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Title:
Television script - oil and carbon dioxide

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TELEVISION SCRIPT.

Station: A.D.S.7	Duration: 5 MINS.	OIL AND CARBON Title: DIOXIDE.
Date: 2.8.67.	Type:	Key No:

Audio

This evening I'm happy to make a very important and exciting announcement about the continuing search for oil and natural gas in Australia.

This is that the Esso Standard Oil Company, in conjunction with the B.H.P. subsidiary of Hematite Petroleum Pty. Ltd. are shortly going to commence drilling an off-shore well in South Australia.

You will remember that last month one of the world's largest and most modern floating drilling rigs was launched at Whyalla. This is the "Ocean Digger", a vast 9,500 ton unit measuring 363 feet by 303 feet. The "Ocean Digger" is the first off-shore floating rig to be constructed entirely in Australia. Esso have contracted for a period of three years with the rig's owners, Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company (Australia) Ltd. and it is expected the rig will be commissioned at the end of August

Video

STUDIO Mr. Dunstan

FILM Launching of rig 15 secs.

FLIP 1. Large photo of "Ocean Digger".

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT,
ADELAIDE.

TELEPHONE 28 2400

TELEVISION SCRIPT.

Station:	Duration:	Title:
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Audio

Video

and will proceed immediately to the drilling location.

The first well in South Australian waters will be drilled in the Otway Basin, approximately fifteen miles west of Robe in the South East of the State and the "Ocean Digger" will be anchored at the site and partially submerged.

The rig will be operated by a crew of around 100 men transferred to and from the rig by helicopters based near Robe and will be serviced by two supply boats.

The site has about 160 feet of water and it is planned to drill to a depth of 8,000 feet.

The well will be known as Crayfish A-1.

FLIP 2

Map

STUDIO

Mr. Dunstan.

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In preparation for the new well, Esso and Hematite have spent almost \$1 million on geologic, aeromagnetic and seismic surveys over a six year period. Hematite completed more than a thousand miles of reconnaissance seismic surveys in South Australia between September, 1961, and March, 1966. Following the agreement with Hematite in May, 1966, Esso has completed an additional 475 miles of high effort, detailed seismic surveys using the latest digital recording techniques.

Subsequent processing and interpretation led to the pin-pointing of the drilling site near Robe. It is expected that Crayfish A-1 will cost more than one and a half million dollars to drill.

Among the supplies which will be drawn from South Australia will be barytes, a material used to control the density of drilling mud. At present Esso obtains essentially

Video

FILM Geologist
2 mins.

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all these barytes for its drilling activities in Australia from South Australia. Esso will use about \$125,000 worth of barytes in 1967 and approximately double this amount during 1968.

During preliminary investigations the exploring companies have been in consultation with the Department of Mines which, with other Government departments, is chiefly responsible for developing mineral resources in South Australia. The barytes, for instance, are being worked by S.A. Barytes Limited, who from the inception have been assisted by the South Australian Government in many fields.

In preparation for the drilling of this, the first off-shore well in South Australia, Esso has for several months been conducting sea bottom surveys to ascertain conditions that could present problems in mooring the "Ocean Digger". Boats working from Robe have been engaged in drilling shallow holes in the sea

Video

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bottom and extensively sampling
the sea bed.

It is, of course, impossible
to say if oil or natural gas will
be discovered. All one can say
is that the geological conditions
look promising.

Naturally the finding of oil
or gas would be of inestimable
value to the State as a whole and
particularly to the area around
Robe.

Regardless of the outcome, it
is very satisfying that the "Ocean
Digger", the first Australian
built floating rig, was constructed
in this State and will carry out
its first operation in South
Australian waters.

Video

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In addition to the drilling of Crayfish A-1, there is another very important development in the south-east. This is the discovery of a carbon dioxide well in the Caroline forest, about 11 miles from Mount Gambier. This was the result of petroleum exploration.

Carbon dioxide is a highly versatile and essential raw material for many industries. These range from automatic power stations to the stimulation of plant growth in greenhouses. Other major uses are in the carbonation of soft drinks, foundry core setting, electrical arc welding, pharmaceutical and industrial chemical production, the preservation and storage of fruit and vegetables and in the production of dry ice.

The carbon dioxide discovered in the Caroline forest is 98 to 99 per cent pure and there are very large deposits.

Video

Map of Caroline 1.

STUDIO Mr. Dunstan.

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The estimated capacity is 75 million cubic feet per acre and there are more than 6,000 acres. This means a flow of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet a day for at least 40 years.

The carbon dioxide will be marketed by Carbo Australia Limited under a 15-year plus contract. They will purify it and distribute it in liquid form.

This is the only carbon dioxide well of commercial possibilities in Australia. The development is a result of co-operation between two Government Departments, the Woods and Forests Department and the Department of Mines. It is another very important industry for the Mount Gambier area.

GOOD NIGHT.

Video