

**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*March, 2000; Volume XI, Number 2*

## **2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**4:00 p.m., Wednesday, 22 March 2000**

**Palliser Hotel, Marquis Room**

### **AGENDA**

- 4:00 – 5:00 Business Meeting and Election of Officers**  
**5:00 – 5:45 Guest Speaker – Kirk Osadetz, Geological Survey of Canada**  
**5:45 – 6:30 Reception**

### **TOPIC**

#### **THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA: HAVE THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE?**

The GSC has attempted to address this important question. Three impact studies are in progress examining Foothills petroleum exploration, Atlantic region petroleum exploration, and the preparation of the new Western Canada Sedimentary Basin Geological Atlas. Two recent surveys solicited input from industry on the GSC's effectiveness. The large number and great detail of the responses was surprising. Results indicated a general, but not universal, acknowledgement that staff and activities of the GSC did impact on Foothills exploration. Regrettably there was a lack of common historical narrative among those polled. An historical approach is necessary, as impact can only be judged in hindsight, and not projected into the future. Details of the Foothills study will be analysed to assist surveys on the other two.

Admission is free, however in order to help us plan this event, please RSVP.

**5:45 – 6:30 "Mix and Mingle" ( complimentary sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres; cash bar )**

**RSVP Clint Tippett, 691-4274 by noon Monday March 20**

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**Next luncheon April 19, 2000;  
guest speaker Tom Beck:  
Environmental Management  
In The Oil Industry**

*if you missed the...*

**JUDY CREEK AND BEYOND.....**

**Luncheon**

Thursday, February 24, 2000

with author Aubrey Kerr

**...enjoy a condensed version of Aubrey's presentation in this issue of Archives**

# THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

## Calendar of Events and Daily Tips

**Next Director's Meeting:** March 22, 2000; 3:30-4:00 PM preceding AGM.

**New Oilpatch Books:** National Energy Board 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary volume is expected in bookstores soon. Also "**Under Sand, Ice and Sea**" - Bryce Cameron's autobiographical account of his worldwide experiences. Born 1911 in Rangoon, Burma, he graduated from the University of Birmingham with first class honours in petroleum engineering. Bryce is often considered the architect of Canadian Arctic development. Published by daughter Mary Cameron. Order toll free 1-888-232-4444.

**Society E-Mail Address:** [petroleumhistorysociety@canada.com](mailto:petroleumhistorysociety@canada.com). Web Site available soon and anchored with electronic Archives and Membership roster.

**PHS Member Honoured:** Aubrey Kerr will participate in this year's Governor General's Awards ceremony at the Turner Valley Museum, Sunday 21 May 2000 beginning at 09:30 AM. Recipients will each receive a copy of Aubrey's "Corridors of Time".

**Oral History Project:** The Board is considering an extension of this program to include Case Studies on Canadian oilpatch authors, many of whom are members of PHS. Our intent is to invite these authors to the AGM and conduct a group and individual photo sittings and strategy discussion during the socializing window at the end of the meeting.

**June 2000 Field Trip:** June 11, 2000 (8:00 AM – 2:00 PM). Members Aubrey Kerr, Clint Tippett, David Finch and Clark Siferd will serve as guides in duplicating the Society's successful 1998 and 1999 Turner Valley Tours. This undertaking will be a contribution of the Society to the World Petroleum Congress (WPC) and is open to Registered Delegates. Contact Clint Tippett at 691-4274 (Shell) or Tony Howard at WPC.

**Annual General Meeting:** Marquis Room Palliser Hotel, 22 March 2000. Board meeting 3:30 – 4:00 PM, Business meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Guest Speaker/Reception 5:00 – 6:30 PM. All Members and guests welcomed. Calling nominations from the floor for volunteers to fill Director and Committee vacancies and for the 1999 PHS Awards.

**In Memory:** Board unanimously approved donating to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre on behalf of Virginia Porter, recently deceased wife of Honourary Director Jack Porter.

**Membership:** Currently 55 paid-up, including 7 Lifetime. To reach our minimum target of 80, outstanding members will receive a coloured registration flyer with this Archives issue to complete and mail in with payment (or bring to the AGM). To manage our mail costs, consolidation will remove member entries with dues outstanding since 1998.

**Society Luncheons:** A reminder to all Members to RSVP to facilitate adequate seating and meal arrangements. Also 'special' meals must be requested in advance. Thanks.

**Tip For The Day:** (from *The 365 Stupidest Things Ever Said* by Ross & Kathryn Petras)  
**Reporter:** "Do you think it's going to rain?" **Bill Peterson (Florida State football coach):** "What do you think I am? A geologist?".....*conversation about whether or not bad weather would affect a big game*

**JUDY CREEK AND BEYOND.....**  
**HISTORY AND SUCCESSES OF THE JUDY CREEK OIL FIELD**

**PRESENTED BY AUBREY KERR**

**TO THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY LUNCHEON MEETING – 24 FEBRUARY 2000**

(edited by Neil Leeson, Director, PHS)

***Spirit and achievement should not be taken for granted!*** *The history of the Judy Creek field is more than a story – it is a legacy of Western Canadian perseverance and ability. Ranked as a major resource contributor for 40 years under Imperial Oil's guidance may have implied retirement was near to some; to today's imaginative and creative oilpatchers it meant opportunity to rejuvenate an aging but robust giant. Pengrowth Corporation did just that with their 1997 acquisition. Our oil industry remains one of Canada's main engines of growth because we have maintained control of the engine. Successes like Judy Creek will keep it that way. - editor*

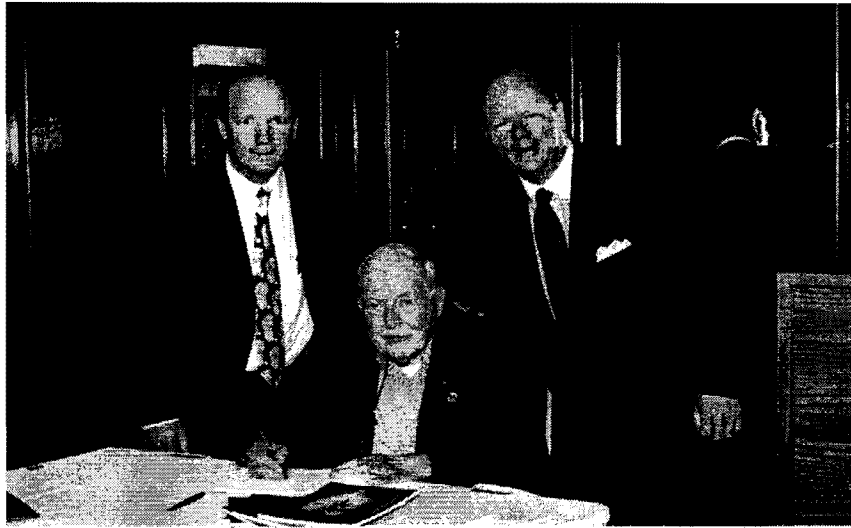
“Judy Creek evolved from tireless efforts of a courageous group of exploration visionaries. In the decade that followed the 1947 Leduc discovery, those with intuition were attracted to the desolate and inhospitable Swan Hills – Kaybob\* - Virginia Hills\* - Judy Creek area. Although a leisurely three-hour drive from Edmonton today, four decades ago the logistics of moving around manpower and equipment taxed even the most resourceful.

Following discovery of Judy Creek in 1959, drilling security enabled Imperial Oil (Esso) to gain control of nearly 100% of the original Crown reservation. Many pioneers, such as John Carr, Chuck Hemphill and George Fong (*George was in attendance, much to Aubrey's surprise and delight*) championed the search for reef structures, leading to unprecedented growth and wealth for the area.”

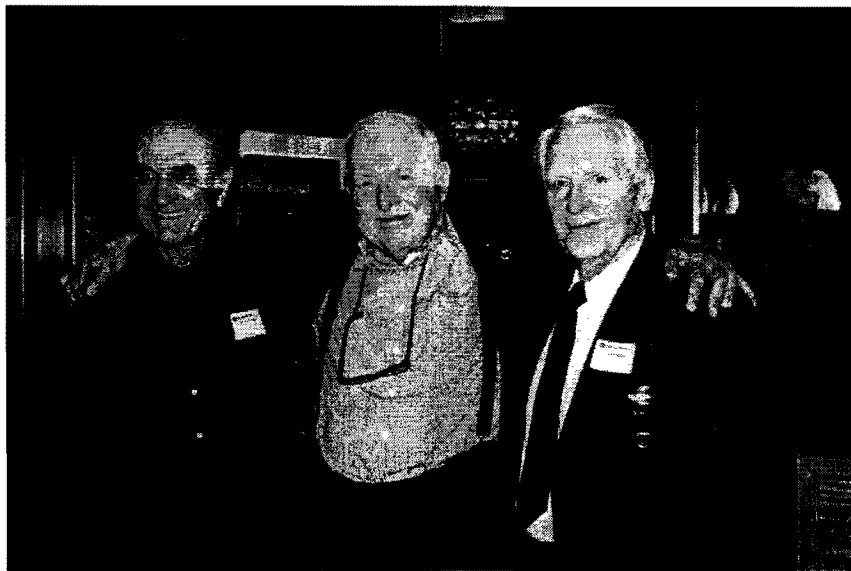
“The application of regional geology to identify huge potential reservoirs in the Judy Creek area was not well received by our peers or counterparts at the beginning. We were the true *idea-men* in that we developed a drilling concept from comprehensive sample examination, reef structure analogies, clastic carbonate distribution trends and identification of regional highs. Using our concept, acreage and the enthusiasm of Home Oil and Esso, success was only a handshake away.” *George Fong.*

“ After prolonged negotiations with Esso through 1995 and 1996, Pengrowth closed a \$595 million acquisition for Judy Creek in 1997. Production from this 150 square kilometer oilfield peaked in the 1970s at 100,000 barrels per day (bopd) from 188 wells. President Jim Kinnear concluded the coup with an invaluable contribution - persuading almost all of Esso's staff to hire on with Pengrowth, thus retaining the all-important continuity of experience and skill. Pengrowth's strategy has paid off, as evidenced by substantive performance enhancement while enjoying a \$40-\$45/bbl (Cdn) oil price environment.”

Footnote: \* *Incidentally named by Bob Allen, Chairman of the Conservation Board (now EUB) in 1940 after the wife Kay, daughter Virginia and himself. He had been tasked at the time with setting aside 9 million exploratory acres for future resource development (1.3 million was assigned to Virginia Hills, which included Judy Creek) .*



**Aubrey flanked by Pengrowth President Jim Kinnear (R) and brother David Kinnear (L)**



**Aubrey flanked by John Andrichuk (L) and Oscar Erdman (R)**



**Aubrey flanked by John Wall (L) and Ward Neale (R)**