

Turner Valley (on its 100th anniversary)

- A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

A presentation to the Petroleum History Society by:

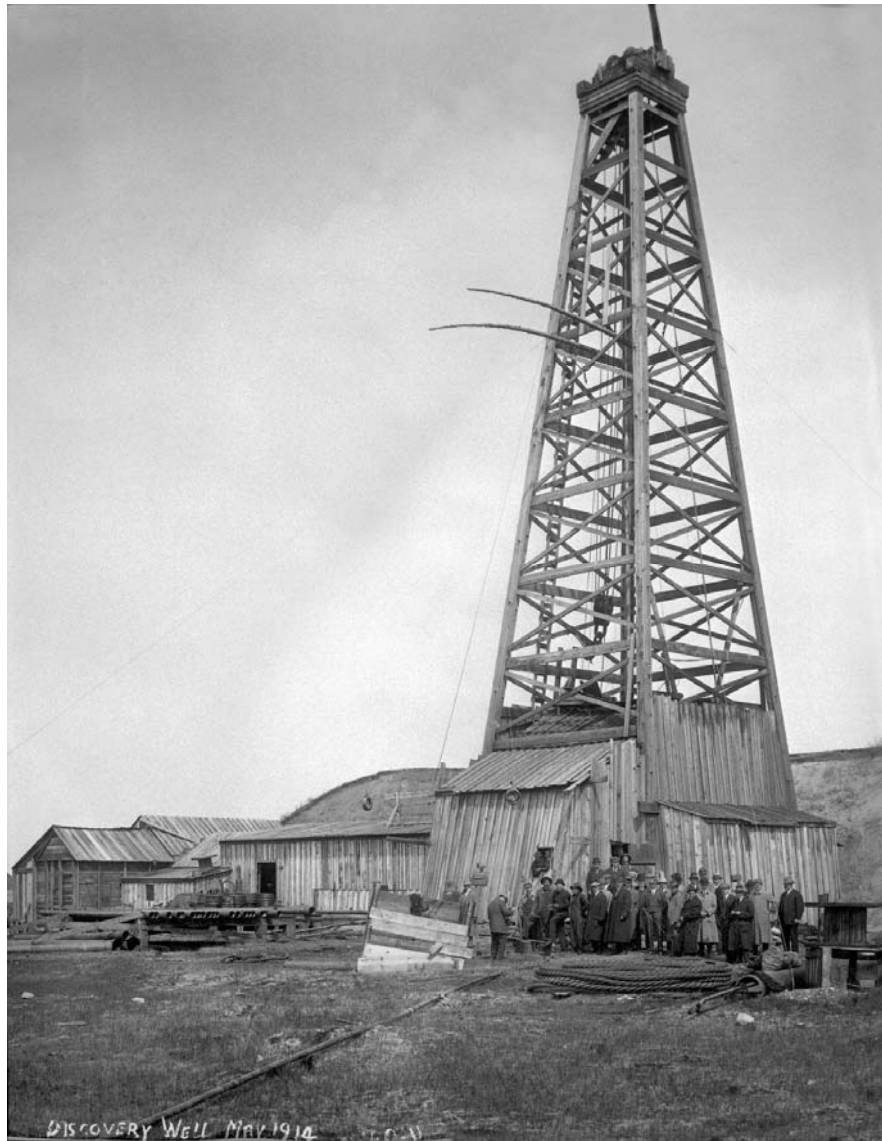
Clinton Tippett, David Finch and Doug Cass

May 7, 2014

Acknowledgements

- The bulk of the pictures in this presentation are from the Glenbow Photographic Archives.
- Some pictures are from the Alberta Provincial Archives and the University of Alberta Archives.
- Individuals who assisted with this work include Willem Langenberg.
- The comments are strictly the responsibility of Clint Tippett.

The Initial Discovery



PAA P1301a

Dingman #1 with
people.

May 1914.



NA-952-2

Visitors to
Dingman #1
1914

Note casing
laid out to
the left.



NA-4139-1

Dingman #1
May, 1914

City dwellers
come out for a
visit.

Glenbow
caption reads
“Discovery well
at Turner Valley.
Visitors in
automobiles.
From “The
Alberta Oil
Fields” issued
by Marine Oil
Products.”



PAA P1303

Drillers Martin Hovis
and Joseph Brown on
the drill floor of
Dingman #1, May
1914



NA-5262-39

Joseph
Brown,
assistant
driller, on
Dingman #1.

With cable
tool rig
equipment
including
main cable
and temper
screw.



P-3682-45

Cable Tool Rig.

Rig hand appears to be pouring something down the well. Hopefully not a salting effort.

Note lack of safety equipment.



NA-2119-4

Dingman #1

A.W. Dingman pours
“beside pipe from
wellhead” what is
oil or condensate
for those gathered.
Scales in the
foreground. Rig in
the background.
Back row – Hovis
with bowler.
Middle row – far
left is W.S. Herron.
Bob Brown has
white jacket over
his arm.
In front – T.A.P.
Frost holds out his
mug.
All others unknown.



NA-952-3

Dingman #1

“Baler at work”

Martin Hovis, chief driller, wearing bowler, with Joseph Brown, assistant driller, to the right.

Perhaps a pleased investor or promoter behind the baler.



PA-3570-5

Capping Calgary
Petroleum Products
Limited #1, May 21,
1914.

Wellhead gas pressure
quoted in inscription
as 132 psi (?).

CAPPING DINGMAN WELL CALGARY CITY 21ST MAY 1914
GAS PRESSURE 132 PSI

Glenbow Archives PA-3670-5

Glenbow Archives NA-2335-4



NA-2335-4

Dingman #1 1914. From left to right. Judson Satre, Ivan Crooks (Calgary druggist), William Pearce (Dominion Surveyor), T.A.P. Frost, Robert Hutchings (saddlerer), Martin Hovis, R.A. Brown and Arthur Graves (Calgary alderman). Photo by Harry Pollard.



NA-4139-3

Filling a barrel (and other containers) at Dingman #1. A family outing on May 22, 1914. Guests include Herbert F. Clarke, Mrs. Clarke, and Margaret Connin (Clarke family employee).



NA-2119-5

At Dingman #1 on July 28, 1914. T.A.P. Frost, at left is either drinking or offering a toast. Next to him is Princess Patricia, the Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Connaught, A.W. Dingman, unknown, and M.L. Hovis.



NA-246-1

Dingman #1
(foreground)
and
Dingman #2
(background) in
1914.

#1 is wood rig,
#2 is steel. Note
cuttings "sump"
on riverside of
#1.

Range Road 2, 1915



Southern Alberta Oil, Royalite #3
30 BBL/day

Date is worth verifying given the presence of other derricks in the distance.

Location is also suspicious given the long straight road, as opposed to the jogs that exist in Highway 22 north of Turner valley.

UAA 77-84-21

The Great Promotion

Glenbow Archives PA-3670-4

A GUSHER
AT THE DINGMAN WELL



PA-3570-4

A gusher at CPPL
(Dingman) #1.

May 16, 1914.

Perhaps a bit of
artistic licence?



NA-3055-39a

Strike at the Dingman well.

May 15, 1914.

The mania begins!



NA-5535-6

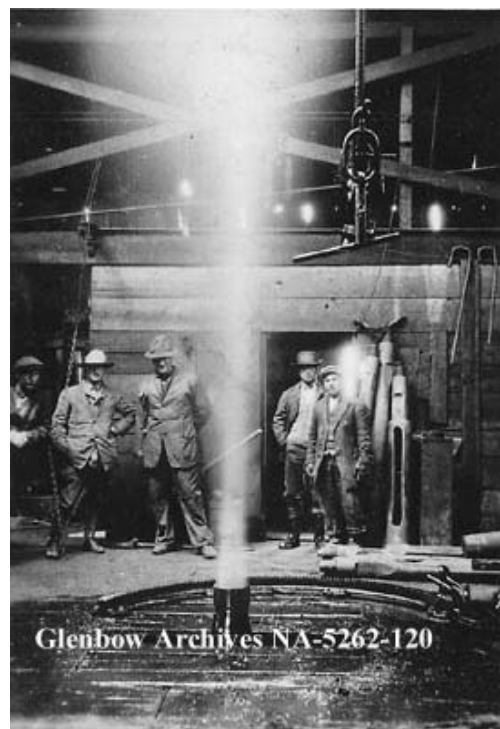
Men in cars and on sidewalk waiting to invest in oil stocks, Calgary, Alberta, 1914. In front of temporary offices of Fidelity Oil and Gas Co. in the Palace Rooms (formerly Palace Hotel) located at the corner of 9th Avenue and Centre Street SW. Joseph Brown, driller, in car on the left.

Photo by Harry Pollard.



P1306

Harry Pollard composite of
stock promotion schemes
In Calgary, May 14, 1914



Going with the Flow

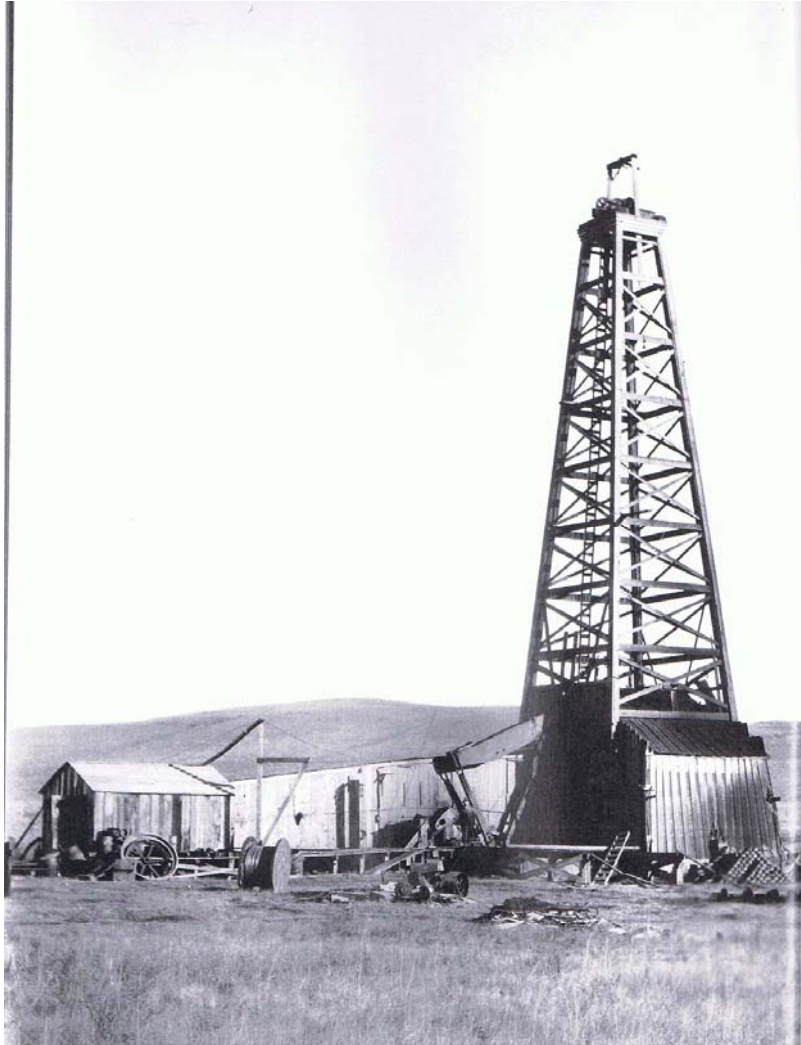
ND-8-445 Home Oil. June 1927. "Blowing gas to reduce pressure".

NA-5262-120 Men standing at wellhead of Dingman #1, condensate being vented. A.W. Dingman 2nd from left.

NA-2736-2 Well blowing, probably near Turner Valley ca. 1914.

Note the ferocious flows apparently indicated – enhanced by the time exposure of the photography. One would think that the nature of the flow is suspect given the type of photography and its risk of explosion.

The Next Leap Forward at #4



Royalite #4, north of Turner Valley, 1922-24, prior to intersecting the Mississippian and ultimately blowing out. Caption as per D. Finch is “Drillers Sid Bagley and Clarence Snyder started drilling Royalite #4 in September 1922. It blew wild on October 12, 1924 and burned the rig to the ground.”

Glenbow Archives S-17-23



S-17-23

Royalite #4 fire,
ca. 1924.

Hand-tinted
lantern slide
used by Mr.
C.C. Ross in
illustrated
lectures about
Alberta's oil
and gas
industry.

Turner Valley Oil Fields

Vulcan N°1

Mid-West

Dalhousie N°3

Dalhousie → N°1

© N°118

Glenbow Archives NA-3752-41

NA-3752-41

Postcard view of
oil field at
Turner Valley,
Alberta.

“ca. 1920-1930”.

Photo by
McDermid
Photo
Laboratories,
Calgary, Alberta.

Glenbow Archives ND-8-428



ND-8-428

Wellhead with
pressure gauges at
Royalite #4 in 1927.

Photographer W.J.
Oliver, Calgary,
Alberta.

1926



1924 884 BBL

1927 321,154 BBL 66.6% of Canada

In 1928: 1550 BBL/day from 11 wells

Based on this John Allan predicted Leduc #1 [Willem Langenberg]

UAA-79-234506/4507

Glenbow Archives NB-24-104

SOUVENIR
OF TURNER VALLEY
OIL FIELD.



ILLINOIS ALBERTA



McLEOD No. 1.

McLEOD No. 2.

NB-24-104

1925.

Photos by
W.G.B. Kilrow,
Vulcan,
Alberta.

Greetings
from Turner
Valley!

How often do
we see this
these days?

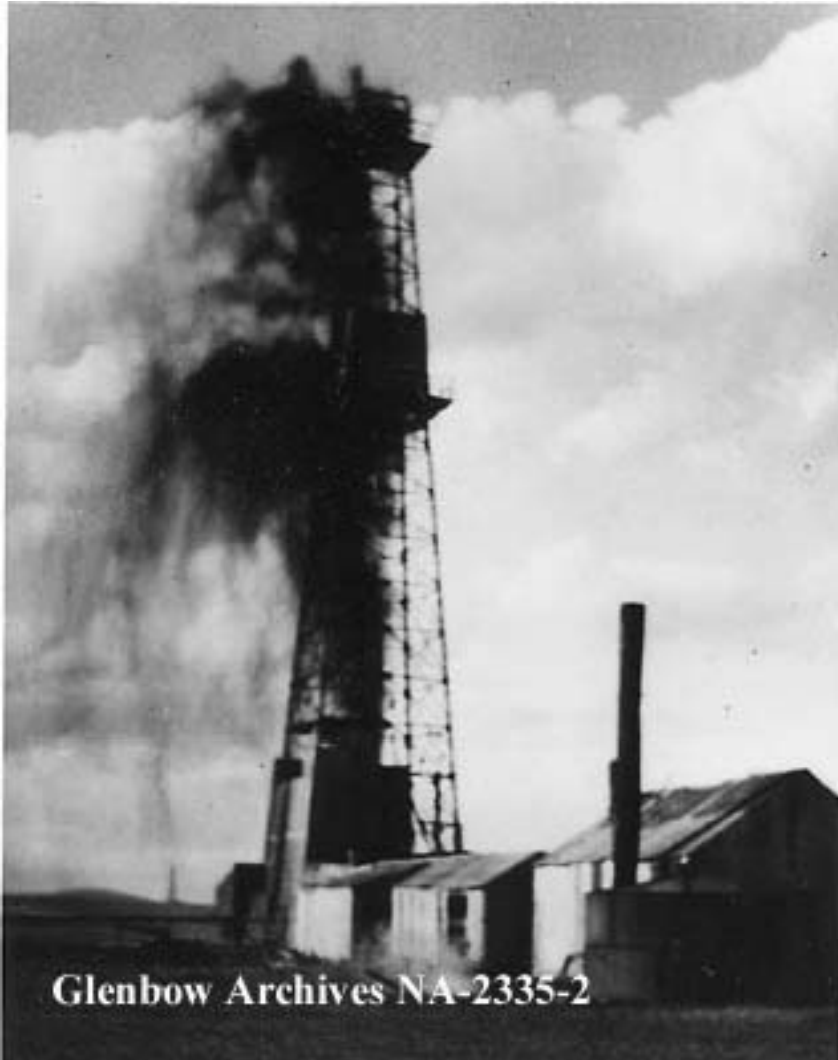


NA-899-1

International Oil Convention 1929. Delegates are “watching production” from Macleod well #4 on September 19, 1929.

The convention was held in Calgary and was organized by the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association (of Montana) and the Oil and Gas Association of Alberta.

The Final Boom – Downdip Oil



NA-2335-2

Turner Valley Royalties #1.

June 16, 1936.

Drilled by Bob Brown Sr.

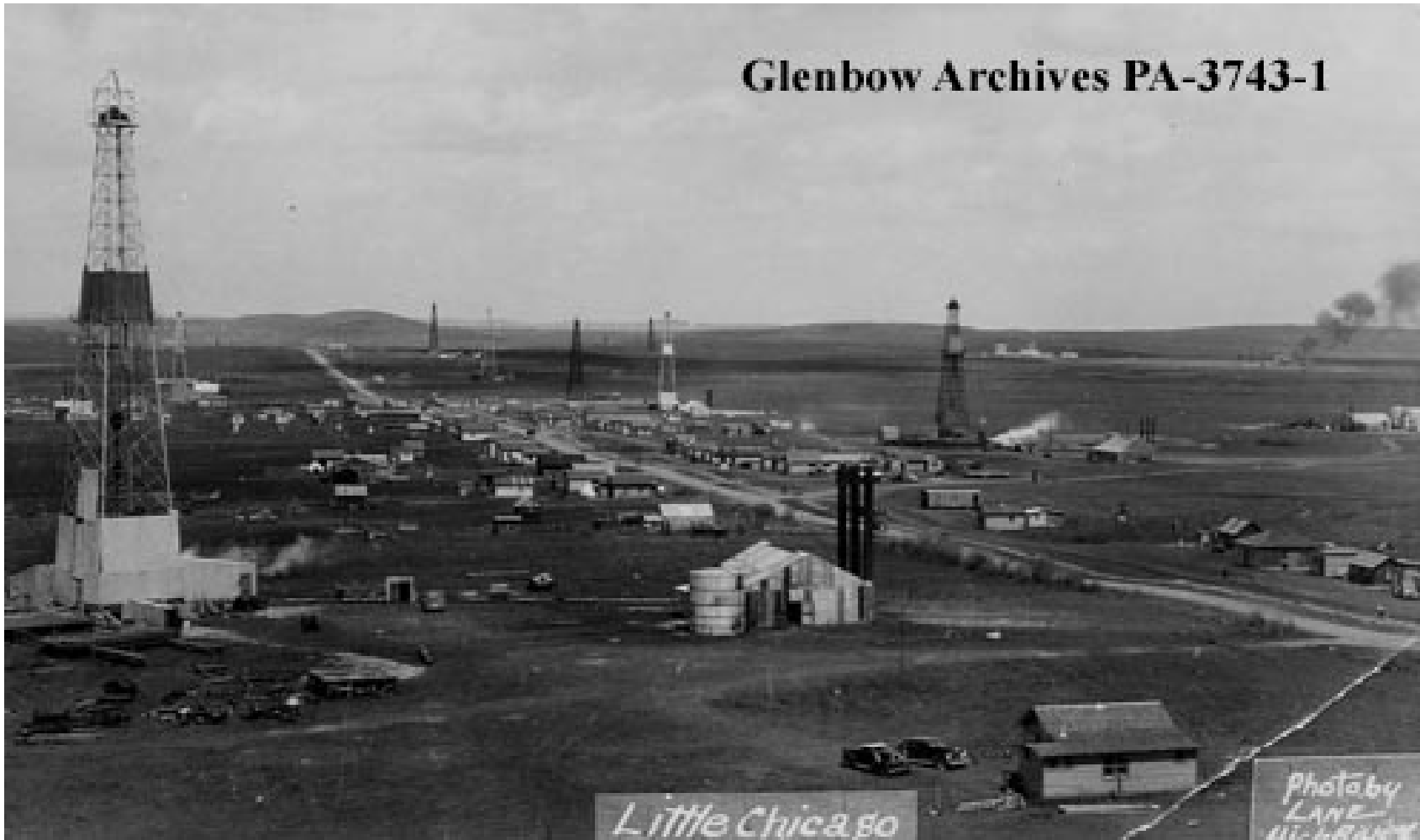
Glenbow Archives PA-3743-1

PA-3743-1

Little
Chicago, just
north of Little
New York
(aka
Longview).

Glenbow says
ca. 1935 but
number of
rigs suggests
late 1930's?

Photo by
Lane, High
River.





PA-3953-12

Turner Valley oil wells, ca. 1940.

Owners include Home, Mayland, Calmont, Lowery, Northwest Associated and Alberta Pacific Consolidated.

In many cases rigs were left on location after drilling.

Note that unitization only occurred in the field in the late 1950s to facilitate water flooding. Before that it was each company for itself.



NA-1487-1

Turner Valley drilling and production as seen from the top of one of the rigs.

According to the Glenbow this shot is from 1929 but wells with this density, and in particular as far west as is seen, suggests perhaps late 1930's or even early 1940's?

Note outhouses.

Glenbow Archives NA-2895-7



NA-2895-7

Rex's General Store – the first store in Little Chicago, 1938.

Inscriptions on building and on vehicle would be more legible with a higher scanning resolution. Only the instantly recognizable CocaCola sign can be easily deciphered.

Glenbow Archives NA-2895-14



Glenbow Archives NA-4614-25



Glenbow Archives NA-2895-13

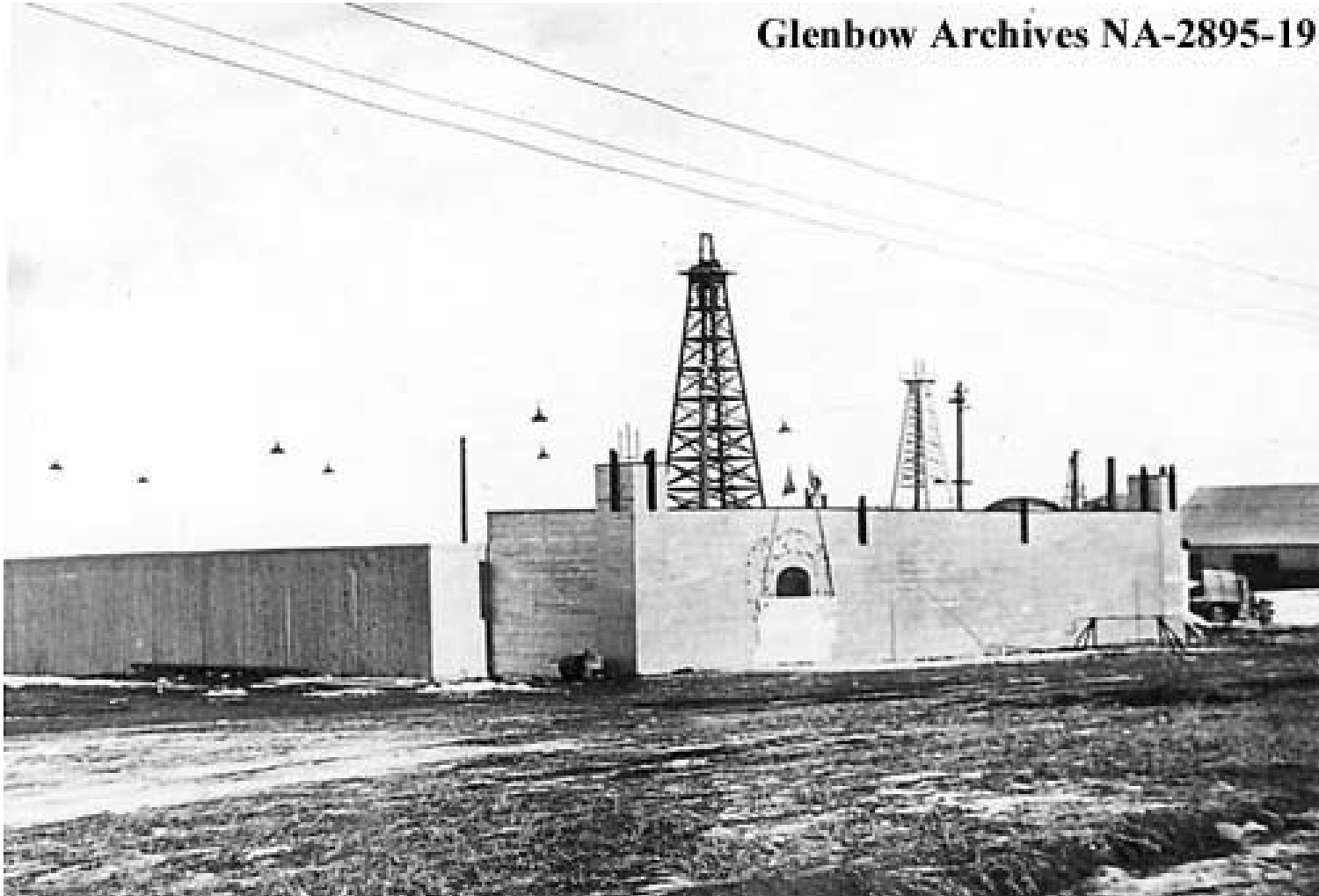
NA-2895-14 Mass-produced homes at Little Chicago (Royalties) 1938.

NA-2895-13 Oil worker constructing single room home at Little Chicago (Royalties) 1938.

NA-4614-25 Oil worker playing guitar outside bunkhouse, Turner valley, ca. 1938.

Home is where you lay your head!

Glenbow Archives NA-2895-19



NA-2895-19

Ice rink for skating
and hockey
matches at Little
Chicago
(Royalties), 1938.



NA-2895-1

Little New
York
(Longview)

Note shacks
for living but
having a
good car was
essential.

Some Interesting Aspects

1926



UAA-79-23-4598

So who can't
read a map?

Figuring out
locations and
date of
photos from
roads,
topography
and visible
landmarks
like rigs.

1932

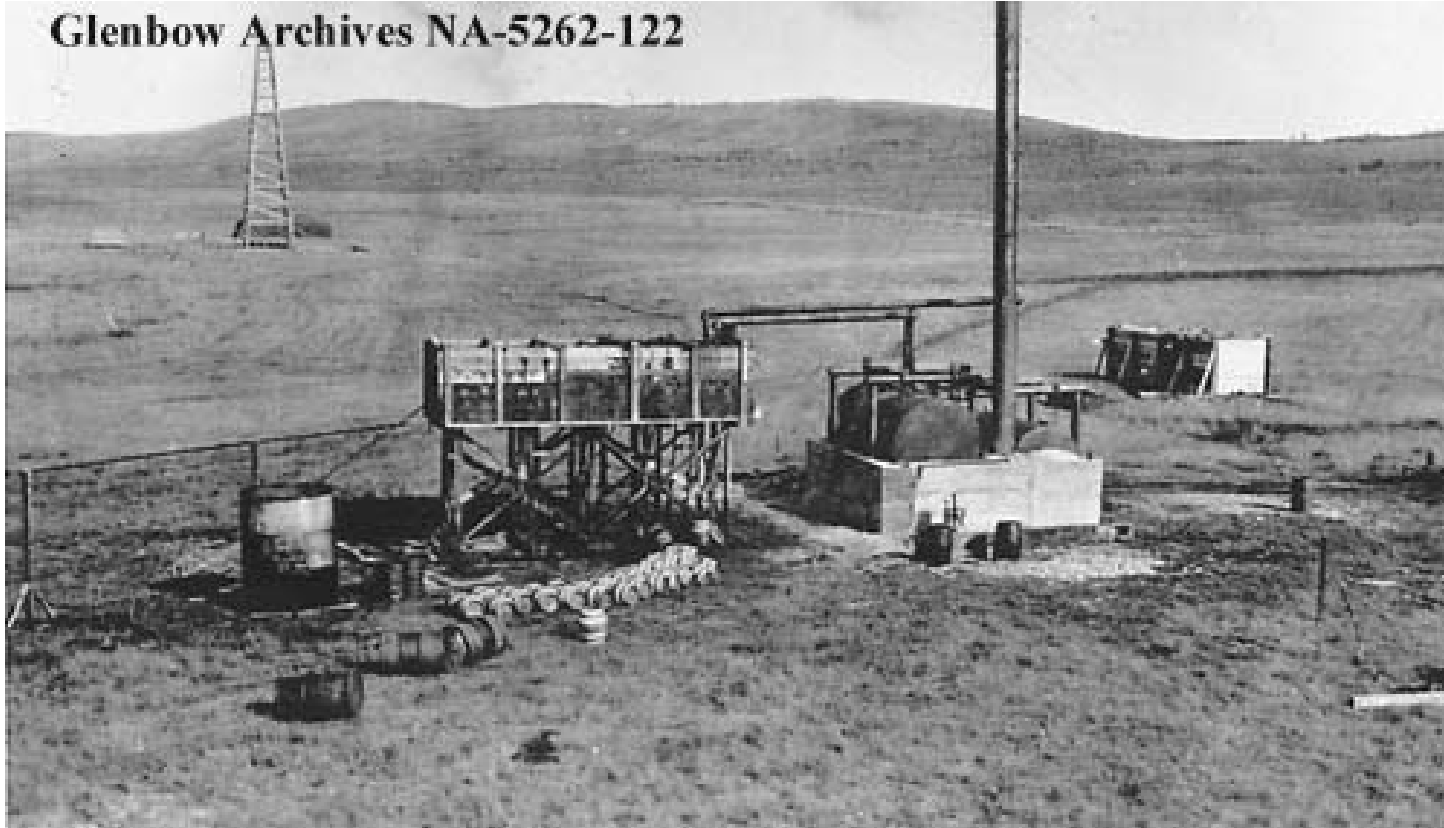
Imperial Ribstone #2 during abandonment



Perhaps a legacy of abandonment that is not up to today's standards and expectations?

UAA-79-23-1199

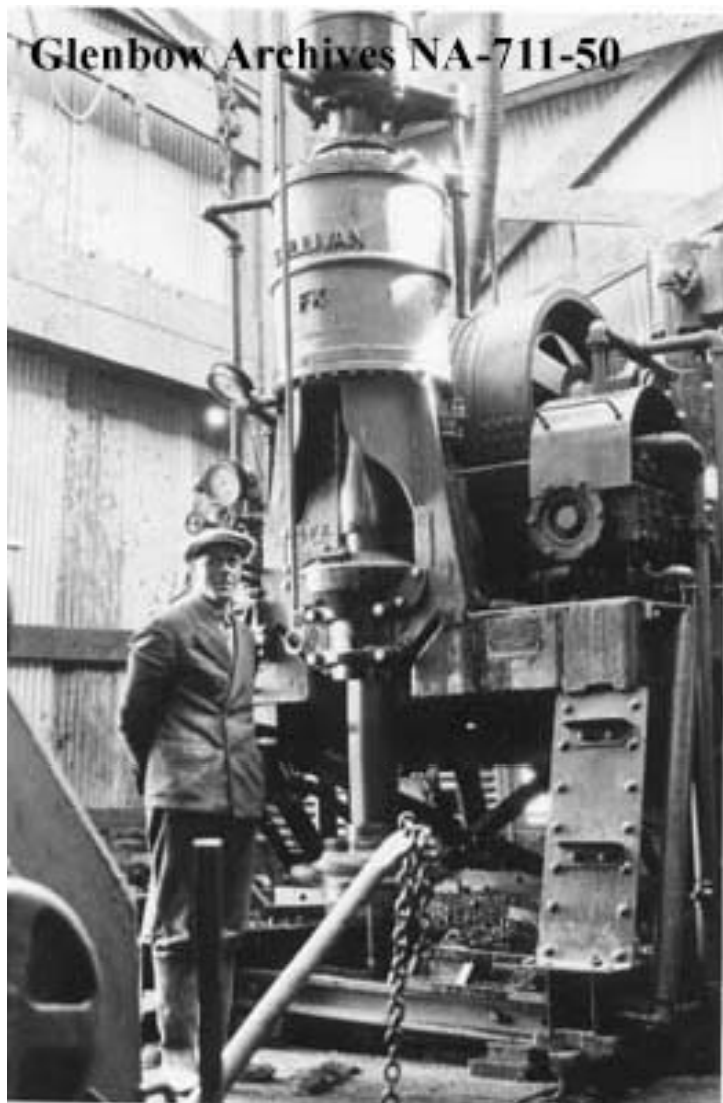
Glenbow Archives NA-5262-122



NA-5262-122

Unknown
technology:
What is this all
about?

Glenbow caption
reads "Southern
Alberta [Oil
Company] gas plant,
Turner Valley, ca.
1914-1917.



Glenbow Archives NA-711-50



Glenbow Archives NA-711-90

Technology

NA-711-50

Oil Well at Turner Valley,
March 29, 1930.
Diamond drill for
drilling oil wells.

NA-711-90

Du-gas test at Turner
Valley, April 4, 1929.
Test of fire extinguishing
apparatus. Du-gas was a
dry chemical compound.



Identifying People and Activities

NA-711-70 and 71

Okalta #1 at Turner Valley. G.R. Elliott inspecting pipes.



Recognizing Familiar Faces (and outfits)

NA-952-10 Dingman #1 1914 with Joseph Brown (L).

NC-70-13 Stoney man with driller (n.d.)

Clearly the man on the right in both photos is the same so this constrains the place and time, at least, of the picture on the right.



NA-5535-5

The Duke of Connaught visits
Turner Valley on May 21, 1914.
Joseph Brown beside him.



The Duke and Duchess of Windsor with
Mr. Trammell, Head of Royallite, at
Royalties, with royalty! Yipes.
September 1941. NA-2523-1



Glenbow Archives NA-2335-12

NA-2335-12

Drilling crew in
the boiler house
eating lunch.
Brown #1 well.
1940.



PAK 95.51/1 of 2

.51/2 of 2

Royalite employees at Turner Valley 1926.

Glenbow Archives NA-67-115



NA-67-115

“Newt” Blaylock,
drilling crew
member, Turner
Valley oil field, ca.
1930’s. Killed
1941.

Photo by Lane’s
Studio, High River.



Glenbow Archives ND-8-449

ND-8-449

Home Oil workers
outside "rig house",
June 1927.

Note boarded-over
"No Smoking" sign.

Photo by W.J. Oliver,
Calgary.

Glenbow Archives NA-3914-24



NA-3914-24

Group of men at Ranchman's Gas and Oil Co. well, Turner Valley, 1928.

From the left:
unknown rig
worker, Mr. Collins
or Mr. Font,
Edward Kenney
and Gordon
Ironsides.



Glenbow Archives NA-2570-20

Glenbow Archives PA-3501-52



Glenbow Archives NA-4950-17

NA-2570-20 Royalite oil well workers, Turner Valley ca. 1926-1929.

NA-4950-17 Royalite Oil Co. plant employees ca. 1930's. L-R Johnnie, "Peanut" Adams, Chuck Bannister (warehouse manager), Walker Taylor (Western Production manager for Imperial Oil), Pete, Mac, Frank Clark and Ross Alger (who became Mayor of Calgary for 1977-1980).

PA-3501-52 The (presumably Royalite) gang from Turner Valley who were transferred to the Kamloops refinery in Feb. 1954. Their names are in the Glenbow caption.



M. J. Blain



G. L. Martin



V. H. Hunter



G. D. Smith

Joint Industrial Council
Imperial Oil Ltd. Producing Dept.
Calgary, Alberta.
1948



V. J. Moroney



C. Visser



W. J. Aultio



G. A. Josh
Chairman Elected Delegates



H. L. M. Stevens Guille
Chairman



A. D. Laisen

P2618

Joint Industrial
Council
1948

An early labour
relations
initiative?



IP-14a-1869

Core examination in the basement of Royalite's offices and storage facility at Turner Valley. 1946-1947.

Lady is Diane Loranger of Imperial Oil. Man with good hair was not identified.

Note: slightly unsafe conditions.

Note: At least some core is diamond drill size as opposed to "normal" rotary core size. Boxes and trays seem to be more conventional.

Glenbow Archives NA-2570-18



Glenbow Archives NA-2570-19



NA-2570-18 and -19

Royalite #23 after the explosion in 1931.

Captions note that “the explosion occurred when the nitroglycerine was put in the well and that no one was hurt”.



Glenbow Archives NA-711-28



Glenbow Archives NA-711-27

Pipelining from Turner Valley to Calgary ca. 1929

NA-711-28
Trenching
equipment.

NA-711-27
Assembling the pipe
and getting it in the
ditch. Note that
early pipelines were
screwed together
and tightened with
huge wrenches.
Welding came later.



PA-574-857

Turner Valley
flaring at
night. Note
the reflected
glare in the
low clouds.
Recall stories
of reading
outside in
the middle
of the night.



NA-67-86

View of
Turner valley
oil field and
flare, ca.
1930's.
Lane's Studio,
High River.

This well is
production
testing.

Turner Valley Gas Flares, 1939, ERCB Start



UAA-79-23-2135

“Bringing in” a well. The process of “cleaning it up” to remove drilling-related and early stimulation-related waste before putting the well on production. The idea is to prevent all of those contaminants from entering into the pipeline and processing facilities.

This is not wasteful flaring.

Glenbow Archives NA-2570-17



Glenbow Archives NA-67-89

Production Testing and Cleanup

NA-2570-17 Flare from oil well, Turner Valley, ca. 1930-1933. “well just blown in”.

NA-67-89 View of Turner valley oil field and flare, ca. 1930's. Such testing is recognizable by its diversion to a small testing stack away from the rig as well as by the billowing black smoke that generally indicates the burning of crude oil and not just natural gas.



**Glenbow Archives
PB-53-1**

PB-53-1

Flare at Turner Valley oil field, ca. 1920-1939. Photo by Lane, High River. "Colour view".

Annotation indicates "Globe" well. Age range is too broad. Picture is likely colourized.

Glenbow Archives PA-3670-25



PA-3670-25

Highwood-Sarcee well, 1933-1936.

Well appears to be flaring small volumes of clean natural gas. This is likely solution gas that has been removed from the crude oil stream at the wellsite. Oil has been stored in the large tank visible in the distance.

This is a wasteful form of flaring as it is long term and the cumulative volumes can be substantial. However a market is needed if the production is to be handled economically.

Burning gas at Royalite #4, 1926



Gas diverted
for flaring in
the gully.

Note the
virtual
absence of
tree cover.

UAA-79-23-4599

Glenbow Archives S-17-28



Flaring Related to Royalite #4, ca. 1924

S-17-28 and 30

Burning gas from Royalite #4. Hand-tinted lantern slides used by Mr. C.C. Ross in illustrated lectures about Alberta's oil and gas industry.

Glenbow Archives S-17-30





Flaring at Hell's Half Acre, Turner Valley

NA-1716-5 Burning gas at Turner Valley's HHA 1926. Note frost on pipe.

NA-5290-7 HHA ca. 1930's, night view.

This spot was a mecca for people during the Depression and for wildlife seeking warmth.



**Gas Flow Testing at Okalta #1,
November 19, 1928.**

NA-711-65 Tapping the pipeline and
preparing to measure the gas flow.

NA-711-66 Measuring the gas flow.



PA-574-7

Turner Valley
Gas Plant, n.d.,
likely late
1920's?

Changes to
plant
configuration
were
numerous.



PA-3501-66 and 67 Royalite Plant under construction, ca. 1920's. Note both trucks and horse-drawn wagons.



**1960
Turner
Valley Gas
Plant**

PLANT SITE — TURNER VALLEY, ALBERTA
NATURAL GAS PROCESSING AND PURIFICATION PLANT

Glenbow Archives NA-5600-6885a



NA-5600-6885a

Turner Valley
Celebration and Cairn,
June 1956.

Turner Valley Pioneer
days.

Sam Coultis, on the
left, talks about early
pioneers and
discoveries.

Photograph by Jack
Delorme, Calgary.



PAA P2772

Refreshments at
the Turner Valley
Golf Course
Clubhouse, 1940's.

Note the Calgary
Buffalo Head beer
- and not in
stubbies.

Cheers!!