



Parker Rig 257, called the world's largest barge rig, arrived in Kazakhstan during August for a drilling program in the Caspian Sea.

### Arctic barge begins work

**PARKER RIG 257** kicked off its Caspian drilling program for the **Offshore Kazakhstan International Operating Co** on 4 Sept. The unit, the world's largest barge rig and the only Arctic-class barge rig in the world, is drilling its first exploration well at the Kashagan East prospect, some 75 Km south of Atyrau. The well is expected to take 4 months to drill, followed by testing. ■

### Jagson rig is India's best

**JAGSON INTERNATIONAL'S** Deep-sea Matdrill, deployed in the Bombay High Field, was rated best offshore rig working in Indian waters, in recognition of excellent performance for achieving highest meterage of the year 1998-99 for exploratory drilling. ■

### Nicklos Drilling reborn!

**NICKLOS DRILLING CO** recently changed its name from **Nicklos-Bouldin Drilling Co** and relocated to downtown Houston: 700 Louisiana, Suite 4670; Houston, Texas 77002; 713-224-5959; fax, 713-224-5993. **Jim Nicklos** will continue to serve as President of the company. ■



"**HUET's**" next? Several Marine Drilling employees underwent helicopter underwater emergency training in August, a company-approved way to beat the Texas heat. The training was conducted by Marine & Offshore Group, an Australian firm that recently established an office in the Houston area. 5 men and 3 women—3 of them non-swimmers—underwent the training, which included escaping the above simulator after capsizing in a swimming pool. ■

# DRILLING CONTRACTOR

## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### Diamond Offshore turnkey well sets world record for water depth



Diamond Offshore's drillship **Ocean Clipper** set the new record by drilling a Gulf of Mexico well for **Marathon** in more than 7,200 ft of water. The well exceeds the previous turnkey water depth record, set in 1994 for a well drilled by Diamond Offshore's semi **Ocean Voyager** in 2,100 ft of water.

**DIAMOND OFFSHORE DRILLING**, through its wholly owned drilling management subsidiary, **Diamond Offshore Team Solutions Inc (DOTS)**, has successfully drilled the world's deepest water depth turnkey well with its drillship **Ocean Clipper**. The well, drilled in more than 7,200 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico for **Marathon Oil Company**, is the 6th deepest water depth well ever drilled worldwide and surpasses the previous turnkey record operation com-

pleted by Diamond Offshore's semisubmersible **Ocean Voyager** in 1994 in approximately 2,100 feet of water.

"This world record demonstrates not only our turnkey capabilities, but also the success of the recent upgrade of the **Ocean Clipper** completed prior to spud. **Diamond Offshore** salutes its crews and support staff who contributed to this achievement," said President/COO **Lawrence R Dickerson**. ■

### Deutag wins BP Amoco work

**BP AMOCO HAS** awarded Aberdeen-based **Deutag** the contract for platform drilling and maintenance services for all 14 of their North Sea platform-based rigs, **Deutag** recently announced. The award triples **Deutag's** platform-drilling business with **BP Amoco**.

**Deutag** will be involved in an work programme on all **BP Amoco's** production platforms in the Central and Northern North Sea. **Deutag** says it intends to try to retain the current skill base.

**Deutag** sees the performance-based contract as a stable, long-term approach to efficient drilling operations. The contractor says it will accomplish this by linking and single-sourcing previously intermittent drilling programmes and tying in maintenance repair and upgrade schedules. Current planning suggests that the contract will employ 3 crews on a continual basis. **Deutag** is assessing the possibility of deploying a 4th crew. ■

# Pride Offshore Rig 650 celebrates 12 full years without an LTA

**Jeff Showalter,**  
Pride Offshore Platform Division

**THE OUTSTANDING CREWS** on Pride Offshore Rig 650 have posted 12 years without a lost-time accident. Rig 650 reached the milestone 12-year mark on 10 Jan, 1999, but the men are moving ahead to set new records. The crews have been doing completion and workover, P&A, sidetracking, straight and horizontal drilling—all these different operations without an LTA.

The safety program which produced these remarkable results has several key elements, but 2 important ones are: enforcement of company policy and a personal safety action plan for each man.

One factor which contributed to this milestone is that the rig worked for one client—Unocal—for 11 consecutive years, followed by 5 other operators. Because of the 650's outstanding safety record Unocal (**Spirit 76**) will be taking the rig back in September.

Another factor is crew stability. Working together for so long, crewmen learned to work as a team. The 650-hp electric rig must be completely dismantled, loaded onto supply boats, moved and reassembled on another fixed platform in several days without assistance of rig builders or rig movers. The crews perform all the work themselves, even dur-



Take a bow! Pride's platform Rig 650 recently celebrated 12 years without an LTA. Much of the credit goes to the rig workers—the A Hitch (above) and the B Hitch. The company also credited an 11-year run with one operator—Unocal/Spirit 76—and company policies for reaching the outstanding milestone.

ing adverse weather conditions on small crowded platforms with limited crane capabilities and marine transportation.

One of their best behavior traits is that they watch over each other and do not hesitate to shut down operations if the safety of a team member or the customer's operation is jeopardized.

Company policy focuses on the prevention of near hits (also known as near misses) and first-aid accidents rather than just controlling recordables and avoiding LTAs. We take a very proactive stand toward safety and implementing programs which focus more on behavior, and it has really shown results.

Another key safety program element is focusing on constant improvement. The belief is that as we approach the year 2000, we must continue to improve our crews' safety performance to protect the customer, and most importantly, our own people.

Productivity, involvement from top management, mutual respect, loyalty, trust, awareness and dependability are words that help to describe a professional worker in today's demanding oil field. Safety leaves a lasting impression and can be one of the best cost-saving actions that any contractor can leave behind at the end of a job. Pride International recognizes these outstanding performances and wishes to recognize the excellent performance of their rig crews on Pride Offshore's Rig 650 for exceeding their 12-year goal of "No Lost Time Accidents."

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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## Parker exits US land, Unit Drilling enters deep market

**UNIT DRILLING HAS** enhanced its niche in the US deep-drilling market, just as Parker Drilling left it. Parker exited the US land business with Unit's purchase of Parker's 13 Lower-48 land rigs for \$48 million in cash and stock.

The 13 rigs are diesel-electric, with power ratings from 1,000-4,000 hp and depth capacities from 16,000 ft to more than 30,000 ft. 7 are located in the Rockies and under contract. 3 are in South Louisiana and 3 in South Texas.

Unit is positioning itself for anticipated growth in natural-gas drilling. The company's fleet swells to 47 rigs.

Post-sale, Parker will operate 83 rigs in 15 countries, including 1 in Alaska. ■



C R Luigs construction on track: Work on Global Marine's ultra-deepwater drillship Glomar C R Luigs is on track for a planned 23 Sept christening in Belfast, where the rig is under construction at Harland and Wolff's yard. The Luigs is a Hull 456 drillship, a class designed for an ultimate water depth of 12,000 ft and a variable deckload of 22,000 mt. Initially, the Glomar C R Luigs will be outfitted to operate in 9,000 ft of water. The rig is expected to arrive at the US Gulf Coast later this year. ■