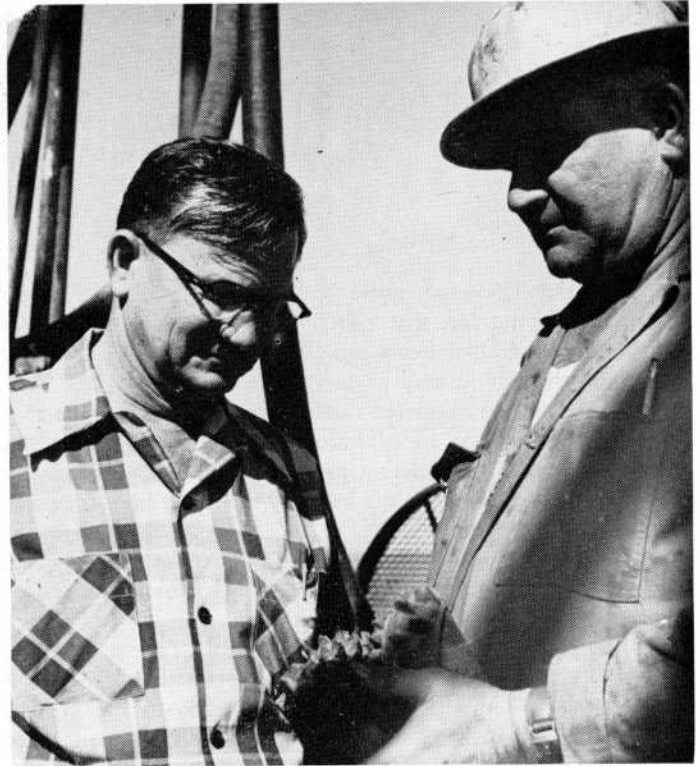




With company truck in background, Bill Barfield, '38eng, goes about his daily routine. Here he is seen examining a continuous deep meter record.



On a field trip to observe special operations, Barfield is seen talking with a driller on a C. G. Glasscox Drilling Company wildcat operation.

OIL and ORCHIDS

You may not think they go together, but wait until you meet the Barfields of Corpus Christi. They're making oil pay off for a living and orchids pay off in a lot of fun.

PHOTOGRAPHED by JIM ABBEE, '55

WHEN William G. Barfield, '38eng, leaves his office in downtown Corpus Christi for the day, it's fairly certain that a visitor can find him a short time later in a greenhouse in suburban Corpus Christi, trading the oil business for a few hours with orchids.

As division sales engineer for the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation, Bill Barfield has moved up the oil industry's

ladder quickly since graduation from O.U. in 1938. Oil has been his business for the past 16 years and the past six have been spent with Schlumberger.

As an orchid fancier and grower his rise has been more spectacular. He became interested in orchid growing three years ago when he read an article about orchids in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The past year he was president of the Corpus Christi Orchid Society, Inc. and the owner of a greenhouse that contains more than 500 orchid plants.

In occupation and avocation, Barfield receives the wholehearted support of wife Christine Gibson Barfield, '39h.ec. She handles much of the social life that is required of a man in Barfield's position and has become as enthusiastic about orchids as her husband.

An acquaintance described the husband and wife as a balanced combination. "Chris is vivacious and perpetual motion. Bill has a more quiet personality, an exacting person in the best sense who comes close to being a perfectionist."

Barfield is a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, the American Petroleum Institute and the Corpus Christi Geological Society. He is also a member of the National Orchid Society.

At present, oil is Barfield's business and orchid growing only a hobby. Orchid blooms are not sold but go to friends, hospitals and people of his neighborhood. But, although retirement is a long way off for the Barfields, he hopes to make his hobby a lifelong one and exchange oil for orchids when the time does arrive.



A good part of Bill Barfield's job as division sales engineer for the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corp. is done in the Corpus Christi office.



Barfield and Mrs. Christine Gibson Barfield, '39h.ec, spend a great deal of their free time in their greenhouse that is home to more than 500 orchid plants.



Barfield's pet plant is a large lavender number known to orchid growers by the name of Lc. Frank Lind. One of the smallest blooms (right) in Barfield greenhouse is Epidendrum Cochleatum (laymen may know it as the Black Orchid).

