

Drilling For Oil

Vernon Ludwick, Storyteller

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

2006

In the 1910s the old Three Pines Hotel used to have its own well a few hundred feet north of the Ludwick home toward Hugo. There is a story that the well water used to have oil come up on the top of it - that oil used to occasionally bubble up in the well and was one of the reasons they shut the hotel down. This oil seepage was supposedly one of the reasons that during 1932 - 1934 a real 1,000 foot deep wildcat oil well was drilled on the Ludwick place to the south of the hotel's location, and another one near Red Mountain. The wells were drilled, the rigs pulled out, the wells capped or filled with rock, and not much said.

The oil miners rented the Grimes house in Three Pines during the two years they were drilling. The oil drillers drilled with an old pounder drill on a truck. It was fall, September in fact, 1932, that the Grimes family moved to the Sexton's old white-painted place (would have been located on north end of Oxyoke Road today). The Grimes family lived in the Sexton place for two winters. While at the Sexton place Doran attended the rest of the first grade and the second grade at Hugo Elementary School. Vernon was glad when after about two years the Grimes family moved back to their home in Three Pines. His friend Doran was home.

In 2003, Hugo locals Clarence Kolkow and Vern Ludwick remembered the old oil derrick on the Ludwick place. Everyone used to make fun of it and the old "wildcatters" that were going to get rich overnight. At the time it used to be the joke of the town. The old oil well is still there and now is being used as a domestic water well.

Walker, Mike. March 2006. *Vernon Chester Ludwick's Three Pines & Hugo Memories: 1923 - 1941*. Education Chair for Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.