

# ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

September 2018; Volume XXIX, Number 6

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, September 26, 2018

**Robert Fitzsimmons: Oil Sands Entrepreneur and Trail Blazer  
by David Martin, oil sands researcher and poet**

Robert Fitzsimmons developed one of the first commercial oil sands plants in Alberta. His operations at Bitumount, north of Fort McMurray, helped to further the industry's capability in mining, separating and refining bitumen. While his business efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, his basic plant design and process served as a model for future oil sands ventures. David Martin will explore Fitzsimmons's interesting ups and downs in the oil sands industry, and he will explain how this history has been transformed artistically in his recently published collection of poetry.

*Please see page 2 of this issue for our speaker's biography.*

Time:	12 noon, Wednesday, September 26, 2018
Place:	Calgary Petroleum Club 319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary; Cardium Room (but check marquee). Dress: Business casual.
Cost:	P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$35 and Guests \$40 (most welcome). Only cash or cheque at the door. Payment can be made in advance by credit card or by e-mail. Please advise payment method with reply.
Lunch:	Soup, sandwiches and cookies. Gluten-free? Vegan? Advise with reply.

**NOTE: Instructions for registering for the Luncheon:**

Reply, if you wish to attend, to: Micky Gulless at 403-283-9268 or [micky@petroleumhistory.ca](mailto:micky@petroleumhistory.ca) by noon, Monday, September 24, 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



**Call for contributions and speakers:** The Petroleum History Society values your input. If you have an article that you'd like to see in *Archives* or if you have a talk that you'd like to give, please get a hold of us. Contact President Clint Tippett at the address indicated on page 3.

**September Speaker biography:** David Martin works as a literacy instructor and writer. His work has been awarded the C.B.C. Poetry Prize and has appeared in many literary journals, such as *The Malahat Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Event*, *CV2* and *Alberta Views*. His first collection of poems is *Tar Swan*, published in 2018 by NeWest Press.

**Next Luncheons:** After our September 26 date, we have two more events lined up for the Fall – October 31 (Halloween costumes not required) and November 28. For the latter we have arranged for a talk on the evolution of the Mexican petroleum industry by Dr. Amelia M. Kindle, Associate Professor in Latin American Studies, Department of History, University of Calgary. The October window is still open at this point in time.

**Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame:** The Hall has announced their inductees for 2018. They are Neil Camarta, Pat Carlson, John Lacey, Joy Romero, Ronald Sorokan and Hank Swartout. The induction ceremony will take place on Friday, November 23, 2018 upstairs at the Calgary Petroleum Club. Note that this year it will be held over the lunch hour (11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). I suppose that this is an “old time” lunch hour as per boom times. Three martinis are probably optional. The actual presentations start at 12:15 p.m. with closing remarks at 1:30 p.m. Single tickets are \$125. Table rates are available. The Hall was established in 1997 and currently has more than 160 inductees. Interestingly, the Hall recognizes each person as a “chapter”, presumably in a conceptual book on the history of the industry. Please visit their website for more information, detailed citations and ticket purchases.

**Heritage Park Rejuvenation:** The August 7 issue of the Calgary Herald carried the news that the Government of Alberta [actually said “NDP” instead for some reason] had announced a \$1.5 million contribution to the upgrading of the “resources” segment of Calgary’s primary historical playground and educational facility. An illustration accompanying the article was captioned “A rendering of the proposed interpretive centre powered on renewable energy [naturally] that Heritage Park is set to build as a part of the Natural Resources Project. The centre will feature virtual reality technology to tell the stories of Alberta’s early oil and energy pioneers [too bad, natural gas pioneers], and explore emerging technologies in the industry”. The facility will be 3000 square feet and will cost approx. \$10 million. The current replica of the Dingman #1 rig will be refurbished as a part of this initiative. P.H.S. Member Bob Brawn and family are key donors.

**Leduc #1 Energy Discovery Centre:** The Autumn issue of the Centre's *Catwalk* newsletter announced an "Energy Gala" that was just held on Friday, September 14. The event was on-site at the centre with tickets going for \$100 for members of the Leduc-Devon Historical Society and \$125 for non-members. Featured speakers were Mark Scholtz of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors and the Centre's Vice-President and "oilfield ikon" Dan Claypool. The issue also contained a couple of articles related to the financial situation at the centre. The first by Executive Director Jan Becker was titled "*Running a Non-Profit: Who Pays the Bills?*" The second was by Dan Claypool and was titled "*To Keep the Lights On*". Both dwell on the challenge facing organizations that have hard assets, specifically: "How does one cover the operating costs associated with such facilities?" Raising capital to build in the first place has one set of challenges – but the less romantic side of keeping staff compensated, ensuring utilities are paid for and looking after routine maintenance are often either ignored or substantially underestimated. This is a challenge for all museums and educational facilities, in particular during these days of less-than-robust industry activity and donation availability. The Centre has a good core of volunteers with numerous fund-raising activities but they still need help. We encourage the members of the P.H.S. to support this very worthwhile facility.

**Entertainment with petroleum connections:** P.H.S. Director Ian Kirkland has brought to our attention a film that is being presented as a part of the **Calgary International Film Festival** (September 19-30, 2018). It is titled "*Circle of Steel*" and is described as "*a satirical and sympathetic portrait of life in the Oil and Gas field [as seen] through the eyes of a young new engineer Wendy Fong (Chantelle Han). Wendy is unsure of the future she worked so hard for. As rumours of layoffs circulate in her small, isolated team, her monotonous routine crumbles. Long days and nights in the field begin to take their toll. With support – and often questionable guidance – from her co-workers, Wendy must navigate personal ethics and corporate interest. Calgary-based first-time feature filmmaker Gillian McKercher is a strong emerging voice who has crafted a very candid (and very familiar) story with an excellent original Alberta soundtrack.*" The festival website contains a short promotional video of this feature. Shows Sept. 25 and 30. **Lunchbox Theatre** is also getting into the act with a production titled "*Oil Money*", Season 19 from Dirty Laundry – flagged as "*Calgary's only completely live, completely improvised soap opera*". The very short description states "*These two families are in for a crude awakening*". It begins this month. Check it out at [www.dirtylaundrycalgary.com](http://www.dirtylaundrycalgary.com) Monday nights at 7:30 p.m.

**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 Tippett.

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by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.  
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President: Clint Tippett – [clintontippett88@gmail.com](mailto:clintontippett88@gmail.com) 403-208-3543

## REMEMBRANCES

(with thanks to the Calgary Herald and Legacy.com)

It has been a while since our last issue so we have unfortunately been advised of quite a number of passings of folks who have played a role in the petroleum industry in Canada. Some were major figures and others played supporting roles – but all were important in creating the vibrant industry we have today that has contributed so significantly to Canada's prosperity.

It also seems to have been an unlucky period if your last name started with the letter "P".

**ACHESON, Thomas (Tom) Norman** - born March 18, 1934 and passed away August 25, 2018. Tom lived in Edmonton, Montreal, British Guyana and Port Edward, B.C. before moving with his family to Vermilion, Alberta in 1946. Tom was always a man ahead of his time. In 1952, and six weeks before graduating high school, Tom participated in a student walkout. It was suggested by the school that he not return to graduate. Subsequently, Tom joined and served in the Royal Canadian Navy for fifteen years, finishing his career with the RCN as a Petty Officer First Class. Not one to shy away from a challenge, and deciding he had unfinished business regarding his education, Tom enrolled in Geology at the University of Alberta in 1972. At the age of 38, with a wife and eight month old child, Tom graduated with a B.Sc. (Honours) degree. Despite his university classmates being in their late teens and early twenties, Tom formed lifelong friendships with them along with his many navy friends and those he met in his forty-two years in the petroleum industry, all of which he treasured to his final days. Tom's second career as a geologist was challenging and enthralling. His time exploring the Arctic Islands was a highlight of his career. The idea that perhaps he was the first human to ever step foot on a remote landscape continued to provide a never-ending sense of awe to him. His unreserved passions and loves of his life were his family, his profession, the outdoors and an illogical attachment to the game of golf. In retirement, Tom enjoyed his friendships with his Lake Bonavista coffee group discussing world politics and current events.

**Barss, David Layton** – born January 10, 1928 and passed away July 31, 2018. David was born in Mannville, Alberta. He enjoyed his youth growing up on the family farm and attending high school in Irma. He had a fascination with science, particularly earth science, so he left his farming background and attended the University of Alberta, graduating with B.Sc. (Honours Geology) in 1951. David worked for almost fifty years in Calgary as a geologist and exploration manager at Amoco, Triad, Banff Oil, British Petroleum and Spitzee Resources. In 1980 he formed his own exploration and consulting company. David had a keen interest in geology and exploration and was author and co-author of a number of technical papers. He served on the Geoscience Council in 1976 and 1977. His exploration successes were recognized by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists with the Stanley Slipper Gold Medal in 1993. In later years, David became concerned with the science of climate change and devoted volunteer efforts to presenting relevant science for the general public's understanding.

**Bell, William (Bill) Alexander** – passed away August 30, 2018. Bill was born and raised in Port Stanley, Ontario. During high school Bill excelled at sports, starring in baseball, hockey and track and field. After high school Bill remained in Port Stanley for a number of years working in the boat yards and the gas plant before starting his degree at the University of Western Ontario. In 1957 Bill graduated with an Honours B.Sc. in Geology. After graduation Bill moved to Calgary where he worked at a number of oil and gas companies, including Tenneco, Mana Resources, Barnwell, and Bonanza Petroleum as Vice-President of Exploration. During Bill's career he was

involved in discovering several oil fields in the province of Alberta, including Countess, Lathom, Rockyford and Long Coulee. Bill was also instrumental in the discovery of the Brazos County, Texas oil fields. Bill was an accomplished geologist and oilman in Calgary whose career spanned over sixty years. He was always looking for the next big discovery. With his longtime employee Jeanette by his side, he worked tirelessly to his last day as President of Bellport Resources. Bill always remained a lover of sports. He never tired of playing golf with his daughter Allison or watching a Flames game with his son James.

**Brown, Thomas George** – born February 24, 1959 and passed away July 29, 2018. A born and bred Calgarian, Tom applied his business degree and acumen to a long career in the oil and gas industry, working for major corporations Amoco, Nexen and Chevron as a financial analyst. He enjoyed summer holidays at Shuswap Lake, B.C., winter ski trips to the Rockies, and family outings where his skills as a consummate chef and promoter of Alberta beef were enjoyed by all. More likely to stroll through a hardware store rather than a park, Tom pursued a passion for renovation and construction projects, but still found joy in walking his irreplaceable furry best friend, Beethoven. Tom was strong of character, fiercely independent man who had a helpful, generous soul. He exercised a keen engineering mind and epitomized the wry, irreverent wit of the Browns. Tom was extremely devoted to his sons and most proud of their accomplishments along the way to them becoming good men.

**Dooge, Jasper** – born August 11, 1927 and passed away August 20, 2018. Jasper was born in S'Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands and educated in his home country. He studied at the University of Leiden where he obtained a Doctorate in the Faculty of Mathematics and Earth Sciences. He came to Canada in 1953 and joined Shell Canada soon after. He worked for Shell Canada and Shell Oil U.S. for over thirty years. Jasper belonged to the generation of geologists who explored the Rocky Mountains on horseback and spent long summers in the field. This was followed by exploration in the Yukon, the North West Territories and Alaska. His studies of the reef margin at Cripple Creek in the Front Ranges was widely used as an analog in subsurface exploration programs. Upon his retirement, Jasper became the exploration specialist (Western Canada) with Husky Oil. Jasper's professional interests, intertwined with his hobbies of cross country skiing, hiking and camping, varied with numerous trips in Canada and abroad. Jasper well known in industry circles as an avid investor who spent many hours at the Stock Exchange.

**Duford, James Matthew (JM)** – born June 4, 1950 and passed away July 23, 2018. JM was born in Rochester, New York. He attended Williams College and the University of Calgary. After a family trip across country in 1967 and a college internships in Colorado, he fell in love with the mountains of the West. Never afraid to take on a new or challenging adventure he met a lot of fantastic people along the way. Becoming part of the mountain community in Canmore was a life dream for JM. He was grateful for his friends and neighbors who helped him make it his home and to co-workers at Potts Petroleum who gave him a great work life balance. Those who biked, climbed or skied with him will surely miss the sense of wonder he brought to each outing, solving the mysteries of the earth, always the geologist.

**Lindseth, Roy Oliver** - born August 19, 1925 and passed away July, 8, 2018. Roy was born in Calgary. After attending Western Canada High School, he embarked on an adventurous early oil patch career in Latin America before returning to Calgary in 1960 - becoming Vice-President, Engineering Data Processors Ltd. in 1964 and then Vice-President and Director, Computer Data Processors Ltd. in 1968. He served as Chairman of his own Calgary- and Houston-based petroleum consulting firm, Teknica Resources Development, from 1972-92 where he pioneered

the technology of synthetic well logs, digital seismic signal processing (DSSP) and invented Seismic Trace Inversion using computer applications in the petroleum industry. This led to his appointment as Chair and President of High Performance Computing Centre in 1992-94; thereafter returning to Latin America as Director of TransGas de Occidente, S.A.; and Director of TransCanada International Ltd. from 1994 to 2000. He remained active as a consultant through age 85, retiring in 2010 after more than sixty years in the oil patch. A remarkable self-educated professional, he achieved distinguished recognition in his endeavors. In addition to his varied career, he served in many organizations, and was often honoured with their highest awards, including as President of A.P.E.G.G.A. who bestowed on him their Centennial Award in 1983 and an Honorary Life Membership. He was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1987 and received the J. Tuzo Wilson Medal from the Canadian Geophysical Union in 1979. Roy served as President of both the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (receiving CSEG Medal in 1989) and the global Society of Exploration Geophysicists. For the latter he lectured on "*Recent Advances in Digital Data Enhancement Techniques*" in 48 countries and received the Kauffman Gold Medal in 1970, the Enterprise Award in 1989, and the J. Maurice Ewing Gold Medal in 2007. He was a Senior Member and President of the Canadian Geoscience Council. Roy was bestowed with a University of Calgary Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1978, was awarded the H.M. Queen Elizabeth II Silver, Gold, and Diamond Jubilee Medals and, most notably, was recognized with the Order of Canada in 1996.

*Roy was member of the Petroleum History Society and up until very recently was an attendee at our monthly luncheons.*

**Peach, Howard Byron (Barney)** – born March 3, 1919 and passed away August 1, 2018. Barney was born and raised in the Cape Breton community of Black Brook near Port Morien. He had a happy childhood by the sea, graduating from Glace Bay High School in 1936. He had a two-year posting on the M.S. Java, a Dutch merchant marine ship, and later served in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. He attained a B.A.Sc. in Geological Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1950 and worked as a geologist for Shell Canada from 1950-1976. He met his wife, Winnifred, at Shell, and they had four children. In 1976, they moved to a hobby farm in Cape Breton where they lived for forty more happy years. Byron combined farming with wellsite work offshore Atlantic Canada. He liked to spend the better part of the day in his apple orchard and enjoyed selling produce at farmers' markets. He was an enthusiastic gardener, geologist, artist, writer and baseball fan.

**Porter, John W. "Jack"** – born June 30, 1922 and passed away September 1, 2018. Jack was born in Saskatoon. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1948 with a B.A. (Geology major) and spent the early part of his career conducting surface geological surveys in Saskatchewan, northern Canada and the Rocky Mountains. He had a distinguished career in the oil and gas industry of Western Canada, mainly with Canadian Superior Oil Limited. Jack was a major contributor to the early interpretation of the stratigraphic framework of the Western Canada and Williston Basins through his research, as author or co-author of numerous technical papers and his participation in the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and other professional organizations. He served many years as an editor for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Jack was a charter member of the Petroleum History Society. He published articles and prepared photographic displays documenting the early days of the oil and gas industry. Jack received numerous awards and honours recognizing his contributions to his profession and to the industry, including Honorary Membership in the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists (precursor to the C.S.P.G.), Fellow - Geological Society of America,

Petroleum History Society Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Saskatchewan Petroleum Hall of Fame.

*Jack was an enthusiastic member of the P.H.S. and contributed to many of our activities. His knowledge of the history of petroleum exploration in Saskatchewan was encyclopedic. Jack was an original gentleman who along with others like Aubrey Kerr blazed the way for the preservation of Canadian petroleum history.*

**Powell, Russell George** – born March 14, 1927 and passed away August 24, 2018. Russell grew up in Calgary in the Hillhurst, Scarboro and Killarney neighbourhoods. Russ earned his university tuition working with Alberta Power's surveying crews, riding horseback into the farthest reaches of the province's backcountry. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1951 with his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. Russ's precise and analytical mind, command of mathematics, relentless focus and love for building was applied to a wide variety of oil and gas challenges during his lengthy career with Imperial Oil Limited. One of his major contributions involved the work he and his engineering team pioneered at the first heavy oil projects at Cold Lake, Alberta. In addition to managing a busy family life and professional career, Russ was an accomplished golfer and a long-standing member of Silver Springs Golf and Country Club. Airplanes were another abiding fascination. Russ meticulously crafted model airplanes and flew them with other enthusiasts in clubs in Calgary and Edmonton.

**Pullen, Jack Ronald** - born November 27, 1927 and passed away September 9, 2018. Jack grew up on a farm in southern Ontario, the proud son of a single working mother (Flossie Pullen) who was also his school teacher at the local one-room schoolhouse. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in geology at the University of Western Ontario (class of 1950) and, drawn by the booming oil and gas industry on the prairies, went west to find his fortune. What he found was a series of challenging jobs working for different exploration companies in Alberta and Saskatchewan. That field work helped prepare him for a twenty-six-year career as a geophysicist with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company where he advanced from technical assignments into management. In 1981, he joined Suncor, eventually becoming Vice-President of Exploration. Jack rounded out his professional career working as a consulting geophysicist until the age of 75. That longevity was made possible by his unwavering interest in new technology and his ability to apply that technology to the tried-and-true principles of geology and seismology. Jack loved sports and was a football player, sailor, curler and skier. His favourite game by far however, was golf, and he played it avidly throughout his adult life. Music was Jack's other great passion. He sang in church choirs, a community choir and helped lead sing-alongs at his retirement home. His favourite songs were 'the oldies', but he was willing to take on any music or arrangements that choir masters or composers could dream up. Jack will be remembered as a successful geophysicist, enthusiastic chorister, multi-talented athlete, and dedicated father, grandfather and uncle.

**Robson, David Bowlby** – born May 8, 1939 and passed away April 2, 2018. Dave was born in Daysland, Alberta where he grew up in a modest farming family and learned early on the value of hard work. Dave's experiences of fixing machinery on the farm introduced him to engineering and in 1961, he graduated from the University of Alberta with an electrical engineering degree. Dave then held managerial positions with a few seismic processing firms before he founded Veritas in 1974. Under his visionary guidance, Dave led the company to become one of the world's most successful multinational seismic companies. He was a great leader, a remarkable man and an exceptional mentor. He had a reputation for his honesty and integrity and was

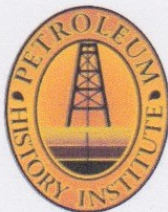
always generous with his time. "Do what you say", "Say what you think" and "You are only as successful as your people" are only a few of Dave's favourite quotes. After retiring from Veritas in 2004, Dave held the position of Chairman of Vada Capital, a family owned private equity firm, until it was time to pass the business onto his sons. The assortment of awards bestowed upon Dave throughout his life and career are as diverse as they are prestigious. They speak volumes about his accomplishments and his character: Milner Fenerty Pinnacle Award (1995), Society of Geophysicists Enterprise Award (1998), Canada's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (2002), and most recently an Honorary Degree "Doctor of Laws" from the University of Calgary (2017). Outside work, Dave could often be found in blue jeans and a cowboy hat, enjoying his passion for horses. Throughout his life he made substantial contributions to the western horse industry. Dave was a member of several Calgary Stampede volunteer committees including Corporate Relations, Light Horse and Cutting. He was also a Director of the Calgary Stampede Foundation from 2005 - 2015. He was the embodiment of philanthropy. Dave had an extremely altruistic nature and supported many causes including but not limited to: the Haskayne School of Business Robson Professorship and the Nutrien Western Event Centre at Stampede Park. More recently he contributed to the University of Calgary's Robson DNA Science Centre which facilitates genetic research into the root causes of cancer.

**Taylor, Ronald Llewellyn (Ron)** – born August 7, 1931 and passed away July 19, 2018. Ron was born in Pincher Creek, Alberta and lived in Blackie before moving to Red Deer in 1940. After completing high school he attended the University of Alberta where he graduated with a B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering in 1952. He then joined Shell Canada and worked there for thirty-one years before retiring in 1983. Friends and colleagues at Shell were a big part of his life long after retirement. Ron was an avid outdoorsman whose life revolved around fishing, boating, hiking, hunting with his black labs, skiing and golf.

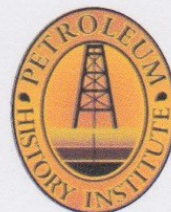
**Williamson, Ronald Albert** – born March 24, 1932 and passed away May 1, 2018. Ron, known affectionately as "Buddy" by many, was born in Carstairs, Alberta. His amazing journey began when he left Carstairs at the age of fourteen to live with his sister in Lethbridge. He completed high school and began a long and varied career in the oil patch; first as a jughound, surveyor, and then as a geophysical party leader. He went on to work for his father-in-law (Tom Pickford) as an agency rep for various flow control and wellhead companies. Ron started his own company in 1959 and Wellhead Controls went on to be one of the most respected and reliable oilfield equipment companies in the patch. This was not only due to his strong work ethic but also his ability of attracting and retaining key people who would follow him on after he sold Wellhead Controls to FMC in 1989. Not one to sit back, he began again with The Pickford Group and brought with him his team (who really was his extended family). Ron's leadership and stewardship has seen Pickford through recent tumultuous times, never seen before in the energy sector. Ron worked his business with passion and purpose right up to the end and the office now seems very empty without his presence. Ron was also very passionate about golf, sailing, skiing, traveling and a good game of gin rummy. He loved his farm in Priddis, and would spend countless hours in his favorite John Deere 6430 working the land. He would finish the day off with a good book and his ever-loyal Lab, Pepper, at his side. All of those hours alone in the tractor provided him with inspiration and insight on the larger world around him as there was rarely a topic of interest to which he didn't voice an opinion. Always very sharp and witty, Ron's humour put people at ease. He made friends easily. They became long-lasting relationships that provided him with not only like-mindedness but also with contrasts to stimulate his natural inquisitiveness.



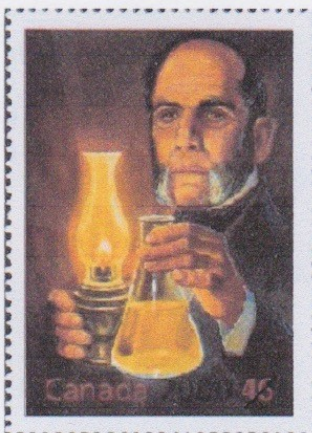
## ANNOUNCEMENT



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
ABSTRACT DEADLINE: April 15, 2019



**PETROLEUM HISTORY  
INSTITUTE**  
**2019 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AND FIELD TRIP**



**Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada**  
*The Land of Gesner*

**June 27-29, 2019**

**REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION**  
Thursday, June 27, 2019

**PRESENTATIONS – ORAL AND POSTER --** Friday, June 28, 2019  
Proceedings to be published in the 2019 volume of *Oil-Industry History*

**FIELD TRIP --** Saturday, June, 29, 2019

**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL** – Hilton Saint John, One Market Square, Saint John, NB, E2L 4Z6, CN;  
506-693-8484; 1-800-561-8282

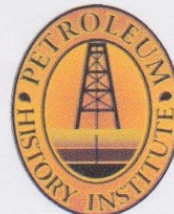
For Group Rate Mention “**Petroleum History Institute**” - **Group nightly rates good until June 7, 2019**  
Wednesday June 26 (5 rooms); Thursday June 27 (10 rooms); Friday June 28 (18 rooms); Saturday June 29 (10 rooms)  
Standard -- \$CN129; **Plus Taxes.**

For symposium details, see: [www.petroleumhistory.org](http://www.petroleumhistory.org)



**ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED**

Please send abstracts to: Dr. William Brice - [wbrice@pitt.edu](mailto:wbrice@pitt.edu)  
or call Marilyn Black – 814-677-3152 ext. 105; [mblack@oilregion.org](mailto:mblack@oilregion.org)





This stock certificate is for 500 shares in the Standard Oil Trust (est. 1870) priced at \$100 each. It was signed by John D. Rockefeller, President, in April 5, 1882.

Readers will be aware that this trust was ordered broken up under the anti-trust (i.e. pro-competition) Sherman Anti-Trust Act in the United States in 1911. Many of its components were identified along state lines, for example Standard Oil of New Jersey – often referred to as Jersey Standard – that was eventually re-named Exxon. A sister company – Standard Oil of New York was better known as Mobil and has since been brought together with Exxon to create ExxonMobil in a somewhat ironic twist. Chevron (Standard Oil of California) remains. Amoco (Standard Oil of Indiana) is now part of British Petroleum.

There were 34 fragments of the Standard Oil Trust in total. A number of them were more functionally aligned, for example pipeline companies and manufacturing concerns.

I had often thought of “The Trust” as being a somewhat derogatory term for this quasi-monopoly rather than it being a real legal entity. I suppose I saw it in much the same light as the infamous “Cartel” of the Dallas television series fame (J.R. et al.). Apparently not.

The ownership of the Trust descendants was allocated out along the same lines as ownership of the original trust. Undoubtedly there was considerable jockeying and re-alignment after that was finalized. It could be argued that the intention of the Sherman Act was indeed realized as most of Standard Trust’s descendants went on to grow into massive petroleum companies in their own right. Almost all of them had Canadian branches.