

FIELDNOTES

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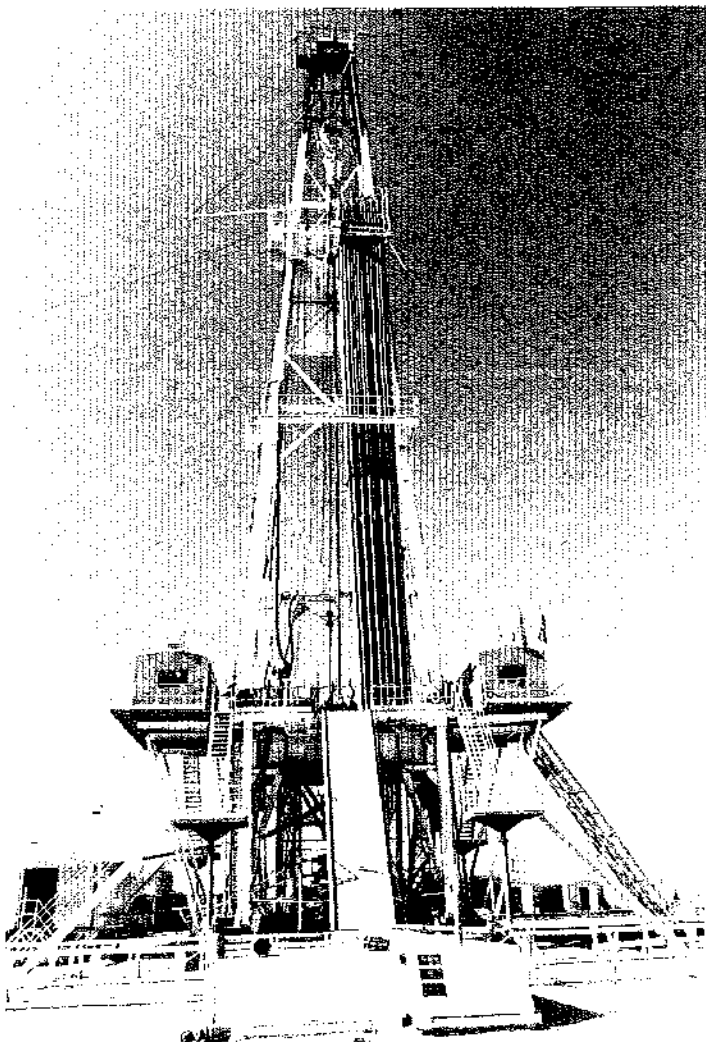
Earth Sciences and Mineral Resources in Arizona

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The Great Southwestern Arizona Overthrust Oil and Gas Play

An Update

by Stanley B. Keith



Parker Drilling Rig number 166 on location in Pinal County, Arizona in January 1981. Ground-to-crown height is about 140 feet.

[February 17, 1981]. Anschutz-Texoma State No. 1-10-2 is his-
tory. On February 14, 1981, Phillips Petroleum, operators of the
hole and the Anschutz-Texoma overthrust play (see *Fieldnotes*,
v. 9, n. 1; v. 10, n. 1), plugged and abandoned the Pinal County
test well. Phillips had become one-third owner of the Anschutz-
Texoma play in September 1980 for about 60 million in cash and
work commitments.

A recent Phillips press release summed up the nine million dollar
test as "an unusual frontier effort" that entered granitic rocks at
about 4,000 feet and terminated in granitic rocks at 18,013 feet
"without encountering any shows of hydrocarbons." The recent
drilling established a new Arizona depth record smashing the old
record of 12,500 feet set in 1972 by Exxon (formerly, Humble Refin-
ing Co.), 15 miles southeast of Tucson. No new statements have
been released on the notorious 'sediment' interval from 12,056 to
12,063 feet that created so much speculation in early October of
last year. Unfortunately, the reported intention of Phillips to transfer
the hole to a joint government-academic consortium for scientific
purposes has apparently been frustrated because of blockage by
lost equipment stuck in the hole at about 12,000 feet.

Meanwhile, about four miles east-southeast of Tombstone, in
Cochise County, Arizona (SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, T. 20S, R. 23E) a
new test permitted for 20,000 feet is scheduled to begin this
spring. This well will be drilled by the same Parker Drilling Co. rig
now being disassembled at the Pinal County well location. Given
the regional geology around the Tombstone drill site, this writer's
prognosis is that the new well will encounter Precambrian rocks
(1.7 b.y. Pinal Schist or, more likely, 1.4 b.y. granite) within 10,000
feet. The author also doubts that the hole will reach anything near
the permitted depth of 20,000 feet and that significant petroleum
shows in this area will be unlikely.

The Pinal County well closes an exciting chapter in the history of
Arizona geologic research. While no thrust fault geology consistent
with the bold and provocative Anschutz overthrust concept was
apparently encountered, this reviewer suspects the well will eventu-
ally yield a wealth of scientific data that supports other models of
low-angle tectonic phenomena related to crystalline rocks in
Arizona. We eagerly await any publication of the Anschutz-Texoma
No. 1-10-2 (also known as Phillips Arizona State A 1) well data and
post-mortem interpretations. \otimes

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