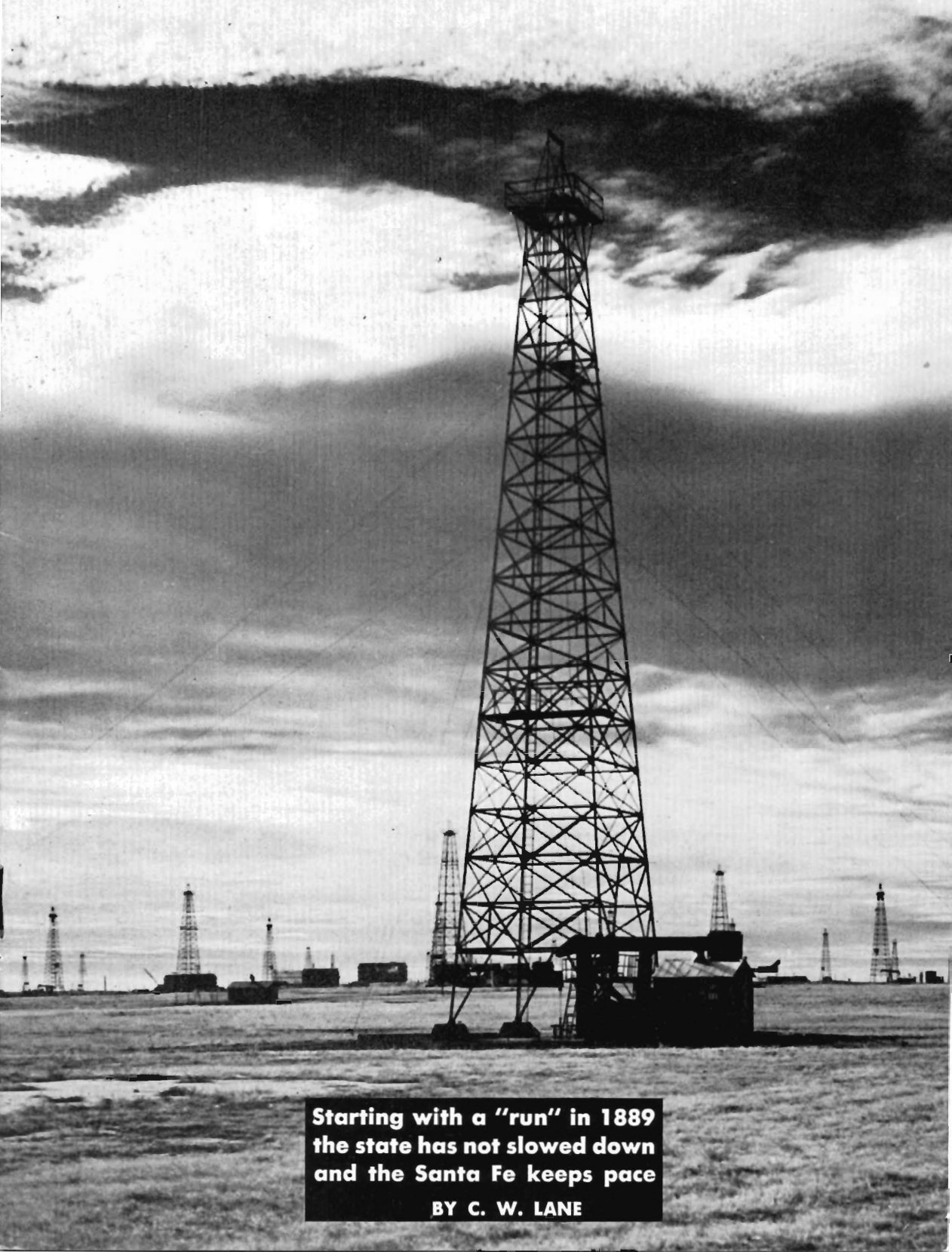


OKLAHOMA— Region of Rich Resources



**Starting with a "run" in 1889
the state has not slowed down
and the Santa Fe keeps pace**

BY C. W. LANE

THE COVER

Typical of thousands of scenes which dot the Oklahoma landscape today, these oil derricks are located on the Continental Oil Company's original J. M. Young lease in the Edmond field, within three or four miles of Santa Fe tracks. The Edmond field, forerunner of the later and much larger West Edmond field, was opened on April 2, 1935, when Continental brought in the first well. Since oil became a magic word, in 1897, when the first commercial producing well was drilled at Bartlesville, Oklahoma has recovered 5,731,400,000 barrels of oil valued at \$7,643,140,000, and activity continues strong.



Oklahomans are rightfully proud of their Capital City. Their slogan, "From Tepees to Towers," is an accurate portrayal of Okla-

homa City's growth—though rapid, it has been stable. Santa Fe tracks run back of this imposing sky line.

FIGHTING and struggling together often makes lasting friends as is the case of Oklahoma and the Santa Fe Railway.

The story goes back to slightly more than 60 years ago when the state—then a territory—was a raw frontier, occupied largely by Indians, and the railroad was wrestling with many problems, incident to establishing the framework of a huge transportation system throughout the Southwest.

With Oklahoma awaiting the development of its vast resources, for the Santa Fe it was merely a matter of widening its response to the call of opportunity. This it did by being one of the first to blaze the way into the wild virgin expanse and provide for the conquest by bringing in settlers and supplies.

The Santa Fe's part in helping Oklahoma become one of the greatest states in the Union is fairly well known. It was in 1886 that the company decided to extend its lines beyond Kansas. Within a year it had laid a ribbon of steel across what was the Indian Territory, and following has been an exciting period of mutual advancement.

Foremost is the fact that Oklahoma's resources are highly diversified and their utilization gives the state a stable, well balanced income from agriculture, oil and manufacturing. At one time the revenue from these three resources was almost equally divided; however, agriculture has forged to the front during the past few years and the state is waging a campaign for more industries. Combined production income last year was estimated at \$1,500,000,000, of which more than half came from agriculture alone.

Contributing to the essential need of transportation, as well as the general welfare of the state, the Santa Fe at present operates 1,477 miles of main line track in Oklahoma, property on which it paid the state last year approximately \$1,300,000 in ad valorem taxes, of which about \$900,000 went for the support

of schools. Also charged against its operations within the commonwealth, were substantial income taxes, both state and federal.

As one of 12 Santa Fe states, Oklahoma is fourth in system track mileage, and in 1946, was fourth in revenue freight tonnage originated. Passenger business within the state, as represented by passenger miles, runs high in the millions each year. Employed in Oklahoma are 3,450 persons who share in a payroll of approximately \$8,000,000 annually. Among



Pioneer Woman memorial statue at Ponca City, Oklahoma.



Looming up back of this huge refinery is Tulsa, Oklahoma's second largest city. Known as the "Oil Capital of the World," the city is

the home of many petroleum companies, large and small. Located on the Arkansas River, Tulsa has beautiful residential areas.

the more important centers of employment are Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Purcell, Shawnee, Fairview and Waynoka.

The Santa Fe's network in Oklahoma covers 38 counties and serves more than 200 villages and towns, 115 of which are open stations in charge of agents. Included are nearly all of the larger towns in the state, with the exception of Muskogee, which is the headquarters of extensive truck and bus operations by Santa Fe Trailways in the northeastern part of the state. Truck service also extends from Oklahoma City south to Ardmore, and to Enid and the northwest, while Santa Fe buses operate across the Panhandle.

The name of Oklahoma was derived from the two Choctaw words, *humma* or *homma*, meaning "red," and *okla*, meaning "people," thus literally meaning "red people." Proposed by the Chief of the Choctaws for the western Choctaw Territory, which was ceded to the United States following the Civil War, the name was first used in the Choctaw-Chickasaw treaty in 1866. Although western Indian Territory quickly became known as Oklahoma, the name was not officially adopted by the United States Congress until 1890, when the Organic Act provided territorial government for the land.

The Indian Territory side of what is now Oklahoma, originally consisted of the Nations of the Five Civilized Tribes, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Creeks and Seminoles. For a hundred years before statehood, these tribes maintained governments of their own, complete in all phases, including executive, legislative and judicial branches. Patterned after the republican form of government of the United States, many of the laws on the statute books of these governments were fundamentally sound and have had an influence on Oklahoma legislation down to the present time.

Crime waves among these Indians were virtually unknown, which may well be attributed to the institution of the whipping post since

no offender ever twice received the punishment meted out there, according to records still in existence. In addition to the Five Civilized Tribes, the Osage Indians had a government of their own, which has been maintained to this day with its capitol at Pawhuska. A few years ago the Osages were the richest people per capita in the world as a result of the discovery of vast oil fields in the Osage Nation.

Under authority of the Atoka Agreement of 1902, the federal government through the Dawes Commission made arrangements for allotment of the lands in Indian Territory to members of the various tribes. Lands not so allotted were reserved for sale by the government and the proceeds were prorated to the tribe members. Completion of the work of the Dawes Commission paved the way for combining Oklahoma and Indian Territory and their



These ancient and youthful Kiowas are two of Oklahoma's 110,864 Indians.

admission to the Union as the State of Oklahoma in 1907.

With the advent of statehood, many Indians took their places as outstanding leaders, representing Oklahoma in the national Congress, serving in the courts of the state and in both houses of the state legislature, besides playing important roles in business and civic life. Indian affairs, affecting 31 tribes, are now administered by tribal chiefs or governors appointed by the president of the United States. These activities, however, are closely supervised by the U. S. Indian Agency, headquarters of which are in Oklahoma City, with branch offices elsewhere.

The 31 tribes in Oklahoma claim a membership of 110,864 persons, or more than a third of the total Indian population of the United States. Tribes listed are: Quapaw, Seneca, Shawnee, Ottawa, Peoria, Modoc, Miami, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ponca, Kansa or Kaw, Otoe, Pawnee, Tonkawa, Kickapoo, Iowa, Caddo, Osage, Delaware, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Wichita, Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Wyandotte. Indian ceremonials, many of them attracting large crowds, are held throughout the year. The American Indian Fair and Exposition at Anadarko is one of the biggest events of its kind in the country.

Oklahomans are popularly known as "Sooners," and the state has two nicknames, "Sooner State" and "Soonerland," all of which came about naturally in relation to the manner in which the state was settled. Date for opening the land to white settlement was April 22, 1889. No one was to locate land on which they wished to settle, nor lay claim before that date, but a number were able to slip in and locate their homesteads in advance. Because they arrived sooner than they should have they were called Sooners and the name stuck. Even the nickname "Okie," which made many Sooners unhappy when it cropped out during the depression, has boomeranged into meaning "Okay," and is so being accepted.

It is estimated that 100,000 persons made the run on that day, April 22, 1889, when Oklahoma Territory unassigned lands were opened to settlement. The Santa Fe operated

several passenger trains from Arkansas City, and others headed north from Purcell, dodging cattle trains all the way. However, the great mass of would-be homesteaders rushed into the yawning 2,000,000 acre tract any way they could get there, resulting in a grand melee of wagons, buckboards, carts and sweating men and horse flesh. Many hurried along afoot, hoping that in the confusion the vanguard would overlook a few choice spots.

While the run of 1889, opening Oklahoma Territory, occupies the spotlight in the conquest of Oklahoma after its lands had been thrown open by the government for settlement, probably because it was the first and rules were easier to violate, similar events were due to take their places in history later, some of them involving considerable more acreage. In all there were five runs, followed by one lottery, which helps to explain why so many of Oklahoma's early day citizens were from other states.

The second run was on September 22, 1891, when the Iowa, Sac and Fox and Pottawatomie-Shawnee reservation of 868,414 acres was opened for settlement. The Cheyenne-Arapaho reservation of 3,500,562 acres, was opened on April 19, 1892, and September 16, 1893, saw the invasion of the Tonkawa and Pawnee reservation, commonly known as the Cherokee Strip. Claim holders acquired 5,500,000 acres in this run, and 85,000 acres more when the Kickapoo reservation was opened on May 25, 1895. The lottery, opening 3,500,000 acres of Kiowa and Comanche lands, occurred on August 16, 1901.

It is a matter of historical record that the miscalculation of the location of the Kansas-Oklahoma boundary, during a railroad construction race in 1871, resulted in the present route of the Santa Fe's main north and south line through Central Oklahoma, serving such towns as Newkirk, Ponca City, Marland, Red Rock, Perry, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Norman, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Wynnewood, Davis, Ardmore and Marietta.

Congress at that time had authorized the first railroad reaching Indian Territory to build across the Indian lands to Texas. Interests, later acquired by the Santa Fe, and a



Oklahoma's capitol is of classic Greek and Roman architecture, and cost \$5,000,000.



Tulsa's Boston Avenue Methodist Church is one of the most beautiful structures in the Southwest.

rival company feverishly laid track to reach the south line of Kansas, north of Tulsa. Construction of a line from Coffeyville to Gainesville on the Red River, would have enabled the Santa Fe to get a foothold in Oklahoma and tap the rapidly growing traffic to Texas.

However, when the track layers stopped a few miles south of Coffeyville, thinking they had reached their goal, they altered a large and important part of the Santa Fe map. They still were short of the state line but didn't know it. The latter and more fortunate rival reached the state boundary first and thus won the coveted right-of-way.

During the next 15 years, the Santa Fe made various surveys through the Territory in an effort to develop an alternate route. As a result, two main lines pioneered across the state, starting in 1886, and went on to completion in 1887. One crossed from Arkansas City, Kansas, south to the Red River, near Gainesville. The other pushed south and west from Kiowa, through Waynoka and Woodward, to the Texas line west of Shattuck.

After the Santa Fe decided to use the central Oklahoma route to get to the Gulf of Mexico, it started laying track out of Arkansas City in the summer of 1886, and by September had a bridge across the Arkansas River. The first regular train schedule became effective, November 29, 1886, when an accommodation train ran from Arkansas City to Ponca, now White Eagle, a distance of 31 miles, and return.

On January 6, 1887, Chief Engineer Robinson issued a time card extending regular train service from Arkansas City to Cow Creek, a

distance of 59 miles, Cow Creek being about one-half mile south of the present station of Perry. With crews laying two miles of track a day, Guthrie was reached on February 8. In the meantime, other crews were building north from the Red River, and after the gangs met at Purcell, April 26, the line across the state was placed in operation on June 12, 1887.

Extension of service feeder lines was started by the Santa Fe, in 1897, when Wakita, Medford and Blackwell were connected with the main line in Kansas by a 47-mile stretch. Two years later, 25 miles of new track connected Hunnewell and Tonkawa, through Blackwell, and a 14-mile link was laid between Blackwell and Ponca City.

With the discovery of oil in northwestern Oklahoma two years before, a third main line was pushed into Oklahoma from Caney, southwest through Bartlesville and to Owasso, 10 miles north of Tulsa. This took place in 1899 but the line was not completed into Tulsa until 1905. A line from Guthrie to Ripley, along the Cimarron River, was another development in 1899.

Stillwater and Pawnee were added to the system with 45 miles of track, in 1900. Two years later, a line was built from Guthrie to Enid, and extensions were pushed on to Ralston and Cushing. It was also during 1902, that the Orient Railroad, now owned and operated by the Santa Fe, entered Oklahoma, with a line from Wichita, Kan., to Carmen.

In 1903, approximately 200 miles of new line linked Newkirk and Pauls Valley, via Kaw City, Yale, Cushing and Shawnee. This gave the Santa Fe an alternate main line which has been largely utilized for fast freight service, especially cattle trains bound from Texas to the Osage and Flint Hills pasture country.

At the same time, the Orient continued its way south through Fairview, and in 1904, it had moved as far as Oakwood. In 1906 the line reached Clinton, and two years later the Orient was completed across Oklahoma, reaching Elmer on July 1, 1908. Twenty-one years later, the property was acquired by the Santa Fe.



It's not a church, but the Santa Fe station at Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Central was built from Purcell to Lehigh, in 1907, and the following year the line was extended from Purcell to Chickasha. The Oklahoma Central was taken over by the Santa Fe, August 1, 1914, but parts of it have been abandoned, operations now extending from Byars to Ada only.

From 1908 until 1919 only small bits of new line were added. It was during this period that the Clinton and Oklahoma Western was built from Clinton to Cheyenne, and a new oil field was responsible for the Ringling line out of Ardmore, which the Santa Fe took over in 1926. Oil also sent short branch lines to Oilton, Jennings and Drumright.

Following World War I, and the great expansion of the wheat producing area of Western Oklahoma, a new branch was built from Waynoka to Freedom and Buffalo, adding more than 50 miles to Santa Fe trackage within the state. In 1920, a line was built from Shattuck into the northern Texas Panhandle, and another line from Elkhart, Kans., was extended to Boise City, in 1925.

In 1923, a new line was projected from Owen to Osage Junction, traversing the Osage pasture lands and offering improved facilities for the movement of great numbers of cattle into that area. The line reached only as far as Pawhuska that year, and was extended to Osage Junction in 1927.

After purchasing the Orient in 1929, the Santa Fe also acquired the Clinton and Oklahoma Western, then built from Cheyenne across the Texas line into Pampa, affording main line connections to the Pacific Coast. Another outlet was provided in 1937 when a line was built from Boise City, north into Colorado.

A far cry from the time the Santa Fe donated a yoke of oxen to a Guthrie claim holder to aid him in his plowing, and distributed free wheat seed to farmers shortly after the run of 1889, was Oklahoma's banner wheat crop last year of 104,734,000 bushels, and worth, at December prices, \$240,888,000, according to



Will Rogers Memorial, Claremore, Oklahoma.

the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Previous record was 88,262,000 bushels, valued at \$158,872,000, in 1946.

The state's combined farm income last year was estimated at approximately \$800,000,000—\$794,656,000, to be exact. Led by wheat, the total crop value was \$473,328,000, and livestock and dairy poultry products—the hens laid 1,297,000,000 eggs—accounted for the remainder. Cotton lint and cotton seed, valued at \$59,872,000, ranked second to wheat. Next in crop value was corn, worth \$50,371,000, followed by oats, \$31,612,000.

Other important crops are barley, grain sorghums, broomcorn, alfalfa, peanuts, peaches, potatoes, sweet potatoes and pecans. As a rule Oklahoma leads in the production of broomcorn, and since brush grown in the Lindsay district is of exceptionally good quality, it is estimated that the state originates more than a third of the country's better brooms. Oklahoma had the largest pecan crop in the nation



This proves that oil and corn do mix.



Turner Falls, in Arbuckle Mountains.

Oklahoma Agriculture



A wheat combine races ahead of an impending thunderstorm.



Combine type milo, a new development in grain sorghum, as grown under irrigation near Altus.



Milos Hrdy, Canadian County 4-H Club boy, who has won many prizes with his hogs, eyes some future winners.

Raising of broad-breasted bronze turkeys is a fast growing industry in Oklahoma.



One of the highly
prized monarchs of
"Hereford Heaven."



Oklahoma's sandy soil is a natural for
peanuts.



Harvesting corn in Oklahoma—the new
mechanical way.



Threshing barley near Ames, in Major County.



Lake W. C. Austin is hemmed in by the rugged Quartz Mountains.

last year, is famous for fine watermelons, many varieties of fruit and has a complete monopoly on the production of mung beans.

Predominately agricultural, with nearly 35,000,000 acres of its total area of some 44,000,000 acres in farms, Oklahoma actually produces almost every crop grown in the United States. Varied soils, contrasting topography and a spread in average annual rainfall—20 inches in the northwest to more than 45 inches in the southeast—have made possible great diversity in agricultural methods and products. Equally varied is the weather, as implicated by Will Rogers when he said: "If you don't like Oklahoma weather, wait a minute." And the immortal Rogers, being native-born, knew what he was talking about.

One reason for Oklahoma's remarkable success in the livestock industry is the high quality grass produced by certain types of limestone soils. National attention has been drawn to "Hereford Heaven" in recent years by the sale of purebred animals, one for \$38,000 and another for \$51,000. The total cattle population is roughly estimated at 3,000,000 head, of which 1,000,000 are dairy animals. Some 800,000 sheep and 200,000 hogs complete the livestock census.

Destined to continue the state's agricultural leadership are its Future Farmers of America and 4-H Club boys and girls, who have won more national awards in their project work during the last 20 years than those of any other state. Oklahoma had 12 4-H Club winners in national achievement contests at Chicago last year, while a steer owned by Claude Millwee, a Future Farmer lad from Fort Cobb, won the grand championship at the International Livestock Show.

Present enrollment in 4-H Club work is 64,666, and the state boasts a 4-H Club alumni of more than 800,000, meaning that many boys and girls have taken part in the work since the movement was started. There are 191 Future Farmer chapters in the state, with a membership of approximately 10,000, these being boys who are studying agriculture in high

school. A proposal to double the youth farm program has the active support of Gov. Roy J. Turner and other agricultural leaders.

Petroleum, long prominent in the economic life of the state, has been a compelling force in industrial advance. Although traces of the magic fluid were found in the 1870's, it was not until 1897 that the first commercial producing oil well was drilled at Bartlesville. This well, situated near the Caney River in Johnstone Park, now a part of the city, still spouts a few drops.

From that time up to the end of 1947 the total recovery of oil was 5,731,400,000 barrels, with an estimated value at the head of \$7,643,140,000. Total number of wells drilled during that period was 173,823, consisting of 118,164 oil wells, 13,937 gas wells and 41,722 dry holes. As of January 1, 1948, 7,500,000 acres of land was under lease, of which 700,000 acres was proved for production.

There are approximately 54,000 oil wells in Oklahoma at this time, averaging 7.3 barrels a day, although some average less than one barrel. The first of the year, the state had a proved oil reserve of 995,000,000 barrels, and a natural gas reserve of 11,700,000,000 cubic feet. Forty-five of the 77 counties in Oklahoma produce oil and gas, and six counties produce gas only.

Oklahoma during the last year has experienced its greatest drilling campaign since the boom days of the 1930's. Hot spots are the Greater Seminole field in Hughes and Seminole counties, the Oklahoma City area, including West Edmond, western McClain and Garvin counties and Stephens county, with the Oklahoma City area, Greater Seminole and Stephens county leading in production in that order.

The West Edmond field, opened in 1943, is the state's largest in both size and production. It covers a scope five by 18 miles, and up to the first of the year its 775 wells had produced 72,251,792 barrels of oil. Other important fields in the Oklahoma City area are Oklahoma City, Edmond and Jones-Witcher. The Oklahoma City

field was opened in 1928, and the Edmond field, forerunner to West Edmond, in 1935.

Allied with the petroleum business are 25 oil refineries, with a capacity of 222,600 barrels of crude, plus cracking facilities of 114,900 barrels daily. In August, 1947, these refineries processed 6,822,000 barrels of crude oil, of which 5,007,000 barrels were produced in Oklahoma fields, and 1,815,000 barrels from Texas and Kansas fields. Manufacturing and handling of oil field supplies is one of the state's leading industries.

Oklahoma has enough other minerals to give it fifth place among all states as a continuing producer of mineral wealth. It ranks first in zinc, zinc-lead and cherts, and has some of the richest deposits of rock asphalt in the world. It has a coal reserve of some 55,000,000,000 tons, 125,000,000,000 tons of gypsum, and billions of tons of dolomite, glass, sand, limestone and salt rock. Altogether, 36 different minerals are listed in the state's official category.

Many of Oklahoma's industrial opportunities spring from its abundant agricultural resources, and still greater possibilities are based on the state's mineral deposits. The American Southwest is well on its way to become the center of the world's industrial laboratory and Oklahoma has a share in that leadership. This is due, not only to the existence of the most essential minerals, but to the "know how" in the use of petroleum and natural gas as raw products.

Butadiene plants, which contributed so greatly to the development of the synthetic rubber program during the war, have pointed the path along which Oklahoma will push future explorations. In the meantime, approximately 40 milling establishments are engaged in converting the state's big wheat crop into flour, food processing plants are springing up, and operation of 13 new glass manufacturing plants reflects a new industrial trend. Extensive timber resources also are being utilized, and dairy expansion is underway.

Education of Oklahoma youth is far from neglected; in fact, the state's educational status ranks very high. It has approximately 3,500 elementary schools, 850 high schools

and 18 state colleges, including the University of Oklahoma at Norman, and the Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater. State Teacher colleges are located at Edmond, Ada, Tahlequah, Alva and Durant, and state agricultural colleges at Goodwell, Lawton, Warner, Wilburton, Tishomingo and Miami.

Other state supported schools are Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha; Langston University, Langston; Southwestern Institute of Technology, Weatherford; Northern Oklahoma Junior College, Tonkawa, and the Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore. Among nine privately administered institutions of higher learning, the following are considered of major importance; University of Tulsa, Tulsa; Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City; Phillips University, Enid, and Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Oklahoma's mountains, sparkling mountain streams, rock cliffs and bluffs, virgin forests, skyline drives, float trips, sand dunes, sacred and historical spots, art exhibits, dinosaur quarries, magnificent lakes, underground caves and unsurpassed picnic and camping grounds, all combine to invite tourists, week-enders, vacationers and sightseers. And, as might be suspected, there is excellent hunting and fishing.

Attracted by the many game abounding regions and lakes—183 bodies of water ranging in size from 12 to more than 100,000 acres—more than half a million people hunted and fished within the state last year, according to records of the game and fish department. All Oklahoma lakes, with one exception, are "man made," and when dams now underway are completed, the state will have a water area of more than 400,000 acres.

Texoma, on the Red River between Durant and Denison, is the largest Oklahoma lake and the reservoir is the fifth largest in the United States. Its dam is the most gigantic piece of earthen work of its kind in the world, being more than 15,000 feet long. It has a shore line of 1,250 miles and inundates more than 100,000 acres, of which 69,000 acres are on the Oklahoma side. Other large lakes are Grand River, Great Salt Lake, Lake W. C. Austin at Altus, and Lake Murray at Ardmore.



Field House, University of Oklahoma, at Norman.



Williams Hall, Oklahoma A. and M. College at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

