

The background image shows a tall, lattice-structured oil derrick, the Nellie Johnstone No. 1, standing in a grassy field. In the foreground, there is a wooden building and a pile of gravel. The scene is surrounded by trees and a clear sky. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

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!”**