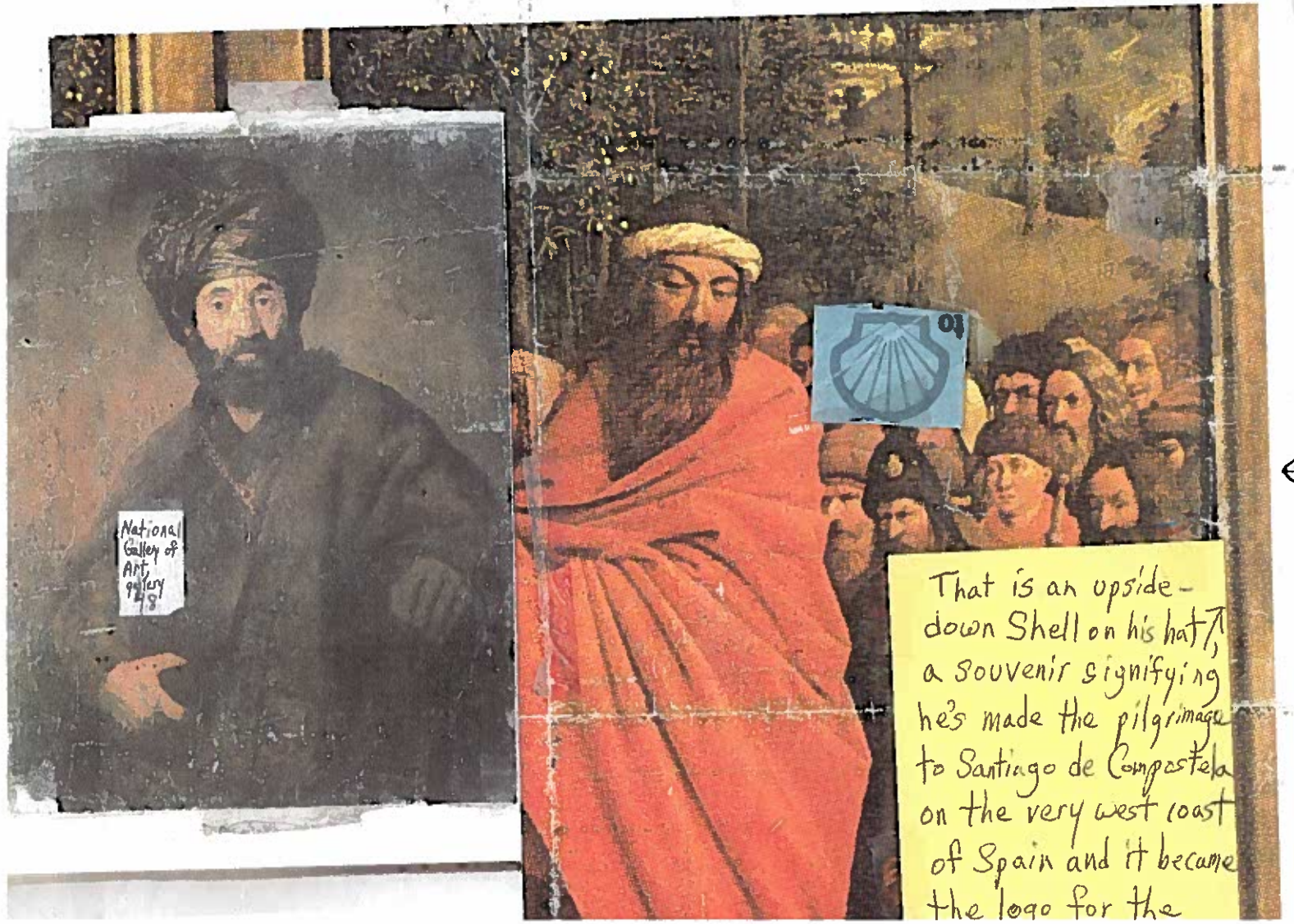
This "Armageddon-making Show" invisible-torture petroleum-LURE seems to come from this "magician"-type captive-slave.

Edwin Drake

Though he drilled only three oil wells in his lifetime, Edwin Drake (1819-1880) is known as the "Father of the Petroleum Industry" because the technology he devised to drill the first commercial oil well in the United States revolutionized how crude oil was produced and launched the large-scale petroleum industry.

Edwin Laurentine Drake, born on March 11, 1819, in Greenville County, New York, grew up on family farms in New York and Vermont. He left home at age 19, having received a common school education, and wandered the Midwest and East, working at various jobs. In 1850 he settled in New Haven, Connecticut, and became a railway conductor for the New York and New Haven Railroad. Ill health forced his retirement in 1857, but it also opened a new opportunity for him.

The opportunity occurred while Dr[illegible]



That is an upside-down Shell on his hat, a souvenir signifying he's made the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela on the very west coast of Spain and it became the logo for the

tation as to its use and theories as to its extraction," noted Samuel T. Pees in *Oil History*.

Drake's Folly

Not long after Kier began his refinery, Silliman reported that the seep oil sample taken from the former Brewer, Watson and Co. land on Oil Creek had properties that made it valuable. In 1858, Drake, now a stockholder in Seneca Oil Company, was sent back to Titusville as the salaried general agent in charge of operations (for a short time he was company president). His mission was to produce a profitable amount of oil. However, the main seep netted only three or four gallons of oil daily, and other oil springs he had opened up added only a few gallons to the output. So Drake attempted mining for oil. He hired workmen to dig a shaft, but water inundated it and he gave up that idea. Finally he decided to try an idea he had discussed with George H. Bissell, a lawyer who helped to organize and invest in early oil companies, including Seneca Oil. Salt drillers often had to contend with oil that polluted their wells. Bissell reasoned that oil could be extracted using salt well drilling methods.

Drake chose a drilling site on an artificial island between the creek and the lumber company's water race. He then enlisted the help of the lumber company's boss, Jonathon Watson, to build a house for the 6 hp "Long John" stationary, wood-fired engine and boiler that would power the drilling tools and to erect a derrick for hoisting the drilling tools. He hired William "Uncle Billy" A. Smith, a blacksmith and experienced salt well driller, to make the tools and do the drilling. Prepared to drill down [illegible] Drake had to reassess things when the hole, which was only 16 feet deep, kept caving in. "It was at this point that [illegible] conceived the idea of a drive pipe, also called a casing," wrote Pees. "The drive pipe consisted of joints [illegible] and was made of cast iron. They battered or drove it [illegible] to bedrock at thirty-two feet depth (9.75 m). The [illegible] be safety lowered through the pipe which protected the upper hole."

The conductor proved to be just what Drake needed to do his job. Now that the steam pumping tools were protected by iron pipe, he was able to [illegible] average of three feet a day through the [illegible] mostly shale. Problems persisted, though. [illegible] caved in occasionally. The engine caught on [illegible] saved and put back in service. Despite [illegible] Drake [ran] out of company money, used [illegible] and quickly ran out of that," Pees explained. [illegible] came through with loans, and he kept drilling, ignoring the taunt "Drake's Folly." On August [illegible] slipped into a crevice six inches below the [illegible] the drilled hole. Uncle Billy pulled up the tools [illegible] home. The next day when he went back to [illegible] discovered oil floating on the water [illegible] the derrick floor. Fashioning a scoop from a [illegible] trough, he dipped out some of the [illegible]

Interestingly, the first oil well [illegible] Drake Well, less than two months [illegible] Smith was using an open lamp to [illegible]