

OIL AND GAS

They Named It Tyan

The orange MI-8 lifted off smoothly into the air and, gaining altitude, it left the wide Ob and Surgut, with its new residential districts, far behind. We are flying with O. Katkov, the chief geologist of Obneftegazgeologiya's Surgut expedition, to the north, where a new oil field has been opened up.

They put down a deep well there in the middle of the seventies - there was no oil. It later turned out that it had been sunk unsuccessfully because it had ended up on a "leg" of the oil-bearing bed; that is why it proved barren. Work in that region was discontinued; but it was resumed after ten years.

The first borehole drilled by the foreman A. Mustafin produced oil. Other wells followed, confirming the presence of oil there. Some wells are still being drilled; others are awaiting studies of the beds; and still others have been capped and are ready to be handed over to the oil producers. The deposit has been named Tyan, in memory of Arkadii Vasil'evich Tyan, the well-known geologist.

The helicopter landed and we were at a borehole, one of those now being drilled at the deposit. One of the crews of the nationally renowned team of foreman V. Solov'ev is working here. The senior assistant foreman is A Smirnov, who is already a crew leader.

"We can really work," said Anatolii. "Our boys are hard workers. But there are difficulties: obsolete rigs, a lack of equipment, and a mass of work to be done