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LOMITA CALIFORNIA

## OLD-TIMER HAS GREAT SCHEME A TRANSCONTINENTAL SYPHON STILL BIGGEST LIAR IN OIL FIELD

By ANANIAS FIBB

"Yes, I've seen lots of promotion schemes in the oil business, from the floating of units by what one guy calls the Awful Crude Oil Company to the famous siphon pipe line project foisted on the folks of Tulsa by a gink named I. M. Wyldie. This I. M. Wyldie bird gets the cut glass drill-stem for cooking up the finest deal that ever combined the laws of nature and the corporation act in a setup calculated to bring the mazzama out of the savings deposits. He serves up a recipe for a siphon pipe line to run from Oklahoma to Tampico. His plan is to build a high tank near Tulsa, run a pipe line to a tank below sea level at Tampico, and carry the crude by the law of gravitation. "And what's more, he sells a million and a quarter berries' worth of stock in this here project before the sheriff arrives with the summons.

### He Builds Line

"Even then he convinces a jury of the soundness of his scheme and gets off with a \$500 fine, which is like assessing a ten-spot against a highwayman who pulls a ten thousand-dollar job. "Anyway, this Wyldie gets out of

jail and proceeds to erect his gigantic siphon. He even gets the tanks and the pipe built, but when the big try is made to get the oil to flow he's about as successful as them wildcat wells in the Mojave. It won't run, just simply won't. He can't get enough suction on the Tampico end to start the flow, and not enough pressure in Tulsa to give it a boost.

"On top of that, them stockholders have the nerve to wax angry, and the last I hears of Mr. Wyldie he is peddling his list of shareholders to birds that have other attractive propositions to place before the approval of the general and gullible public in return for cash money.

### Far From U. S.

"Only this Wyldie is operating from Mexico City, where at that time we couldn't even recognize Mexico by her revolutions, say nothing of going so far as to extradite folks like Wyldie.

"But I'm here to tell you that this Wyldie's siphon scheme was a good one if you could make it work. He operated with his pipe terminals in the wrong place. His knowledge of geography and its effect on human beings was limited.

"He should have worked the California fields with an eye to siphoning crude from here to New York city.

"He'd of made millions and put the wildest dream of other oil magnates in the shadiest of the shades.

### This Is Still Better

"Supposin', for example, he had built a tank thousands of feet high in Los Angeles, piping from this high level, across the mountains, over the desert, above the Rockies, and on over the prairies of the Mississippi basin clear to New York city. In New York, probably on the east side, he could have built a tank below sea level to receive the oil which would be siphoned from L. A. It would have been a cinch!"

"But," I objected, "he would have failed for the same reasons. He couldn't have started the flow. The pack of pressure in Los Angeles and suction in New York would have existed just as in Tulsa and Tampico, respectively." "Which is just where you're wrong," replied the old-time driller. "And which proves again that you are as ignorant as this Wyldie of the effects of climate and environment on human beings.

### It Ought to Work

"With a siphon like the one I suggest, starting in L. A. and ending in New York, the very things the Tulsa-Tampico line lacked would be found at both ends in abundance."

"Come again, and more in detail," I broke in. "I don't get you yet."

"The natives at both ends would provide the necessary pressure and suction," mused the old-timer, "and the flow would start pronto."

"The natives?" I said. "How do you figure that?"

"Yes, the natives," he replied; "blowers and suckers."

"The champion blowers live in Los Angeles. They'd start it. And the world's greatest suckers reside in New York. They'd keep it coming."

And with my eyes expressing for him the deep admiration that was his due, I quietly gave him my hand.

"Whether the plan is good or not," I said, "you've got a great line."

"Not only a great line," he replied; "it's a pipe."

"A pipe dream, you mean," I responded.

"No, a pipe line," he replied, and shoved me off the derrick.

O. W. Von Hagen of Los Angeles was a business visitor in Torrance Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Young entertained at dinner Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stone.

Karl Von Hagen has taken up a pre-medical course at the Southern branch in Los Angeles.

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