



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

January 2002; Volume XIII, Number 1

NOTICE

“LUNCH AND LEARN” LUNCHEON

Noon, Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Hugh Leiper – Pioneering Driller

TOPIC

Canadian Company Activities with the former Soviet Oil Ministry 1973-1980:

An agreement on “Canadian-Soviet Cooperation in industrial applications of Science and Technology” was signed on January 27, 1971. In 1974, eleven major and independent oil companies formed the Canadian Drilling Research Association to engage in the exchange of drilling and production technology with foreign governments or other entities. This was closely followed later in that year by an agreement in which Soviet turbodrills and engineers would be sent to Canada for testing. At the same time the Canadian group committed to drill and complete a 4000m test in the Soviet Arctic. After two years of planning, shipping of equipment and dealing with a host of roadblocks, this well was finished in 1977. The Canadian testing involved five wells operated by five different companies. Unfortunately the results indicated that extensive modifications would be needed before this technique could be used effectively. The KGB and other spy stories complete the tale that Hugh will relate. Hugh is a Director of our Society, a long term participant in the Canadian drilling community and a member of the Selection Committee for the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame.

TIME: Noon (receipts at the door), February 6, 2002.

PLACE: Palliser Hotel (133 - 9th Avenue S.E.) –Oval Room (but check marquee on arrival).

COST: \$25 Members and \$30 Guests (most welcomed) – please note new cost structure.

R.S.V.P. Clint Tippett (691-4274) by noon, Monday, February 4, 2002

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Membership status	enclosed
Dues Invoice (if applicable)	enclosed

If you missed the talk...

Dr. Arthur Nauss – His Life and Times

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

by John Downing

... catch a condensed version of John’s presentation on page 3

THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY

Calendar of Events

Next Director's Meetings: February 13, 2002 at the Results Group offices (Edith Wenzel).

Board Strategic Planning Sessions: Your Board has recently been wrestling with issues surrounding the future directions of the Society. A wide range of ideas has been suggested. If you have some projects or initiatives that you'd like to see considered please let President Clint Tippet know as soon as possible (691-4274). Conversely, if you are happy with operations as they now exist it's important that we know that as well.

Future Events: The next major event following our February luncheon will be our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 27 in the Palliser Hotel at 4:30 p.m. We have fortunately been able to arrange to have **John Bishop Ballem**, Q.C., LL.D., a prominent Calgary lawyer, author and oil patch observer to address us. His topic will be a wide ranging retrospective on the people and events that have shaped today's industry. John has addressed the Society in the past and his presentation promises to be both insightful and entertaining. If you have something that you've been working on and would like to present it at an upcoming luncheon, please contact one of the Board members and we'd be very happy to fit you in.

Luncheon Fees: It was recently decided by the Board that in light of increasing costs and in an effort of incorporating all the costs that are associated with actually running the Society's luncheon program that an increase in admission fees would be approved. As noted for our February luncheon, member cost will now be \$25.00 and non-member cost \$30.00. This has been compared to the price payable at the meeting of other groups and it remains at the low end of the spectrum as many other organizations attempt to make significant money through their luncheons.

Glenbow Initiatives: Treasurer **Doug Cass** of the Glenbow Museum and Archives has informed us that a number of important new additions have been made to the petroleum-related collections in the Glenbow Archives. These include the papers of such prominent industry personalities as "Spi" Langston, Charles Hetherington, Bill Farmilo, "Frosty" Martin, P.H.S. member Ned Gilbert, Stan Harding and Fred Kidd. Contact Doug (268-4203) for details if you wish to make a similar donation. As well, the Board was recently addressed by **Lorain Lounsberry** of the Glenbow about their recent initiative to build up the Museum's collection of petroleum-related artifacts for display purposes. If you are aware of any moderately sized artifacts (no used drilling rigs) please contact Lorain at 268-4152.

Society E-Mail Address: All members with e-mail service who have not already done so, please send in your address to Micky Gulless, Past President, Membership Committee at her address "micky@fuzzylogic.ca".

Membership: Membership stands at 97. Please consult your mailing label for the status of your membership. A notice of your current membership information is enclosed with your Archives. Please advise Membership Director Micky Gulless of any changes. For those of you who need to renew your membership, Micky has been kind enough to provide an invoice, also enclosed. Your timely payment would be most appreciated. Thanks very much.

Executive and Board of Directors: President – Clint Tippet; Vice President – Bill McLellan; Treasurer – Doug Cass; Secretary – Peter Savage; Past President – Micky Gulless; and Directors – John Frey, Aubrey Kerr, Hugh Leiper, Neil Leeson, Peter McKenzie-Brown, Joyce Wright, Debbie Knall and Edith Wenzel. Jack Porter continues as an Honourary Director.

deMille Technical Bookstore: The staff at deMille's have been kind enough to provide us with a listing of all the petroleum history-related books that they have in stock. For those of you like our President, Clint Tippet, it's always interesting to see what's new and what's missing from your collection. Approx. 29 titles are listed. If you are interested, please call Clint at 691-4274.

Presentation by John Downing on: *Dr. Arthur Nauss – His Life and Times*

(The following notes are built upon written notes from John Downing, written comments by John Wall and other scribbled notes by Clint Tippett)

Arthur Nauss obtained a B.Sc. in Geology from the University of New Brunswick in 1939. He worked for Imperial Oil in the Vermilion area of east central Alberta on a core-drilling project during 1941-42. Nauss acquired a doctorate from Stanford University in 1943 based upon his comprehensive study of Cretaceous stratigraphy and micropaleontology of the Vermilion area. These results were published by the A.A.P.G. in 1945 and by the Journal of Paleontology in 1947. As indicated by John Wall, these publications represented the most significant advance at the time in integrating stratigraphic and micropaleontological data in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin.

John Downing provided us with much material on both the various activities and accomplishment of Arthur Nauss and on his personality and approach to life in general. He acknowledged the contributions to this story from John Andrichuk, Don Axford, Roger Ball, Don Cooke, Charlie Stelck and Dodie Nauss.

Arthur Nauss was born in Regina in 1915. His family moved to Lunenburg when he was 12. During his studies at UNB he worked as a janitor to raise spending money. Between UNB and Stanford he attended McGill University for a Masters on a scholarship. During the Second World War he was employed on the Canol Project under the direction of his lifelong associate Ted Link. Following Canol he traveled to Columbia and Peru where he was involved in geological and gravity surveys.

In 1948 he was instrumental in the formation of Bear Oil which was intended to explore for oil downdip from the tar sands deposits. Jack Browning worked for him during this period. In 1950 he rejoined Ted Link to form Link and Nauss Associates. 1951 found him involved in the establishment of Scurry Oil that went on to success in Malmo, Big Valley and Redwater. Following soon after was Rainbow Oil that was then merged with Scurry to form Scurry-Rainbow. His rapid pace through the corporate order soon saw him involved in the building of Banff Oil, Kalindar Oil and Carpenteria Oil. By the time that 1961 rolled around, Nauss was forming Swain Oils along with his brother Bill and associate Roger Ball. Swain was the last company that Nauss had hand-on control over.

Greener pastures always awaited and in 1966 he was involved in forming Ensign that was active in the Virden area of Manitoba. They also had their eyes on uranium permits on the Carswell Lake structure in northern Saskatchewan – only to be beaten by the Germans. In 1970 he, Roger and John helped found Polaris as a vehicle for entering the emerging oil and gas sector in the North Sea.

From 1966 on, Nauss traveled extensively while working in Calgary, Vancouver and Bermuda. He had a summer home on the San Juan Islands. In 1970 he permanently moved his residence to Bermuda and used it as his new home base. One of the more amusing stories told by John was that Nauss traveled extremely lightly, bringing along only the smallest bag for his far ranging expeditions.

Arthur Nauss passed away in Switzerland in 1984.

During his life he investigated numerous natural phenomena and had the resources to promote his ideas independently. John Wall provided the following references to his self-published works:

Diatomic Research Bulletin #1 (1965): “The Origin of Mountains”.

Diatomic Research Bulletin #2 (1969): “Origin of Meteorites by Epitaxy”, “Ejectamento versus lava in the Crater Archimedes” and “The Rocky Mountain Trench and the Rocky Mountains”.

Among the other stories told by John about Arthur Nauss were the following:

That he was a swimming and diving champion as an undergrad.

That he swam the Carcajou River while it was in flood during the Canol Project.

That during the Canol Project he was instructed by Ted Link to climb to the top of Mount Kay and retrieve a metal box full of letters.

That when Link and Nauss was formed in 1950, the pair hired Cooke and John Downing to help them.

That he used the Great Barrier Reef as an analog for exploring for reefs in Alberta. It was during his time in Australia that they drilled a well through the reef and expected to find Triassic beneath it – only to be surprised that it was underlain by Eocene strata.

That like all good geologists he liked to construct his fireplaces with distinctive rock and chose erratic boulders from the Keewatin drift near Calgary for his San Juan home.

The author of these composite notes (C. Tippett) apologizes for any and all omissions and errors. Please feel free to send in corrections or additions.

Art Nauss was obviously a very dynamic businessman and individual. He led as diverse a life as one could imagine and could easily have stepped out of a John Ballem or Dick Shaw novel. Thanks again to John for sharing his story with us.