



Tom Ayres, diver for Trans Lake Drilling Company takes time out from his work. On the left is Bob O'Leary, an employee at Russel-

Hipwell and Wayne Charlton, of the staff of Trans Lake Drilling, is on the right.—SunTimes Staff Photo.

This clipping is from "The Owen Sound Sun-Times" of Saturday, September 13, 1958. Ayers was working on TRANS-LAKE NO. 3.

gine. Three spuds on the truss section each had a large air-filled tank, about 15 feet square, attached to it. When the tanks were flooded, the spud sank to the lake bottom and allowed the truss section to rest firmly about 30 feet off the bottom. The drilling platform then was jacked up from the truss section to a level about 10 feet above the lake surface before drilling operations began. When the rig was ready to be moved, the air tanks on the base spuds were pressurized, the spuds floated off the bottom, and the rig was towed to its next location.

TRANSLAKE NO. 2 was completed and taken in tow to Erieau, on Lake Erie, by the Hindman tug HELEN HINDMAN in July of 1958. It was found that the hydraulic jacking system, which originally was positioned on the underwater truss section, suffered difficulties from the cold water, and the rig could be jacked up but not down. The problem was resolved by shifting the hydraulic jacking system up to the drilling platform.

Crews normally worked on the rig eight days straight, 12 hours a day, followed by four days ashore. Accommodations for the crew of six were located beneath the deck, as was a small galley with about eight feet of headroom. Showers, washroom facilities and a holding tank were located in the bow peak.

On deck the rig carried a small rotary drill similar to a truck-mounted land-based rig. Pressurized water injected into the drilling pipe flushed the drill tailings up to the surface and overboard. When a live well was found, mud (a combination of bentonite and aquagel) was pumped down the drill pipe to plug the pipe until it could be properly capped underwater. For this purpose, a twin-piston mud pump was located on deck, and mud holding tanks were located along the sides of the rig.

There were two heavy swing-arm davits located on the rig topside, each with a moveable car, to which chain falls were attached for handling drill rods