



ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

March 2022; Volume XXXII, Number 1

P.H.S. COVID Edition - Part 3

Looking Forward to the End (of COVID) - Again

We are all hoping that we are seeing the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has impacted every aspect of our lives – personal and professional. The P.H.S. has certainly been in this situation with our luncheons terminated and even our annual meetings converted to an e-mail-based exercise. I managed to get one issue of *Archives* off to you in December 2020. The one that you are reading now is the second major push to get some historical material into your hands.

We have just passed what must be considered the major anniversary for the Canadian petroleum industry – but you'd never know it from the press or from anyone else for that matter. Most of this issue of *Archives* is therefore dedicated to a look back at the Leduc discovery of February 13, 1947 – 75 years ago. That event fundamentally changed Alberta and Canada - as you will re-discover in the multifaceted look that I have assembled for your viewing pleasure.

It would be nice to think that something like the Leduc discovery could happen again. The 1986 Caroline find had some charm but not the scope. Perhaps the oil sands fit that description although played out in slow motion. – *Your Editor*

We had anticipated that the Petroleum History Society would resume operations by this point. Obviously that hasn't happened. We decided to err on the side of prudence. Stay tuned. We shall meet again! Thanks for your continuing support.

In the meantime, please visit our website at www.petroleumhistory.ca and continue to feast upon the voluminous material that is preserved there. Micky, whose creation this is, has provided instructions to guide you in searching for specific items or topics. Alternatively, just wander through the back issues of *Archives*, Doug Cass's bibliography or Micky's compilation of Old Companies. You are sure to find lots of interesting things. Or just read this issue!

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.

Free Student Memberships Available: The Petroleum History Society offers free membership to full-time students until the end of the year in which they graduate. They will receive the same benefits as regular members – *Archives* newsletters and invitations to our events. Membership applications are available at: www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/index.htm#join.

P.H.S. Dues: Our Society waived dues for 2020 and 2021 because our activities have been limited due to the COVID pandemic. In light of continuing restrictions and our reluctance to rekindle our luncheon program because of doubtful attendance, dues will likely also be waived for 2022 but this is to be established. Two years credit has been added to everyone's membership past their most recent paid renewal. If you need clarification on this, please contact us. Hopefully we will be in a position to raid your wallets for the 2023 membership year.

Donations to the P.H.S.: 2021 was, of course, a very quiet year for our Society so we had little in the way of expenditures or membership income. We did, however, receive a couple of donations. Thanks to Tako Koning for his. And to Barrel Oil Corp. via Josh Groberman for a very generous top-up to our financial reserves. Our challenge now is to spend these monies on projects that are worthy of the trust that our members have placed in us.

P.H.S. Board: The end of March marks the time when the P.H.S. holds its annual election. P.H.S. Vice-President Bill McLellan is coordinating the slate for this year's exercise and we have recently been in contact with the membership in this regard.

Projects: The P.H.S. Board is open to suggestions for projects that support the preservation and communication of Canadian petroleum history. Some funds are available. Please take the initiative and send us a description of what you think should be undertaken or supported.

Public Service on Old Companies: P.H.S. Treasurer Micky Gulless routinely receives requests from individuals and organizations about old share certificates – Are they valid? Are they worth anything? And what is their background? Micky spends considerable amount of time doing research on these topics although actual valuation, where appropriate, is sometimes left to the brokerage community. In 2021 Micky looked after 66 such queries. The results are incorporated into the alphabetical listings of "Old Companies" in our website so if you have a question about an old company – be sure to look there first. Thanks to Micky for this aspect of her contributions devoted to the P.H.S. and the historical community.

P.H.S. Bibliography of Canadian Petroleum History: P.H.S. Director Doug Cass recently completed an update to the bibliography and Micky has posted it to the P.H.S. website. It is now 1193 pages in length!. Thanks to Doug for this continuing initiative.

Historical Calendar: P.H.S. award winner Randal Kabatoff and his company Soul of Canada produced a new petroleum historical calendar for 2022. Cost was \$20.00 plus taxes and shipping. It was entitled "Petroleum Pioneers". P.H.S Member and Auditor Tom Field worked with Randal to offer this rich historical item to our membership in December 2021. Congratulations to Randal for the creation of this new work for his portfolio and to Tom for helping Randal out with the sales. Other 2022 calendars from Soul of Canada were "Work Horses" and "Ranches and Rodeos". It should be noted that in the past Randal has asked the P.H.S. to be involved in this annual project and has included our logo in the calendar. If you would like to pitch in or if you have any ideas for commentary and pictures for one or more of the months in future years, please get in contact with us and Randal.

Conferences update:

The 23rd World Petroleum Congress took place in Houston December 5-9, 2021. Alberta Government officials represented the province and made their pitches.

The 24th World Petroleum Congress is scheduled for September 17-23, 2023, here in Calgary. As reported earlier, the Turner Valley Oilfield Society is hoping to run a field trip to the Turner Valley Gas Plant as a part of the program with a recovery stop at the Eau Claire Distillery afterwards.

Petroleum History Institute – Annual Symposium in Santa Barbara, California – May 17-19, 2022. Theme is "The Birthplace of both Offshore Oil Production and the Modern Environmental Movement".

Global Energy Show in Calgary, Alberta – June 7-9, 2022. After multiple delays it looks like these dates should work. The broadening of their mandate to include all forms of energy – fossil and renewable - should make the event bigger and more interesting.

Society for Industrial Archeology – Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon – June 9-12, 2022.

International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group, Biennial Conference in Calgary Alberta (University of Calgary) – July 3-7, 2022.

International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage, Annual Congress in Montreal, Quebec – August 28 to September 3, 2022. Theme "Industrial Heritage Reloaded".

International History of Geology (INHIGEO) – Annual Congress in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, France – September 16-26, 2022.

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.

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

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Back issues are archived on our website at <http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/>

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PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY 2020 AWARDS

As initially communicated on December 31, 2021, the Petroleum History Society is pleased to announce the winners of its 2020 slate of awards. It is the aspiration of the Society, pending favourable developments related to the pandemic, that these award winners be honoured at a future annual meeting, hopefully in 2023, along with our previously-announced winners for 2019 and our upcoming winners for 2021 and 2022. Stay tuned.

Congratulations to these five important contributors to the preservation and communication of Canadian petroleum industry history!

BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2020

To: Donald J. Savoie

For: “*Thanks for the Business*” – K. C. Irving, Arthur Irving, and the story of Irving Oil”. Nimbus Publishing. 342 p.

Donald Savoie is a professor at the University of Moncton in New Brunswick. He is the author of numerous books and articles concerning political and economic issues in the Maritime Provinces and in Canada. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1992) and an Officer of the Order of Canada (1993).

ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2020

To: Sean Kheraj

For: “*A History of Oil Spills on Long-Distance Pipelines in Canada*”. The Canadian Historical Review, v. 101, pp. 161-191.

Dr. Kheraj is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at York University, Toronto, Ontario. His focus areas are Canadian and environmental history.

MULTIMEDIA AWARD FOR 2020

To: Peter Tertzakian

For: “*Energyphile*” – a website encompassing pictures, stories, vignettes and interactive stories related to the evolution of mankind’s use of all forms of energy.

Peter is a well-known petroleum industry analyst and author associated with the ARC Energy Research Institute, Calgary, Alberta. His insights into current events and the energy transition are highly valued in industry, government and academia. The *Energyphile* website is supplemented by the book “The Investor Visit and Other Stories – Disruption, Denial and Transition in the Energy Business”. For more information, visit www.energyphile.org.

PRESERVATION AWARD FOR 2020

To: The Petroleum History Institute

For: The publication of numerous articles concerning Canadian petroleum history.

The Petroleum History Institute is an organization based in Oil City, Pennsylvania that pursues the history, heritage and development of the modern oil industry. Since 2000 it has annually published the journal "*Oil-Industry History*" that contains articles, presentation abstracts, book reviews, P.H.I. organizational business and meeting summaries. The group has held its annual symposium in Canada on two occasions – Oil Springs, Ontario in 2008 and St. John, New Brunswick in 2019 - and has honoured several Canadian historians and industry contributors. For more information visit www.petroleumhistory.org.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2020

To: Gary May

For: Outstanding contributions through research and publications to our understanding of the early history of the petroleum industry in Ontario and its roles in the growth of its global counterparts.

Gary May is based in Windsor, Ontario. He is the author of a number of significant books about the early Ontario petroleum industry including "*Hard Oiler – The Story of Early Canadians' Quest for Oil at Home and Abroad*" (1998 and 2021), "*The Scent of Oil – a Nicklos/Perkins Family Saga*" (2011), "*A Hard Oiler Love Story – the Lives of Amy and Amos Barnes*" (2013) and "*Groundbreaker – How the brilliant inventions of Leo Ranney transformed water and energy technology*" (2013). Gary's latest book, *Crude Genius (The Making of an International Oil Baron)*, will be released in 2022. For more information, visit @garymayauthor on Facebook.



Shell Automotive fleet - Seismic explosives truck, 1950's. Courtesy Shell Canada.