



ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

September 2019; Volume XXX, Number 6

P.H.S. Luncheon – Wednesday, September 25, 2019

A LOOK BACK AT SHELL'S EARLY MARKETING OPERATIONS IN CANADA

by Scott Jolliffe, Heritage Advocate

The longest journey begins with the first misstep. Through a series of archival photos, Scott will discuss Shell's early downstream activities in Canada. Some of Shell's more unique early operations will be highlighted, along with the growth of traditional sectors such as the service station business. Business practices of the time will be compared with more recent thinking and the evolution of Shell's corporate culture will be discussed. This will not be a talk for the serious historian; instead, those interested in useless trivia (such as: what and where is the largest remaining artifact from Shell Canada's first tanker?) will hopefully be satisfied. The story will be told of how Shell Canada started with almost nothing, and still has most of it.

Please see page 2 of this issue for Scott's mini-biography.

Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, September 25, 2019
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 by noon, Monday, September 23, 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: Scott Jolliffe was employed by Shell Canada Products Limited from 1981 to 1994. He worked at the local, regional and national levels of the organization in various roles. His experience in the organization provided wide-ranging exposure to most aspects of Shell's downstream marketing and distribution activities.

Scott is an avid collector of industrial artifacts, and is a past Chair and Honourary Life Member of the Calgary Heritage Authority. He is the author of "Concrete Centenarian", a book about Calgary's Canadian Government Elevator. He is also a Past-President of the Western Oil & Gas Collectors Association. Scott has a passion for built heritage and is active as an advocate for heritage conservation, especially for those sites that embrace our industrial past.

Charles Lyell Papers – Preservation Project: The following appeal was recently received by the P.H.S. and by your President. FYI, Charles Lyell was one of the "Fathers of Geology" in the early 1800's.

"I write with news of an exciting campaign which may appeal to members of the Petroleum History Society. As you may have recently read in the press, the University of Edinburgh is currently trying to acquire the scientific notebooks of the great geologist Sir Charles Lyell. We have until the 15th of October 2019 to raise the necessary funds to acquire this unique and historic collection. The original price of £1,444,000 was renegotiated thanks to a beneficial tax restructuring so that we now have to raise £966,000. We have already received messages of support from around the world from many distinguished individuals and institutions, as well as over 930 online pledges. With the University's and other contributions we have raised £640,000 – a great start, which has given us confidence that we have a good chance of meeting our target by the deadline.

You and your Society could help. If you were able to share news of our campaign and our web address: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/giving/save-lyell-notebooks> with your members, or tweet using #SaveLyellNotebooks perhaps on your website and through your mailing lists, we would be very grateful. We're confident if enough relevant people learn about this exciting opportunity we can get enough support to succeed. If you thought it appropriate we'd be delighted to add your name to our online list of prominent supporters and endorsers.

If we are successful in saving Lyell's notebooks we plan on making them fully and freely accessible; physically in our centre for research collections and in UK and international exhibitions, but also digitally and online; so that everyone can benefit from this unique and remarkable geological archive. Thank you in advance for anything you and your Society can do to help. Please do get in touch to discuss further or ask any questions. Best wishes, David McClay, Philanthropy Manager, Library and University Collections."

Texas Petroleum History: We received a note from Matthew Day, independent scholar and historian based in Lubbock, Texas. David writes: "*In June 2019, I published two e-books on Texas oil and gas history. I am providing a link below. Would you please post an announcement to your website or Facebook page? Your members, as well as history buffs in general, can enjoy great historical scholarship for the price one might pay for a pizza to be delivered. Thanks in advance.*" <https://www.amazon.com/author/matthewmday/>

Key Articles: A combination of notes from P.H.S. members Bob Bott, Doug Cass and Gordon Jaremko have provided links to a trio of very interesting historical articles as follows:

About the Pew Family (before their heirs went over to the dark side):

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/09/02/pew-brothers-politics-influence-wealth-227993>

By Gordon about the pipeline industry:

<https://www.jwnenergy.com/article/2019/3/canadas-history-pipeline-challenges-longer-you-might-think/>

And by Bob about Enbridge:

<https://www.enbridge.com/about-us/our-history/enbridge-70th-anniversary-pipeline-company-is-born>

Election – This Time it's Personal: My wife and I have three kids – all university grads. Two have had to leave the country to find employment – and the one who is here in Calgary can't find a suitable job. Maybe others of you are in similar situations. Make your votes count.

Archives is published approximately eight times a year
by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.
Archives is copyright to the P.H.S. 2019 – all rights reserved.
Back issues are archived on our website at <http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/>
Contacts: info@petroleumhistory.ca
President: Clint Tippett – clintontippett88@gmail.com 403-208-3543

Petroleum History Preservation - Personal Style

This spring I noticed an open house in my neighborhood. I had been inside when it was new in the early 1980s, so I went in. I remembered there was a brass railing on the stairs that, I was told, was salvaged from the Brown Building. The railing was still there, and the current owner knew the history! The Brown Building was at 304 6 Ave. SW (now a parking lot behind the Calgary Petroleum Club), standing from about 1956 to 1979. It housed a number of companies, including until 1977 Home Oil, one of R.A. Brown's successor companies. Wainoco Oil & Gas was the final tenant.

This brass railing struck me as a personal way to preserve petroleum history, which I think many of us do. Clint Tippett knows a fellow who even has rock slabs from the exterior of the Brown Building! That got me thinking of other instances of preservation personal style:



Brass railing from Brown Building

In my early days working at Central Del Rio (which became PanCanadian), I heard of employees saving exterior stone from the demolition of the CPR's Department of Natural Resources Building which stood on the SW corner of 1 St. SE and 9th Avenue and housed Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas (CPOG) in its early incarnations.



I bought surplus furniture from PanCanadian Petroleum - a fine table, several wooden chairs, and a couple of great old bookcases in quarter-sawn oak with the glass doors that pivot upwards. They were probably not original to PanCanadian as they were old - real wood, not metal and plastic. But from which company? CPOG? Central Leduc? Del Rio Oils? Central Del Rio? Maybe used by all of them. I inherited another of those great old bookcases, but this one from Amerada Petroleum, where my father worked. He built extra shelves to make it 4 shelves tall instead of 2. My sister has one too and she displays her glassware in it.

And many of us probably have golf caps, T shirts, coffee mugs, etc., from the places that were once a part of our lives.



Oil from a 1952
Sturgeon Lake well

Have you preserved petroleum history by saving anything unusual from your past?

- A Contribution by Micky Gulless, P.H.S. Treasurer with thanks to Clint Tippett and Ross Gourlay for assistance.

PETROLEUM PROSPECTIVITY IN THE SOUTHERNMOST FOOTHILLS – 1915

P.H.S. Member Bob Bott provided us with a link to an early Canada Department of Mines – Mines Branch publication authored in 1915 by Frederick G. Clapp and others entitled “Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources of Canada”. Volume II is “Description of Occurrences” with Part 2 being for Western Canada. Medicine Hat and Bow Island were in commercial production. Two areas of the Foothills are focussed on as having shown some promise by that point in time – Pincher Creek/Waterton and Turner Valley. The following excerpts provide interesting insights into the thinking at that point in time for this structured area. The link is ftp://ftp.geogratis.gc.ca/pub/nrcan_nrcan/publications/ess_sst/305/305389/cmb_291_2.pdf

“Pincher Creek and South Kootenay Pass Districts

Oil seepages have been known for years in the Cretaceous rocks on the Alberta side of South Kootenay Pass: and from the Cambrian or Pre-Cambrian formations in Kishinena Creek small seepages of light oil have been utilized in the past as a source of cattle remedies and for lighting purposes. The oil in this district was first used by a framer named Aldrich, who obtained it by means of a blanket from the top of a spring of cold water in the valley of Akamina Creek.

History of Developments – The drilling in the Pincher Creek District appears to have been caused by a report of the Geological Survey for 1898, in which Dr. G. M. Dawson described the various seepages on both sides of the divide and expressed an opinion that boring operations were warranted to prospect for oil.

As stated by Dr. Selwyn [referring to the seepages by the Cameron Lake road at Waterton]:

“Oil has never been produced in a formation as old as the Cambrian, nor do the rocks here exposed admit of the probability of their being the source of the oil under anything but very extraordinary conditions. These surface geological conditions would seem to render it impossible for oil to occur in this section; but the fact remains that it is found there. It is, as Dr. Dawson very appropriately calls it, “a somewhat anomalous occurrence of petroleum”. In accounting for the fact, Dr. Dawson says “the overthrust fault must have been great, as Cambrian [actually Precambrian] rocks extend eastwards for over 12 or 15 miles over the summit into Alberta. The oil may have travelled westward underground, but the existence of pronounced faults intervening make this improbable”.

This fact did not deter the wild-catter and in 1900 and 1901 oil claims were staked and recorded on both sides of the [Alberta – B.C.] boundary by both American and Canadian companies. The first drilling commenced in 1903, and by 1912 there were twelve wells drilled in the district, varying in depth from 200 to 1900 feet. The principal drilling was done at Waterton Lake and at Oil City, the latter located about five miles up Oil [Cameron] Creek, a tributary of this lake. Of the three holes put down at Waterton Lake, one was drilled to a depth of 1900 feet, encountering oil in a soft caving formation at that depth. Accounts varied as to the amount of this oil, which was never produced commercially. From the amount bailed from the well, Mr. Stafford, a driller residing in Pincher, states that the well would have produced 18 to 20 barrels per day. However the tools were lost, and after a dillatory attempt at fishing lasting almost six months, the well was plugged and abandoned; and the Western Oil Company, having spent some \$200,000 in this district, quit the oil business and started to invest in coal lands.

The other two wells at Waterton Lake produced nothing. At Oil City about ten wells were drilled. One of the first of these, drilled by the late Mr. Lineham to a depth of about 1400 feet, struck a quantity of high gravity oil at 1080 feet. The well flowed naturally for a short time, and probably produced about 20 barrels per day. A small refinery was erected on the ground and the oil refined there. However the well was poorly packed and was flooded. Nothing was being done on the property in the summer of 1912 due to litigation. Of all the other wells in the vicinity of Oil City, none produced more than two barrels of oil per day, and may be rated as failures.

Activity in the Pincher Creek area is then described. Resuming in the mountains:

On the western side of South Kootenay Pass, in British Columbia, two wells have been drilled by the Gloin Oil Company, which recently sold its property to the Royal Canadian Northwest Oil Company. In one of these Mr. Gloin made affidavit that oil to the extent of approximately twenty barrels per day was struck and cased off at a depth of approximately 1200 feet, the hole being 1600 feet deep. In May 1912, the present owners were preparing to pull casing to ascertain the exact quantity of oil which exists at this depth. There are no shows of oil around the derrick at this time, although there was a pronounced odour of petroleum from the hole. The oil is said to have been encountered in a coarse red sandstone.

In this entire district, lying inside the first range of foothills, and extending over the first range of the Rockies, the formations are very much tilted and broken, with little opportunity for the existence of a reservoir of oil of any extent. This, combined with the fact that the oil has never been found to exist in any quantity in rocks of the Cambrian age, makes the prospects of development of an oil field here seem very slight. Extensive stock selling and booming of meagre shows already obtained has caused much money to be wasted, with not even a good gambling chance of success. The oil springs and seepages remain of scientific interest only, occurring as they do among formations of such great geologic age; and the two or three wells which alone among the nineteen or twenty drilled might have produced oil in commercial quantities have never been utilized."

A table of wells drilled in the South Kootenay Pass District follows.

In a future issue we will re-visit this report and provide the overview of the Okotoks - Turner Valley area that was a part of the document.

A modern perspective on this region would be that the great overthrust of ancient Precambrian comprising the Lewis Thrust Sheet hosts seepages of oil in a few places. As correctly interpreted by the Mines Branch authors and the G.S.C. then - and still mostly valid today - such rocks cannot themselves be the source of this oil. The modern interpretation, based on geochemical analyses, is that beneath the Precambrian strata are much younger rocks of Cretaceous age that include some organic-rich beds that are both oil-prone and "in the oil window" in terms of being heated so as to expel hydrocarbons. Fractures in both these deeper units and in the overlying Precambrian rocks, so beautifully exposed around the Waterton townsite, have allowed small amount of oil to make its way to the surface where it creates seeps. The irregular nature of these channels, paired with the very slow movement of the oil controlled by the narrowness of the fractures, means that flow rates were small, even when oil-bearing zones were encountered. Perhaps there are larger fractures down there – that could be tapped into with horizontal wells? We will never know as this is a part of Waterton National Park.

THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF DON YONT - GEOLOGIST

As initially described in our November 2018 issue, P.H.S. Lifetime Member Don Yont has created a record his formative years in the field during the 1950's. Our June 2019 issue featured Chapters 3 through 5. We conclude our coverage here with Chapters 6 and 7 covering his the end of his 1957 summer with California Standard (now Chevron) in the Northwest Territories and northeastern British Columbia.

Field work was an important component of exploration in those days whether that was on foot, by boat, by aircraft or on horseback. Thanks again to Don for sharing these recollections with us.

6. Fort St John - Dawson Creek Respite

After we arrived back at the Neighbor's Ranch at the end of our Horse Party venture we loaded our gear into the Willys Jeep and drove southeast on the Alaska Highway heading for Fort St. John, B.C., situated at Mile 47 on the Alaska Highway. When we arrived in Ft. St. John we checked into the same motel where Walt Koop and the rest of his field party were staying for a few days before heading back to Calgary to end the field season. It was nice to see the guys again and swap stories of the summer's experiences.

I recall the first thing I did after getting into my hotel room was to enjoy a nice shower (with clean water this time) and then I decided it was time to shave off my beard that I had grown all summer. One of the geologists had a Phillips Rotary head electric razor which he lent me to do the task. My beard was too thick however and the razor head became entangled in my whiskers almost immediately causing me a lot of pain. I was able to cut the razor head out of my beard using scissors and realized that this was not the best way remove a beard. I decided to first trim my beard as short as possible with the scissors and then, using shaving cream and a safety razor, I was able to finish the job properly.



My uncle Chuck Bily, a geologist who worked for Imperial Oil, was at that time the Exploration Manager of Imperial Oil's office at Dawson Creek located at Mile 0 on the Alaska Highway. I phoned him and told him I was in Fort St. John for a few days along with several Cal. Std. geologists with whom I had spent the summer on a field party and would like to see him if possible. He said why I don't I treat you and as many of your fellow field geologists that want to come to a wonderful steak dinner. He suggested we meet at a restaurant in Pouce Coupe, a small town just south of Dawson Creek.

As we headed southeast down the Alaska Highway to Dawson Creek we crossed over the Peace River at Taylor Flats (Mile 36) on the impressive 2130 foot long suspension bridge that was completed in 1943. It is of interest to note that the north span of this magnificent structure collapsed on October 16, 1957 about a month after we had driven over this bridge.

I remember all three of us from the horse party came as well as Ed Klovan but don't recall who else. The restaurant was situated close to the edge of an escarpment and had big picture windows that afforded a magnificent view of the Pouce Coupe River Valley below. The restaurant may have been in the Hart Hotel, one of the older establishments in Pouce Coupe but at any rate I remember all of us enjoying a few beers followed by a wonderful steak dinner complete with wine and a delicious desert. We all thanked Uncle Chuck profusely as he insisted on picking up the whole tab.

7. Peace River Boat Trip

Walt Koop asked me to be an assistant to Senior Geologist Wayne Bamber on a boat trip up the Peace River from Gold Bar to Findlay Forks. The plan was to investigate the outcrops along the Peace River from Gold Bar westward to Findlay Forks in the Rocky Mountain Trench. I don't remember all the details but I assume we drove to Charlie Lake near Ft. St. John then got in the Beaver and flew west to Gold Bar on the Peace River. The Cal. Std. Beaver docked at Gold Bar on the Peace River would have been used to transport both Wayne and I and all of our camping gear to this site. I also have a photo of a helicopter at Gold Bar. I assume it was the one under contract to Cal. Std. for the summer and most likely Walt Koop had used it to fly down there to make sure we were all set for the trip up the Peace River. This trip was made before the W.A.C. Bennett Dam on the Peace River was completed in 1967 some 12 miles downstream to the southeast from Gold Bar near Hudson Hope. Gold Bar was of course abandoned and is now beneath the waters of Williston Lake Reservoir which formed upstream of the Dam.



At any rate we met up with Jim Beattie at Gold Bar who had been hired to transport Wayne and I and our gear upstream on the Peace River. Jim owned a sizable flat bottom boat made from sturdy wooden planks which was large enough transport the three of us and all of our food and gear up river. The boat was powered by an antique two cylinder outboard motor that made a sort of ka-chunk, ka-chunking noise instead of a steady hum like most modern outboard motors do. The Beattie families had

lived in Gold Bar since the 1920's and had a successful business for many years supplying provisions for trappers, ranchers, surveyors and hunting parties along the Peace River all the way upstream to Findlay Forks so we were in experienced hands.

After we loaded up the boat, we climbed on board and Jim started up this weird-sounding ancient outboard motor and we started off making our way upstream. Not too long into the journey we came across the Ne Parle Pas Rapids which were our first test of boating on the mighty Peace River. Jim said we have a big heavy load and to make it easier to make headway against the strong current it would be better to do it with half loads making two trips. We unloaded half of the gear onshore below the rapids and Wayne stayed behind with the cargo while Jim and I headed the boat into the current. We were soon in the middle of the river with the motor ka-chunking along until all of a sudden the motor noise changed to a ka-chunk, pause, ka-chunk and I gather one cylinder had stopped firing. Jim hollered at me above

the noise of the rapids that with only one cylinder firing we didn't have enough power to move upstream against the current but only just hold our position. He said if the motor was to stop completely the boat would turn sideways and we would be swamped so he was going to try to maneuver the boat towards the shore. As he slowly but skillfully edged the boat sideways towards the shore he shouted at me to grab the heavy anchoring chain at the prow of the boat and said that when we get close to the bank, that I should jump ashore and help anchor the boat. When we were quite close to shore, I grabbed the chain and stood up but instantly froze at the sight of the white water rushing over the rocks near the prow of the boat. I knew there was no way even if I did reach the bank that I could anchor this heavy boat in such a strong current.

When suddenly Jim shouted "Jump" I was still in a state of shock and couldn't move. I then felt a warm wet feeling along the inside of my pant leg and I realized that I had just peed my pants. Then I heard someone shouting and looked up and saw Wayne running along the shore as he could see that we were in trouble and was trying to catch up to the boat to help us. Suddenly the slow ka-chunking noise of the motor turned into a more rapid ka-chunk, ka-chunk and I realized that both cylinders of the outboard motor were now firing as the boat suddenly surged ahead. Jim shouted that we were okay now and we proceeded upstream through the rapids and then came ashore and anchored the boat. I got out and helped unload the boat and then Jim went back to pick up Wayne and the gear we had left onshore below the rapids. They then came back through the rapids, picked me and we loaded the gear into the boat and headed on upstream. The "ne parle pas" name for the rapids means they do not talk or are quiet but after my harrowing experience I felt that they were misnamed because to me they had spoken volumes.

After that initial frightening experience with the antique outboard motor, it never misfired again and ka-chunked along fine for the rest of the trip. We didn't pitch tents to sleep in but instead spent the nights in trappers' log cabins which were located at convenient intervals along the river. The cabins also provided a safe haven against bears or other predators that might be around. The cabins were usually equipped with cupboards or shelves inside so we would always move our food and supplies into the cabins so they wouldn't be raided by animals when we were out working during the day. We slept in our sleeping bags on crude beds in the cabins but were often disturbed by numerous mice that were living there. Jim would set traps to catch them but the snapping sound of the traps catching a mouse was often as sleep disturbing as the mice themselves.

Wayne Bamber was a paleontological specialist so I learned a lot from him about the identification of fossils. *Monotis Subcircularis*, a bivalve or clam that occurred in the Triassic Pardonet Beds was one that I still remember to this day. Ironically, it was the outcrop of vertical Pardonet beds crossed by the Peace River that created the Ne Parle Pas Rapids that I also will never forget.

It was early September when we were on the Peace River so the days were sunny and warm but during the nights it would often be close to freezing. I remember that the leaves were beginning to show their fall colors when we first arrived at Gold Bar at the start of the boat trip. At the end of the field season, a couple of weeks later, I recall the autumn colors being at their height as we witnessed an awesome display of yellow and red colors as we flew over the Peace River valley in the Beaver on our way back to Ft. St. John. I presume we probably flew back to Calgary from Ft. St. John in the Cal. Std. Anson but that I don't recall.

I enjoyed the varied experiences I had that summer especially being able to work in the fresh air outdoors in the beautiful mountainous country of the Northwest Territories and Northeastern British Columbia. It was so much more pleasant than the cold, wet, foul air conditions of working underground at the Anglo Rouyn Mine near Lac La Ronge, as I had done the previous summer. I decided that pursuing a career as a geologist in the Oil Industry would be a far more desirable choice than a career in mining.



OIL-INDUSTRY HISTORY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 19, Number 1, December 2018

FROM THE EDITORS	1
PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE ANNUAL MEETING AND FIELD TRIP, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, MAY 17-19, 2018	
<i>William R. Brice</i>	3
A HISTORY OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN UTAH	
<i>Rasoul Sorkhabi</i>	13
THE IMPACT OF DRAKE'S DISCOVERY ON MAPS OF THE EARLY PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGION	
<i>William R. Brice</i>	59
CHARLES A. WHITESHOT (1866-1937) – THE TRAVELING OIL HISTORIAN	
<i>Jeff Spencer</i>	81
TIGER MIKE DAVIS: DENVER OILMAN, LAS VEGAS LEGEND, AND THE TOUGHEST BOSS IN THE WORLD	
<i>Matthew R. Silverman</i>	91
BRAZIL AND THE PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF FOSSIL FUELS	
<i>Drielli Peyerl, Silvia Fernanda, de Mendonça Figueiróa, Evandro Mateus Moretto, Dominique Mouette, Sergio Roberto Silva dos Santos, and Edmilson Moutinho Dos Santos</i>	97
THE AMERICAN SHALE REVOLUTION IN THREE STAGES	
<i>Leen Weijers, Mark Pearson, Chris Wright, and Larry Griffin</i>	107
ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT: OBSERVATIONS AND THEORIES REGARDING PETROLEUM	
<i>Raymond P. Sorenson</i>	131
OILFIELD STORYLINES IN EARLY JUVENILE SERIES BOOKS (1890s – 1980s)	
<i>Jeff Spencer</i>	149
ABSTRACTS: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, MAY 18, 2018	159
PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2018 AWARDS	169
THE LULING OIL MUSEUM, LULING, TEXAS	
<i>Jeff Spencer</i>	177
BOOK REVIEWS	179
OIL-INDUSTRY HISTORY — AUTHOR GUIDELINES	183

The latest papers from the U.S.-based Petroleum History Institute.