



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

March, 1998; Volume IX, Number 1

NOTICE OF 1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, 1998
Calgary Professional Club
217 - 7th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta**

AGENDA

- 4:00 - 4:30 Reception (cash bar)**
- 4:30 - 5:00 Business Meeting**
- 5:00 - 5:45 Guest Speaker - Neil Leeson**



Neil is author of "Oilpatch Jeopardy: Torn in the USA" and recipient of the Society's 1996 "Book of the Year Award." An independent marketing and engineering consultant in Calgary, and Society Member, Neil managed and participated in U.S. drilling and production operations exclusively for 15 years. His book has been described as both "extremely provocative" and "a fascinating read." Neil will share with us some of his invaluable insights.

- 5:45 - 6:30 "Mix and Mingle" (with sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar)**

Please RSVP to **Bill McLellan, 286-2191**
no later than Noon, Monday, March 30th.

"WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!!"

1996 Petroleum History Society Awards

At the February 5, 1998 luncheon meeting, the Society presented the following Awards for outstanding achievement in a number of areas important to the preservation and dissemination of the history of the petroleum industry in Canada.

- Book of the Year Award** - To **Neil V. Leeson**, author of "*Oilpatch Jeopardy: Torn In The USA*"
- Preservation Award** - To the **National Archives of Canada** for outstanding archival and research support for historical investigations of the Canadian oil and gas industry.
- Multi-media Award** - To the **Energieum** for innovative public programming concerning the history of the Canadian oil and gas industry.
- Lifetime Achievement Award** - To **David H. Breen** for dedicated investigation and professional scholarship in the study of Canadian petroleum history

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We would like to get "the word out" about our Society to all retirees of the petroleum industry. If you know of any retiree newsletters that might be interested in passing information about us along to their retirees, please call

Pete Savage at 249-3525

Do you have any "fond" memories or anecdotes about your life in Canada's petroleum industry you would like to share? Why not write a brief article or even a note on the subject for our new column in the *PHS Archives*. Mail **your** stories to Bill McLellan, 24 Varslea Place N.W., Calgary, AB T3A 0C9 or send them in by fax: (403) 244-2018.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

In 1948, the Nickle Oil Bulletin reported:

“Gulf-Pincher Creek is a big ‘wet gas’ discovery. The Canadian Gulf Oil Company ran a drillstem test on Sunday, December 28 at the key South Alberta Foothills wildcat, Gulf-Pincher No. 1 At this early stage, the situation can be described as follows: Gulf has substantially confirmed the structural picture uncovered by its five years of geological and geophysical work. . . . It still remains to be determined whether it will be (1) another Turner Valley, with an oilfield flanking the gas-cap; (2) another Jumping Pound, a wet gas field with no flank oil area; or (3) a small gas field limited by water on its flank.”

{January 2}

“1947 is Lloydminster’s big Year - drilling up 300%. Lloydminster, Canada’s ‘poor man’s’ oil region, came into its own in 1947. Drilling activity increased by 300%, while deliveries of crude oil increased by 400%.”

{January 16}

“U.S. Worried about its own oil supply, but ban on exports to Canada considered unlikely. The United States, by far the world’s largest producer and consumer of petroleum products, is becoming increasingly worried about future supplies - to the extent that a ban on exports of oil is being suggested. The U.S. oil industry is pressing for a larger share of the nation’s steel production to permit increased oil drilling, and the American Government is recommending to Congress a five to ten year, nine billion dollar program to develop a synthetic oil industry in the U.S.”

{January 30}


“Leduc-Woodbend shows 5,000 bbls. daily on first anniversary, quadrupling seen for 2nd year.”

{February 13}

“Leduc’s first wild well, Atlantic No. 3, killed Tuesday evening, after 38 hours blowing. Leduc’s first wild well was brought under control about 6:30 p.m. March 9, about 38 hours after it had started on a rampage while drilling was in progress. . . . Fortunately for the Leduc field, and those in it, the wild well was brought under control in short order, and without fire and explosion.”

{March 12}

{continued}



“Imperial Pipeline Co. Reports expansion plan for pipeline system serving Leduc-Woodbend. By September 1st, supply of steel permitting, the Imperial Pipeline Company will have in use a network of fifty miles of pipeline, gathering and transporting crude oil from the Leduc-Woodbend area to the starting point of rail transport at Nisku and also direct to the new Imperial Oil refinery now under construction east of Edmonton. . . . The line system is a common carrier, providing low cost transport for all Leduc oil, including the expanding yield from independent producers. . . . also announced plans for a \$30,000,000 pipeline system to link the Leduc system with Saskatchewan refinery centres. Subject to a supply of steel, Imperial hopes to start this great oil transport system later this year and have it in operation by the end of 1949.”

{April 2}

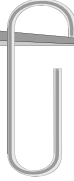
“Atlantic Oils to wash out Wild No. 3 well, drill No. 4, then drill on No. 3 Leduc site. Atlantic Oils Ltd. Announced Wednesday that it is going to wash out the Atlantic No. 3 well, shift the rig quarter of a mile east for immediate drilling of No. 4 well, then drill a new well on the site of the ill-fated No. 3. While No. 4 is being drilled, the No. 3 wellsite will be thoroughly cleaned up, in readiness for the redrilling.”

{April 2}

“ Conservation Board orders shutdown of Atlantic producing wells pending clearing Atlantic No. 3 well. No time is being wasted, and no effort or monies are being spared in the continuing united efforts to clean up the unhappy situation in the Leduc oilfield caused by the blowout of Atlantic No. 3/ The situation is serious, but does not warrant the hysteria generated by highly coloured press reports from Edmonton. The Alberta Government, the Conservation board, Imperial Oil, Atlantic Oils and other operators in the field have been and are working in close co-operation to bring the well under control. It has been more or less wild since March 8th.

“The entire capacity of the Imperial Pipeline system was made available last weekend for the clearing out of the oil-loaded sumps and craters surrounding

{continued}



the Atlantic well. . . . The Government and the conservation Board on Wednesday issued a special order stating that no oil may be produced from any well in the Leduc area until further notice.

“The well was brought under temporary control some weeks ago However, gas and oil burst out around the outside of the casing, and channelled out through the ground over an area of about two acres around the well. Several craters have formed Total oil volume is guesstimated at 10,000 barrels per day.

“Now under direction of Myron Kinley crew is installing additional blowout and control equipment at the head of the casing. Two 7" flow lines will be connected with the head and the well will be opened up wide. The intention is to direct part of the well's flow through the lines back into the formation using the nearby Atlantic Nos. 1 and 2 wells for recycling.

“Next probable step would be drilling of one or more ‘relief wells.’”

{May 14}

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 a (check **two** of the following):

_____ New Member _____ Individual Member (\$10.00)

_____ Membership Renewal _____ Sustaining Individual Member (\$35.00)

Institutional / Corporate Membership

Name of Institution or Company: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: Business _____ Home _____

Name of Authorized Representative: _____

Position or Title: _____

Please register our Institution or Company as a (check **two** of the following):

_____ New Member _____ Institutional Member (\$100.00)

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

Enclosed is a cheque or money order for \$ _____, payable to **The Petroleum History Society**. Please mail fee and completed form to: Membership Chairman, Petroleum History Society, 24 Varslea Place N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3A 0C9.

Date: _____ Signature: _____