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PETROLEUM

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Wells in Pico Cañon.

The operations of Pico Cañon were among the earliest successful attempts to produce oil in California. As early as 1850 Andreas Pico had been collecting seepage oil, which he distilled with a copper still and worm, making burning oil for the San Fernando Mission, and in later years oil so collected was shipped by wagon to Polhemus refinery at Los Angeles, and even to the Metropolitan Gas Works at San Francisco. It is recorded that on January 28, 1867, twelve barrels of oil were shipped from Pico Cañon, and in 1874 the output is said to have been as high as ten barrels per day, this being entirely seepage oil.

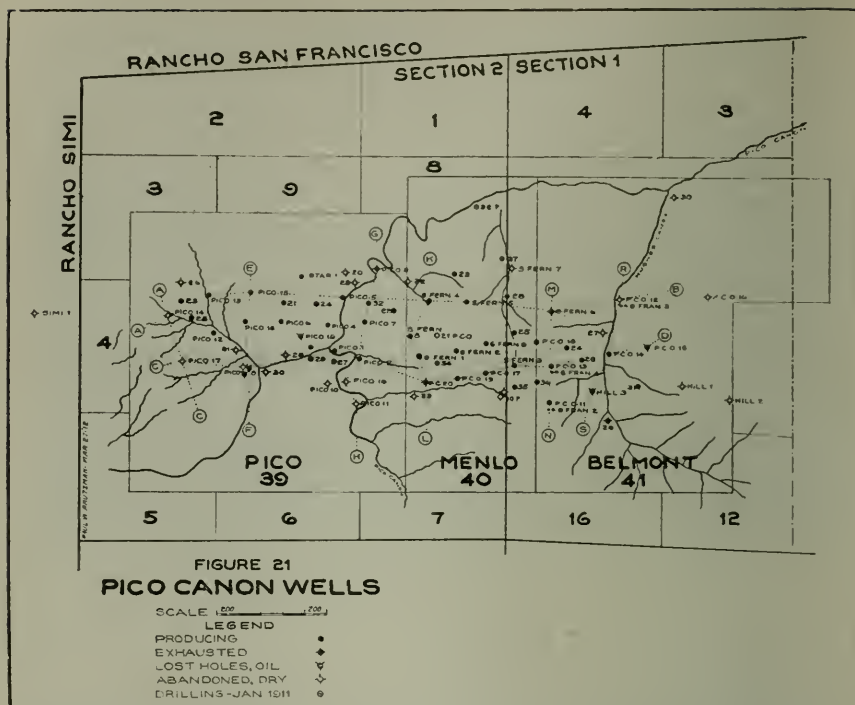
A well is said to have been drilled in this cañon, by the old spring-pole method, as early as 1869. This well found an encouraging amount of oil (it is hardly likely that the original statement that this was a "flowing well" is literally true), but the hole was spoiled at a depth of 140 feet.

The first producing well at this location was drilled by the California Star Oil Company, of Los Angeles, on the Pico claim, in 1875. In September, 1879, the Pacific Coast Oil Company was incorporated, and commenced drilling on the Menlo claim, just east of the Pico, shortly extending its operations to the Belmont claim, still farther east. This company soon afterward absorbed the Star company, but the numbering of the wells appears to have been kept separate at all times.

In 1882 or 1883 the Hardison & Stewart Oil Company leased what was known as the Hill tract, not now definitely bounded, but located generally south and east of the wells then existing. On this tract they drilled three wells, two of which were dry, the third a small producer, but soon ruined by water. This company also drilled Star No. 1 in Pico Cañon, and two or three wells in DeWitt Cañon.

The rate at which developments proceeded in Pico Cañon will be shown by the tabular list of the older wells, as below. In the year 1902 the entire property of the Pacific Coast Oil Company, covering perhaps half the total area of the entire Newhall field, passed to the Standard Oil Company of California.

Well Records. The total number of wells in the Pico Cañon group, so far as can now be determined, is seventy-eight, of which one is on Rancho Simi; thirty-six are on the Pico claim; eighteen on the Menlo claim, and twenty-three on the Belmont claim. Of the seventy-eight, forty-three were producing in January, 1911, two were drilling, and thirty-three had been abandoned for various reasons. Of wells later than No. 19 on the Pico, and No. 20 on the Menlo and Belmont claims (these latter being numbered together), almost nothing is known. On the contrary, the records of the earlier wells are so unusually complete and entirely authentic that they are here given in detail. It is believed that a care-



ful study of these notes will throw some light on conditions prevailing in Pico, and by analogy on conditions at other points along the so-called "Pico anticline."

The numbering of these wells is somewhat complicated, as various series of numbers have been started at different times, and later merged in other series. Fortunately, however, with but one exception, no two wells having the same number have been located in any one claim, and the claim name and the present series number are, therefore, in all cases, sufficient identification. In the following table both the present number and the older number, if any, are given:

Tabular List of Pico Cañon Wells.

From original records.

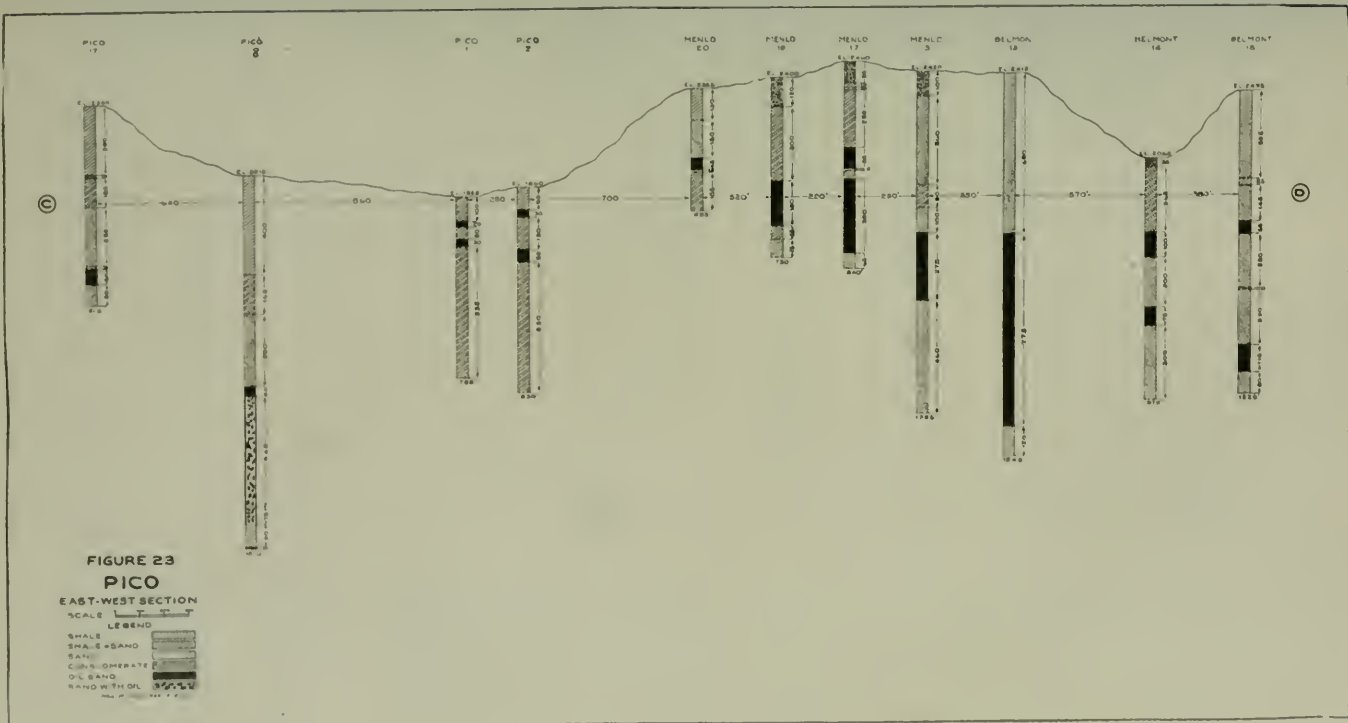
Present number.	Claim.	Old number.	Year.	Depth	Remarks.
Star 1	Pico		1883	1650	Drilled by Hardison & Stewart. 30 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
Pico 1	Pico		1875	700	5 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing. Drew its oil from close to surface. Craig says in "break."
Pico 2	Pico		1875	900	5 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing. Got oil both farther up and farther down than No. 1.
Pico 3	Pico				Not accounted for in 1887.



Tabular List of Pico Cañon Wells—Continued.

From original records.

Present number.	Claim.	Old number.	Year.	Depth	Remarks.
Pico 4 -----	Pico -----	-----	1876	1000	30 barrels in 1887. Yielded 75 barrels at first, at 600 feet, but fell off to 14 barrels and was then deepened. Still producing.
Pico 5 -----	Pico -----	-----	1880	1100	25 barrels in 1887. Still producing. 100 feet north of "break."
Pico 6 -----	Pico -----	-----	1880	1500	25 barrels in 1887. Still producing. 300 feet north of "break."
Pico 7 -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	1200	Flowing 40 barrels in 1887. Still producing.
Pico 8a -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	500	Spoiled hole, dry.
Pico 8b -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	1000	Produced 5 or 6 barrels for a short time, then went dry. Say 200 feet south of "break."
Pico 8c -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	1500	Located close to 8b. Dry hole.
Pico 9 -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	1550	35 barrels per day in 1887. 500 feet north of "break." Oil from bottom of hole. Abandoned since 1890.
Pico 10 -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	900	Tools lost at this depth; never produced; flowing trace of oil in 1887. 150 feet south of "break."
Pico 11 -----	Pico -----	-----	1882	1500	Fresh water, a little tar, and a little gas. Dry hole. 250 feet south of "break."
Pico 12 -----	Pico -----	-----	1883	1300	18 barrels per day in 1887. Heavier oil than balance of wells, also more paraffin and more gas. North of "break." Still producing.
Pico 13 -----	Pico -----	-----	1883	1600	40 barrels in 1887. Heavier oil than balance of wells, also more paraffin and more gas. North of "break." Still producing.
Pico 14 -----	Pico -----	-----	1883	1500	Dry hole. Probably south of "break."
Pico 15 -----	Pico -----	-----	1883	1590	Oil near bottom of well. Still producing.
Pico 16 -----	Pico -----	-----	1883	940	A thin streak of sand, and below this sand with a little oil. Abandoned when drilled. South of "break."
Pico 17 -----	Pico -----	-----	1889	810	Some oil near bottom. Lost in running sand. Abandoned when drilled.
Pico 18 -----	Pico -----	-----	1889	1128	Two strata oil. Still producing.
Pico 19 -----	Pico -----	-----	1889	800	Diamond drill hole; spoiled. Ten or more streaks oil sand. Abandoned when drilled. Very small producer.
Pico 20 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 21 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 22 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 23 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 24 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 25 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 26 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 27 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 28 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 29 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 30 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 31 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
Pico 32 -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
Pico 33 (?) -----	Pico -----	-----	-----	-----	A producer, north of No. 29, shown on Standard's 1910 map, not numbered.



Tabular List of Pico Cañon Wells—Continued.

From original records.

Present number.	Claim.	Old number.	Year.	Depth	Remarks.
P. C. O. Co. 1.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 1.	1882	1176	20 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 2.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 2.	1882	1450	40 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 3.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 3.	1882	1375	25 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 4.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 4.	1882	1555	18 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 5.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 5.	1882	1600	15 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 6.	Belmont ----	San Fernando 6.	1882	2330	10 barrels in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 7.	Belmont ----	San Fernando 7.	1882	1900	Dry hole. Abandoned when drilled. Slight traces of black oil.
P. C. O. Co. 8.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 8.	1887	1325	60 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 9.	Menlo-----	San Fernando 9.	1887	1065	Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 10.	Menlo-----	San Francisco 1.	1880	-----	Dry hole; abandoned when drilled. Location on map uncertain.
P. C. O. Co. 11.	Belmont ----	San Francisco 2.	1881	1515	5 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 12.	Belmont ----	San Francisco 3.	1883	1360	Dry hole; no oil whatever. Abandoned when drilled.
P. C. O. Co. 13.	Belmont ----	San Francisco 4.	1883	1550	40 barrels per day in 1887. Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 14.	Belmont ----	-----	1888	975	Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 15.	Belmont ----	-----	1888	1220	Normal amount oil, drowned out by upper water. Abandoned when drilled.
P. C. O. Co. 16.	Belmont ----	-----	1888	-----	Abandoned hole. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 17.	Menlo-----	-----	1889	840	Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 18.	Belmont ----	-----	1889	1200	Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 19.	Menlo-----	-----	1889	730	Still producing.
P. C. O. Co. 20.	Menlo-----	-----	1889	495	Originally small producer. Abandoned since 1890.
P. C. O. Co. 21.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Location uncertain. Probably once a producer; now abandoned.
P. C. O. Co. 22.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 23.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 24.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 25.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 26.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 27.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 28.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 29.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 30.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 31.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 32.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Location uncertain. A well taken to be No. 32 was drilling at the beginning of 1911.
P. C. O. Co. 33.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Abandoned well. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 34.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 35.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 36.	Belmont ----	-----	-----	-----	Producer. No data.
P. C. O. Co. 37.	Menlo-----	-----	-----	-----	Drilling at the beginning of 1911. Said to be a very deep hole, with considerable oil.
Hill 1	Belmont ----	-----	1883	1800	Dry hole. Abandoned when drilled.
Hill 2	Belmont ----	-----	1883	1200	Dry hole. Abandoned when drilled.
Hill 3	Belmont ----	-----	1883	1550	No oil sand, but streaks of oil under shells. Pumped 5 barrels per day for a time; ruined by upper water breaking in.
Simi 1	Rancho Simi.	-----	1884	1300	Dry hole; no oil whatever. Abandoned when drilled.

