

# Historic Hays Spring Dry Following Seismic Survey

Historic Hays Spring, located two miles west of Grapeland and a major component sourcing Little Elkhart Creek and subsequently, Houston County Lake has suddenly stopped producing water. Its lack of activity was first noticed shortly after the PGS Onshore Seismic Survey completed its first phase of work in the area.

James Irvin, owner of the property surface rights, reported that he watched the explosive activity of the seismic company creating the energy for their seismic activity as they passed the spring and noted three seismic shots nearby, one which he estimated to be closer than 450'. Upon detonation, debris shot an estimated 100' into the air from each shotpoint location.



**Hays Spring.** The log in the center of the picture is normally under water during year round flow of the spring according to Surface Rights Owner, James Irvin The actual source of the spring is situated to the left of the picture.



# Spring

Continued From Page A4



**As the Hays Spring flow bed dries out, water has receded to this point a few feet above the Surface Rights owner's pond and as the summer approaches will undoubtedly create a mudhole in place of the pond.**

The now inactive spring, located about 150 yards from the surface right's owner's and property taxpayer's home, had been used to provide water for cattle on the land and exited the pond through an 18 inch standpipe which has flowed, almost full, for the past seven years of Irvin's ownership, even during draught periods. Longer term Grapeland residents report to the Messenger that they have never known the spring to dry up. Now that its incoming source has dried up, the pond water level has dropped far below its normal stage. Also, the incoming stream immediately above the pond has dropped several feet and no longer has movement. The spring area itself is completely dry.

PGS Onshore, according to Irvin, has been made aware of the problem but, so far, has taken no action other than to send representatives out to review the site.

Little Elkhart Creek is one of four major creeks in Houston County providing outflow water to the Trinity and Neches Rivers which

combined, deliver over 13,000,000 gallons of water to downstream towns and cities and finally into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Messenger contacted PGS Onshore for their comments regarding the question of Hays Spring but were unable to speak to Mr. Keith McKay, Manager of the seismic survey in that he was reportedly out of town. The newspaper was directed to a person who identified herself as Lana but refused to give her last name. She informed the Messenger that PGS Onshore would have no comment to anyone other than the owner of the property. She did not indicate whether she meant the taxpaying owner of the surface rights or simply the owner of the mineral rights or even whether they might be one and the same.

The Messenger, by copy of this newspaper, poses the question to the Texas Railroad Commission and the State of Texas, "Where is the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding this matter?"