'Drilling Won't Hurt a Bit,' Oil Firms Assure West Side Residents
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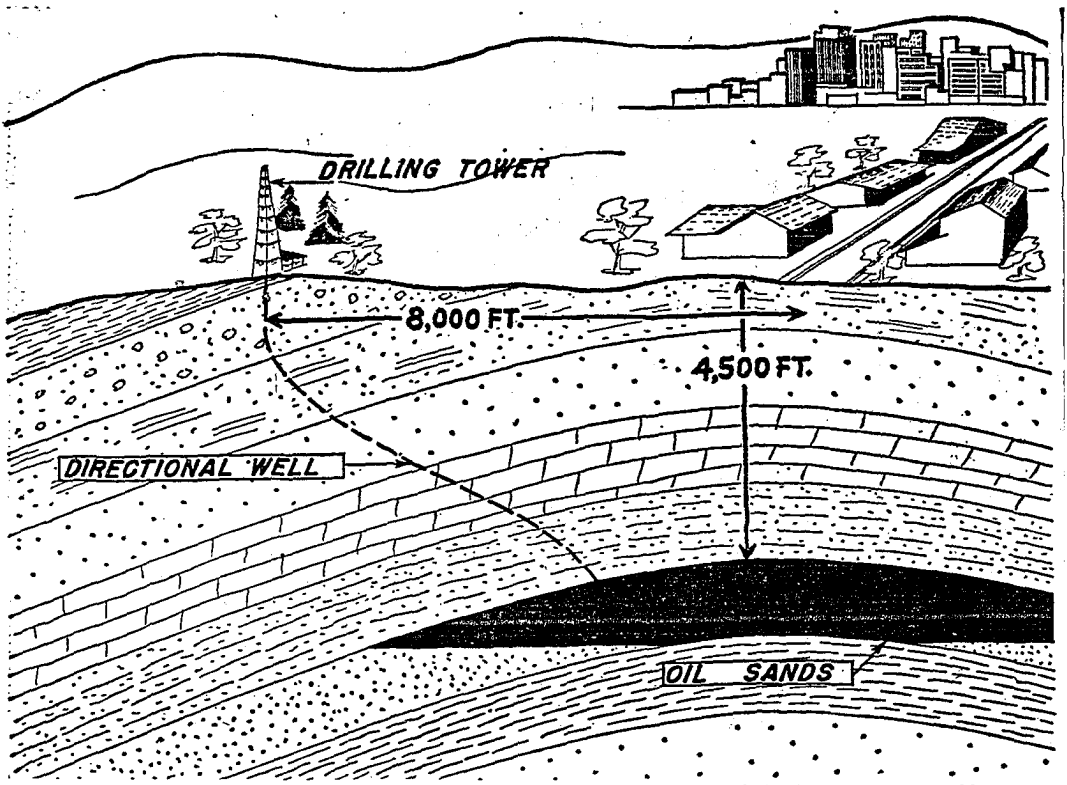

SLANT DRILLING —Artist's sketch shows how companies are drilling for oil under West Side residential districts from secluded sites as much as 8000 feet away. Drilling angle can be controlled.

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WEST LOS ANGELES — Unslightly oil derricks, once a common sight within the city limits, won't be a part of the West Side landscape, even though extensive drilling is planned for the area.

Two measures, the removal of drilling towers and the introduction of directional drilling, popularly known as slant drilling, have been initiated by oil companies to eliminate the objections of residents.

Slant Drilling

Holders of oil leases need never know that black gold is being pumped from beneath their property until they receive their royalty checks.

It is no longer necessary to sink a well directly over an oil pool. In fact, oil may be sucked from beneath a residential district by means of a pump thousands of feet away in a secluded area.

Signal Oil and Gas Co., following "spudding in" and drilling, removes its derricks and leaves its pumping equipment below the ground. What's left is a clean, parklike area surrounded by shrubbery and trees.

Here on the West Side other companies using slant drilling methods will probably do the same. At present the search for oil is on in Cheviot Hills and West Los Angeles.

In addition, other firms plan to drill in Culver City and Santa Monica.

Current drilling operations are being carried out by the Signal Oil and Gas and Richfield Oil Cos., Universal Consolidated Oil Co. and the Hudson Oil and Gas Co.

Procedure Explained

How do they do it? How can they drill from so far away without disrupting the residential landscaping?

Initially, a well is drilled straight down for approximately 100 feet. By using a wedge-like device called a whipstock, companies can force the drilling into different directions more horizontal than vertical, toward the oil pool.

Actually, a well that may be vertically 4500 feet below the surface of a residential area, may have been drilled from a position 8000 feet away.

After a new direction is started, the amount of degree of the bend can be increased by applying certain weights and rotational speeds to the drilling bit. By doing this, an angle may deviate as much as 75 deg. from the original vertical position.

At intervals of approximately 90 feet, an instrument is placed in the well to record its direction and angle, so that it can be plotted on a map that will show its exact location.

Fluid Cement

After the well has been drilled to a point above the oil sand, heavy pipe, called casing, is run to the bottom, and fluid cement is pumped down through the casing and up around it on the outside.

A hole is then drilled from inside the casing through the cement to the bottom of the oil sand. A smaller pipe with perforations is then run in to protect the bore hole and to permit oil to enter the well.

Pumps then lift the oil to surface installations where the drilling was started.