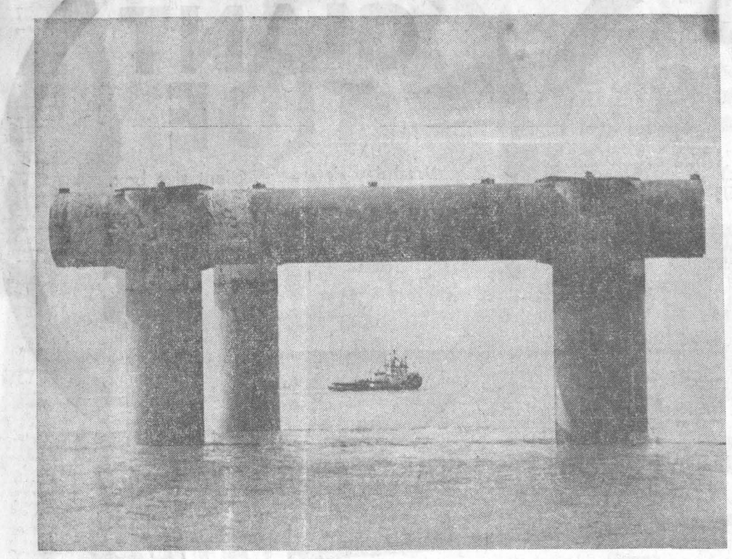
Work Continues On Cook Inlet Oil Drilling Platform



WHEN THE ON-SITE WORK BEGAN

This photograph was taken Aug. 16 at Middle Ground Shoal after the huge platform, floated to Cook Inlet, had been flooded and tilted into position. Work then began on fastening the platform to floor and constructing the decks.

Despite the worst ice pack conditions in Cook Inlet in many years, work is going ahead on the permanent oil drilling platform being erected in the Middle Ground Shoal area for Shell Oil Co. by Kaiser Steel Corp.

The platform leg and base unit was fabricated in Kaiser's Richmond, Calif., plant and then floated to Alaska. By a technique of filling the hollow legs, the platform was sunk upright into proper position on Aug. 16. It was then "pinned" to the inlet floor with hollow pilings which will also act as conductor pipe when wells are drilled.

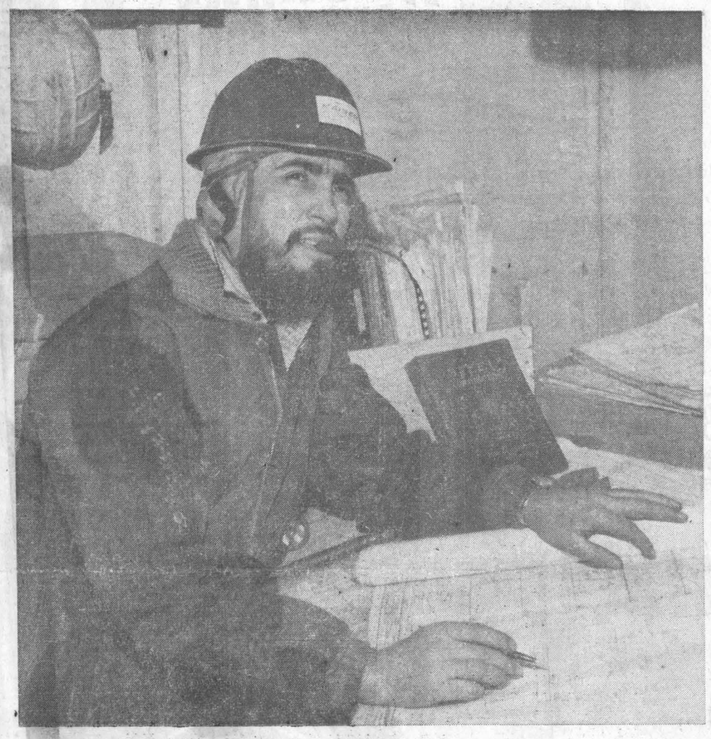
The platform legs are 14½ feet in diameter and 146 feet long and are topped by a double-deck, fully enclosed superstructure. On the upper deck will be a drilling derrick 173 feet tall.

The platform, which will weigh 19 million pounds fully equipped, is designed to withstand 30-foot tides, eight-knot currents and ice pressure loads of 12 million pounds.

Kaiser Steel Corp. workers have stayed on the job despite the second-coldest December ever recorded in the Kenai Peninsula area. Crew size has varied from 20-50 men. Completion of the job is expected sometime in March and Shell expects to begin drilling a development well as soon as possible thereafter.

VIEW OF PLATFORM AND ICE FIELD

The photograph above shows an aerial view of the Shell Oil platform in the midst of the Cook Inlet ice pack. Note the side panels which enclose decks and provide all-weather protection to men and machines. Crew quarters and a drilling derrick remain to be erected on the upper deck. In photo to left, the ice-coated work barge provides a background for Dillard Hammett, left, Shell Oil's Alaska division mechanical engineer, and Casey Haas, Kaiser iron worker.

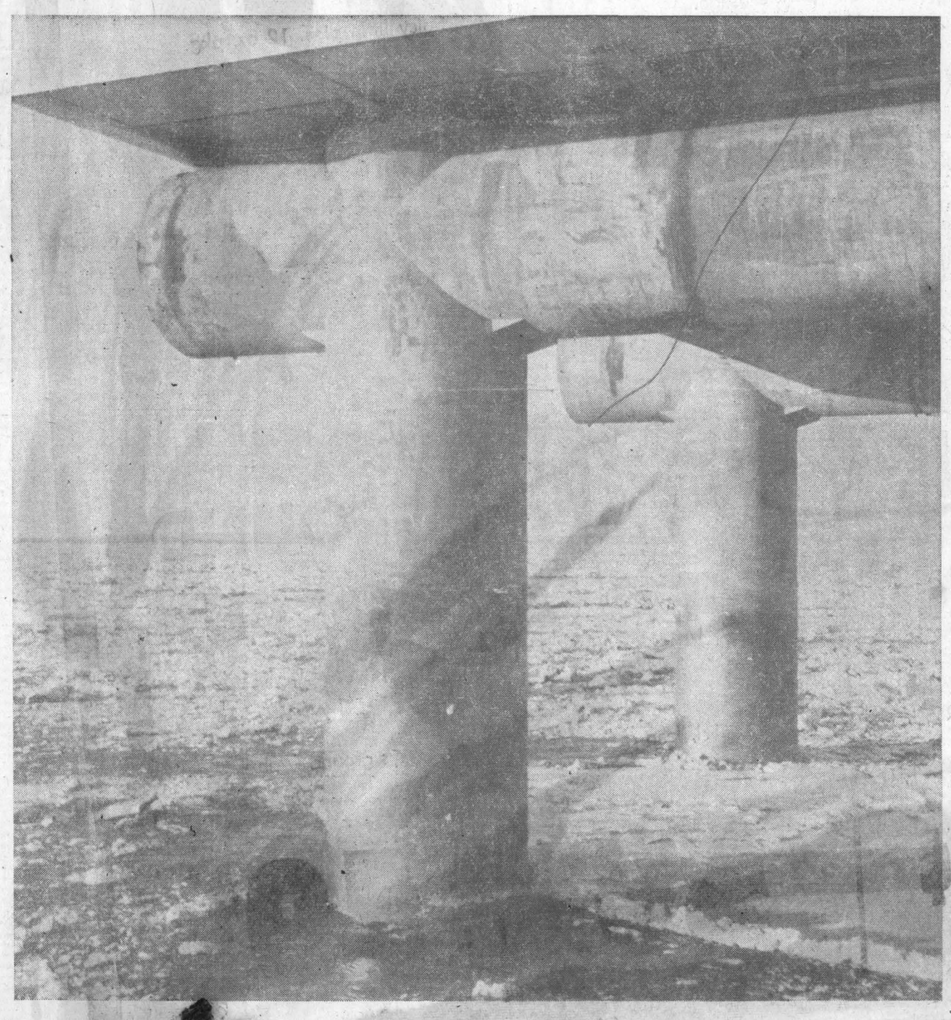


KAISER'S MAN AT THE HELM

Construction foreman for Kaiser Steel on the platform job is Larry Espinosa, above, shown consulting blueprints. The size of the construction crew has been as much as 50 persons.

CAKE OF ICE IS EXAMINED

Hal Peyton, ice specialist for Shell Oil, is shown with a chunk of Cook Inlet ice. No. 1 indicates hard, strong ice. No. 2 indicates when two ice chunks rafted and are joined together in one solid piece. No. 3 and No. 4 point to two areas of new ice growth where crystals are forming on the bottom of the cake of ice.



CHURNING ICE POLISHES PLATFORM LEGS

Scouring action by the Cook Inlet ice pack has polished the 14½-foot diameter legs of the drilling platform, despite the application of a protective coating at the fabricating plant. The ice pack is moved up and down the inlet by tidal action.

WELDING A PLATE

A welder for Kaiser Steel Corp. is shown welding a plate over a conductor pipe. There are eight conductor pipes in each of the platform's large main legs. Each conductor pipe can be used as the location for drilling a well. This means a maximum of 32 wells could be drilled from the platform.