ABSTRACT: Patrick Charlemayne Boyle, usually known just as P. C. Boyle or Patrick C. Boyle, an Irish immigrant from County Donegal, was born July 22, 1846. The year after his birth the Boyle family left their homeland and settled at Bradys Bend in Butler County, Pennsylvania. After attending the local schools, and with the outbreak of the Civil War, at age 15 young Patrick enlisted in the cavalry and became a member of H Company, 54th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Following his successful service, Boyle returned to his home area and sought work in the now booming oil industry. Starting in 1868, he traveled the length and breadth of the region serving as day-laborer, roustabout, and pipeline worker. It was in this latter position that he built a reputation as an honest and skilled workman. From 1882-1885 he worked as an oil scout for the *Union Oil Company*, and he also worked in Ohio as a landsman purchasing leases and land for *Union Oil*.

However it was as a journalist, editor, and publisher that Boyle made his greatest contribution to the oil industry and for which he is remembered today. As early as 1875, Boyle was reporting on oil field activities for the Pittsburgh *Leader* and soon found that it was both lucrative, and much safer, to report on oil field activity than to work in that field. Within a few years his byline was appearing in a number of papers; including the Millerstown *Herald*, the Petrolia *Free Press*, the Bradford *Era*, the Oil City *Derrick*, the Titusville *Herald*, and *Petroleum World*, all in Pennsylvania. And his byline also appeared in newspapers of the Alleghany Field of Western New York, such as the *Olean Herald* and Richburg *Echo*. By 1885 he was the editor of *The Derrick* in Oil City, Pennsylvania and president of *The Derrick Publishing Company*. It was in his capacity as editor/owner of *The Derrick* that he began to gather and publish production statistics, drilling activity, and oil pricing from various oil exchanges. In 1898 Boyle published the first *The Derrick’s Hand-Book of Petroleum* which was a chronology of oil history, production records, oil exchange prices, pipeline shipments, and biographical information on prominent people in the oil industry up to that date.

As the oil industry shifted to the Gulf Coast in the early 20th century, so did P. C. Boyle and in 1910 he purchased the *Oil Investors’ Journal* based in Beaumont, Texas. But again following the movement of oil exploration, he quickly moved the journal to Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was the new center of the oil boom. He renamed his publication *The Oil and Gas Journal* and formed a new publishing company, *Petroleum Publishing Company*. By the time of Boyle’s death in 1920, *The Oil and Gas Journal* had a world-wide reputation for fairness and accuracy. Truly Patrick C. Boyle was the real *Voice of Oil*, and in one sense he still is, for in the second decade of the 21st century *The Oil and Gas Journal*, and its sister publications, remain among the most widely read oil industry publications in the world.

INTRODUCTION

Most of the well-known figures of the early oil industry in the United States were usually directly involved with the business; either as well drillers or owners, oil company owners or financiers, or workers in the oil fields. However, except for a short time as an oil field laborer, Patrick C. Boyle (1846-1920) (Fig. 1) fit into none of these categories. Rather he was a reporter of the oil business, an oil journalist and author. And it is through his work as a reporter, author, and publisher that we remember the name P. C. Boyle (Brice 2012, 2015); for that is the name he used as his by-line. What started out as a way of earning extra money while he was working as an oil field laborer in northwestern Pennsylvania just after the Civil War, became his profession and life’s work as he progressed from field reporter to newspaper and magazine owner and publisher. Several of these publications, notably *The Derrick* and *The Oil and Gas Journal*, have continued to exist into this second decade of the 21st century, more than 100 years after Boyle’s name first appeared on their masthead.

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