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Back in the mid-1800s, when Gib was starting in the oil business, most men looked for oil using divining rods. They believed that if the forked sticks they carried turned in a certain direction, it meant they had found oil.

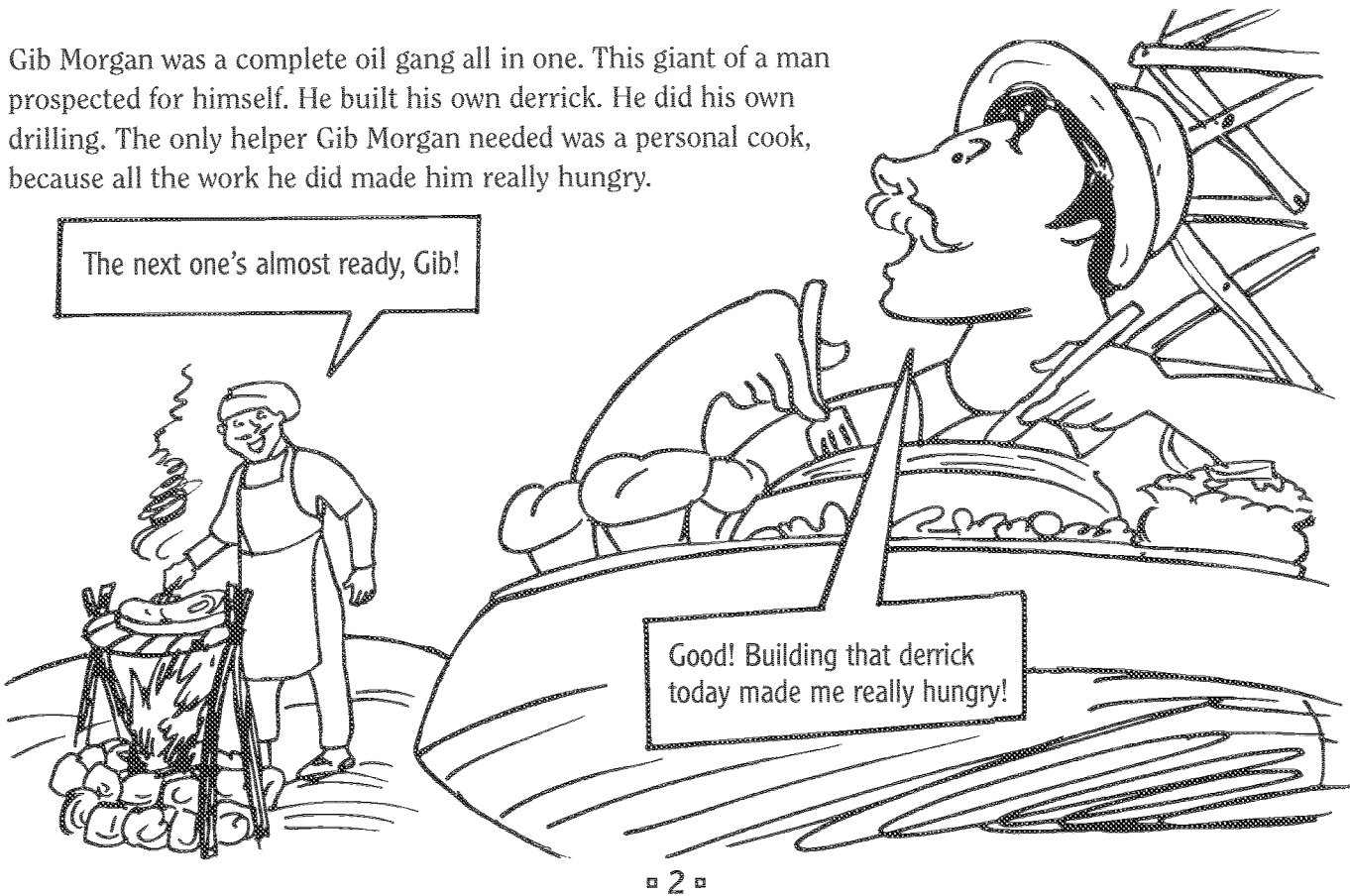


Of course, divining rods were a better indication of wind than oil, and Gib Morgan knew that. He had a better tool for finding oil—his nose! Gib prospected for oil by crawling across fields with his nose to the ground.

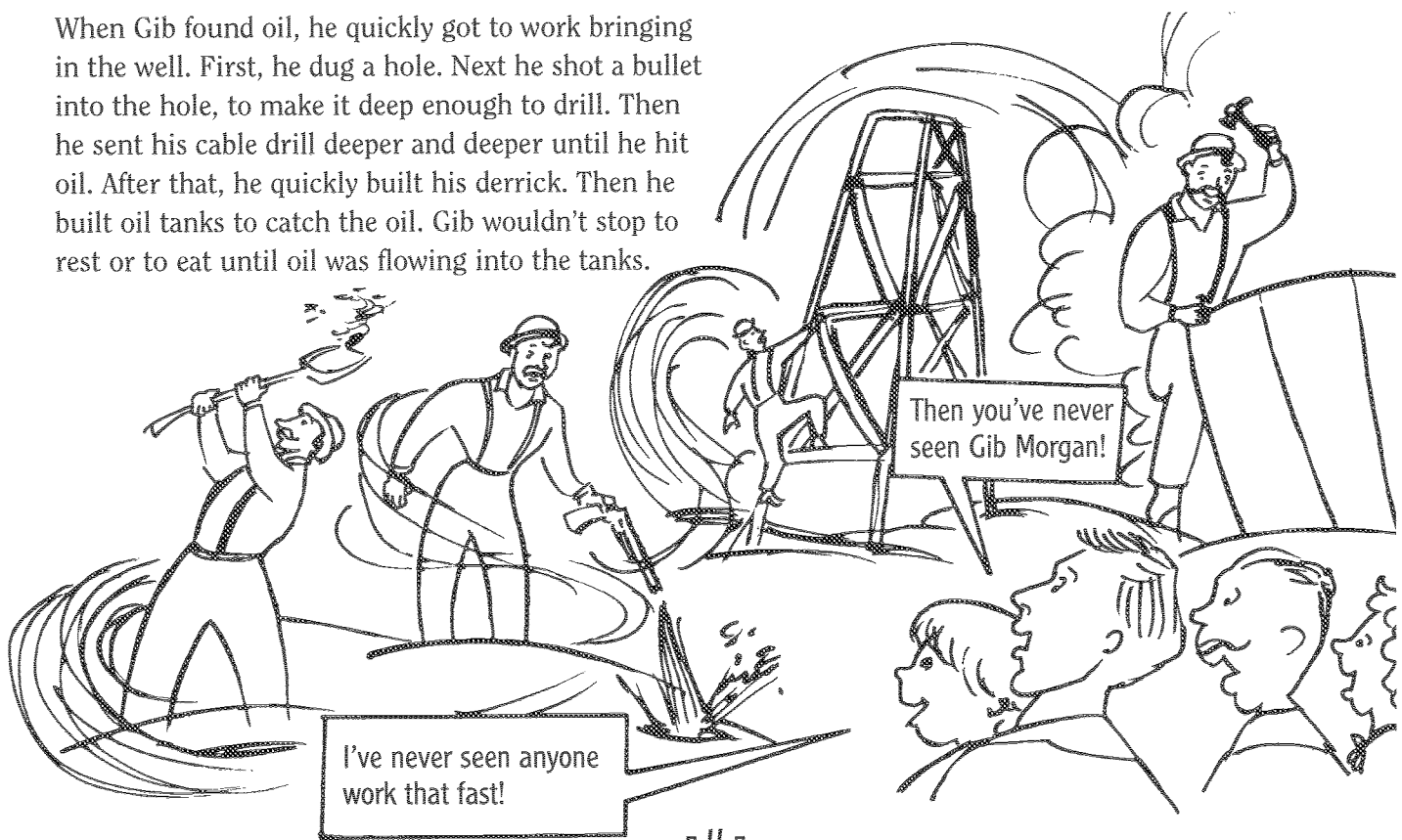


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Gib Morgan was a complete oil gang all in one. This giant of a man prospected for himself. He built his own derrick. He did his own drilling. The only helper Gib Morgan needed was a personal cook, because all the work he did made him really hungry.



When Gib found oil, he quickly got to work bringing in the well. First, he dug a hole. Next he shot a bullet into the hole, to make it deep enough to drill. Then he sent his cable drill deeper and deeper until he hit oil. After that, he quickly built his derrick. Then he built oil tanks to catch the oil. Gib wouldn't stop to rest or to eat until oil was flowing into the tanks.

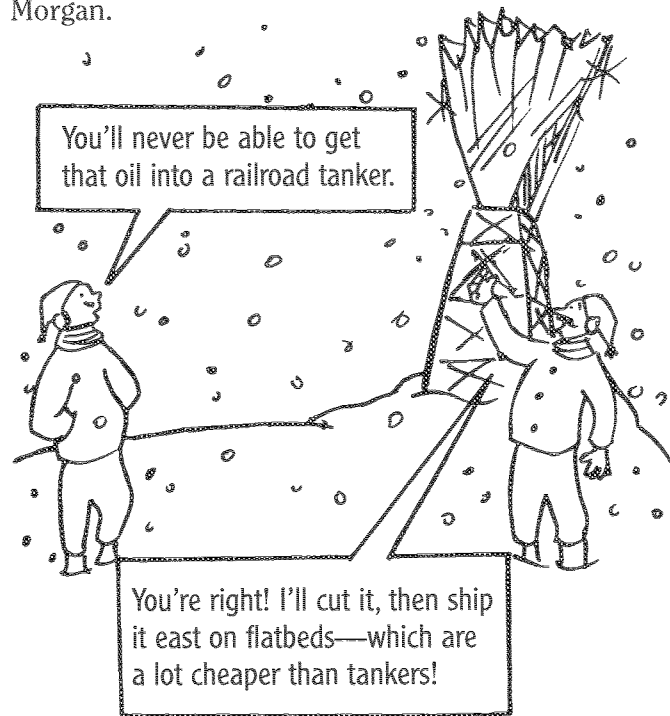


Even the few times his nose was wrong, Gib made the best of it. Once—it was before breakfast and Gib was very hungry—Gib's nose led him to drill. Gib brought in a well of pure buttermilk! That find kept Gib's cook busy for days.

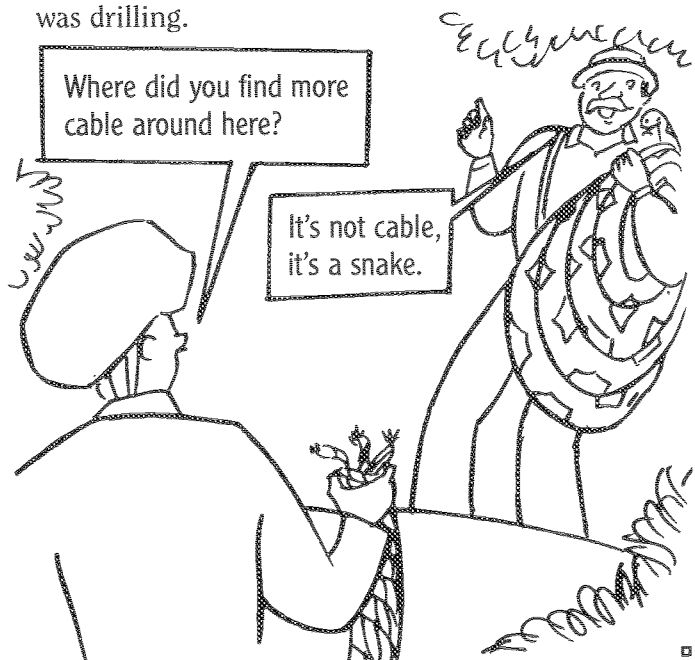


5

One icy cold winter, Gib brought in a gusher that froze as it sprouted out of the well. This might have been a problem for some men, but not for Gib Morgan.



Gib knew there were lots of snakes in the jungles of South America. So he went in search of the longest snake he could find. He soon came across a sleeping snake that must have been a mile long. Gib picked it up and carried it back to where he was drilling.

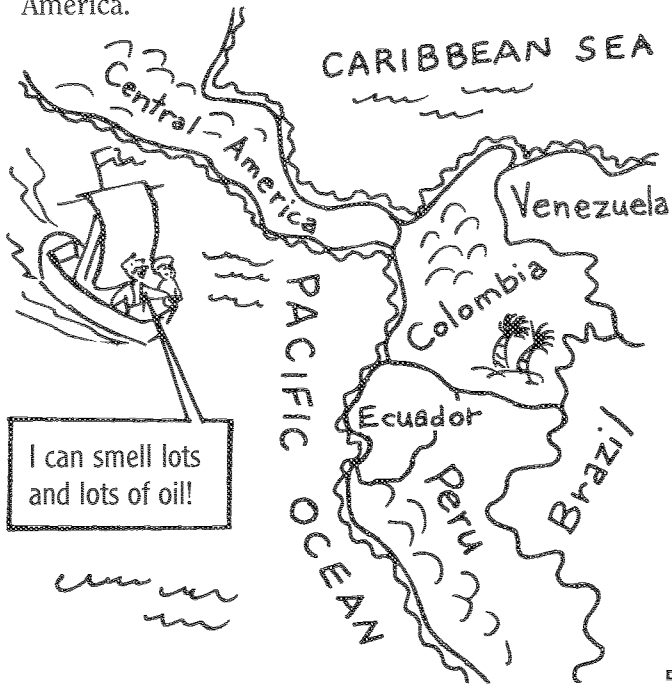


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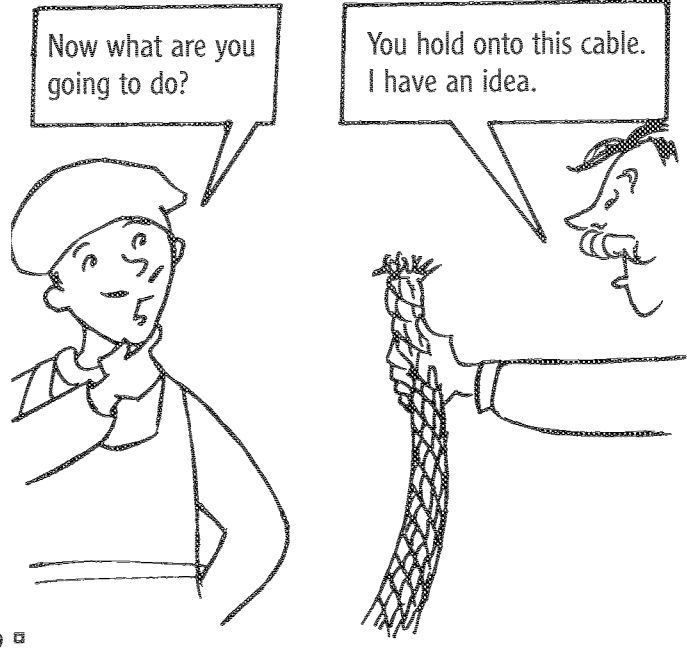
Gib tied the snake's tail to the end of the cable. Then he dropped the cable—and the snake—deeper and deeper into the earth. When the snake was about halfway uncoiled, Gib hit oil!



Gib Morgan had drilled all over the United States when he got word that South America was practically floating in oil. Gib packed up some supplies, then he and his cook sailed to South America.



As soon as they landed, Gib began drilling. He dropped his cable lower and lower, but there was no sign of oil. Gib knew it was there, though, and he would keep drilling until he found it. The only problem was, his cable ran out before he hit oil.



Gib returned to the United States richer than ever. So, when he smelled the world's biggest oil field right smack in the middle of Oklahoma, he gave the field to his friends. Well, they drilled and drilled and drilled, but found nothing. Finally, Gib had to take over. He went down one mile, two, three, four. Finally, when his drill hit the fifth mile, there was a deafening whoosh. Oil shot up to the sky and covered the entire state, making everyone happy—and rich.

