was producing 30 barrels hourly.²⁹

It will be recalled that oil was first suspected to be in the Falls City area in 1938, the field then expanding into the area between Humboldt and Dawson. But by May, 1940, the *Journal* announced that plans had been made to sink two new wells near Auburn, nearly 40 miles north of Falls City.³⁰

The prospect of oil in southeast Nebraska was attracting the attention of oil men in the Midwest, resulting in a large delegation of them descending on the Pawnee Royalty Company as it was completing its new Bucholz well.³¹ They did not have long to wait, for the next day oil was discovered in the Hunton Limestone. Oil similar in quality to that derived from the Boice well flowed at the rate of 25 to 30 barrels a day without pumping.³² Word of the strike quickly spread through Falls City, and before long it seemed that virtually the city's entire population was at the scene.

Pawnee Royalty Company consisted of two brothers, W. A. and B. G. Guinn. They rarely spoke for publication, preferring to work behind the scenes and to allow the company to deal

with reporters. Pawnee was a small independent, risking all on the chance of striking it rich. This was their third venture in the area. The first had been dry; the second, Boice well, had started out favorably but would soon begin to pump water.³³ Although the Bucholz looked good from the start, it was decided that acidizing the well would help. The purpose of the acid was to open veins between the well and the oil strata. The Halliburton Oil Rigging Company from Kansas would do the job. Acid was to be applied in separate doses of about 500 gallons each.³⁴ The operation was accomplished with great success, for after acidation the Bucholz was flowing at the rate of 330 barrels a day with pumping.³⁵

The arrival of the Bucholz was attended by a flurry of activity over oil leases in the nearby area, as experienced oil men attempted to capitalize on the find. The right to lease oil rights in this area now more than doubled when Albert Watson of Midland, Texas, purchased oil and gas rights for 77 acres at \$2.00 per acre.³⁶ Two days later the *Journal* reported that Skelly Oil was buying leases in the area to the southeast of the Bucholz well.³⁷

The Skelly Company sent in a crew of 55, about 10 of whom were looking for housing for their families. On May 20 the *Journal* noted that they were able to find housing but that there was a need for temporary furnished housing, adding that there was no real shortage of housing.³⁸

Fortune seemed to be smiling on Pawnee Oil Company. With the Bucholz producing at the rate of 330 barrels a day, it looked as if the Boice might be made to produce too. A cement cap had sealed off the water and the well was now producing pure oil.³⁹ With a pump the Bucholz would increase production to 600 to 800 barrels a day. However, the present production of the Bucholz alone was taxing the refinery facilities. Searle Oil Refining Company of Omaha had a contract to take the oil but found it difficult to handle more.⁴⁰

May 28, 1940, Falls City was aflame with the cry: "The oil well is on fire." A vast cloud of black smoke was emanating from the site of the Bucholz well. Fortunately the well was not burning; it was only a cleaning operation. Oil in the slag pit prevented water from evaporating, and the oil was being burnt off.⁴¹

The Indian Territory Illuminating Oil and Gas Company, one of the oldest and largest producing companies in Oklahoma,

owned oil rights to 800 acres of land near Shubert, Nebraska. Written into its lease was the provision that a well be drilled by July 1, 1940, or the company would lose the lease.⁴² The company began drilling in June.

The search for oil expanded throughout Richardson County, to the south into Missouri, and on the north about 50 miles into the area around Peru. A. J. Galomba, one of the owners of the big oil supply company Senken and Galomba of Kansas City, in partnership with J. C. Isaacs, also of that city, was drilling two wells in the Peru area.⁴³

While the oil fields were expanding rapidly and new wells were nearing completion, there was at least one discouraging note: finding a market for the oil. The Bucholz well was turning over its entire output to the Searle Oil Refinery of Omaha, which now was operating at full capacity. Harry Harper's new well near the Bucholz gave promise of being the biggest well in the area, flowing at the rate of 30 barrels per hour when it had to be shut off to await the expansion of market facilities.⁴⁴ It seemed apparent to residents of Falls City that their community was the natural site for the erection of refining facilities. Even while one well was shut down because of the lack of a market, there remained those who were confident of the future, especially after the oil fever hit Nebraska City about 70 miles to the north. A group of Nebraska Cityans had gotten together oil rights to a block of 16,000 acres and were beginning to drill a well at the Ed McCord farm about 1½ miles south of that city.⁴⁵

Free oil had been found at Ogle's well in the Dawson area before testing was completed. Production there would mean the opening of an entirely new oil field, for it was at least 10 miles from the nearest producing well.⁴⁶

All of the new drilling activity had brought new businesses to Falls City. The oil supply firm of Senken and Galomba disclosed plans to open a branch store in the city. This would be the third establishment of that kind in Falls City.⁴⁷

On July 13, 1940, the *Falls City Journal* proudly gave notice that the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil and Gas Company had successfully drilled a producing well in its Schlabler Kutler field near Shubert. There were now three distinct oil fields: Richardson County, Dawson, and Shubert.⁴⁸

Lack of refinery facilities in the area and the resulting poor

market for crude oil produced led to many experiments in developing a demand. The city of Humboldt was applying crude oil to its streets. Swift Lumber and Fuel Company of Lincoln purchased 500 barrels from the Uhri well south of Dawson. Through a simple steaming process it planned to evaporate a portion of the gasoline content in order to reduce the flash point, thus making it suitable for furnace heating.⁴⁹

On July 26, 1940, Pawnee Oil Company was in the 59th day of its official 60 day test for the prize of \$15,000 offered by the Nebraska Legislature in 1900 to the first oil well producing 50 barrels of oil for 60 consecutive days. The Bucholz well would easily meet the requirements, since it produced at an average of 169½ barrels a day, but the prize could not be legally paid to the well owners because there was no authority for appropriation of the money. A 1903 act could be interpreted as an appropriation, but Attorney General Walter Johnson ruled that it had lapsed, since it had not been paid before the adjournment of the next regular session of the Legislature. A new appropriation would have to be made.⁵⁰ It wasn't until January, 1931, that Senator Otto Kotouc of Humboldt introduced a \$15,000 appropriations bill to the Legislature.⁵¹ Finally, on May 14, 1941, the bonus check was presented to the Guinn Brothers by Governor Dwight Griswold.⁵² W. A. Guinn remarked, "The State will benefit far beyond \$15,000 because it is definitely established that there is oil here."⁵³ At the date of the presentation of the check, the Bucholz No. 1 had produced 32,729 barrels of oil and was still producing at a steady pace.⁵⁴

Up to this time all of the wells had been drilled by small operators. It was not until August 2, 1940, that the first of the large oil companies got into the picture. On that date Skelly Oil Company began drilling on the Davidson farm southwest of Falls City. This operation was designed to tap the oil pool from which the Sibbernson well was already producing more than 100 barrels a day.⁵⁵ In the fall of 1940, two developments took place which increased production tremendously. There was an almost ten-fold increase in the production of individual wells, along with a great increase in the number of wells drilled. Until then every producing well had been drilled into the upper level of the Hunton formation of limestone, with 300 to 400 barrels a day per well being considered very good. In June, 1941, that changed abruptly when Ohio Oil Company brought in its Sib-

bernsen No. 1 which was rated at 1,920 barrels a day. This well had been drilled down to the lower level or second pay of the Hunton limestone.⁵⁶ Suddenly oil production from one well increased by leaps and bounds. For instance the Bucholz No. 6 of the Ohio Oil Company was rated at 3,500 barrels a day. Old wells, such as the original Bucholz well, were redrilled to the lower level and given a new lease on life after they began to exhaust the oil in their original bed.⁵⁷

Oil men knew there was a strata about 700 feet underneath the Hunton called the Viola which was thought to be oil bearing. In August, 1940, at the Clarence Ord farm near Auburn, when they found no oil at either Hunton layer, they drilled lower until they had penetrated the Viola some 60 feet to no avail.⁵⁸ However, men who drilled for oil were not deterred by such setbacks. It became standard practice to continue drilling if little or no oil was found at the Hunton levels. Perseverance paid off two years later when the Power Oil Company's D. E. Bohrer well struck oil in the Viola formation.⁵⁹ Even deeper than the Viola was the Arbuckle layer, considered the lowest potential oil-carrying bed. Occasionally wells were sunk into the Arbuckle if nothing worthwhile developed at higher levels. This was a last desperate gamble to avoid coming up with a dry hole and did not prove to be successful in the case of the Bohrer well.⁶⁰

August 26, 1940, the *Falls City Journal* reported eight producing wells in Richardson County.⁶¹ In two scant months that number had more than doubled to 19.⁶² Within three months there were 30.⁶³ This rapid increase in the number of producing wells was due to the oil men's strategy of heading off competitors. When an oil field was discovered, the owner of the first well had to sink others in order to get as much oil out of the field as possible because oil men in neighboring plots were pumping out of the same pool.

In an attempt to prolong the life of the oil field and recover every last possible barrel, well owners restricted production voluntarily. In August, 1941, it was estimated that 350,000 barrels a day were being produced, though no well pumped more than half the rate of its possible production.⁶⁴

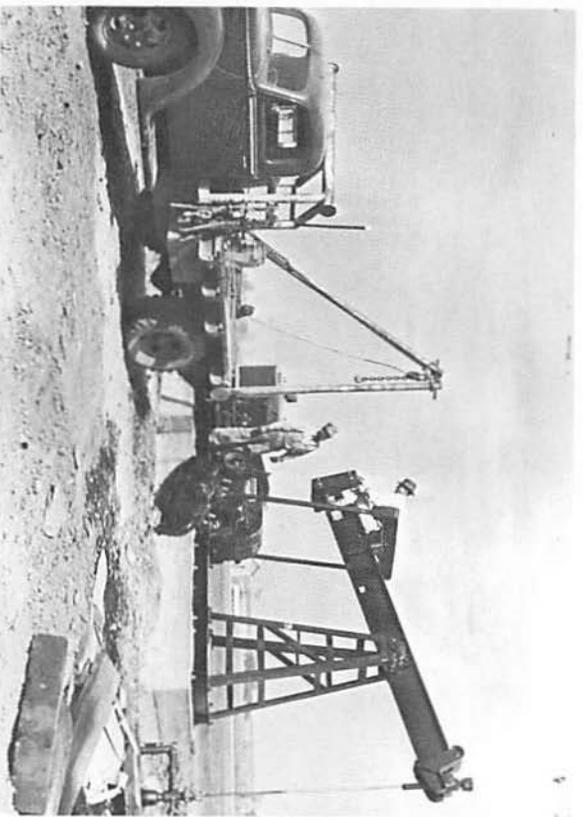
Even while new wells were being discovered, existing wells often had difficulty in disposing of the oil produced. This was particularly true in the summer of 1940, when Falls City had no

refinery. Oil produced at the Bucholz well was being trucked to the Searle Refinery in Omaha. However, the well had to be restricted to about 200 barrels a day to avoid over-taxing the refinery. Other wells had to be capped because there was no outlet for the crude oil at the time. The condition was temporary, for even then plans were being laid to build pipelines to railroads and refineries in the vicinity of Falls City. By October 5, 1940, the *Falls City Journal* was able to announce that two refineries were in operation in the city, with a third being built in Salem, which had the advantage of being between the Falls City oil field and the one just south of Dawson, Nebraska.⁶⁵ When the plants were completed, they would have the capacity to refine about 7,500 barrels a day. Production from all of the wells was about 6,500 barrels a day.⁶⁶

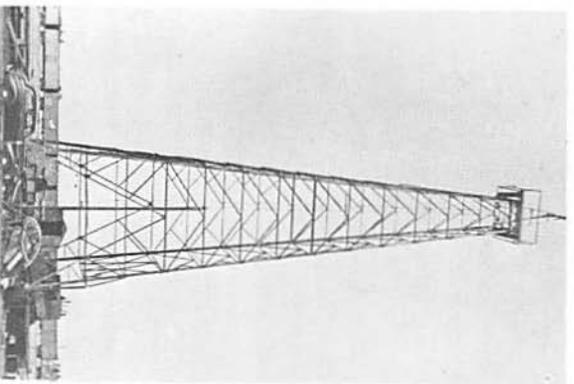
While the refineries were being built, there were two significant developments taking place in southeast Nebraska oil fields. First of all Skelly Oil Company had found and was developing a new oil field near Barada, north of Falls City.⁶⁷ The Skelly Company must have been confident of its new field, for with only a few wells sunk it had contracted for a 10 mile pipe line 4 inches in diameter to transport crude oil to a loading rack at Falls City where the Missouri Pacific Railroad was to provide a spur to receive the project. The cost of the pipeline was estimated to be between \$35,000 and \$40,000.⁶⁸

Falls City was stunned when it was revealed that Guinn Brothers had sold their oil holdings in Kansas and Nebraska to Ohio Oil Company for about \$100,000,000. Payment consisted of what was said to be a cash consideration of several hundred thousand dollars and a substantial override on all the oil produced in the future. An "override" was defined as a portion of the value of the oil produced without any production expense deducted from it.⁶⁹

In December, 1940, oil production from the southeast Nebraska area had amounted to about 75,000 barrels of oil for the month.⁷⁰ Just three months later production had reached a high of 133,400 during the month of March.⁷¹ In August production mounted to 199,000 barrels. It seemed that the rate would climb in the future.⁷² Yet September, 1941, showed a decline of 33,000 barrels under August. Producers were having difficulty in selling their crude oil once more.⁷³ This time it was not lack of refineries that plagued them but high freight



Pawnee Royalty Company well number 3.



Buchholz number 2.

rates. On September 18 the *Falls City Journal* complained that "new rates on fuel oil and crude favoring Wyoming and Mississippi fields have shoved southeast Nebraska out of a market rightfully belonging to the area." R. D. Swan, president of Mid-States Refining Company, made this statement in a letter to the Nebraska Railway Commission:

Southeast Nebraska has approximately 5,000 barrels a day more than can be sold. Mississippi oil moving into Chicago: 1,100 miles is twenty cents per hundred weight, while crude and fuel⁷⁴ sent from Falls City to Des Moines 225 miles is twenty one cents per hundred weight.

On December 18 the Missouri Pacific and the Burlington railroads requested the Interstate Commerce Commission to allow oil coming from this area to be competitive with other areas.⁷⁵ However, even after the disadvantageous freight rates were settled, the oil industry had other problems to worry about.

National production of crude oil had mounted until the market was becoming glutted. On December 24, 1941, Secretary Harold Ickes of the Interior Department as well as oil coordinator, wired Nebraska Governor Griswold that Nebraska's assigned crude oil production quota was 5,600 barrels per day.⁷⁶ Southeast Nebraska was producing about 5,000 barrels of oil a day at this time. However, it was not a matter of immediate concern since no other section of the state was then producing oil.⁷⁷

The last month in 1941 witnessed a decline in oil production and each month in 1942 saw a continuation of the same trend. The oil fields were being pumped dry. National production on the other hand was more than enough to meet the demand. In order to protect prices, Harold Ickes was forced to reduce the Nebraska quota still further in April of 1942 to 4,500 barrels of oil. However, that would be more than ample because oil production in southeast Nebraska had steadily declined in the last five months from nearly 200,000 barrels to about half that or 90,000 barrels per month.⁷⁸

Richardson County's first oil boom had been brief, lasting only three short years. Near the peak of oil prosperity, the valuation of the oil properties was figured at about \$200,000.⁷⁹ Since the total valuation of tangible property in the county was \$2,648,852, the valuation of the oil property was about one-thirtieth of the total valuation.⁸⁰

What was the effect of the oil boom on Falls City? At times

the *Falls City Journal* speculated that the boom would occasion a shortage of housing, particularly a shortage of furnished apartments. Many workers in the oil fields were transient; members of units employed by the geological survey, for example, might be employed only for a month or so before moving to another place. On April 1, 1940, of 5,511 dwelling units in Richardson County, all but 214 were occupied. In Falls City itself housing was a little tighter. There were only 1,754 housing units and all but 19 were occupied.⁸¹ The *Journal* felt that furnished housing was likely to be in shortest supply, but on October 2, 1941, at the height of the oil boom, the paper listed seven three-to-four room furnished apartments and one furnished room for rent. This was typical of that month.⁸² Compared to about three years earlier when the boom was starting, it appeared that there was more housing available in 1941. For instance on December 21, 1938, the *Journal* listed no furnished houses, one furnished apartment, and one furnished room for rent. That too was fairly typical of that month.

In an interview with Harold Pritchard, who wrote *Richardson County Centennial History*, he indicated he did not think Falls City had a big boom because of the oil industry.⁸³ On the other hand, Leonard Stout, who arrived in Falls City to work on the oil rig in 1940, said he had a difficult time finding suitable housing and finally found someone willing to share his home with him. Rents, he thought, were higher than in other places.⁸⁴

The finding of oil in Falls City also seemed to have little effect upon the price of food. Roast beef in March, 1941, was 17¢ a pound as compared to 18¢ in 1938. Bacon was 27¢ in 1941 compared to 29¢ in 1938. Ground beef was two pounds for 29¢ as compared to two for 29¢ in 1938, while coffee was three pounds for 62¢ in 1941 and three for 37¢ in 1938. Food prices in both Omaha and Nebraska City seemed to be about the same as in Falls City.⁸⁵

It is an accepted economic principle that a total investment of \$200,000 in oil will not bring the return that a similar investment in many enterprises would produce for a city. A large share of the profits are drained out of the city by outside owners of stock and even royalty leases. For instance, the owner of the Boice well lived in Nashua, Iowa, and never saw the wells producing on his Nebraska farm.⁸⁶

In March, 1956, the *Falls City Journal* reported that the

Barada field alone had produced twice as much crude as any other single field in Nebraska.⁸⁷ Yet the village of Barada, in the heart of that vast pool of oil, today has a population of only 58.⁸⁸

In conclusion, one could not say that the oil boom in Falls City had an inflationary effect upon the cost of living. Although the discovery of oil in the Falls City area did result in a slightly increased population and a few new stores, it came at a time when passenger traffic on the railroads was waning, and the extensive railroad repair shops in the city were declining. This undoubtedly tempered the effects of the oil boom.

NOTES

1. HR 306, Laws of Nebraska, Laws and Joint Resolutions passed by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, 28th Session, April 8, 1903.

2. *Falls City Journal*, November 24, 1938.

3. *Ibid.*, January 7, 1939.

4. *Ibid.*, January 14, 1939.

5. *Ibid.*, February 7, 1939.

6. *Ibid.*, February 28, 1939.

7. *Ibid.*, November 6, 1939.

8. *Ibid.*, November 7, 1939.

9. *Lincoln Journal*, November 3, 1939.

10. *Falls City Journal*, November 3, 1939.

11. *Omaha World-Herald*, November 8, 1939.

12. *Falls City Journal*, November 12, 1939.

13. *Ibid.*

14. *Ibid.*, November 14, 1939.

15. *Ibid.*

16. *Ibid.*, November 15, 1939.

17. *Ibid.*

18. *Ibid.*, November 16, 1939.

19. *Ibid.*, November 23, 1939.

20. *Ibid.*, November 22, 1939.

21. *Ibid.*, December 1, 1939.

22. *Ibid.*, December 9, 1939.

23. *Ibid.*

24. *Ibid.*, January 24, 1940.

25. *Ibid.*, May 18, 1940.

26. *Ibid.*

27. *Ibid.*, April 10, 1940.

28. *Ibid.*, May 25, 1940.

29. *Falls City Journal*, June 20, 1940.

30. *Nebraska City News Press*, May 28, 1940.

31. *Falls City Journal*, May 6, 1940.

32. *Ibid.*, May 7, 1940.

33. *Ibid.*, May 14, 1940.

34. *Ibid.*, May 9, 1940.

35. *Ibid.*, May 13, 1940.

36. *Ibid.*
37. *Ibid.*, May 15, 1940.
38. *Ibid.*, May 20, 1940.
39. *Ibid.*, May 18, 1940.
40. *Ibid.*, May 27, 1940 and June 8, 1940.
41. *Ibid.*, May 28, 1940.
42. *Ibid.*, June 5, 1940.
43. *Ibid.*, May 28, 1940.
44. *Ibid.*, June 20, 1940.
45. *Ibid.*, June 24, 1940.
46. *Ibid.*, June 25, 1940.
47. *Ibid.*, June 12, 1940.
48. *Ibid.*, July 13, 1940.
49. *Ibid.*, July 23, 1940.
50. *Ibid.*, July 26, 1940.
51. *Ibid.*, January 16, 1941.
52. *Ibid.*, May 14, 1941.
53. *Ibid.*, July 27, 1940.
54. *Ibid.*, May 14, 1941.
55. *Ibid.*, August 2, 1940.
56. *Falls City Journal*, June 25, 1941.
57. *Ibid.*, August 7, 1941.
58. *Ibid.*, August 22, 1940.
59. *Ibid.*, March 31, 1942.
60. *Ibid.*, August 17, 1940.
61. *Ibid.*, August 26, 1940.
62. *Ibid.*, October 21, 1940.
63. *Ibid.*, January 1, 1941.
64. *Ibid.*, August 10, 1941.
65. *Ibid.*, October 5, 1940.
66. *Ibid.*, November 6, 1940.
67. *Ibid.*, September 10, 1941.
68. *Ibid.*, November 25, 1941.
69. *Ibid.*, November 14, 1940.
70. *Ibid.*, January 7, 1941.
71. *Ibid.*, April 12, 1941.
72. *Ibid.*, October 16, 1941.
73. *Ibid.*
74. *Ibid.*, September 18, 1941.
75. *Ibid.*, December 16, 1941.
76. *Ibid.*, December 24, 1941.
77. *Ibid.*
78. *Ibid.*, April 24, 1942.
79. *Ibid.*, July 11, 1941.
80. *Ibid.*
81. *Ibid.*, January 18, 1941.
82. *Falls City Journal*, October 2, 1941.
83. Interview with Harold Pritchard, March 22, 1978.
84. Interview with Leonard Stout, March 22, 1978.
85. *Falls City Journal*, March 20, 1941, December 26, 29, 1938.
86. Larry E. Godwin, "The Exploration, Discovery, and Production of Oil in Richardson County, Nebraska, 1906-1967" (MA thesis, University of Kansas, 1969), 55.
87. *Falls City Journal*, March 29, 1956.
88. Richardson County Assessor, September 13, 1978.