

parts and providing a fence as high as six feet.

An eight foot fence, however, was deemed "impractical" and illusory as far as offering safety was concerned.

A fence, it was pointed out, is primarily intended to keep younger children away from the derricks. A six-foot fence was thought adequate for this.

Older children (7 years to 15 years) simply consider fences a challenge and the higher the fence, the greater the challenge.

Keeping older children away from the derricks requires education and the cooperation of the parents, it was maintained.

II. The removal of all existing sumps and prohibiting the digging or use of sumps in the future, excepting only sumps of a portable nature.

This is intended to require oilmen to pipe the brine to central spots for processing in skimming tanks, the filtered brine to be discharged into the sewer system.

Major objection to this re-

quirement was that parts of the oil fields had no sewers to connect to and that trucking the brine away was not "economically feasible" for most of the stripper operations.

No New Derrick
III No new derricks. All future drilling of new wells or deepening of wells, or other work on new or existing wells, be accomplished with the aid of portable metal drilling masts.

While it was maintained that modern drilling methods will no longer use stationary wooden derricks it was also pointed out by a spokesman for the oilmen that use of portable equipment costs \$30 an hour compared to \$12 an hour with the equipment now in use.

A job which could be done within four hours by present equipment would be figured on an eight-hour basis with portable equipment because of portability provisions.

IV. The removal of all wooden derricks on existing wells both producing and non-producing.

Such a blanket-law was labeled unconstitutional in essence and termed confiscatory. As long as a derrick is safe and the well not abandoned, the city has no right to demand the re-

moval of the derrick for the sake of safety or aesthetic reasons, it was maintained.

Abuses

Listed among the hazards and abuses in the Torrance oil fields by Powell are: sumps, oil spills, abandoned sites, derrick dangers, unsightly conditions, water pollution threats, inadequate ordinance enforcement, and inadequate laws.

Those protesting the severity of the proposed ordinance included Attorney Don Hitchcock, Tom Bardine and E. Pletzsckhe, both oilmen.

William E. Hinchliff, secretary of the land use committee of the Western Oil and Gas association and W. R. Miller pointed out the impracticality of an 8-foot fence.

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