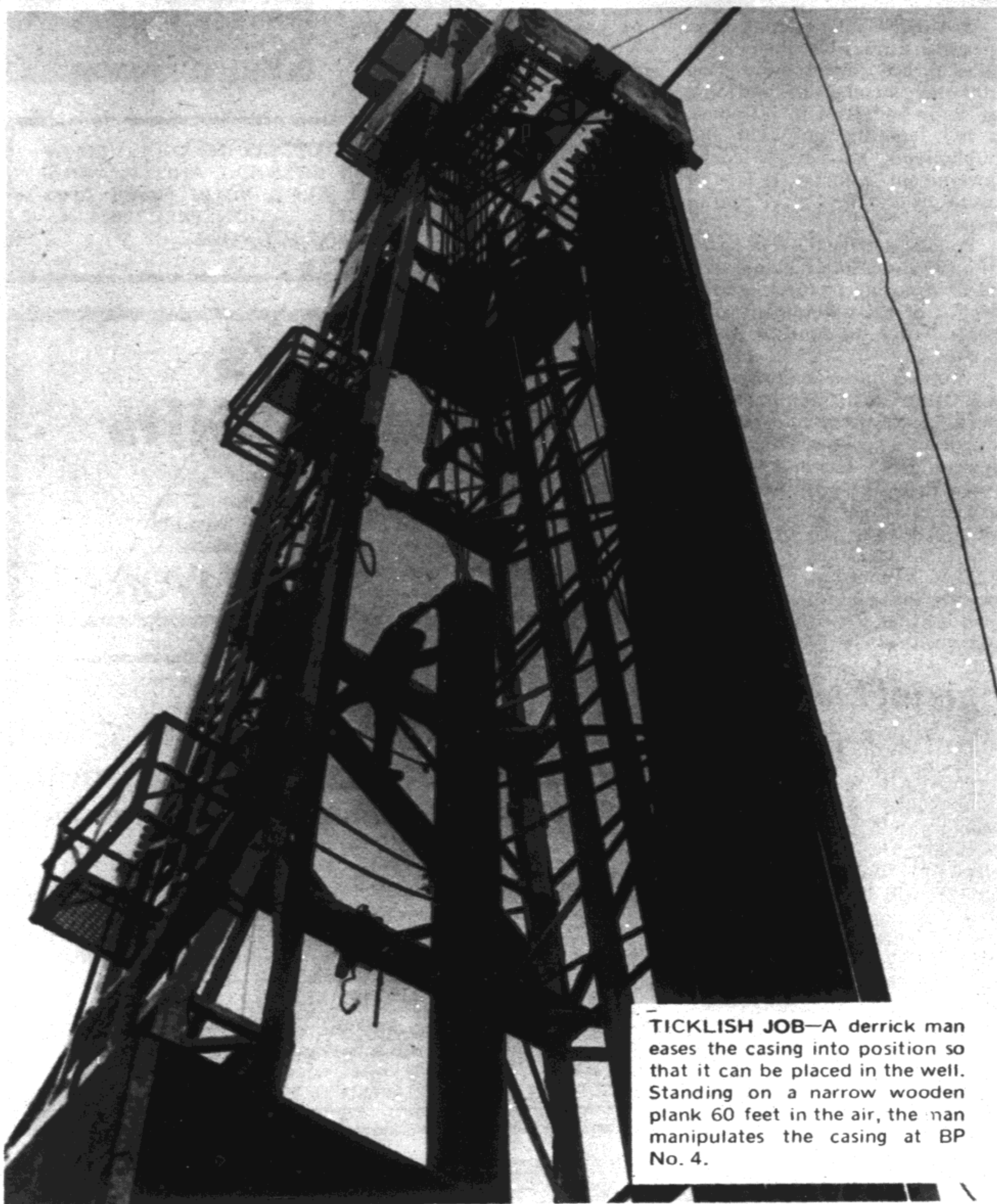


BP OIL OPERATION ON ARCTIC NORTH SLOPE



TICKLISH JOB—A derrick man eases the casing into position so that it can be placed in the well. Standing on a narrow wooden plank 60 feet in the air, the man manipulates the casing at BP No. 4.

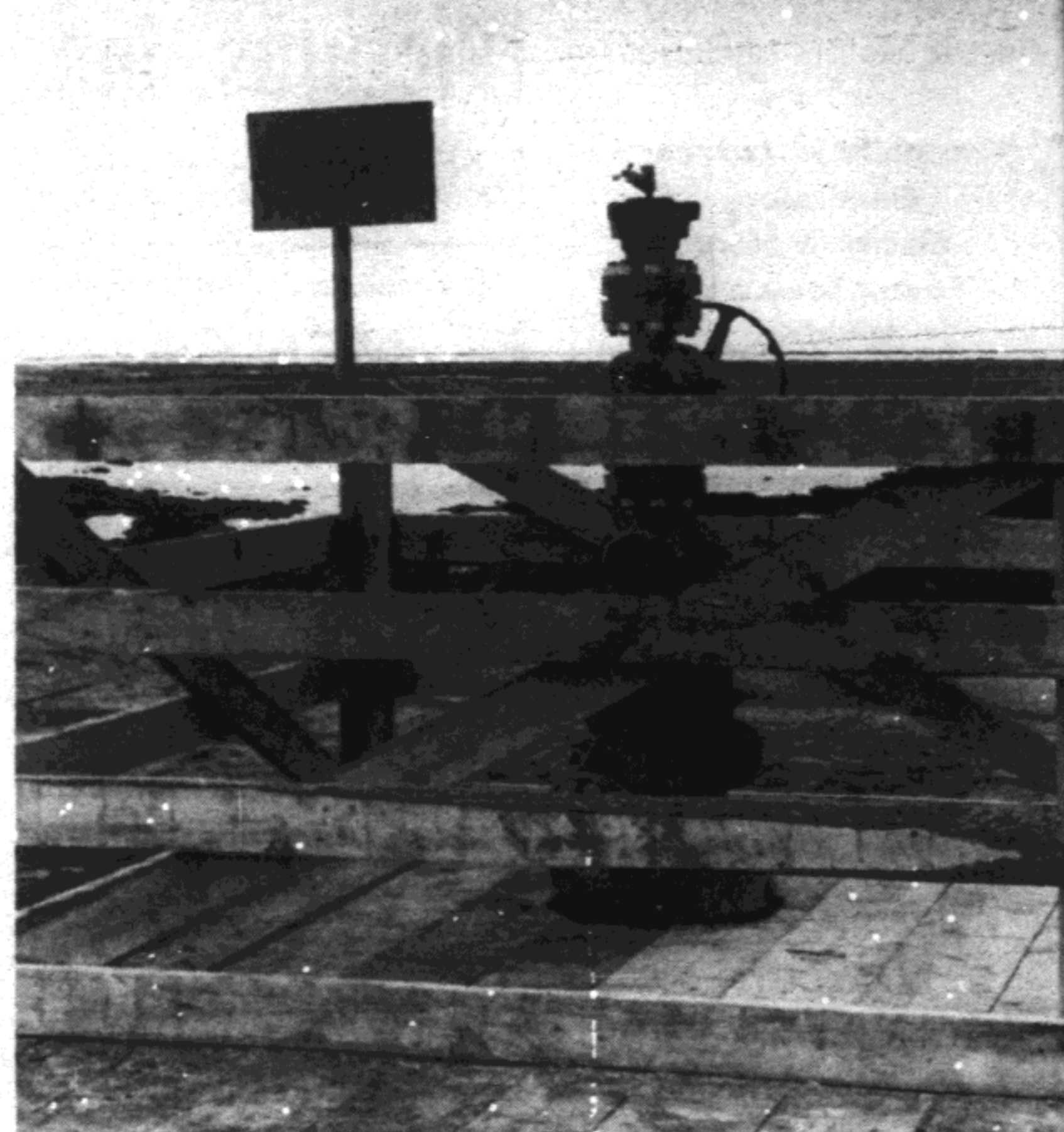


EXPLORING DRILL BIT—This bit was used to drill the BP's discovery well Put River No. 1 at Prudhoe Bay. Such bits average \$1,000 each and several are used to drill a well. Lease Supt. John Robinson, left, and BP public relations director Bernard G. Stiles are testing the bit for weight.

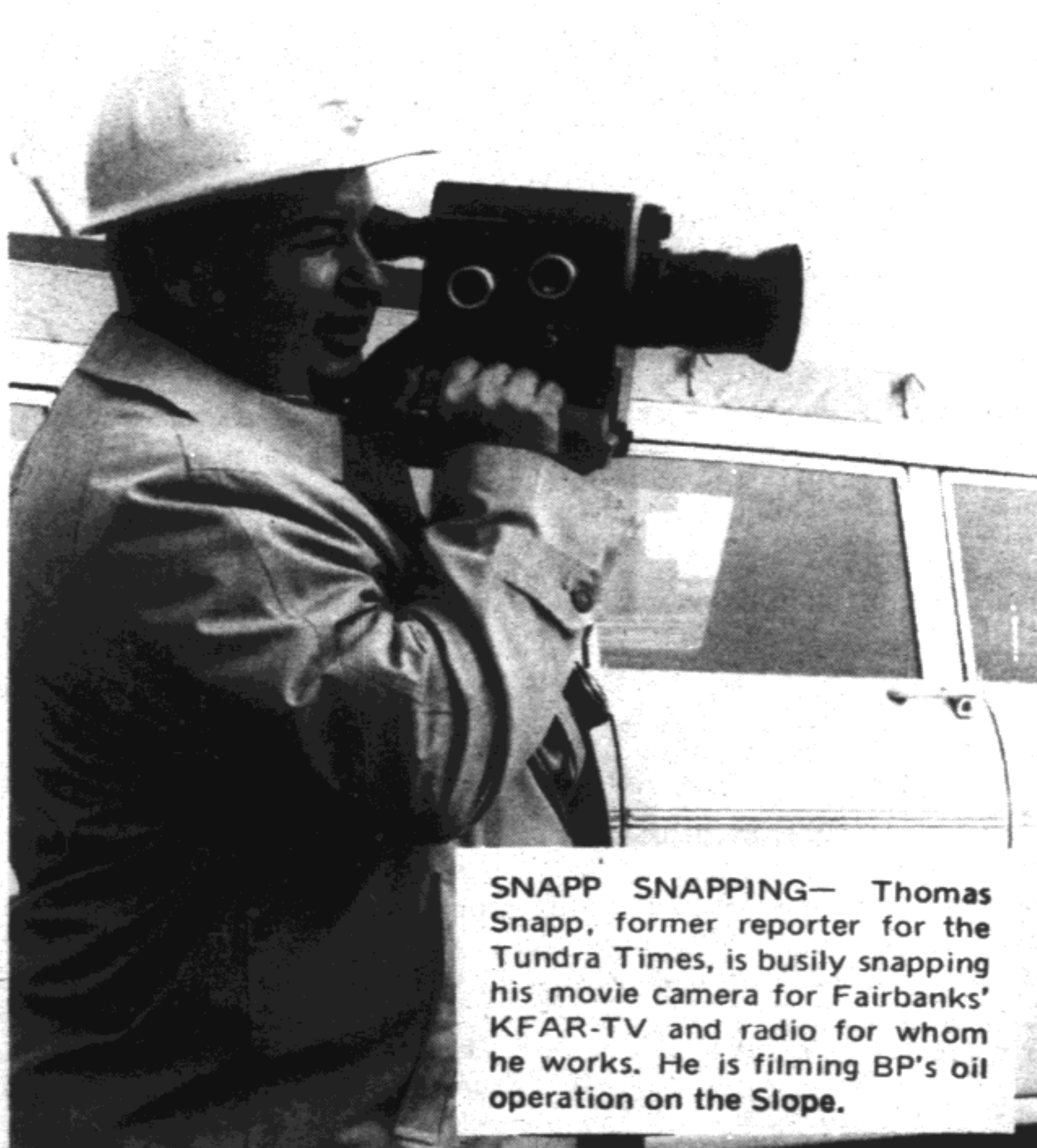


RIG ON THE TUNDRA—BP's Rig No. 4, operated by contractor Peter Bawden Drilling, is one

of four drilling sites that BP has in the Prudhoe Bay area. PHOTOS BY THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.



DISCOVERY WELL—Put River No. 1, first oil discovery well by BP. Well, 8,000 feet deep, BP evaluated the results as "encouraging." The well is now capped by a "Christmas tree." It is fenced to keep people and caribou out because of potentially dangerous pressure. Below, straight up view of the BP No. 3 rig at Put River. It towers over a hundred feet into the sky.



SNAPP SNAPPING— Thomas Snapp, former reporter for the Tundra Times, is busily snapping his movie camera for Fairbanks' KFAR-TV and radio for whom he works. He is filming BP's oil operation on the Slope.

