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Making new oil from old

When it comes out of the ground, "old oil" looks, smells and feels just like "new oil." In fact, the two types of crude petroleum are identical in every respect except one — price

That sole distinction is a crucial one, however, because it has produced what aides to one member of Congress describe as widespread criminal activities and conspiracies by numerous oil companies designed to boost crude oil prices

Under an elaborate federal price control system established in 1973 to provide incentives for increased exploration, most of the crude oil produced in this country falls into two categories

"Old oil," from wells in operation in 1972 or before It currently sells for a maximum of about $5.55 per barrel

"New oil," from wells that began flowing after 1972 or production from old wells in excess of 1972 levels Its current ceiling price is about $12 35 per barrel.

Because the two types are physically indistinguishable, the Department of Energy (DoE) requires that sellers, middlemen (also called resellers) and buyers certify the category to which their oil belongs

But as many as 250,000 to 300,000 barrels of "old oil" have vanished daily in some recent years, apparently transformed into more valuable "new oil" on the way to refineries

A detailed memo prepared by investigators working for Rep. John D Dingell D-Mich., describes the vast scope of the problem

The buyers some of whom participated in the frauds, then passed on the overcharge to American consumers Kickbacks, bribes and payoffs were used as incentives to facilitate the conspiracy

As simple as the scheme was to perpetrate, it would have been equally easy to discover and stop But DoE allowed these schemes to continue and proliferate

There is evidence in DoE internal files that indicates top officials have been aware of this criminal activity as early as 1975 — nearly three years before the first case was referred to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution

The schemes involved fly-by-night companies, some of which began operations with little more than a barren office and a telephone, as well as larger independent petroleum firms and multi-national oil corporations

At the peak of this criminal activity, American consumers were overcharged by nearly $2 million per day These schemes continued for over four years, resulting in consumer overcharges estimated at nearly $2 billion," says the memo prepared for Dingell

DoE auditors were barred from interviewing officials involved in the conspiracies, while other department officials working on the investigations were constantly rotated in a bureaucratic version of "musical chairs" that virtually guaranteed a lack of continuity

As a result, not a single criminal case involving reseller fraud was referred to the Justice Department for prosecution between 1974 and 1978

But at the same time, DoE was vigorously pursuing alleged criminal activity on the part of "Mom and Pop" gas stations such as the Village Green Texaco Station in Cottage Grove, Ore., and Jim and Mary Morton's service station in South San Francisco

The criminal cases involving reseller fraud now are being presented to a federal grand jury in Houston But indictments, first promised by mid-November, have been repeatedly delayed

Finally, the Dingell staff memo contains an exceptionally serious allegation Quoting an unidentified industry source, the document says "a multi-million-dollar slush fund" was established by the resellers "to take care of DoE"

The department's response, as in the past, has been to ignore the allegations More than six weeks after being informed of the charges, DoE officials refuse to discuss any aspect of the situation

GOP: Sticking together?

Republicans remain badly outnumbered in Congress, but when they stick together, they can have an enormous impact on the outcome of key legislative battles, especially in the Senate

Which is why President Carter and the Democratic leadership on Capitol Hill should feel distinctly nervous about the remarkable degree of unity which developed on a couple of crucial issues among scores of Republican senators and House members who held a two-day workshop last weekend at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, Md

For one thing, the Republicans agreed that no SALT II treaty negotiated by the administration can be considered in a vacuum They served notice upon Carter that Senate ratification debate will focus on the entirety of Soviet-American relationships

On the domestic front, the Republicans lined up solidly in favor of a tax program that would combine multiple-year rate reductions with cuts in federal spending and indexing to protect taxpayers from being shoved into higher brackets solely by inflation

With congressional Democrats and Carter opposed to any tax reductions this year, the GOP plan probably won't get very far But the Republicans should be able to make some political hay from the package

AS TIME GOES BY

Pius XI dies

FORTY YEARS AGO
1939

Peace was the last word uttered by Pope Pius XI a he died in Vatican City complications resulting from in attack of influenza New methods of fruit growing were discussed at a meeting of local fruit growers

Sheriff Carl Ryder was reported in improved condition at St Mary's Hospital A truck breakdown outside Lincoln forced the cancellation of a concert by the University of Nebraska symphony orchestra at the Junior High school

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
—1954—

Calvin Wilhelm was elected temporary president of the new Dunbar Rural Fire District Joan Crawford starred in "Torch Song" at the Pioneer Theatre County Clerk Lucian Smith was the first county official to file for reelection Mrs Ivan Rodaway was elected president of the Women's Christian Fellowship at Guadilla Jean Gress was elected chairman of the 14th Street School student council

TEN YEARS AGO
—1969—

Walter E Grantski of Nebraska City was tapped for induction by the Otoe County Selective Service Board David Stanley Boldt, son of Mr and Mrs Stan Boldt of Otoe, was pictured in the News-Press. George Biere who retired after 15 years on the Farmers Cooperative Oil Association board of directors, was presented a watch at the association's annual meeting Three Nebraska City students named National Merit Scholarship finalists were Vicki Durr and Herbert Detloff of Lourdes High School and Tom Hanks from Nebraska City Senior High School



Market growing rapidly

CB technological surprises coming

By Ink Dipper

Car makers plan to combine CB with AM-FM radio and tape deck into a single unit for passenger cars. And that is only the beginning of technological surprises coming up in the mobile-radio equipment field

An in-depth study and projection for the next decade by the international research firm of Frost and Sullivan foresees such developments as a change from voice to digital-print messages for police mobile radios, widespread use of voice-scramble devices, emergence of a consumer FM scanner, implementation of a new concept in the 800-900 megahertz band called the cellular system" and wider and more varied use of the microprocessor and other large-scale-integration circuits in CB radios

"Our study indicates that the total United States mobile radio equipment market will exceed $3 7 billion by 1985, as opposed to approximately $2 billion in 1978," says Cornelia Yelin of Frost and Sullivan. "This research studied public safety services, industrial radio and land transportation"

She pointed out that the study covered manufacturers and radio suppliers, common carriers and dealers as well as end-users. The study also pointed out problems that most CBers are aware of; frequency-spectrum congestion, excessive competition, government regulations and inadequate service led a host of problems faced by the industry and the end-users.

The concept of 'cellular system' is probably the most exciting communications development of many years.

As more manufacturers and suppliers participate in the marketing of products, pricing pressures are expected to bring retail costs down for the consumers, though," she added Additionally, the study indicates that technological development will contribute to economies in manufacturing that will benefit the end-user"

These are some of the things that seem to be having the greatest impact the incorporation of the microprocessor and other LSI chips, increased miniaturization, and the opening of the 800-900 megahertz frequency band, which we've been reporting on

The obvious advantages to these items, according to Frost and Sullivan, are that they offer new functions the equipment can perform, increased ease of use through more automatic features, lower costs, increased reliability and smaller size

"From our research, we can see that the major trends are all related to the recent availability of low-cost, high-density integrated circuits," Ms. Yelin says. "It all boils down to the need for effective communications which continues to grow at a rapid pace, coupled with the technological changes that have been developing in the equipment field"

Several innovations that appear to be on the horizon are particularly intriguing. Frost and Sullivan is predicting there will be a widespread use of voice scramblers in the future and that FM scanners will be a big thing.

Whether there will be voice scrambling devices available for CBers is not known. The ability to scramble voices and unscramble them at the receiving end has been a technological possibility for some time. Television pictures are scrambled at the transmission point and it takes a special decoder at the receiver to unscramble them. That's how pay television works in several cities. Television is radio, so the forecast of a voice scrambler for a CB unit may indeed be a device in your future

The FM scanner gives listeners the opportunity to hear calls of police, fire, special emergency and others using FM frequencies.

The concept of "cellular system" is probably the most exciting communications development of many years. It is already in test in Chicago and its future is truly unlimited. Next week we'll go into this system in detail.

Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 1979. There are 323 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1945, the World War II Yalta agreement was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin

On this date

In 1531, King Henry VIII was recognized as supreme head of the church in England.

In 1744, French and Spanish ships defeated an English fleet off the Mediterranean port of Toulon

In 1808, hard coal was first used as fuel — at Wilkes-Barre, Pa

In 1920, the first business session of the League of Nations was held in London

In 1971, a treaty banning nuclear weapons from the ocean floor was signed by 63 nations in ceremonies in Washington, London and Moscow

In 1967, military rule was imposed in Peking during civil strife in China

Ten years ago U S Attorney General Arthur Mitchell authorized federal agents to resume wiretaps in investigations of organized crime

Five years ago A 13-nation energy conference opened in Washington, and the U S proposed a seven-point program of cooperation to overcome the world energy crisis and preserve the international economic order

Today's birthdays. Actress Kim Stanley is 54 Poet Elizabeth Bishop is 68. Psychologist Virginia Johnson is 54

Thought for today. Without kindness there can be no true joy — Thomas Carlyle, Scottish writer, 1795-1881

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The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

My God shall supply all you need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

PRAYER: O Father, increase our faith. Help us to remember that Your source of power never fails but we often fail to appropriate it by an act of faith. Forgive us for our little faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Jerry still smiling

He's smiling —

Peru State Coach Jerry Joy is hobbling around with a pair of crutches, wearing a smile and looking forward to football season at Peru State.

He hopes to be healed and walking by then.

Coach Joy sustained a serious leg injury when he ignited trash in a barrel. He believes a high caliber shell was in the trash, exploded from the fire and sent metal from the trash can flying through the air like shrapnel.

He caught pieces in his leg and shattered a leg bone into nearly three dozen pieces. Misery isn't the word for it...but come next fall.

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The brave trio —

The three bravest (or most foolhardy) men we know are the three who walked the ice on the Missouri river drilling holes and measuring ice and water flow

The three are from the U.S. Geological Survey team of the U.S Corps of Engineers.

Diane Lukowski of the News-Press was there. She said the trio crossed the entire width of the river of ice, picking its way, and back again. When they were finished, they apparently had enough. but did pose for Diane on the ice.

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Retired —

Congratulations to Gertrude Koester, Rose Gilson and Herb Frede who have retired from duties at St. Mary's hospital. They were recognized by Steve Urosevich, hospital administrator

Rose is a longtime friend...and can she bake fresh rolls!

Nebraska City had a school where the Safeway store is now located. I can never remember whether it was a HS or JH because they switched them around. It was built for a HS, but used both ways.

Anyway Edgar Lightbody was superintendent and every morning when I made my news rounds, Edgar would lead the way to the basement-gym-lunch room of the school. And there was Rose. whipping up the most delicious food. We sampled it every day

The boys and girls in Miss Pete's (Amelia Peterson) vocal music class above the lunch room had some growling stomachs by 11 a.m. each day

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Drugs —

Don Niemann, an investigator for the drug division of the Nebraska State Patrol, made it pretty clear the other day on drugs in Nebraska City and southeast Nebraska — they're here.

The officer displayed a number of different "tools" of users and also drug samples The talk was different Rather than tell about drugs, he told Optimists the symptoms of drug users so they could see for themselves.

He also burned some marijuana on a piece of foil. That brought Mrs Roger McCreary and Mrs Leona Kirby out of the kitchen at the First Lutheran church

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Truckin' —

Johnny Bando writes from Donna, Tex., that we ain't seen nuthin' yet until we see 463 trucks lined up to unload freeze-damaged fruit before decay and mold set in.

Johnny sent a clipping from the area showing an aerial view of the trucks lined up in rows waiting to be unloaded. The wait period was 2½ days. In one day, the Texsun plant processed 2,200 tons of fruit into 66,000 cases of juice

And as the owner said, the company will be busy for a couple of weeks and the season will come to a quick end.

The Bandos and Clarence Beccards traveled in the winter vacation country. They reported a lot of trees destroyed by the freeze.

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Good luck, Jerry —

Jerry Hall has taken over the Chevrolet dealership in Humboldt. It will be renamed Hall Motor company and a grand opening will be held later.

Jerry formerly operated the Sears store in Nebraska City and has been associated with Weinman Auto and Mike Koory Motors in Nebraska City.

Good luck and much success to Jerry and Bev Hall.

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The Sidney Rodeo —

There's going to be a great time at Sidney, Ia., come August. Singing star Bill Anderson will be in the show arena.

Thanks to Jim Sutton, Sam Kellogg, Jr., and a host of Sidney rodeo directors and volunteers, we had a great time the other night. We met with Bill Anderson, took a few pictures and some notes. We had way-too-much to eat, but enjoyed it all.

The Marlboro-looking guy who kept calling to me, turned out to be someone who remembered — Mike Streeter, son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Streeter. Mike plays the drums for Bill Anderson and puts in a lot of road miles.

Nope, he didn't use any influence to get Bill Anderson to Sidney, but once the deal was made, he made himself available to come back home to meet people.

The Streeters lived in Nebraska City He worked nights in Omaha and Council Bluffs clubs and his wife, Barb, worked at Farmers Bank



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M.D.

Pain was the issue

By Lawrence Lamb, M.D.

DEAR DR. LAMB — A year-and-a-half ago I had an X-ray series of my stomach and it showed I had a gastric ulcer. My doctor told me that he was going to put me on medicine and if it wasn't healed within a month, he'd have to remove half the stomach and some nerve endings. He added that gastric ulcers have a tendency to become malignant. I took the medicine and after a month when the tests were repeated, my ulcer was gone.

About three months later, I had some family problems and my old familiar pain was back. He took X rays and my ulcer was bigger than ever. He asked me what I wanted to do and I said, "I'm ready for surgery."

So he operated and removed half my stomach and cut nerve endings to the stomach and also removed the gall bladder while he was in there. My surgeon was recommended by our dear family doctor who has since retired, so I trust him.

Our paper carried an article on ulcers. It stated that it was a myth that a gastric ulcer could cause cancer. Now my family does not believe me when I tell them what my doctor told me. This has me so upset. I don't think my husband believes me either.

This doctor has done surgery on me before. He gets me up on my feet quickly and without a lot of medication which is important to me. Could you please discuss gastric ulcers in your column? Incidentally, it's nice not to have that terrible pain anymore.

DEAR READER — The important point is in the bottom line of your letter. Your medical problem has been relieved by the surgery that has been performed. After all, that's the most important thing.

Of course, I can't say why your surgeon decided you needed surgery, but perhaps because of the size, extent and recurrent nature of the ulcer, irrespective of his concern about the cancer. Sometimes patients do have severe, recurring ulcers that can't be controlled with medical treatment and need such surgery.

A person can have ulcers in the stomach which are essentially the same as ulcers in the duodenum These are the ulcers associated with an overproduction of stomach acid. A person can also have cancer of the stomach with an ulcer of the cancer. That's where all the trouble begins.

Doctors used to believe that peptic ulcers in the stomach might become malignant. Cancer cells were noted around some ulcers. Now most doctors believe the cancer was there first and the ulcer formed in the base of the cancer. It really doesn't make a lot of difference because if a doctor has any reason to suspect that an ulcerated area in the stomach is associated with a stomach cancer, he would want to perform surgery at once

I am sending you The Health Letter number 1-5, Ulcers, Duodenal, Stomach, to give you more information about ulcers, which appears to have been your primary problem. Other readers who want this issue can send 50 cents with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for it. Send your request to me in care of this newspaper, P.O Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019

Don't let your family upset you. As I tried to suggest, it really doesn't make much difference The important thing is to obtain proper treatment to relieve the difficulties you were experiencing Apparently, in your case, that has been done

News in Brief

ATLANTA (AP) — Health officils say Legionnaires disease bacterium discovered in the cooling towers of six Dallas hotels may have been sucked into the hotels' air conditioning systems last August during a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, causing 18 cases of the disease, one of which proved fatal.

Dr. Albert England of the Center for Disease Control said Friday that researchers had found Legionnaires bacterium in the cooling towers of hotels where conventioneers stayed.

Berry's World



"No, he's not doing Tai Chi. That's just the way he always moves in the morning."