



PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

February 2009; Volume XX, Number 2

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, February 25, 2009

East and West: Ontario's Influence on the Western Canadian Oil Industry by David Finch, Author

An enduring myth permeates the Canadian oil patch – that eastern Canadians hate the West. Though this theme serves a purpose – like when Westerners want to blame the international economic downturn of the 1980's on Ottawa's infamous National Energy Program – the fact remains that numerous central Canadian petroleum industry pioneers, and some key Americans, migrated west to Alberta in the early 1900's and helped to develop an industry that became pivotal to Canada's self-sufficiency in oil, natural gas and bitumen. This paper reviews the careers of important individuals who helped find, develop and sustain the Western Canadian oil industry and explains how this relationship between the regions has contributed to the vitality of the Canadian oil patch. *[This paper was originally presented at last Spring's Sarnia 150th anniversary celebration of the Canadian oil industry and will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of the Petroleum History Institute.]*

David Finch is a consulting historian in Calgary who writes the history of the Canadian West. He is the author of more than 20 books and has a regular column in the *Calgary Herald*.

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, February 25, 2009. **NOTE NEW LOCATION**
PLACE: Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Viking Room
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, 403-691-4274 or
clinton.tippett@shell.com by noon Monday, February 23**

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.**
Individuals who do not R.S.V.P. cannot be assured of seating.

THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY
THE BULL WHEEL



Next Board Meeting: The Board will meet on March 12 at the Glenbow Museum and Archives. Thanks to Treasurer Doug Cass and the Glenbow for their hospitality.

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 Tippet (691-4274), Doug Cass (268-4203) or Hugh Leiper (249-0707) if you would like to get involved.

Next Luncheons: We are seeking speakers and interesting subjects. If you are considering making a presentation, please contact Clint Tippet, President P.H.S., at 691-4274.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be held on Wednesday, March 25 in the Viking Room of the Petroleum Club starting at 4:00 p.m., as has been our practice. Following the business portion of the meeting and the 2008 P.H.S. Awards ceremony, we will be addressed by Sydney Sharpe, on the topic of her recent biography of Daryl K. (Doc) Seaman entitled ***"Staying in the Game: The Remarkable Story of Doc Seaman"***.

Executive Nominations for 2009-2010: In preparation for the elections to be held at the AGM, the current Executive and Board are looking for nominations for all positions. If you are interested in participating, please advise Clint, Doug or Hugh, as indicated above.

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.



2008 Petroleum History Society Awards: The time is ripe for the selection of our award winners for 2008 in the categories of Book of the Year, Article of the Year, Multimedia, Preservation and Lifetime Achievement. The panel coordinating these selections this year is made up of President Clint Tippet, Treasurer Doug Cass and Director Hugh Leiper. Please forward your nominations as soon as possible to one of the members of this panel. The awards will be presented at the AGM on March 25.

Donations to the Society: Last month there was a bit of an oversight on the editor's part concerning some of our generous donors during 2008. In correction, we wish to thank, once again, Member David Marks and Lifetime Members John Andrichuk, Evelyn de Mille, John Downing, Bruce Goodall and Gordon Wells as well as Members Dave Barss and Rick Green plus Sustaining Members Kelly Ogle and Uldis Uptis who all came forward to help us out financially. Thanks very much and sorry for the confusion.

Petroleum History Society Graduate Scholarship for 2008-2009: We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Louise Winter has been selected by the University of Calgary, in consultation with the P.H.S., as the recipient of our scholarship in the amount of \$1500. Jennifer has been studying some of the dynamics of the Saskatchewan oilpatch during its formative years and will be making a luncheon presentation to the Society on this topic on May 6.

Important Announcements via e-mail: Past President and P.H.S. website co-ordinator Micky Gulless passes along the following note to those of you who have e-mail addresses but perhaps have not provided them to us: *"Do we have your e-mail address? The P.H.S. sometimes sends e-mail messages to our members without sending the same message out by postal mail, for reasons of timing, importance and cost. Don't miss out on these messages. If you don't receive e-mails from the P.H.S. and you DO have an e-mail address, please send it to: Micky Gulless at info@petroleumhistory.ca or at 403-283-9268."*

P.H.S. Bibliography: Treasurer Doug Cass continually scans the literature and other media for entries that are relevant to Canadian petroleum history. Doug updated his bibliography on Dec. 31 and has added another 55 pages! The PDF file is posted on our website at: <http://petroleumhistory.ca/history/phsBiblio.pdf>

Ontario's Petroleum Legacy: Read about how Canada launched the petroleum age with a free, 32-page, fully-illustrated excerpt from Earl Gray's latest book: ***Ontario's Petroleum Legacy: The birth, evolution and challenges of a global industry***. Heritage Community Foundation, Edmonton, 2008. includes bibliographic reference and index. Soft cover, 11 x 8.5 inches, 112 pages, illustrated. ISBN 978-0-9739892-2-9. You can download your free, no obligation pdf excerpt of Chapters 1 and 2 of *Ontario's Petroleum Legacy* by clicking on this link: <http://earlegray.ca/order.html> Thanks to Director Bob Bott for letting us know.

Wild Roses: For those of you watching for good soaps, this CBC production, set in the Alberta Foothills and Calgary, is currently appearing on Tuesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. It is somewhat related to the oil industry with some of the "usual characters" and a very multi-faceted plot featuring the comings and goings of several families. Fun to spot locations around town like the Stephen Avenue "flowers" by Bankers Hall and the Petroleum Club mural on 6th Avenue. The P.H.S. was asked to provide some props for the series.

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

Archives is copyright to the PHS – all rights reserved.

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

Contacts: info@petroleumhistory.ca

President: Clint Tippett – clinton.tippett@shell.com 691-4274

Secretary: Peter Savage – p2savage@telus.net 249-3532

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
2009 INHIGEO CONFERENCE
“FOSSILS AND FUEL”
CALGARY, ALBERTA - AUGUST 10-14, 2009

The Canadian delegation is pleased to hold the 2009 INHIGEO Annual Meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The theme of the meeting is “Fossils and Fuel” and will focus on the historical development of significant fossil sites and the petroleum industry. Calgary is ideally situated for this theme since it is one of the major centres of the oil industry in North America and also due to its proximity to major fossil sites like Dinosaur National Park and the Burgess Shale, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In fact 2009 is the Centenary of the discovery of the Burgess Shale by Charles Walcott. The Calgary INHIGEO meeting would coincide with the International Conference on the Cambrian Explosion, 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Burgess Shale, in Banff, Alberta, to be held August 2-7 2009. This will allow researchers who are interested to attend both meetings. 2009 is also the centenary of Barnum Brown's first visit to Alberta, the first step in what became the Canadian Dinosaur Rush. The meeting will facilitate discussion on a wide variety of topics pertaining to the historical development of the petroleum industry and the discovery and development of major fossil sites including:

- The discovery of the Burgess Shale by Walcott
- The history of Fossil Lagerstätten.
- Palaeontological Conservation
- Barnum Brown and the Canadian Dinosaur Rush
- The historical development of Vertebrate Ichnology
- The history of Dinosaur National Park
- First Nations discoveries of large fossil vertebrates.
- Early drilling techniques
- The historical development of early hydrocarbon discoveries
- The history of Oil Sands and other non-conventional hydrocarbon reserves
- The Founding Fathers of the Petroleum Industry
- Petroleum industry's most significant moments during the 20th century
- Society and oil a historical context

Abstracts: Please send your abstract as an e-mail word document to George Pemberton (george.pemberton@ualberta.ca). Abstracts should be in 12 point Times font and should not exceed one page single-spaced. Abstract deadline will be June 1, 2009. Both oral presentations and poster presentations are welcome.

Conference Venue: The University of Calgary Conference Centre will be used for all meeting functions.

Optional Mid-Meeting Field Trip: Glenbow Museum, Art Gallery, Library and Archives: The Calgary Petroleum Collection at the Glenbow has an extensive collection of petroleum records and photos including: Canadian Petroleum Association fonds, 1927 – 1992; Independent Petroleum Association, to 1992; Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists fonds, 1926 – 1995; Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen, to 2000; Petroleum Industry Oral History Project collection, 1981 – 1991; and the Desk and Derrick Club, to 1999. Numerous personal fonds are also available for research. Key contact is Chief Archivist Doug Cass (P.H.S. Treasurer).

The Petroleum History Institute 2009 Symposium

150th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE DRAKE WELL



(Drake Well Museum DW676)

"RETURN TO THE VALLEY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD"

May 14 - 16, 2009

Titusville, PA; Headquartered at
The Caboose Motel on Perry Street in downtown Titusville

Symposium Chair: Marilyn Black, at Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry
& Tourism; (814) 677-3152, Ext. 105; mblack@oilregion.org

Coordinator of Presentations: Dr. William Brice, wbrice@pitt.edu; (814) 269-3950

The Petroleum History Institute 2009 Symposium

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Note: Exact times subject to refinement.

Thursday, May 14

- 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Registration open at The Caboose Motel; 409 South Perry Street, Titusville; pick up detailed packets.
- 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Optional Guided Tours – See the valley that changed the world by...” your choice of bicycle, kayak, or on foot; guided by staff of Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism; biking will be in Titusville and along Oil Creek; kayaking on Oil Creek; walking tour of architecture of oil-related buildings in Titusville
- 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Opening Reception – Inside Perry Street Station; tasty treats and beverages. Gather here your groups for dinner on your own.

Friday, May 15

- 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.;
6:30 p.m. on Registration open at Porter’s House (one block from The Caboose); 221 South Monroe Street, Titusville; Poster sessions displayed on Friday entire day and Saturday morning; pick up detailed packets.
- 8 a.m. Hot Buffet Breakfast; at Porter’s House, in Special Events Room
- 8:30 a.m. Series of Technical Sessions; at Porter’s House.
- 12:30 pm. Soup, salad, and dessert luncheon buffet at Porter’s House; Keynote speaker to be announced.
- 2 p.m.- 6 p.m. Guided Oil History Field Trip of Titusville Area – Bus departs from The Caboose. Loop includes special views of Drake Well Museum and Park (including the mystery pit archaeological site, working and static oil field equipment, transportation building, and more), Tarbell House, Mather House, key downtown spots, Drake Memorial, and first site of Drake collection). Guidebook provided.
- 7 p.m. Awards Banquet – Tonight’s menu is a re-creation of a November, 1929 Oil Men’s Banquet in Kentucky; program includes award presentations and live performance of early oil field music by the Eclipse Refinery Orchestra

Saturday, May 16

- 8 a.m. Hot Southern-Style Buffet Breakfast; at Porter’s House, in Special Events Room
- 8:30 a.m. Series of Technical Sessions; at Porter’s House.
- 12:30 p.m. Guided Oil History Field Trip of Oil Creek Valley and the Oil Region – Bus departs from The Caboose. Loop includes Pleasantville, Neilltown, Tidioute, Tionesta, Pithole Visitor Center, McClintock Well #1, Venango Museum, National Transit Building (including PHI archives), McClintock-Steele-Waitz House, and Oil Creek State Park sites. Guides are Neil and Lois McElwee. Box lunches and refreshments provided on board. Guidebook provided.
- 7 p.m. Farewell Supper – Inside Perry Street Station. Relaxing buffet meal followed by unusual 3-D slide program featuring the Oil Region, presented by Michael Henderson.

The Petroleum History Institute 2009 Symposium

May 14 – 16, 2009; in Titusville, PA

“Return to the Valley That Changed the World” During the 150th Anniversary Year of Drake Well

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Please Return Completed Form and Check To:

Affiliation _____

Marilyn Black, Secretary
Petroleum History Institute

Address _____
Street _____

P. O. Box 165
Oil City, PA 16301-0165

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(814) 677-3152, Ext. 105

Telephone _____

mblack@oilregion.org

Fax (814) 677-5206

E-mail _____

For master schedule, see www.petroleumhistory.org.

PHI Member: _____ Yes _____ No

Sponsorship opportunities available; call for details.

REGISTRATION FEES

Full registration for the complete symposium covers all technical sessions, social events and the field excursions, including the program with abstracts booklet, field guidebook, breakfasts, lunches, reception, awards banquet, and farewell dinner, as well as information packets. **Please circle the combination for which you are registering.**

Full RegistrationReceived by March 31, 2009

Received by May 1, 2009

PHI Member	\$ 250.
PHI Student Member (include copy of student ID)	\$ 100.
Non-Member of PHI (includes new 2009 membership)	\$ 290.
Spouse of PHI Member	\$ 150.
Only Friday, May 15, 2009 activities (includes banquet)	\$ 125.
Only Awards Banquet, evening of May 15, 2009	\$ 50.
Only Saturday, May 16, 2009 activities	\$ 125.

\$ 275.
\$ 125.
\$ 315.
\$ 175.
\$ 150.
\$ 75.
\$ 150.

Free Optional Thursday Guided Tour: _____ Bicycle _____ Kayak _____ On Foot
(Hosts will furnish guide and the appropriate equipment and safety gear.)

_____ Total Registration Fee Enclosed; **check payable to “PHI”** (sorry, no credit cards for registration fees)

Special Needs: (examples -- dietary, mobility, etc.) _____

LODGING

Please make your lodging reservations directly with your selected provider; see www.petroleumhistory.org for details on rates, services, distances, for each convenient lodging provider. Symposium headquarters is The Caboose Motel, 409 Perry Street, Titusville, PA 16354; (814) 676-1733; (fax) 677-2192; special PHI nightly rate of \$82 expires March 31; www.octr.org; credit cards accepted, of course. All activities are within 2 blocks of Caboose Motel.

Oil in Texas – The Gusher Age, 1895-1945

By Roger M. Olien and Daina Davids Olien

University of Texas Press at Austin, 2002, 320 p., \$39.95

This review has been adapted from the review of this book on the website of the University of Texas Press at Austin.

“Preface

As the new millennium begins, it is worth looking back over the twentieth century and considering how oil changed Texas. If cattle and cotton helped define the history of nineteenth-century Texas not only through the state's economy but also through its life, institutions, and politics, then petroleum has had as much influence in twentieth-century Texas. Texas without oil? The notion is near inconceivable. One might as easily image Los Angeles without freeways, Manhattan without skyscrapers, or Washington, D.C. without politics. Oil is central to the economic and social identity of modern Texas.

Within a half-century of the industry's birth in Texas, the state's vast petroleum reserves dwarfed those of most other producing states. In 1932, the giant East Texas Field alone yielded more than the total annual production of most of the other states. Fettered by regulation, in 1940 Texas still produced twice as much oil as California, the next largest producing state and one where production was unlimited. Producing over one-third of the nation's oil in 1940, Texas dominated the price of crude oil in national and international markets. Thus, once the Texas Railroad Commission became the industry's regulatory agency, it assumed the dominant position in crude oil markets. By the end of the first half-century, the Railroad Commission's influence over crude oil prices far exceeded that exercised today by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The major objective of this book is to explain how the massive growth of the petroleum industry in Texas came about. Beginning on the upper Gulf Coast, one region after another was opened to oil and gas production. Wildcatters did not succeed in finding oil in every part of the state, but that was not for lack of trying. By the end of the first half-century, which we have called "the gusher age," petroleum had been discovered and was produced in 80 percent of the counties in Texas. The hallmark of the first fifty years is the driving force of exploration and discovery, the "upstream" sector of the industry. All of the other significant aspects of the industry - the operation of business circles, the increasing importance of science and technology, the creation and expansion of refining, manufacturing, service, and supply activities - spun off of the finding and production of crude oil. Similarly, the social and political impacts all followed from the expansion of field activity, and incidental problems stemming from exploration and production were dealt with through the political and regulatory processes.

As we tell the story of oil in Texas, we have generally followed a regional approach because it would be confusing to try to describe events in all regions in a single year, or even in a single decade. It would also be misleading. Different regions experienced different developmental patterns and confronted different problems. What was true on the Gulf Coast did not pertain to North Texas or the Permian Basin. As we cover the regions, we have not tried to include every oil field or every oil town, but rather to discuss important or typical examples. Similarly, we introduce individual oilmen and firms, as industry leaders or as typical of their times and places, but have not talked about every important oilman or every significant firm. We have also provided

more information about relatively neglected parts of the state, Southwest Texas, for example, to add to the store of general information on our topic. Generally speaking, our history of oil in Texas also follows a time line, organized by decades, within which we cover regional growth and development. Chapter 1 begins with Texas before oil and the preconditions of development, emphasizing the first commercially viable production at Corsicana. Chapter 2 moves to the Spindletop boom and the initial era of Gulf Coast exploration. Chapter 3 offers an overview of the aftermath of Spindletop and Gulf Coast development. Chapter 4 covers the opening of North Texas and the regional growth it fostered. Chapter 5 takes us to discoveries in Southwest and Central Texas, as well as to continued Gulf Coast exploration and the increased application of geoscience. Chapter 6 turns to the discovery of vast reserves in the Panhandle and Permian Basin, the impact of these discoveries on state institutions such as the University of Texas and Texas A&M University, and attempts to manage mounting overproduction of oil. Chapter 7 focuses on the great East Texas oil boom - the problems it caused, the fortunes made in it, and its impact on regulation. Chapter 8 describes what happened to the oil industry in other parts of the state while East Texas boomed and during the remainder of the 1930's. The final chapter is largely concerned with the impact of World War II on the Texas petroleum industry. There our story ends, for the time being, largely because the second half-century is a very different story indeed, and it deserves separate and detailed description.

Closely allied to the growth of the oil industry is urban growth, both in established metropolitan centers and in new locations. Oil broadened the economic base of cities such as Houston, Fort Worth, Wichita Falls, and Beaumont and brought sharp increases in population. It also took small cattle towns like Amarillo, Midland, and Odessa and turned them into cities, as well as centers for regional oil industry management and service. In all of these towns and cities, oil broadened and diversified economies that had been based almost entirely on agriculture. Oil activity also prompted the creation of new towns, and it turned tiny county seats like Kermit in Winkler County into bustling centers with several thousand inhabitants. Paradoxically, oil also moved people into the countryside. It brought drillers and pumpers to remote leases; it brought company camps, large and small, to developing oil fields. Last but not least, as industry activity boomed from place to place, oil created a substantial transient population, workers and their families in motion from one oil field to the next. In short, during the first half-century of industry growth in Texas, oil determined where a tremendous number of Texans happened to be. One could work in the industry and live in a city or in the country, or be often on the road. The story of the petroleum industry's first half-century in Texas must include its sequential spread over vast areas, but there is much more to the history than a sequence of gushers in unlikely places. Between the mid-1890's and 1945, Texas evolved from its predominantly agricultural roots into an industrial and managerial society. Petroleum was far and away the most important element in that profound change. Oil brought industrial employment on a grand scale to rural Texas. It offered an immediate and potentially attractive alternative to life down on the farm or ranch, and thousands of Texans took that alternative. Many of them did not even have to drive to town to do so. Simply put, the oil industry created economic opportunities. These opportunities, however, were not distributed through the whole population. During the industry's first half-century, the most direct beneficiaries were Anglo men. For benefits that reached women, African Americans, and Tejanos, one must generally look at the spin-off businesses, commonly demanding few skills and paying much less than other positions in the industry. On this topic, in particular, there are still significant questions to be answered in future research: What effects did millions of dollars in royalty payments and lease rentals and bonuses have on farmers and ranchers? What did petrodollars do in banking and business circles in places such as Houston, Fort Worth, and Dallas? What effect did petroleum fortunes have on philanthropy and charity? Each of these topics is worthy of a book in itself."



“Located about 40 miles southwest of Houston, West Columbia Field was discovered in 1918 and was a major source of wealth for Ima Hogg and her famous philanthropic foundations. This picture, taken sometime thereafter, typifies the enthusiasm of that time, as well as the boom that the industry is in today.” This photo appeared on the cover of the August 2007 issue of *World Oil* and the caption is quoted from that same source. Not too many modern analogs!