The Ute Trail field is 35 miles south of Vernal and approximately 25 miles southwest of the Red Wash field in Uintah County, Utah. The land is a divided-type federal unit embracing more than 68,000 acres. The eastern part of the unit was formerly the Seaboard Oil Company's Bitter Creek Unit, and the western part was formerly the Sun Oil Company's South Ouray Unit. Recently these two units and other lands were incorporated into the Ute Trail Unit.

Drilling in the Ute Trail area began in 1948. Since that time, seven tests have been drilled through the combined efforts of five oil companies. The first four of these tests were dry. Of the last three, two have been completed as shut-in gas wells, and one completed as an oil producer. The initial test was drilled by the Seaboard Oil Company in the NW¼ SW¼ NW¼ of sec. 10, T. 10 S., R. 22 E., S.L.M., in 1948 and 1949 on the Bitter Creek Unit. The well was abandoned at a total depth of 8,520 feet. The earliest test on the South Ouray Unit was drilled by the Sun Oil Company in the NE¼ NE¼ of sec. 22, T. 9 S., R. 20 E., S.L.M., in 1951. That well was abandoned at 8,457 feet.

Deepest penetration in the area was made by the Sun and Continental No. 2 South Ouray Unit well in sec. 20, T. 9 S., R. 20 E., S.L.M., 2 miles west of Sun's initial test on the unit. The test was abandoned at 10,498 feet in the upper part of the Mancos formation. In 1954 General Petroleum drilled an unsuccessful well to 4,921 feet on the Bitter Creek Unit in sec. 2, T. 10 S., R. 24 E., S.L.M., in the central part of the Ute Trail Unit.

In August 1956, the Havenstrite Oil Company drilled the first commercial gas well on the Ute Trail Unit in sec. 9, T. 10 S., R. 22 E., S.L.M., a west offset to Seaboard's abandoned well in the Bitter Creek area. The well was completed for 1,230 m.c.f. of gas per day at 4,854 feet in the Wasatch formation. Later in 1956, Havenstrite completed an offset to Sun's abandoned well in the South Ouray area at an initial flow of 587 barrels of oil per day for the first commercial oil production on the unit. That well, located in sec. 22, T. 9 S., R. 20 E., S.L.M., produces from 3,560 feet in the Green River formation. The most recent completion is a gas well drilled by Sun and Havenstrite a quarter of a mile west of Havenstrite's oil discovery in section 22. That well, the 52X-22B, was completed for an initial rate of 3,120 m.c.f. of gas per day at 6,345 feet in the Wasatch formation, about 900 feet below production at Havenstrite's 83X-9H well.

Since only three wells have shown commercial production, and these from three different zones, it is impossible to state what reservoir characteristics are for the field. In no instance was the producing section cored. However, production is from sandstone in each well. Experience has shown that the Green River sandstones in this part of the section are rather fine grained and calcareous with some gradation to siltstone. The Wasatch sandstones are generally coarser, ranging from fine grained to locally coarse grained, and contain some calcareous cementing material. The sandstones are frequently lenticular, particularly those in the Wasatch formation.

There is no known structural closure in the area, either on the surface or in the subsurface. The surface rocks are of the Uinta formation and have a regional north dip of about 2 degrees. It is not known whether there is arcing or nosing in the underlying older rocks. Production is apparently controlled by pinch-out of the lenticular sands in a southerly direction, possibly over some broad structural feature not yet defined.

Production data on these wells is not available. The two gas wells have been shut-in since completion due to lack of outlet facilities. The Havenstrite 72-22B oil well has produced only a few months, and production has declined somewhat, apparently because of waxing.

Gas analysis from the Sun-Havenstrite 52X-22B discovery well in section 22 shows 93.2 percent methane content and 0.902 gallons of distillate (dissolved) per 1,000 cubic feet of gas. Thermal value is rated at 1,079 B.t.u. and specific gravity at 0.615. Analysis of the gas at Havenstrite's 83X-9H well in section 9 is not available. The oil at Havenstrite's 72-22B well in section 22 is 29° gravity A.P.I. with a pour point of 85° F., paraffin base.

*This paper was written while the writer was employed by the Gulf Oil Corporation.

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