



ACCESS TO MARKETS

How the great pipeline-building era of the 1950s set the stage for three decades of government intervention in the Canadian oil and gas industry

Summary of an address to the Petroleum History Society's 1995 Annual Meeting
Presentation and summary
by Robert D. Bott

During the 1970s and early 1980s, economic nationalism was a major factor in Canadian energy policy. Now this issue has almost disappeared. Why was foreign ownership so important then? Why has it almost disappeared from the policy agenda now?

One hypothesis is that the petroleum industry goes through long-wave cycles of about 30 years' duration. During the period from the early 1950s to the early 1980s, the industry focus was on access to markets. In the current era, the focus is on access to resources. This is just a theory, though.

In the 1950s, the industry's main focus was certainly access to markets, following the large Alberta oil and gas discoveries of the late 1940s. The United States was still a net energy exporter at this time, so the key markets were in import-dependent Canada. Pipelining was not a well-developed industry in Canada, and new laws had to be passed to govern it. The main elements were eventually constructed: Alberta Gas Trunk Line, TransCanada Pipeline, Westcoast Transmission, Interprovincial Pipe Line and Trans Mountain Pipeline. These systems served the global strategies of the multinational companies such as Imperial, Shell, Gulf and Texaco, which also could supply some refineries with cheaper imports from the United States or abroad.

However, independent Canadian oil companies wanted more market access in order to produce at higher rates and realize greater cash flow. They pressed for access to the Montreal refinery market through lobbying and presentations to the Gordon and Borden royal commissions. Although they failed to gain Quebec, their efforts secured the Ontario market under the 1961 National Oil Policy -- the key precedent for subsequent federal intervention in the petroleum industry. Other outcomes included creation of the National Energy Board in 1959 and establishment of the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada in 1960. The rhetoric of this era came back to haunt the independents in subsequent decades.

Lunch and Rig Tour!!

Your society will sponsor a social and lunch at **Heritage Part on Wednesday, August 30**. The cost (\$18.84) includes

- Admission to the grounds
- Lunch in the Wainwright Hotel: Beef-on-a-bun
- Train Ride
- Bus Ride over to the derrick
- A map and a guided tour

Meet at the Heritage Park gates at 11:45 a.m.

To register: **Jack Porter** at 255-7384
by **Thursday, August 24th**.

President's Report

We're making progress in reactivating our society, as you requested in the phone survey. The Board, with the help of some volunteers, is planning the following activities for 1995 - 1996.

Summer Social

Thanks to Jack Porter and Oscar Erdman who are handling the arrangements, we will hold a social event at Heritage Park on August 30th. We encourage all our members to come out and meet each other. Look for details in this issue.

Luncheons with Speakers

Five luncheons with speakers are being planned for September, November, January, March, and May. As discovery histories were identified as a topic of interest in the phone survey, we are trying to find speakers on this subject.

Archives

Peter McKenzie-Brown has agreed to publish several newsletters.

Awards Program

Clint Tippett received several nominations and the winners will receive their awards at the September luncheon.

Petroleum History Institute

Discussions are progressing well, and we hope to make an announcement this fall.

ARCHIVES

Archives is published periodically by the Petroleum History Society, a not-for-profit organized under the Societies Act of Alberta.

Address: 2100, 350 7th Ave S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3N9.

Editor: Peter McKenzie-Brown (403) 233-1971

Society President: Micky Gullest, (403) 283-9268

Other Suggestions

Surveyed members expressed an interest in a bibliography of petroleum history and in a dynastic chart of petroleum companies. We are working towards bringing these into being. Although there are other project ideas too, this is about all we can handle this year.

The Board of Directors welcomes your comments. Just call any Director with your suggestions or if you'd like to volunteer to help with a project.

Please Renew Your Membership

If you have not renewed your membership for 1995, please do it right now. Use the membership form in this newsletter and please send your cheque directly to the Treasurer for faster processing:

*M.M. Gullest,
1646 Broadview Road N.W.,
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 3H1.*

Petroleum History Awards

Clint Tippett, chairman of the recently established Petroleum History Awards subcommittee, has announced the winners of this year's competition.

Book Award: Aubrey Kerr for his self-published volume entitled "Redwater"

An honourable mention was also made for the book by David Finch and Gordon Jaremko entitled "Fields of Fire: An Illustrated History of Canadian Petroleum" published by Detselig.

Preservation Award: The archives of PanCanadian Petroleum Limited; Bonnie Mech, Archivist, Corporate Services Department.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Aubrey Kerr

The selection committee was made up of Clint Tippett, Jack Porter and Vern Millard.

Recent Petroleum-related Contributions to the Glenbow Archives

In 1987 I reported to the Society regarding the collections donated to Glenbow that help document the history of the Canadian petroleum industry. Since that time our holdings have continued to grow through the cooperation and generosity of a wide variety of donors in Alberta and elsewhere. Executive members from the Petroleum History Society, particularly Aubrey Kerr, have been of great assistance in contacting the families of significant individuals who have passed away over the past 8 years. Altogether we have contacted 40 families and have received a number of significant collections.

Important additions include:

- **Campbell Aird** film collection - dealing primarily with Atlantic # 3 blowout; gift of ERCB, 1987 - 1992
- **Joe Brown** papers - photos of Turner Valley and Bow Island; gift of Robert Brown, 1991
- **R.A. Brown Jr.** papers - films and photos of the family and oil industry; gift of Ron and Mary Elliott, 1984 - 1989
- **Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen** papers - official records, 1948 - 1989; gift of CAPL, 1989 - 1990
- **Canadian Petroleum Association** - numerous additions to their records; gift of CPA, 1988 - 1992
- **Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists** - additions to their records; gift of CSPG, 1988 - 1994
- **Canadian Well Logging Society** - additions to their records; gift of CWLS, 1988 - 1993
- **Carl U. Daniels** papers - collections of speeches, articles, etc. 1951 - 1957; gift of Alice Hunt, 1992
- **Desk and Derrick Club** - additions to their records; gift of Desk and Derrick, 1988 - 1993
- **Dingman** family papers - photos of family and Turner Valley; gift of Lorraine Johnson, Robert Dingman and Joan Dingman-Machen, 1989-1990
- **Earle Gray** - additions to his papers; gift of Earle Gray, 1988 - 1989
- **William Stewart Herron** - business papers, ca 1925 - 1936; gift of Marjorie Herron, 1990
- **Independent Petroleum Association of Canada** - official records, 1965 - 1980; gift of IPAC, 1990 - 1993
- **Tom Kennedy** - research materials for book on Panarctic; gift of T. Kennedy, 1988
- **Stuart McRae** - speeches, letters, etc. re career with Imperial Oil (Alaska Highway); gift of S. McRae, 1989
- **William E. Simpson** papers - legal papers to petroleum industry; gift of Simpson estate, 1990
- **Turner Valley Oilfield Society** oral history project - ca 71 interviews conducted by David Finch, 1991 - 1992; gift of TVOS, 1992
- **Len Walker** - additions to his papers; gift of L. Walker, 1988
- **Whetham** family papers - oil company minute books kept by J.D. Whetham; gift of D.J. Whetham, 1991
- **Robert Willis** film collection - includes films on petroleum exploration; gift of R. Willis, 1991

Glenbow is very interested in preserving the records of oil and gas associates, significant individuals and inactive companies that have made important contributions to the history of the petroleum industry in western Canada. Please contact Doug Cass at 268-4203 (fax 265-9769) for further information.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

Individual Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: Business _____ Home _____

Institutional or Company Affiliation (if any): _____

Please register me as an:

Individual Member (\$10.00) _____ Sustaining Individual Member (\$35.00) _____
New Member _____ Renewal _____

Date: _____

Institutional Membership

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Name of Authorized Representative: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____

Please register this institution as an:

Institutional Member (\$100.00) _____ Sustaining Institutional Member (over \$100.00) _____
New Member _____ Renewal _____

Enclosed is a cheque or money order for \$_____, payable to Petroleum History Society.
Please mail fee and completed form to Petroleum History Society, 2100, 350 7th Ave S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3N9.