



RE-CREATION OF THE NELLIE JOHNSTONE No. 1

DISCOVERY DERRICK

**ON DISPLAY AT DISCOVERY 1 PARK
AT THE ENTRANCE OF JOHNSTONE PARK
BARTLESVILLE, OK**

A BRIEF HISTORY

- ◆ **NELLIE JOHNSTONE No. 1 OPERATED FROM 1903-47.**
- ◆ **DESIGNATED “OKLAHOMA’S FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL DISCOVERY” BY THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**
- ◆ **FIRST DERRICK RE-CREATION DEDICATED IN 1948.**
- ◆ **SECOND DERRICK RE-CREATION BUILT IN 1964.**
- ◆ **DETERIORATED DERRICK DROPPED IN 2007 AND GROUND BROKEN FOR DISCOVERY 1 PARK.**
- ◆ **NEW OPERATING AND GUSHING DERRICK DEDICATED ON OCT. 18, 2008.**
- ◆ **THE ONLY SUCH ATTRACTION LIKE IT IN THE WORLD.**



The second derrick reproduction, badly deteriorated, is toppled on Aug. 15, 2007.



Project team members inspect a section of the new derrick's steel underframe.



Sept. 14, 2007 – Ground is broken for Discovery 1 Park with special guests Bill Johnstone, great-grandson of Bartlesville co-founder and well investor William Johnstone, and Pam Smith, granddaughter of Nellie Johnstone.



Hole for the first foundation pier is drilled 30 feet deep to anchor the derrick.



Nov. 15, 2007 – Traveling in two sections, the derrick is paraded through downtown Bartlesville to its new home near the entrance of Johnstone Park.



Nov. 15, 2007 – The derrick is lifted into place — directly over the spot where the historic well was drilled more than 110 years earlier.



The derrick deck and engine house are constructed with steel frames at the indoor shop of SMC, a Bartlesville firm that built the derrick.



The “bull wheel” cable spool that was salvaged from previous rig reproduction and installed in the new derrick.



An authentic and moving steam engine was placed inside the engine house.



At the actual wellbore of the historic discovery, a SMC rig builder makes preparation for the rig operation and gusher.



The huge wooden band wheel was built from scratch using original iron fittings.



The derrick is “topped off” with the installation of a large pulley in the rig crown.



The rig nears completion and prepared for operation.



A crowd gathers for the derrick dedication on Oct. 18, 2008.



The “new Nellie” cuts loose with her first crowd-pleasing gusher.



Docent-led visits to the derrick are popular school field trip destinations.



Come see "Where Oklahoma Oil Began!"