

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

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P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, January 31, 2018

“Oil History on Display - The Black Gold Tapestry”

by Sandra Sawatzky – Artist and Historical Interpreter

For this meeting of the Petroleum History Society we are touring the Black Gold Tapestry at the Glenbow Museum. The artist, Sandra Sawatzky, creator and artist of the hand-embroidered Black Gold Tapestry, will be with us for lunch at Milestones Restaurant and will then guide us through the exhibit at the Museum. The Black Gold Tapestry is unique, telling the story of oil through history. In Sandra’s own words *“There’s a tapestry in Europe called Bayeux Tapestry. It is almost 1,000 years old and 67 m long and it tells the history of the Battle of Hastings. People from all over the world come to see it. It’s marvelous. I thought: What if I did that? What could be the epic story? And eventually it came to me - oil is that story.”* Sandra’s creation also spans 67 m as it stretches across the gallery walls of the Glenbow Museum. Join us on the 31st!

Please see page 3 for reviews and sources of additional information.

Time:	11:30 a.m. (sharp), Wednesday, January 31, 2018
Place:	Milestones Restaurant followed by Glenbow Museum Milestones is on the SE corner of Centre Street and 8th Avenue South. Dress: Casual.
Cost:	P.H.S. and Student Members \$30 and Guests \$35 (most welcome). Only cash or cheque at the restaurant. Payment can be made in advance by credit card or by e-mail. Please advise payment method with reply. Museum charge may be extra.
Lunch:	Director David Finch has arranged lunch details with Milestones – see p. 2.

NOTE: Instructions for registering for the Luncheon:

Reply, if you wish to attend, to: Micky Gulless at 403-283-9268 or micky@petroleumhistory.ca by noon, Monday, January 29, if not sooner.

Those who register but do not come, or cancel after the deadline, will be invoiced.

Those who do not register by the deadline may not get a seat.

The Bull Wheel



Membership renewals and information update: For those who need to renew their membership, requests are being sent out this month – either on-line or as a hard copy accompanying this issue. Please see your e-mail or mailing label for your expiry date. We will also be checking to see if our contact information for you is still correct.

Lunch Details for January 31 (continued from p. 1): Milestones will be offering us a choice of three appetizers and four main courses with the bill to be paid by the P.H.S. from the luncheon fees. Water, tea and coffee included. Other beverages and other food ordered will be for your own account. The museum is charging us a special rate of \$10.00 plus tax per person which is less than the normal adult rate of \$16.00 and the student and senior rate of \$11.00. However, if you are a member of the Museum, your admission is free so either bring your membership card or be prepared to talk your way in with reference to your telephone number.

Paying the Petroleum History Society – from P.H.S. Treasurer Micky Gulless: Each year, we get more payments by electronic means for events and memberships. If you are still mailing cheques, you may want to try one of these ways:

Interac Email Money Transfer: At your bank website you can use your **bank account, or a credit card** held at that bank, to send funds to micky@petroleumhistory.ca. We've recently set up the new automatic deposit feature at the bank used by the P.H.S. so there's no need to create a password anymore and no delay in the deposit. This is the preferred way to pay the P.H.S. as it doesn't cost us anything. Depending on your bank, it may not cost you anything either.

PayPal: You can also use your PayPal account to pay with your credit card or your PayPal account balance. If you do not have a PayPal account, I can email you a PayPal invoice which you can use with only an email address and a credit card, no account necessary. PayPal charges a service fee of \$1.32 on a \$35 payment for a lunch.

Pay from our website: Recently we've started posting our events in the new Member 2 Member section of the Calgary Petroleum Club's Event Calendar on their website. In order to advertise there, we had to make it possible to pay for the event online. So now you can click the "Add to Cart" link on the P.H.S. Events page to pay by PayPal. We are pleased that this has led to quite a few new faces at our fall luncheons.

Thanks to our donors: In 2017 we received strong support from member donors. Thanks go out to Grant Bartlett, Josh Groberman, Adriana Davies, Ross Gourlay, Micky Gulless, David Hargrave, Ian Kirkland, Jeffrey Mackie, Gerry Maier, Bill McLellan, Kelly Ogle, Nick Taylor, Uldis Uptis and Gordon Williams. A big thanks to all!

Black Gold Tapestry (continued from p. 1): Here are some reviews of the show so far:

"Was it fun?", "How many stitches are in the tapestry?" and "Why is that man covered in bandages?" asked the little girl as she pointed to the mummy. These were some of the questions Grade 3 children asked after viewing the tapestry.

"Sawatzky has highlighted fascinating vignettes from past and present that will surprise and even delight viewers of this truly epic project." - Galleries West.

"The Black Gold Tapestry is a sprawling and intricate work that tells the history of oil from the literal beginnings of the earth to present day." - Calgary Herald.

"Sandra Sawatzky's tapestry depicts the impact of oil and natural gas on civilization, examining how it has fueled human ingenuity, progress, warfare, disaster, prosperity and commerce across the planet for thousands of years." CBC Calgary.

"Beautiful and gentle, but with a political pulse like a metronome." - Preview Guide to Galleries + Museums.

"A textile art history lesson, telling the many ways oil has been used." - CBC Television - The National.

"The Black Gold Tapestry is a stunning hand-embroidered illustrative tapestry that tells the story of how oil has impacted human civilizations around the world, from the beginning of time to present day." - The Calgary Petroleum Club.

An exhibit book can be purchased – and for more information see the artist's website at:
<http://blackgoldtapestry.blogspot.ca>

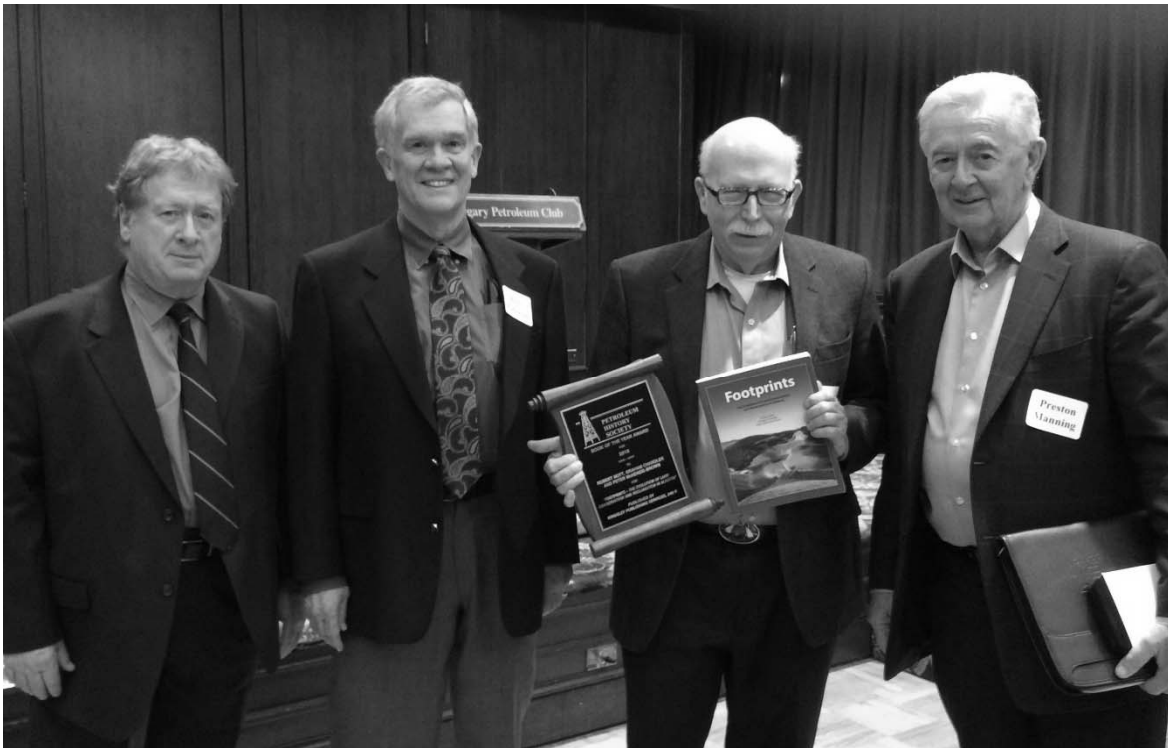
For a video of the creation and embroidery process you can go to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjH_6BZFbGE

Editorial Comment: Please note that unless otherwise indicated, all contents of this newsletter have been created or assembled by P.H.S. President and *Archives* Editor Clinton Tippet.

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Contacts: info@petroleumhistory.ca
President: Clint Tippet – clintontippet88@gmail.com 403-208-3543

Remembrance – Bruce Patterson

Bruce was born in Moncton, New Brunswick on July 7, 1945 and passed away on January 2, 2018 at the age of 72 years. He earned a B.Sc. from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and a B.Sc. (Agr.) from the University of Alberta in soil sciences. Bruce devoted over thirty years of his career with the Government of Alberta to land conservation and reclamation. After his retirement, he established a consultancy as DBP Environmental Services Ltd. through which he continued his commitment to the land. As a member of the Steering Committee for the book “*Footprints – The Evolution of Land Conservation and Reclamation in Alberta*”, awarded the Petroleum History Society Book of the Year award for 2016, he helped ensure that the story of land conservation and reclamation in Alberta was preserved for the future. Bruce thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors (every walk included a search for weeds!) and had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He never forgot his maritime roots and every trip back to New Brunswick brought him joy.



*March 2017 Presentation of the P.H.S. Book of the Year for 2016 for “Footprints”.
(L-R) - P.H.S. President Clint Tippett, project proponent Bruce Patterson, author Robert Bott
(and on behalf of his co-authors Graham Chandler and Peter McKenzie-Brown) and Annual
Meeting Keynote Speaker Preston Manning.*

Bruce was a loyal and long-time member of the P.H.S. He was always a cheerful attendee at our luncheons and an active participant in our discussions. He brought the Footprints book to our attention and made sure that the membership was aware of progress in getting it funded, written and published. He was of good character, always insisting that others who were involved were given their proper recognition. He also had a strong social conscience with one of his recent projects focussed on invasive species of vegetation in Calgary (see weeds above).

PEMBINA OIL FIELD – POSSIBLE DOCUMENTARY AND CALL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the late spring of 2017 the P.H.S. was approached by Mark Collings, a producer for Hwy2.TV. Mark advised us that he had come into possession of some 1950's home movie footage that related to the early days of the Pembina Oil Field, discovered in February 1953. The photo below, taken near Drayton Valley, is from that period of time. Mark has expressed an interest in using the footage to produce a documentary about those exploration and development events and asked us for assistance, both to enhance his knowledge and to support this undertaking. He was also looking for photos and for the names of people who he might interview.



The P.H.S. has provided Mark with a number of historical references, for example Arne Nielsen's "We Gambled Everything" book and links to the P.H.S. archive, and some technical background including Energy Resources Conservation Board pool listings for the Pembina Field and Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists pool descriptions. The P.H.S. also recently decided to offer a modest financial contribution to the project but major underwriters are still to be found. We have offered to reach out to our membership base in this context to see if there are any of you, in particular in the drilling community (past or present), who could either pitch in or suggest to Mark who he might approach to gain the required support. Mark has outlined a range of possible sponsorship levels in the project proposal that he can provide.

Mark's vision targets the creation of a 60 minute documentary entitled "*One Billion Barrels – The Story of the Pembina Oil Field*". The genre is "history/tourism". The storyline is: "*With the recent discovery of amazing film documentation of the development of the Pembina Oil Field by amateur filmmaker Robert Walin, we are reaching out to the people who were there to tell the stories of this pivotal part of Alberta's oil industry history. Arne Nielsen and his team used new geology techniques to locate and drill the first well. This changed oil exploration. The oil industry created huge changes in rural life, expanding towns and creating new towns.*"

Mark can be reached at 403-598-3301 or through the website www.hwy2.tv

PANARCTIC AVIATION

Exploration in Canada's High Arctic Islands during the 1960's through 1980's was initially undertaken by individual companies but was eventually brought together under the umbrella of Panarctic Oil. In order to conduct large scale, multi-well operations in this remote region, an equally impressive network of logistical support was required. One aspect of that was aviation with numerous regular flights in and out of the theatre of activity for crew changes and supply. The intensity of this work can only be compared to a wartime effort.



The certificate shown above is illustrative of this aviation contribution. It says: "This is to certify that Mr. Jerry Hornberger was a passenger onboard Pacific Western flight 044 and experienced the crossing of the Arctic Circle on January 2, 1986 (2147Z)." Signed by Captain Dennis Byrne. Hand inscribed: Panarctic Charter from Rae Point and "This represents the 204th crossing for Mr. Hornberger" as certified by Peter Lema. It is accompanied by an explanation of what the Arctic Circle represents. Taking up-and-back into consideration, this marked the end of this passenger's 102nd tour. If one assumes 3 weeks in and 3 weeks out as a cycle, that would mean that he had been working on this Arctic project for 612 weeks or almost 12 years.

REMARKS BY PRESTON MANNING
FORT MCMURRAY OIL SANDS BANQUET
NOVEMBER 29, 2017

The following is a slightly condensed version of the text presented by Mr. Manning at this commemorative event late last year. Our thanks to Preston for permission to reproduce the speech and to add it to our website.

Thank you first of all to Phillip Enarson and the banquet committee for organizing this event – inviting us to remember the opening of the Great Canadian oilsands plant – the first of its kind in the world – 50 years ago. I'm a great believer in remembering and honoring significant historical events because if you don't know **where you've been** in the past, it is much harder to figure out **where you are** in the present and **where you are headed** in the future. So thank you again for doing this. I first visited Fort McMurray in 1962 to help spread the news that the government was actually giving the go-ahead to build a 40,000 barrel-a-day oilsands processing plant – and that **this time** – after so many previous proposals, pilot plants, and false starts **it was actually going to happen**. Not surprisingly, the understandable response of some of the old timers to this news was: "Sonny, we have heard that story ever since Alexander Mackenzie came through here in 1788. We'll believe it when we see it!"

Now the historical aspect I have been asked to share with you has to do with the relationship between my father, Ernest C. Manning, who was Premier of Alberta at the time, and J. Howard Pew, the scion of the Pew family in Philadelphia, head of Sun Oil and the visionary who believed such a plant could and should be built. Once construction was underway, my father and J. Howard would meet periodically to review progress. Sometimes they'd meet at the Point Cabin at the Jasper Park Lodge which Pew rented in the summer and from which he would fly back and forth to Fort McMurray. On a few occasions, as part of my political education, I was privileged to go along to those meetings. It was at those meetings that I first heard the phrases "North American energy security" and "continental energy security" spoken by J. Howard Pew – concepts which didn't even enter the vocabulary of most political people until after the OPEC oil crisis of 1973. He was a visionary with a **strategic view** of the role petroleum resources play in the world – more than 20 years ahead of his time on that subject.

But let me back up a moment. Before the permit to build the plant could be issued there was a **trust issue** that had to be resolved between the government and Sun Oil. And, as in so many arrangements between governments and companies, this eventually came down to whether the leader of the government and the head of the company could personally trust each other or not. In the case of the Alberta Government, led by my father, they had to decide whether or not this 80-year-old gentleman and his company could build a commercially viable plant when all previous attempts had failed to get off the ground. At the same time, J. Howard Pew and Sun Oil had to decide whether or not these Alberta politicians would actually carve out a market niche for oil produced from the oil sands – a move that would be politically unpopular since at the time Alberta couldn't market all of its conventional production. So in the end, after all the technical reports, feasibility studies, and financial reviews it came down to this. My father saying to Pew, "I'm prepared to believe that you can build this plant when nobody else has been able to do so thus far". And Pew saying to my father, "And I'm prepared to believe that you will guarantee a portion of the market for the output of this plant without which it cannot be financed." And so they shook on it and the plant was "a go".

Now I should also mention – and this may startle and perhaps amuse you – there was also a “theological dimension” to the development of the first oil sands plant. J. Howard Pew was a devout Christian, a Presbyterian, and Presbyterians believe in the doctrine of “predestination” – that nothing happens without God’s directive or permissive will. My father was also a devout Christian, but he was a Baptist and Baptist’s believe in “free will” is that humans have the freedom to make choices that, at least to some extent, determines what happens. So one day after they had got to know each other a bit, my father posed a theological question to Mr. Pew: *“J. Howard, if it’s “predestined” that you’re going to build this plant, why do you need a permit from the government of Alberta?”* To which Pew apparently replied, *“Well, I also believe it’s predestined that you’re going to give us that permit, so really, I’m simply talking to you as a courtesy.”*

Like some others here tonight, I personally attended the opening ceremonies for the plant in November 1967 and have four main memories of that day. First, the number and variety of company airplanes that were parked at the Fort McMurray strip, as oil patch people from all over came to see what this was about. Second, that huge bucket wheel machine which was to dig up and deposit the oil sands on the conveyer belt going into the plant. In the end it didn’t work like it was supposed to, but at the time it was an impressive technological marvel. Third. I recall that the price of oil that day was less than \$3 a barrel – which had a lot of oil patch people predicting that it would be a long time before G.C.O.S. would even begin to recover its capital let alone become profitable.

And finally – from the conversations I had heard between Pew and my father years before – I was reminded again that there was a **strategic reason** for us all being up here that day – **energy security for North America**. What was it that had brought J. Howard Pew to Fort Mac in the first place? If you ask that question of young people or media folk today, the most frequent answer is “to make money”. But that’s nonsense. At the time, Pew was head of one of the wealthiest families in the United States. And as he was approaching 80 years of age, he had already willed most of his personal fortune to a charitable trust and charitable projects. So why was he here? As he explained to my father, the Pew family had made much of its early fortune through the Sun shipbuilding company. That company built a large number of the oil tankers that supplied the Allied forces in both the First and Second World Wars. Pew knew all the figures on how many of those tankers had been sunk by enemy submarines and destroyers and had become convinced that the United States – indeed North America – was vulnerable from a security standpoint because of its dependence on offshore oil. And so he had personally resolved to find and develop, not just conventional oil reserves, but **unconventional oil resources**, which was what brought him to Alberta and Fort McMurray.

It took a terrible war to get business men like J Howard Pew, and politicians like my father in Edmonton and C.D. Howe in Ottawa, to **think strategically** about petroleum resources – their role not just in energizing our cars and heating our homes, but in shaping security, trade and dependency relations between economies and nations. What might it take to get decision makers in Ottawa and Edmonton to think more strategically today about the role of petroleum in today’s world? Perhaps remembering the **strategic reasoning** behind the construction of that first oilsands plant, will help serve that purpose.