

well file

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY

P. O. Box 3312
Durango, Colorado
May 19, 1961

United States Department of the Interior
Geological Survey
P. O. Box 95
Farmington, New Mexico



Dear Sirs:

On May 9, 1961, while cutting core No. 6 at 7113', there was a blowout on our Table Mesa Well 3 No. 18, located in the SE NW of Section 3, T27N, R17W, in San Juan County, New Mexico. We were coring in the Lower Paradox formation when the high pressure gas zone was encountered at 7106'. We had drilled into the high pressure zone approximately 6 feet when the blowout occurred. The weight of the mud was 10.6#, which should have been sufficient to handle the expected 3500 psi. It had been necessary to cut the mud weight from 10.9# to 10.6# earlier due to the fact there was a very bad lost circulation zone between 6100' and 6500'. We had already lost several thousand barrels of mud in this zone. At the time of the blowout we were trying to maintain a mud balance of 10.6# to kill the well and yet not lose circulation.

About 2:30 P.M. on May 9th, the driller noticed the mud was badly gas out. He immediately closed the rams around the 5 inch drill pipe and opened the 3 inch kill line to the pit. The well started blowing all the mud out of the hole through the 3 inch kill line. When they closed the valve on the 3 inch kill line, the rams blew out on the Shaeffer blowout preventer due to the pressure build-up from closing of the kill line.

The blowout preventer was the Shaeffer double-ram type with rams for 5 inch drill pipe and blind rams to close off the hole. It had been tested three times by company personnel with 1500 psi, the capacity of the rig pump. The 5 inch pipe rams failed under pressures higher than 1500 psi.

After the blowout, an attempt was made to kill the well with mud. However, due to lost circulation, part of the mud was lost, and before the well could be completely controlled, the mud supply was exhausted. By the

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY

INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAPITAL PAID UP \$1,000,000
RESERVE FUND \$1,000,000

1914

MAY 2, 1901

THE CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY
DALLAS, TEXAS
DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 28th inst.

has been received. The Continental Oil Company is pleased to hear that you are interested in the oil business. We are a large company with a capital of \$1,000,000 and a reserve fund of \$1,000,000. We are located in Dallas, Texas, and have a large number of wells in operation. We are also interested in the oil business in other parts of the country. If you are interested in the oil business, we would be pleased to hear from you. We would like to know what kind of investment you are looking for and what kind of return you are expecting. We would also like to know what kind of experience you have in the oil business. We would be pleased to discuss this with you at any time.

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time additional mud could be mixed, the force of the escaping gas cut a hole in the drill pipe and the drill pipe parted. This allowed us to close the blind ram and subsequently control the well.

The well was killed on May 13, 1961, by pumping in 12.8# mud. We then set a bridge plug in the 8 5/8 inch casing at 4900' and shut off the well. This allowed us to install a new blowout preventer and manifold to completely control the well. We have since drilled out the plug and are cleaning out to a T.D. of 7113', where we will set 5 1/2 inch casing. We plan to run this casing to surface.

A preliminary gas analysis indicates the Paradox gas is 75% nitrogen and 4.75% helium. It will burn but has a very low BFU value. It is estimated that we vented approximately 100,000 MCF during the blowout.

If any further information is required, please advise.



H. D. Haley
District Superintendent
Durango District
Production Department

HDH-aa

cc: New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission
Altec, New Mexico ✓

Mr. R. E. White
Continental Oil Company
Denver, Colorado

