

Remembering The Oil Power Stations At Gum Springs

by **MICHAEL PROFITT**
Clay City, Kentucky

In the 1950's and 1960's, it was sure different at Gum Springs in Estill County. The community still had a small school, two grocery stores and a church. There were two large grocery stores at nearby Furnace then.

There were three oil companies, right next to each other, but what was so different about the Gum Springs area, the oil fields were still run the old way.

Most at Furnace, Mc-Kinney Hollow and Rogers Fork has changed over to water-flood, but the wells of the Gum Springs area were still on the vacuum system; the large vacuum pumps would pull oil into the wells.

There were two large vacuum plants; one on the Crowe lease and one of the George Pitts lease. The large, natural-gas engines would run 24 hours a day, pulling the oil into the wells.

There were several power houses in different places; each had a natural gas engine and had a large belt that run from the engine to the power.

The old power houses were made of tin, painted silver. Each had a large water tank for water to cool the engine with. At the back, where the power was, there were shackle line rods coming in all directions and had large stroke posts outside the power so you could unhook the wells when they pumped off.

The shackle lines ran for miles in every direction and had notched posts for them to slide in. Every so often, there would be a stroke post which was a 6x6 about 6 or 8 feet tall with a pipe frame to hold it in place. The shackle line would come in low; then go out high to tighten the line more. One line from power could branch off and go to 3 or 4 wells each.

Some shackle lines would cross the road. The one at

Chaney Power, there were two tall stroke posts, about 16 feet tall so the line could go over trucks and cars. Some places they would go through pipe under the road. Others just had tall posts so you could drive under the shackle line.

To start the big power engine, the pumper would take the plug out and throw gasoline in the head. Then, he would turn large flywheels with his arms and feet until it hit. After starting, he would kick the clutch in and power would turn.

The way the small horsepower engine could pull so many wells was half would be coming up while the other half would be going down. If there were not enough wells to balance the power, they would make a dummy well which was a stroke post with a platform built on it with rocks and metal on it to make weight.

The pumper could watch the shackle rods and tell when a well was pumped off. Then, he would unhook it from power. You could set your watch on when the Chaney Power would start every morning and afternoon.

The big vacuum plant on George Pitts' lease had a large concrete pool for water. There were five 3-inch pipes with sprayers, spraying the hot water back into the pool. The pool stayed hot year 'round and a lot of people would go swimming in it. It was pretty to see.

The long vacuum engines were so big they took air pressure to start them. But they ran 24 hours a day and only shut down for repairs or trouble with them.

All of the oil companies probably had 50 or more worker then, which was a big boost to the economy. Now, all of the old natural gas engines and powers are gone. But I still miss the sound of the old engines.

CHURCH NEWS

Church News is published as a free service. The Estill County Tribune. Call your announcement to (606) 723-5012; fax it to (606) 723-2743; or E-mail it to <News@EstillTribune.Com> or mail to 6135 Winchester Road, Irvine, KY 40336

The Sharps At Turning Point



The Sharp Family From Indiana

The Sharp Family Singers from Crawfordsville, Indiana, will be at Turning Point Apostolic Church, Cow Creek Road in Ravenna, on Friday, June 13th @ 7:00 p.m. The group has been singing and laughing for 25 years while playing three violins, guitar, banjo, mandolin, and the keyboard. They have played for shows in Branson, Nashville, a North Dakota Indian reservation, at Bill Monroe's campground and many other places. They have been blessed to have played on television and have made two sell-out gospel recordings. They like to get the audience involved, playing violins and the train whistle during worship so that everybody has a good time. They have also played at school events and at the Strawberry Festival in their hometown of Crawfordsville, Indiana. Everyone is welcome at Turning Point this coming Friday, June 13th.

Friday, June 13th @ 6:00pm

Easter Valley Bible School

Easter Valley Baptist Church at Doe Creek will be having a one-day Vacation Bible School on Friday, June 13, 2014, starting at 6:00 p.m. The theme is "In God We Trust." All ages are welcome.

Friday-Sunday, June 13-15

Cob Hill Gospel Meeting

Cob Hill Church of Christ will be having a Gospel Meeting, Friday through Sunday, June 13-15, with Chris Coffey as the speaker. Friday's topic will be, "Fear." The service begins at 7:00 p.m. Saturday at 7:00 p.m. will be "Cry of the Wounded Soul." Sunday morning worship service begins at 11:00 a.m. Evening service at 7:00 p.m. will be "The 3 Divine Institutions That God Has Set Up."

Friday through Sunday, June 13-15

Bro. Bailey To Preach Revival at Winchester Community Church

Winchester Community Church is having a revival, June 13, 14, & 15, 2014. There will be special guest singers every night. Preaching will be Brother Robert Bailey.

Brother Robert Bailey has been preaching the Gospel for 23 years and is a 4th generation preacher. He is the president of Green Meadows Gospel Music Association, creator of True Song Ministries & Kentucky Gospel Music Fellowship. He has an evangelist's heart, seeking to lead the lost and hurting, to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Please come out and join us for a refreshing time in the Holy Spirit. Service starts



Bro. Robert Bailey

Friday and Saturday night at 6 p.m., Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and Sunday night at 6 p.m. Winchester Community Church is at 123 Franklin Avenue in Winchester. Come expecting great things.

Saturday, June 14th @ 7pm

Gospel Singing at Stacy Lane

There will be a gospel singing at Stacy Lane Community Pentecostal Church of God on Saturday, June 14, 2014, starting at 7 p.m.

Singers will be Tyler & Jessica Elliot, Vaughn Haney, Dexter Banks, Melvin & Shirly Banks, Fred &

Stacy Lee and others. Pastor Jason Riddell and congregation welcome everyone to come out and enjoy God's blessings.

For more information, call 606-717-0216 or 606-975-8209.

Sunday-Friday, June 15-20 @ 6:30pm

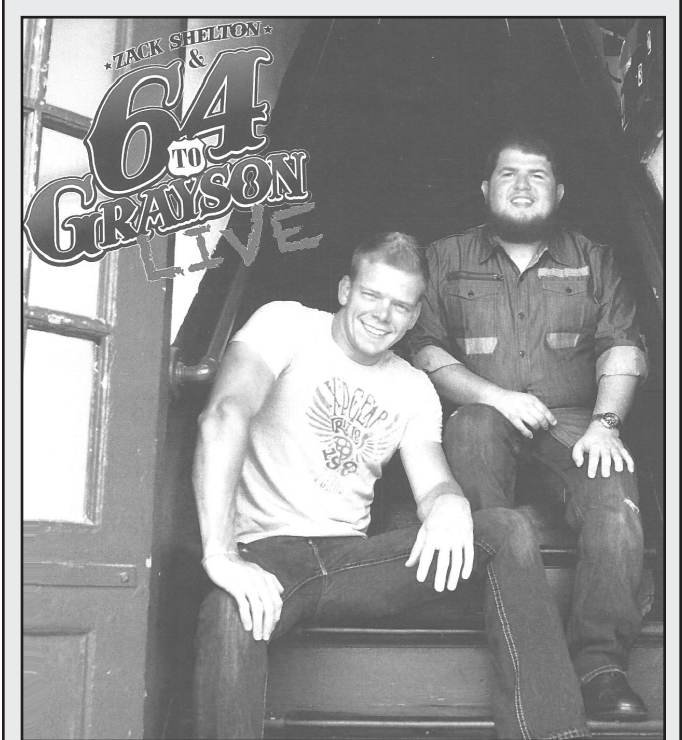
VBS at Providence Baptist

Vacation Bible School will be held at Providence Baptist Church at Winston, Sunday-Friday, June 15-20, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

There will be classes for all ages and nursery will be provided. The theme is "Wilderness Adventure."

Everyone is welcome.

1st Christian Block Party



"64 to Grayson"

First Christian Church will be having a Block Party on Saturday, June 21, 2014, 4-8 p.m.

There will be entertainment for people of all ages! There will be a dunking booth and large inflatables for children to play on as well as other fun and games for the entire family! Starting at 5 p.m., there will be live music.

Christian Hip Hop artist Jeremiah Dean, who goes by the name, "Gone," will be performing songs off his new CD, "In Good Faith," between 6 and 7 p.m.

From 7 until 8 p.m., "64 to Grayson" will be performing. They are a nationally renowned Christian group.

The church is really interested in getting a large crowd of all ages, as there will be a large variety of music... a little something for everyone. As in everything we do, the most important thing is to give the glory to God.

Sundays, June 15th and June 22nd

Singing Groups at Irvine 1st

On Sunday, June 15th, the Joyful Heirs will be joining in the morning worship at Irvine First Church of God, and Sunday, June 22nd, the Martin Family will be there.

"Come worship with us as these folks share their song ministry and Bro. Hutchinson brings the Word of God. We look forward to seeing you. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study and Youth Service 6:30 p.m.

Hutchinson brings the Word of God. We look forward to seeing you.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study and Youth Service 6:30 p.m.

Sunday-Friday, June 22-27, 6:30-9:00

Vacation Bible School At Ivory Hill

Ivory Hill Baptist Church will begin their Vacation Bible School on Sunday, June 22. It continues through Thursday, June 26 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. daily. Commencement and Family Night will be held on

Friday, June 27. This year's theme is "Bible Land Adventures: Where God Guides, God Provides."

Pastor Ted Barker and congregation welcome everyone to VBS.

Monday-Friday, June 16-20, 6-8p

Beech Grove Bible School

Beech Grove Baptist Church, Red Lick Road in Irvine, will be having Vacation Bible School for all ages, Monday through Friday, June 16-20, 2014, 6-8 p.m. each night.

The theme is "Agency D-3: Discover, Defend and Decide" from 1 Peter 3:15. There will be a live investigation, so be sure to come and join in the Bible study. Everyone is welcome!

Monday-Friday, June 16-20, 6:30-8:30

Vacation Bible School At Pine Hill

Pine Hill Baptist Church at Doe Creek, Irvine, will be having Vacation Bible School, Monday through Friday, June 16-20, 2014 from 6:30 until 8:30 each evening.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday-Friday, July 13-18, 6:30-8:30

Mt. Carmel Vacation Bible School

Mount Carmel Christian Church will be having Vacation Bible School, themed, "Son Treasure Island," July 13-18, 2014, Sun. at 6 p.m., Mon - Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m. VBS will be for elementary age youth. If questions, or transportation needed call

606-726-9342. VBS fun day activities Sun. -- Inside Out Day Mon -- Crazy Socks Day Tues. -- Crazy Hair Day Wed., -- Twin Day Thur. -- Crazy Hat Day Fri. -- Luau & Water Fun

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