Famariss Oil and Service Company
Box 156
Hobbs, New Mexico

July 28, 1948

Should the general order regulating tank cleaning and processing plants as suggested by the Lea County Operator's Committee be adopted by the Commission, it is further suggested by Famariss Oil and Service Company that:

Order No. 726, which was issued to Walter Famariss, Jr. September 9, 1947 be amended as follows:

Under "Finding" of the Commission, paragraph 4 amend by adding the following:
". . . except as provided by Order No._____.

Under Order of the Commission, paragraph 7 amend by adding the following:
". . . except as provided by Order No._____

By the above manner the provisions not covered by the Lea County Operator's suggested order and provided for in Order No. 726 will remain unchanged.

Walter Famariss, Jr.

Some interesting facts concerning tank bottoms are on the following pages. . . .

. . . reading time is less than 3 minutes.

USES

Unfortunately, the processing of tank bottoms in the past has been associated with the running of "hot oil." The processing of tank bottoms by Famariss Oil and Service Company is primarily for the purpose of recovering microcrystalline waxes and NOT FOR CRUDE OIL. Because of this, it is felt the following facts would be of interest.

In the October 1945 issue of World Petroleum the excerpts below appeared in an article written by R. B. Killingsworth of Socony-Vacuum Oil Company:

"The chief disadvantage of paraffin waxes (low meltng-point crystaline wax) is their brittleness . . . (when paraffin wax) . . . is exposed to temperatures of O de. F. the coatings crack and flake off (and at high temperatures, fracture). MICROCRYSTALLINE Waxes do not have this deficiency. In fact, MICROCRYSTALLINE wax films may be flexed at low temperatures without a sign of fracture."

". . . Because of tackiness and toughness MICROCRYSTALLINE waxes are excellent laminants and by combining a paperboard for strength, MICROCRYSTALLINE wax for moisture resistance and a greaseproof paper for protection against fats and oils, a superior wrapping for container for food stuffs may be produced."

". . . (Uses to which MICROCRYSTALLINE waxes have been put, include) . . . shipment of military ordnance parts to all parts of the world . . . (protective coating for) U. S. Army Ration Units . . . in the electrcal industry for protection of capacitors, cables . . . for the manufacture of printing inks, wax polishes and cosmetics."

WHERE FOUND

In the June 1948 issue of World Petroleum, Dr. Ernesto Stossel* states the following:

"For about a decade waxes of very high melting-points have been WORKED UP ON A COMMERCIAL SCALE FROM TANK BOTTOMS. Depending on their origin, these precipitates show different compositions and wax contents and may vary in consistancy from a mushy liquid to a hard solid wax. The waxes with the highest melting points and highest molecular weight are the first to separate from their solution in the crude oil and to SETTLE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE TANKS.

Most of the high melting point petroleum waxes offered to various industries are PRODUCED FROM EMULSIONS FORMED IN TANKS where crude oil has been stored, and these TANK BOTTOMS which a few years ago were considered as waste materials" are valued nowadays in certain fields at a HIGHER PRICE THAN CRUDE OIL. Only a very small percentage of paraffins present in crude oil show melting points above 160 de. F., and a LARGE VOLUME OF CRUDE OIL HAS TO PASS THROUGH THE FIELD TANKS before an appreciable quantity of these waxes accumulate in the tanks.

Some Facts About The Operation Of Famariss Oil and Service Company:

1. Since April 5, when we processed our first barrel of tank bottoms, we have successfully treated 48,000 bbls of emulsion.

2. To our knowledge, our Company has discovered the only method of treating tank bottoms which has proved successful. Until our method was discovered, these bottoms were not successfully treated.

3. The treating cost per bbl. of recovered product is $1.0235.

NOT ONE BARREL!

of recovered product from tank bottoms we have required has ever been sold through a pipe line.

of recovered product has ever been sold as crude oil.

of emulsion or recovered product has even been burned.

of emulsion or recovered product has ever been destroyed or discarded.

of emulsion we process can be used for roads or grades. It is highly undesirable for this purpose as it has no penetrating character.

(*)—Dr. Stossel is associate manager of Paraphalt Argentina. He is a graduate of University of Vienna where he specialized in oxidation of oils. He has worked in Texas on utilization of oil wastes and residues and has been accorded recognition by the War Production Board for his processes for manufacturing strategic chemicals, including microcrystalline waxes. He was the first to realize the IMPORTANCE OF UTILIZING TANK BOTTOMS and crude oil residues for the synthesis of emulsifiable petroleum waxes by oxidation.