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Oil Poetry

Sheryl Nelms

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Oil Poetry by Sheryl Nelms

sure thing he said

the land lay real good

gentle rolling
hills pricked
with oil
rigs
on every side

the geologist
predicted
production
in the Mississippi Lime
with an out
side
chance
in the Lower Carmichael

then they sank the six thousand foot
Wilcox Test

today they run
the cement
plug

oilies lament

it's at night
always at night

if you're gonna
have
trouble

that's when it's
gonna happen

usually about three in the morning

especially if
you are
runnin
pipe

runnin pipe

now in runnin pipe
you got three
holes

you got the oil well itself

then you got your
rat hole
and your
mouse hole

the rat is
where you
keep your spare
pipe

the mouse is
where you
hook 'em
up

an the well is where you put 'em



PHOTO BY HERB ROPP

■ "Tripping", or joining the pipe on the Parker No. 201.