



## Arizona Rocks 65

Text and photos by Ray Grant

Drilling for oil in southern Arizona? I had heard about the deep well drilling project near Florence and was interested to see what was there. I did a little research and found out that the deepest well drilled in Arizona, is about 15 miles south of Florence.

To find the location I started with Deep Well Ranch Road as a clue. It is well marked where it intersects with route 79 south of Florence. From there I went to Google earth and the well site has a large area of concrete slabs where the drill rig and buildings were located that are very visible on the satellite photographs. It is a mile or two north of the Deep Well Ranch Road. A little exploring on dirt roads in the area and there it was, a rusted pipe with a small sign on it surrounded by concrete.

This well was drilled to 18,013 feet and is the deepest ever drilled in Arizona. Anschuta-Texoma and Phillips drilled the well at a cost of nine million dollars in 1980-81. The well started in the basin fill sediments and hit granite at 3,879 feet. It was the 1.4 billion year old granite. Younger granite was hit at 10,761 feet and Precambrian gneiss at 12,755 feet and it continued until they stopped at 18,013 feet.

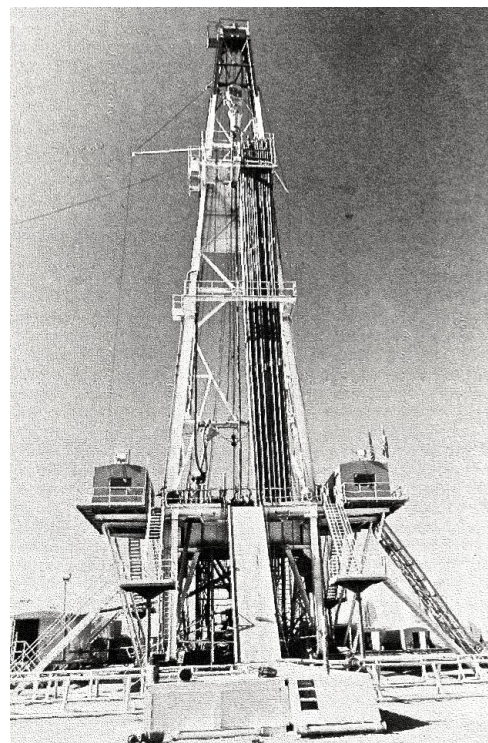
Next month, why spend nine million dollars to drill in granite for oil in southern Arizona?



Concrete slabs where the drill rig and buildings were located that is very visible on the Google satellite photographs.



Rusted pipe with a small sign on it surrounded by concrete where the drill rig and buildings were located.



Drill rig