



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

February 2007; Volume XVIII, Number 1

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, February 14, 2007

**A Big Screen “Salute to the People of the
Energy and Utilities Board of Alberta”**

As a part of a 2005 Alberta Centennial project, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) produced a DVD entitled “A Salute to the People of the EUB”. We will be screening this production with the permission of the EUB. This documentary provides a basic history and well illustrated overview of Alberta’s petroleum resources, industry and regulation, as seen in chronological sequence from the earliest days of exploration and production at Medicine Hat, Waterton and Turner Valley through to the present day. The DVD features footage from interviews with many prominent Albertans who have been involved in the industry along with a number of key Board employees. Amongst these are Dr. George Govier, Premiers Peter Lougheed and Ralph Klein, Gerry DeSorcy, Preston Manning and Aubrey Kerr. The feature was written and produced by Murray Dale to the highest of standards.

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

PLACE: Fairmont Palliser Hotel (133 - 9th Avenue S.W.) – Penthouse (check marquee)

COST: Members \$30.00 and Guests \$35.00 (most welcome) (cash or cheque only)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 691-4274 or
clinton.tippett@shell.com by noon Monday, February 12**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Effective immediately, the cost of our luncheons has increased by \$5.00 for both members and non-members. In addition, individuals who indicate that they will be attending but do not materialize will be considered “no shows” and **will be invoiced for the cost of the luncheon.**

Further, individuals who do not RSVP cannot be assured of seating. We apologize for the need to implement these policies but we are finding it necessary to optimize both financial and operational aspects. Thanks.

THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY
THE BULL WHEEL



Next Board Meeting: The Board will meet next at noon on February 22 at the Glenbow Museum and Archives – meet in the Lobby just before noon.

Volunteers: We are always on the lookout for people with the energy and dedication to help us grow and to undertake projects on the Society's behalf. Please contact Clint Tippett (691-4274), Doug Cass (268-4203) or Hugh Leiper (249-0707) if you would like to get involved.

Next Luncheons: We are always seeking speakers and interesting subjects. If you would like to consider presenting, please contact Clint Tippett, President P.H.S., at 691-4274.

Canadian Centre for Energy Information: The P.H.S. has a "Content, Marketing and Traffic Partnership" with the Centre. This arrangement is an expression of the mutually beneficial cooperation that exists between our two organizations. Please see www.centreforenergy.com for more details. Of particular interest to our members is their on-line historical volume "Evolution of Canada's Oil and Gas Industry" that can be downloaded free of charge.



P.H.S. Pin Sets: Our pin sets (of 6) have been reduced in price to \$40.00. Please contact the Society if you are interested in buying one or several sets. These make great and original Calgary- or Western Canada-related gifts. Detailed comprehensive descriptions accompany each plush-boxed set.

Wildcatter: P.H.S. Member Sandy Gow, who will be familiar to most of you from his recent book and related presentation to the Society, was named "Wildcatter of the Month" by the Wildcatter News – a small circulation paper based in Okotoks but "Serving Alberta - Oilfield and Related Services - since 1995". The paper gave prominent coverage to Sandy's latest accomplishments. Hopefully the interest generated will be enough to jog the U. of C. Press into a second press run.

Industrial Archeology: The Society for Industrial Archeology has started up an on-line version of its journal. Volume 30, No. 2 of I.A. is already online and they are in the process of adding three more issues to the site. Any visitor to <http://www.historycooperative.org/> can access these sample issues of I.A. free during 2007. This development has been a long time coming, and the S.I.S. is excited about what it will mean for the future of their journal and Society. After substantial consideration, their Board approved affiliation with The History Cooperative, a consortium centered at the University of Illinois Press.

Passings:

Ruth Reed: As reported in the Calgary Herald on December 14, 2006, Ruth Reed, an ex-Shell Canada geologist, was tragically killed the day before in a driving accident near Sundre. Ruth was 84 and was best known for her role in the discovery of the Waterton Field in 1957. When Waterton No. 1 was drilled there was considerable debate within Shell concerning its potential deliverability and reserves in the objective section of the Mississippian Livingstone Formation (Sheet IV). Some felt that the relatively tight reservoir had no promise and recommended abandonment (the role of fractures was not widely appreciated at the time). Others, being more optimistic, held out hope for a modest producer. Ruth made the difference through very careful examination of the wellbore cuttings that revealed very fine grained, sucrosic matrix reservoir development that had been hidden to the casual observer by a light dusting of drilling mud. On the basis of her conclusions, the decision was made to test the well and following several stimulations and flow tests, the well was capped as a successful sour gas producer. This led to a number of Sheet IV delineation wells and the decision to build the Waterton Gas Plant that started up in 1962. Of course this was all followed by the discovery of the prolific Sheet III shortly thereafter and the ultimate extension of the Waterton Field to its 3.5 TCF+ OGIP (Original Gas in Place) size that we now recognize. None of this might have happened (at least for Shell) if it had not been for Ruth's sound technical work.

George deMille: George grew up around Turner Valley and passed away on December 15, 2006 at the age of 89. He is best remembered for his landmark publication "Oil in Canada West" (1970).

Julio Poscente: Jules passed way on December 8, 2006. He began his oil industry career as a draftsman, landman and manager at Gulf Oil. In 1971 he joined Canada North West Land/Energy that was best known for its pioneering international exploration ventures, in particular in Spain where the offshore Casablanca Field was discovered. More recently he had been involved in a Russian venture. Jules was amongst a generation of Canadian energy entrepreneurs who turned their talents towards opportunities outside Canada – a tradition that began with the Hard Oilers of the late 1800's and continues today.

Neil John McMillan: Jack McMillan was a well-known G.S.C. geologist who passed away on November 7, 2006 at the age of 80. According to the memorial article written by Chris Simnett in the November 26, 2006 issue of the Calgary Herald, Jack's son, David, believes that the identification of the petroleum potential of offshore Labrador is his father's most significant contribution to Canadian petroleum geology and, by inference, the oil and gas industry. Like most scientists of his day, Jack received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Canadian universities (U. of M. and U. of S, respectively) but had to travel to the U.S. for his doctoral studies (U. Kansas). He devoted much of his life's work to geological investigations, even when he was formally retired.

Archives is published approximately six times a year by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.

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Back issues are archived on our website at www.petroleumhistory.ca

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Preparing for the 150th Anniversary of the Canadian Oil Industry

A Status Report by P.H.S. Director Robert Bott

The following update is provided for our membership. It highlights the substantial amount of work that Adriana Davies (Heritage Community Foundation), Robert Bott and Earle Gray have carried out on this initiative and the progress that they have made. As we get closer to the anniversary, it is anticipated that the P.H.S. will become more directly involved. Please let us know if this might be of interest to you from a volunteering perspective.

Bob reports: Here is the current status of national projects to help celebrate the Canadian Oil Industry Sesquicentennial in 2008.

The Heritage Community Foundation, the Petroleum History Society, the Canadian Centre for Energy Information and JuneWarren Publishing are the principal sponsors of seven proposed projects designed to complement the activities of Lambton County in celebrating North America's first commercial oil well at Oil Springs, Canada West, in 1858. The Heritage Community Foundation, as the lead partner, has prepared and submitted a proposal to the Canadian Celebration, Commemoration and Learning Program, Department of Canadian Heritage. This was based on their program eligibility criteria that address national program goals. This proposal supports, in various degrees, the seven projects comprising the Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canada's Oil Industry Project. The amount requested from Canadian Heritage is \$1,143,279 for the period April 1st, 2007 to December 31st, 2008.

Status: Response anticipated before April 1.

BOOKLET. Ontario's Petroleum Industry: 150 Years in the Making.

This 40-page book is planned as two related documents: a PDF (Portable Document Format) file, scheduled for 2007, and a print document, in French and English, scheduled for 2008. The PDF edition will be hosted by the Heritage Community Foundation on a web site and distributed by e-mail. Users will be able to study the document online, or download it and print as many copies as desired.

The PDF file will be an important resource on its own. Authored by Earle Gray and edited by Robert Bott, the booklet will focus on the 1858 discovery and its significance, but also provide a brief overview of earlier oil developments, in Canada and elsewhere (e.g., France and Romania), and subsequent evolution of the Ontario and Canadian industry. It will bring the story up to the present, and future, by touching on Ontario's position in the industry after 150 years and the use of Ontario's depleted reservoirs as major North American natural gas storage sites. The booklet will be aimed at high school, post-secondary and general public audiences. A summary brochure could also be produced.

Status: A grant from Fairbank Oil Properties has been received and from JuneWarren Publishing we have a committed in-kind contribution of intellectual property. JuneWarren will also distribute and promote the booklet. Preparation of the booklet is underway, and completion of the PDF edition is scheduled for September 2007. With permission, it is hoped to premier the PDF edition at the 46th annual meeting of the Ontario Petroleum Institute October 16 to 18, at Sarnia. A contribution from the Petroleum Hall of Fame has been requested to help finance the print editions.

CONFERENCE: Canada's Petroleum Industry: 150 Years in the Making

Planned for summer 2008, this conference will bring together Canadian and U.S. historians, history buffs, curators and educators to discuss issues such "firsts," as the impact of Ontario- based "hard oilers" on drilling around the world, and the continuing significance of the area's geology, oil and gas production and refining industry. The conference could also include, as a pre-conference or post-conference event, a field trip to Oil Springs, Petrolia and Sarnia.

Status: The Ontario Petroleum Institute has offered to arrange the conference site and required facilities and services and provide registration services. The OPI is also being asked to serve as co-sponsor of this event, together with the Petroleum History Society. Funding to provide honoraria for authors of conference papers, partial travel subsidies for delegates, and other expenses, is being sought.

WEBSITE: An addition to Canada's Petroleum Heritage Website: From Petrolia to the Present.

The Heritage Community Foundation has developed this website over the past years, and it currently provides an overview of different facets of the industry from the historical perspective. It includes text, images, audio and video. The site includes a range of oral history excerpts as well as the entire 24-part CKUA Radio Network documentary series Roughnecks, Wildcats and Doodlebugs (as well as excerpts from the companion one-hour TV production). It is logical to develop and add new multimedia materials relating to the 150th anniversary bridging the past and present since this website already has an established visitorship and the Heritage Community Foundation has the capacity to create digital content and searchable databases of images, audio and video. In addition, the Foundation undertakes oral history videotaping and has also developed video shorts for public broadcast and DVDs based on website content. The website will be available in Canada's two official languages.

Status: Pending funding.

EDUKIT: Canada's Petroleum Heritage Edukit.

An edukit is a customized teacher resource that includes lesson plans, rubrics and games, quizzes and other interactive materials for students. A Petroleum Edukit exists with an Alberta focus. We propose developing a companion Edukit to be used across subject and grade levels. This would be designed to address curriculum fits in the various provinces and territories. The Ontario curriculum is a particular focus since currently there are no dedicated resources that address petroleum resources. The Edukit is a companion resource to the Canada's Petroleum Heritage website. Alberta Education has approved a range of Foundation websites as online resources for teachers and students. In addition, e-learning programs in Canada, the U.S. and as far afield as India use Foundation websites.

Status: A proposal and request for \$100,000 to support the Edukit has been submitted to the Imperial Oil Foundation.

VIDEO: Canada's Petroleum Industry: 150 Years in the Making Video.

The partners propose creating a video/DVD titled "Canada's Oil." With its exciting story content, spectacular "High Definition" imagery and beautiful music, this half-hour documentary will be broadcast, distributed and marketed in Canada and other countries to prime-time television, home entertainment, institutional and Internet audiences. The project is also designed and tailored to fit the Heritage Community Foundation's multimedia initiative "Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canada's Oil Industry Project."

Status: Pending funding. King Motion Pictures, which would be contracted to produce the video, will provide an in-kind contribution valued at \$125,000, in the form of Two Public Service Announcements.

MULTI-MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

The project team would design and implement a multi-media campaign with print and broadcast materials to celebrate the anniversary and to draw attention to the various legacy projects. Existing resources such as the Great Canadian Oil Patch and other books about Canada's oil history, e.g., the Hard Oilers, could also be promoted.

Status: Pending funding.



Dingman #1 Discovery Well, Turner Valley, Alberta, ca. 1913-1914.
Visitors in automobiles near Sheep River.
From "The Alberta Oil Fields", issued by Marine Oil Products Limited.
With the permission of the Glenbow Archives, Image Number NA-4139-1



The Dew Drop Inn, near the Dingman #1 Discovery Well, Turner Valley, Alberta, ca. 1914.
Proprietor Henry A. Stewart awaits thirsty customers at his fit-for-purpose tent near the famous site that was visited by numerous sightseers from Calgary. Featured are the "Pioneer Lunch", for those who had worked up a hunger on the pilgrimage, and lodging, for those who were either employed nearby or who took their refreshments too seriously.
With the permission of the Glenbow Archives, Image Number NA-2491-1

Glenbow Archives ND-8-420



Observing the drilling of the Dingman #1 Discovery Well (later Calgary Petroleum Products #1), Turner Valley, Alberta, on July 28, 1914. Photographed by W.J. Oliver. Amongst the crowd of nattily attired attendees is the Duke of Connought, then the Governor General of Canada, who is wearing the grey striped suit and is facing the camera. What the individuals in the foreground are doing is not clear – perhaps they are examining a model of the drilling operation.

With the permission of the Glenbow Archives. Image Number ND-8-420.



Glenbow Archives NA-4139-2

Calgary Capitalists on a visit to the Dingman #1 Discovery Well, Turner Valley, Alberta, ca. 1913-1914. Thomas A.P. "Tappy" Frost, a Director of Marine Oil Products Limited, is in the centre with his hands on the barrel. Philip W. McCrystle is third from the right. From "The Alberta Oil Fields", issued by Marine Oil Products Limited. Light oil presumably being poured into another barrel to the right. With the permission of the Glenbow Archives.

Image Number NA-4139-2.



Drilling crew in the drill shack on Dingman #2 well, just to the west of the Dingman #1 Discovery Well, Turner Valley, 1914. Joe Brown, far right, is getting ready to sharpen a fish tail bit before lowering it down the well. Heavy chains, strung from the drilling rig framework, were necessary to allow the heavy equipment to be moved about the rig floor. With the permission of the Glenbow Archives. Image Number NA-5535-7 (Copied from PA-3296).



Dingman #2 wellsite with cable tool rig, just above the Sheep River and south of Turner Valley, Alberta, 1914. The well was later renamed Calgary Petroleum Products #2. Photo by the Alberta Photo Company. Several features are notable. First is the distinct layering present beneath the rig. From top to bottom these are: soil layer (black, approx. one foot thick); unconsolidated gravel layer (light coloured with obvious pebbles and cobbles – of glacio-fluvial origin); and finally steeply dipping deformed shales and thin sandstones of the Late Cretaceous Alberta Group that core the surface anticline at Turner Valley. The river seems to be a lot closer to the cliff than it is now – such movements of the channel are a problem with the gas plant site overall. The current burning seep that can be visited near the plant is in these riverside shales but is apparently sourced from a cracked casing in the wellbore of the #2 well, rather than being a genuine subsurface seep. With the permission of the Glenbow Archives. Image Number NA-2335-5.