



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

May, 2000; Volume XI, Number 3

*if you
missed...*

THE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF
CANADA: HAVE THEY
MADE A DIFFERENCE?

Wednesday, March 22, 2000
with
Kirk Osadetz

... see the condensed
version in this issue of
Archives, complete with
presentation photo.

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Next Luncheon	1
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Next Function - History of
the World Petroleum
Congress 1933 - 1959 with
Aubrey Kerr, Calgary
Chamber of Commerce,
June 15, 2000

NEXT LUNCHEON

Brenda Curtis, former Secretary and Public Relations Officer
for the Petrophilatelic Society International (PPSI)

TOPIC #1

“Petroleum History from a Petrophilatelic Perspective”

Brenda will provide a brief overview of the hobby of collecting petroleum industry historical stamps, related covers and postcards. PPSI provides regular updates and articles to a worldwide membership. Examples of collectibles and information on joining PPSI will be available. Duration 10-15 minutes.

and

Bill Martensen, Founder and Manager of the Clarion Institute

TOPIC #2

“Costs and consequences of the Kyoto Accord - Lessons from the National Energy Program”

Raising awareness of the destructive consequences of the Kyoto Accord on greenhouse gas emissions and implications to global climate change. Bill applies the analogy between the Canadian Government’s implementation of the 1980 National Energy Program and of today’s Kyoto emission targets. International emissions trading may have widespread competitive and cost impacts for Canadians. Duration approximately 30 minutes.

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Time: 12 Noon (receipts at the door)

Place: Palliser Hotel - Colonial Room

Cost: \$20 for members, \$22 for guests

RSVP to Clint Tippett, 691-4274 by Noon, Monday, May 15, 2000

THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY
Calendar of Events and Daily Tips

Next Director's Meeting: May 24, 2000.

Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame Dinner: Westin Hotel, Calgary, 29 September 2000. Price \$75, seating limited –contact Calgary Committee 1-403-531-9737. “Hall of Fame” inductee nominations open until 31 May 2000. Nomination papers available from PHS Directors or phone Canadian Hall of Fame Society 1-780-930-6833.

Society E-Mail Address: petroleumhistorysociety@canada.com. All members with e-mail service please take a moment to send in your address to Bonnie Mech, Director, Membership Committee “ bonnie_mech@pancanadian.ca ” to build our file.

Turner Valley Discovery Days: Parade, bands, family events – June 2 and 3, 2000. Contact Sharon Plett 933-4944.

PHS Membership: Total 78 paid, including 19 Lifetime, 8 Sustaining, 1 Corporate and 50 Individual. Beginning this issue, only paid up Members will receive Archives by mail.

World Petroleum Congress, June 2000: PHS Director Aubrey Kerr will deliver a historical review of the WPC, 1933 – 1959, at the Calgary Commerce Club June 15, 2000. Beginning with University of Birmingham's Sir John Cadman's concept of a global meeting at the depths of the Depression in 1932, the WPC has grown to global prominence, being hosted by major cities around the world every three years. After Paris in 1937, World War II forced cancellation until The Hague in 1951. Calgary's June 2000 WPC will be Canada's first hosting. Mark this date on your calendar and join Aubrey for this timely, entertaining and education presentation.

2000 National Petroleum Show: 12–15 June, 2000. PHS will have a table. Members who have authored oilpatch books and wish to display/sell them at our table, contact Neil Leeson at 217-2974. Likewise, volunteers who can manage our table are needed.

History of Geological Pioneers Conference: Rensselaer Centre of Applied Geology,, Troy, New York. This meeting will combine theme-oriented and volunteer papers with visits to favourite exposures. Call for papers – send title to Dr. Gerald M. Friedman, Rensselaer Centre of Applied Geology (c/o Brooklyn College of the City, University of New York, Brooklyn, N.Y.), 15 Third Street, P.O. Box 746, Troy, N.Y. 12181-0746 USA; fax: 518-273-3249; E-mail; gmfriedman@juno.com.

Dynastic Chart Project: Assembly of data is ongoing and four volunteers have joined the ranks. Software assistance is being sought from National Geographic.

Tip For The Day: (from *The 365 Stupidest Things Ever Said* by Ross & Kathryn Petras)
Wilbert Robinson (Brooklyn Dodgers manager, pointing to a man who had lost all his money in the stock market crash during World War I): “*That guy lost all of his money during the war. Babe Herman* (Dodgers player): *You mean he bet on the Germans?*”

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA (GSC): HAVE THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE?

PRESENTED BY KIRK OSADETZ TO THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL - 22 MARCH 2000
(edited by Neil Leeson, Director, PHS)

With the Canadian oilpatch entering a new lean and mean era of consolidation, tight capital and depressed market value, is there a role for the GSC that we can afford? In the past, research and science motivated exploration and exploitation of remote and high cost areas like the Foothills, Beaufort Sea and the Northwest Territories. The task was greater than the industry alone could absorb, both in resources and time. Fortunately the GSC was there to provide horsepower where needed, based on an aggressive proactive plan of engagement. Just as commodity pricing changed industry strategy in the 1990s, GSC goals have been adjusted accordingly. Now we must decide if this new mandate accommodates a meaningful role for the cost. Conversely, can we afford not to have this expertise at our disposal?

"The GSC mission of the past was definitely research oriented, not so now. Politics and budget cuts have drastically reduced manpower, financing and agendas. Sacrifices had to be made in the traditional support areas of frontier exploration, close liaison with the mining industry and a major source of dialogue between Governments and the energy industry. Combined with the Earth Sciences Centre, the GSC now concentrates on environmental impact studies, development of regional sustainable economic and social benefits, identify and document resource impact studies and training of highly qualified personnel. As these services deviate from past contributions, understanding and acceptance will not come easy. Firstly, GSC is not an explorer or finder of energy and as such is often inappropriately compared to those that are. GSC has recognized an urgent need in the energy industry to document qualitative and quantitative performance measures, then utilize the results to build a consensus among industry players and the politicians. Thus impact study terminology eventually earns trust rather than fear. Having doctored and nursed the importance of impact studies to cushion the interface between those who exploit natural resources with those whose mission is to protect them, the GSC has emerged the most experienced arbitrator to fulfill this ongoing task."



22 March 2000 AGM and GSC Presentation, Palliser Hotel; guest speaker Kirk Osadetz flanked by PHS past President and current Vice-President Bill McLellan (L) and PHS guest Bob Meneley (R).

BOOK REVIEW

“UNDER SAND, ICE & SEA”

A. Bryce Cameron

Reviewed by: Aubrey Kerr

A latter day Homer covering far more odyssey miles than the ancient Greeks: that personifies Bryce Cameron as he spanned the world from the tropics to the Canadian Arctic. This most readable autobiography not only covers Bryce's varied oil patch career but it also describes the geography and history of the places he frequented, while regaling the reader with unbelievable personal anecdotes.

Who was this man? Son of Hugh Porteous Cameron, a mechanical engineer who came to Rangoon from Glasgow in 1895 to work for the Burmah Oil Company. Bryce, born in 1911, could therefore be said to have been in oil business at the earliest possible age.

Bryce graduated from Birmingham University in 1933 with a first-class honours B.Sc. degree in Petroleum Engineering and Refining. Pre-war employment with Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (later BP) saw Bryce being posted to the Middle East. These were the carefree days to be brutally replaced by World War II. Following hostilities, we find Cameron transferred to Trinidad, then back to Mussadeq's country, Iran, where he gave an insightful analysis of that deteriorating situation.

Two British companies (Lobitos Oilfields Limited and C.T. Bowring and Co.) grouped together to form a private firm, Lobitos Oilfields Canada Limited, so as to participate in the Western Canada boom. Cameron was appointed President and General Manager, based in Calgary starting in 1954. This developed into his becoming most intrigued with the Arctic North and resulted in his arranging to file on large tracts of that hitherto unexplored area (close to three million acres). His company, Round Valley, went to work and the net result was his participation in three different wells, none of which were productive. By 1964 the bloom was off the Arctic and Bryce returned to the U.K. to manage Burmah's exploration in the North Sea. He returned to Calgary in 1968 and started a consulting practice specializing in the Arctic and off-shore matters. Now in his 89th year, Bryce is retired and lives quietly with his wife Doree in Victoria.

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.....available locally from de Mille Bookstore, 815-8th Avenue SW, Calgary (264-7411) - Editor