

PERSHING COUNTY

Only one exploratory well has been drilled in Pershing County. It was drilled in 1984, probably to test for oil that may have been generated from Triassic or younger rocks and migrated to combination structural-stratigraphic traps. Two areas in the southeastern part of the county have reported oil from outcrop samples. At one locality in Favrat Canyon in the Augusta Mountains (sec. 12, T25N, R39E), the chambers of ammonoids found in concretions commonly yield liquid hydrocarbons. The concretions occur in the Fossil Hill Member of the Triassic Favret Formation (Nichols and Silberling, 1977; Bortz, 1983, p. 190-192). At the other locality (sec. 16?, T26N, R39E), in the southern Tobin Range, a liquid hydrocarbon is reported from the chambers of cephalopod shells from the Triassic Favret and Prida Formations, undifferentiated (Burke, 1973, p. 48; Bortz, 1983, p. 190).

Well Data

ARCO OIL & GAS CO.

Tobin No. 1

API no.: 27-027-05000

Permit no.: 408

Location: NW¼NE¼ sec. 4, T25N, R39E

1,000 ft from north line, 1,500 ft from east line

Elevation: 3,814 ft

Completed: Dec. 6, 1984

Status: P & A

Depth: 2,065 ft

Tops:

Surface	Tertiary sediments
406 ft	pre-Tertiary 2,600 ft volc.
3,050 ft	Paleozoic

Logs:

Lithologic	120-2,066 ft
BHCS	850-1,934 ft
DLL/ML	850-1,928 ft
Directional	850-1,940 ft
DM	850-1,940 ft
Sonic waveform	850-1,934 ft

Samples:

Cuttings	120-2,060 ft
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WASHOE COUNTY

Only two wells are reported to have been drilled in Washoe County, and there is some doubt about one of them. Rumors of discoveries and plans for oil developments abounded in the early 1900's (see the bibliography for citations of articles in the Nevada State Journal and the Reno Evening Gazette; also see Anderson, 1909a). Most of these early rumors were probably based on speculation or promotion, or on prognostications by so-called oil experts about the oil potential of an area or areas.

There are no confirmed oil shows in Washoe County, but methane gas (probably of biogenic origin—swamp gas) has been reported from two areas. In 1920, flammable gas was reported from a shallow water well in Honey Lake valley, about 2 miles east of Flanigan

(Moody, 1985, p. 43); this well was probably in sec. 33(?), T27N, R19E. Considerable promotion and speculation followed, but no oil exploration wells are known to have been drilled, although a drill rig purchased from the Black Rock Oil Co. was used near Sulfur in Humboldt County.

Prokopovich (1978, 1983) noted small amounts of biogenic methane gas in shallow drill holes in Pleistocene and Holocene sediments near Pyramid Lake. No other Washoe County methane occurrences are known.

Well Data

UNKNOWN OPERATOR

Peavine Mountain Well

API no.: 27-031-04999

Permit no.: WA2

Location: T19N or T20N, R18E or R19E

Remarks: This well was reportedly drilled on Peavine Mountain (Lintz, 1957a, p. 46).

WASHOE OIL & DEVELOPMENT CO.

No. 1

API no.: 27-031-05000

Permit no.: WA1

Location: SE¼ sec. 21, T19N, R19E

Elevation: 4,900 ft

Completed: 1908

Status: D & A

Depth: 1,890 ft

Tops:

Surface	alluvium
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Logs:

Lithologic	0-1,890 ft
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Remarks: This is reputed to be the first well drilled in Nevada.

The location is on a terrace overlooking the Truckee River. Oil and gas shows were reported from this well and may have come from some lacustrine beds. Hot water was reported at 1,173 ft (Lintz, 1957a, p. 45). A 10-inch rusty casing is still visible at the surface.

WHITE PINE COUNTY

The first known oil well in White Pine County was drilled on the Illipah anticline in 1920, but there was interest at least as early as 1909 (Nevada State Journal, Mar. 15 and Apr. 23, 1909). Shows of oil and gas in the shallow Illipah well encouraged the drilling of several more wells in the vicinity.

The drilling of the Standard-Conoco Meridian Unit No. 1 (fig. 18) in 1950 marked the beginning of modern oil exploration in Nevada. Several more Standard-Conoco wells followed, but little other drilling was done until Gulf Oil Corp. drilled a series of wells in the mid-1960's.

Exploration interest in White Pine County has continued because of the numerous shows and the presence of good potential source rocks. Two surface occurrences of oil are known in Mississippian Chainman Shale in White Pine County. In Hamilton Canyon (sec. 3, T17N, R58E), greenish oil occurs in fossil cavities,