Caddo Lake Area
Petroleum Industry

Historical Summary

Caddo Pine Island Field
Rodessa Field

Sam Collier
February 2008

CLI
DISCOVERY:
Oil at Caddo City

• July 1905 oil at 1,556 feet Caddo Lake Oil and Pipeline Company’s Number One Offenhauser.
• Brothers JS and WA Savage and Frank Morrical drillers.
• Four days before news reached Shreveport.

Tourist Attraction. A July 1906 Sunday outing for the Browning family and others. Walter George home in background.
A Rush to Boom

- 23 new producing wells in 1907.
- 56 new wells in 1908, total production 500,000 barrels.
- 108 new wells in 1909, total production exceeded a million barrels.
- Total production exceeded 5 million barrels in 1910.

A 1907 rotary drilling rig near Oil City
Moving Traffic and Hardware Across Caddo Lake

• Timothy Mooring’s ferry crossed lake here beginning in 1840s.
• Vertical Lift Draw Bridge replaced ferry in 1914.
World’s First Over the Water Oil Well Drilled on Caddo Lake

• May 1911 Gulf Refining Company of Louisiana Proved Their Over the Water Drilling Technique.

• Within 10 years 100s of Wells on Caddo Lake.

• Technique Evolved into Offshore Method.

• Production peaked in 1918 at more than 11,000,000 barrels

Over the water well site typical of Ferry Lake # 1. On each 10-acre site drilling platforms 600 feet apart connected by catwalk to a boiler 100 feet away.
Early Petroleum Recovery
Related Hardware

Steam Pile Driver, Tug Boat, Casing, Atlas Oil, ca 1914, Mooringsport

Wooden Derrick, Oil Well Farm, ca 1916, Mooringsport
Petroleum Industry was less than Eco-friendly Prior to Regulation

Pine Island 1915

Oil City gas geyser 1912

30,000 barrels lost/day 1913
Petroleum Industry was less than Eco-friendly Prior to Regulation

- By 1908 70,000,000 cubit feet of gas burned daily.
- Roar of burning gas was deafening.
- The glow of gas burning at Oil City could be seen from Shreveport.
Petroleum Industry Created Historic Villages

Trees City ca 1925

Preparing for Breakfast 1914 Trees City

Myrtis 1940
Petroleum Industry Created a Town and “Grew” Others

- By 1910 25,000 people were using Oil City’s new post office.
  - Mooringsport’s population quadrupled.
  - Vivian’s population doubled.
  - Between 1935 and 1940 Rodessa area’s population grew to exceed 8,000.
Petroleum Industry Impacted Every Community

Rodessa ca 1940
Mooringsport 1913
Hosston ca 1940
Well Tool Supply Vivian 1918
Petroleum Industry Created Historic Industrial Zone

Stanolind's Superior Refinery ca 1920

Oil Transfer Rack Lewis ca 1915

Weaver Bros & Thompson mill ca 1935

Shoreline Depot ca 1960
Summary

• Petroleum industry was the most significant economic engine in area’s history.
  • North Caddo Parish oil field covers more than 80,000 surface acres.
  • More than 16,000 wells were drilled.
  • More than 400,000,000 barrels of oil recovered.
Bad Whiskey

Highway Sign Oil City 1937