



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*May 2005; Volume XVI, Number 3*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – May 4, 2005**

**Speaker: Dr. Paul Chastko  
Developing Alberta's Oil Sands**

Paul Chastko is an instructor in the Department of History at the University of Calgary where he teaches courses in the history of European and American war and foreign policy. He was educated at the Universities of Calgary and Ohio where he received a Ph.D. for a thesis on the history of the Alberta Oil Sands. His thesis was recently published by the University of Calgary Press as *Developing Alberta's Oil Sands: from Karl Clark to Kyoto*.

Paul also has an abiding interest in the history of hockey and is currently manager of the Northwest Calgary Athletic Association Junior B Bruins hockey team. He has received many awards and scholarships over the past decade and was recently nominated for the University of Calgary Student Union's Teaching Excellence Award.

**TIME:** 12 noon, Wednesday, May 4, 2005.  
**PLACE:** Fairmont Palliser Hotel (133 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.) – Leduc Room (check marquee)  
**COST:** Members \$25.00 and Guests \$30.00 (most welcome)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 691-4274 or  
[clinton.tippett@shell.com](mailto:clinton.tippett@shell.com) by noon Monday, May 2**

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*Archives* is published approximately 6 times a year by the Petroleum History Society for Society members. Back issues are archived on our website at:

[www.petroleumhistory.ca](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca)

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***THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY***  
**THE BULL WHEEL**



**Next Board Meeting:** The Board will meet next on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at noon at the Glenbow Museum and Archives. Meet in the lobby just before noon.

**Volunteers:** We are always on the lookout for people with the energy and dedication to help us grow and to undertake projects on the Society's behalf. Please contact Clint Tippett (691-4274), Doug Cass (268-4203) or Hugh Leiper (249-0707) if you would like to get involved.

**Next Luncheons:** Following the luncheon announced on page 1, our next luncheon talk will take place on Wednesday, June 8 and will feature Simone Marler of Shell Canada and Colleen Killingsworth of the Canadian Centre for Energy Information discussing past experiences and future prospects for educating the public on the petroleum industry and its history. As well, we are always seeking speakers and interesting subjects. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Clint Tippett, President P.H.S., at 691-4274 or Director Debbie Knall at 780-463-3859 (Edmonton).

**Canadian Centre for Energy Information:** We are pleased to communicate that the P.H.S. has a "Content, Marketing and Traffic Partnership" with the Centre. This arrangement is an expression of the mutually beneficial cooperation that exists between our two organizations. One of its most tangible benefits will be a greater level of visibility for the P.H.S. and its activities. Please see [www.centreforenergy.com](http://www.centreforenergy.com) for more details. Of particular interest to our members is their on-line historical volume "Evolution of Canada's Oil and Gas Industry" that can be downloaded free of charge.



Canadian Centre  
for Energy Information

[www.centreforenergy.com](http://www.centreforenergy.com)

**P.H.S. Pin Sets:** Our pin sets (of 6) have been reduced in price to \$40.00. Please contact Joyce Wright at 252-4143 if you are interested in buying one or several sets. These make great and original Calgary- or Western Canada-related gifts. Detailed comprehensive descriptions accompany each plush-boxed set.

**Website:** You are reminded that Past-President Micky Gulless has posted Treasurer Doug Cass's updated bibliography on our website – newer and longer than ever before! If you wish to get going on a historical research project – and we know that you do – there is no better place to start than Doug's compilation of everything that is about Canadian Petroleum History.

**Presidential remarks from the Annual General Meeting  
by Clint Tippett  
March 23, 2005**

In terms of overall Society business, several items deserve mention.

Society membership has continued to grow and now sits in the vicinity of 155 people – almost double where we were only a few years ago. Directors John Frey and Edith Wenzel have stepped down from the Board and we would like to thank them for their past service to the Society. Life Member Don Axford passed away on March 3 and will be missed.

The PHS has become partner with the new Canadian Centre for Energy Information which will enable us to broaden significantly the audience for our activities while also allowing us to tap into the various publicity mechanisms that the ever-growing Centre has access to. [read quote]

Should also not that the latest phase of the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project has been wrapped up with the last few interviews done and the last funds expended. Details are available from the Glenbow – specifically, ask Treasurer Doug Cass.

Finally, we had a successful presence at the CSEG Convention last spring in which a series of historical geophysical posters were created through the good works of Secretary Peter Savage and Member Sean Callaghan.

We have another good series of luncheon talks on the radar and have been discussing several other projects. As always we are looking for volunteers to get involved. Please don't necessarily wait to be asked – your initiative is important.

I would like to express thanks to the Executive and Board collectively for another successful year. As always, the Society could not continue to work internally without the conscientious work of Micky Gulless – and externally without her continuing creativity on the PHS website. We should also thank Doug Cass and the Glenbow Museum and Archives for hosting the continuing lunchtime meeting of the Executive and Board.

I would also like to thank those members and speakers who have created historical documents through the descriptions of their own experiences and the manuscripts of their presentations – both of which we have included in the various issues of Archives.

## **Awards**

I would now like to move along to the presentation of awards from the Petroleum History Society for 2003. As you will see we are fashionably late in making these selections. I would also like to point out that this year, that is 2003, is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this program. Time flies – it seems just like a couple of years ago that we thought that this would be a good way of paying tribute to those who have made significant contributions to the study, preservation and dissemination of Canadian Petroleum History. Have tabulation from website if wish to see the lists of previous winners.

As you know we have five categories of awards and I will say a few words and make the presentations in turn. Thanks and congratulations to all the award winners!

**Book of the Year for 2003:** to **Mr. Paul Rubak** for “Big Wheels Across the Prairie – A History of trucking in Alberta prior to 1960”. BWATP Publisher, 502 p. Although this book is primarily about trucking companies, industry organizations and the individuals in both, it inevitably has a lot of content about the oil and gas industry given the key role that trucking has for us. Whether it was rig moves, drilling supply delivery or the movement of finished products to customers, the trucking industry was (and is) vital to our activities. There's lots of text along these lines and quite a few illustrations related to oil and gas.

**Article of the Year Award for 2003:** to **Dr. Christina Burr** of the University of Windsor for her work “Some Adventures of the Boys: Enniskillen Township’s “Foreign Drillers,” Imperialism, and Colonial Discourse, 1873-1923”, published in *Labour*, v. 51, Spring 2003, pp. 47-80.

**Multimedia Award for 2003:** to the **Oil Sands Discovery Centre** in Fort McMurray. Award to be accepted by **Mr. Bert MacKay**, Facility Supervisor and **Mr. Rick Budd**, Creative Services Manager. The Oil Sands Discovery is a major public attraction in Fort McMurray housing numerous exhibits as well as some of the display material that was originally developed for the Energeum here in Calgary. I have brought along some of the promotional material for the Centre and you can see how well the long history of trying to develop this massive resource has been woven into a very educational palate of public education.

**Preservation Award for 2003:** to **Mr. Dennis Teskey** of Turner Valley. I have known Dennis for quite a few years. I first met him when he put on a display of historical Turner Valley artifacts at a CSPG Convention icebreaker about 10 years ago. I recall his contagious enthusiasm as he described the various pieces of equipment and other items of interest that he had brought along. We next met several times at his house just north of Turner Valley – on the site of what was formerly referred to as Whiskey Row. This was in the course of bringing field trips through the Valley. Dennis had many of the items laid out in his yard and was eager to explain their sources and functions to the group. I recall hand-made toy cars from the Depression and various tools from around the leases. At that time he also had a huge drilling rig built out of lumber in his yard with an assortment of drilling tools to accompany it. Both were mockups. Dennis had been employed by a movie company that was filming a story called “You Know My Name” involving some old style cable tool rigs and needed an expert to assist in the construction. Dennis was the man – and as a part of his compensation was able to snag one of the rigs for himself. My last meeting with Dennis was not so upbeat. After waiting many years for the government to progress its plans for an interpretive centre, and personally facing a move, Dennis chose to auction off these treasured items. I attended the auction – there was a ton of stuff – and I bought a few pairs of old nailed boots that had been fished out of an old Turner Valley sump. Dennis now lives in the southern suburbs of Turner Valley near the golf course. The purpose of this award is to recognize initiative in historical preservation – even if the end of the story is not quite as we would like.

**Lifetime Achievement Award for 2003:** to **Mr. Frank Dabbs**.

You will recall that Frank received the PHS Book of the Year for 2001 for his “Branded by the Wind – The Life and Times of Bill Herron”. This volume is just one expression of Frank’s broad range of historical interests and his capacity as a writer. The number of articles and columns that he has written about the oilpatch is phenomenal. What makes them significant to this Society is the fact that they almost always involve some historical context for their analysis. Frank has also contributed a number of interesting pieces to our own Archives newsletter and continues to use his contacts in the industry to bring forward speakers.

# BWATP Publisher



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## **Big Wheels Across The Prairie**

*Author Paul M. Rubak*

**Recipient of Petroleum History Society,  
“Book Of The Year” Award, March 23, 2005**

A documentary about Alberta trucking industry founders, the association formed to represent them, the union involved at some of the companies and people that worked in the business, including government officials. All Histories are about Alberta based companies.

The book contains 502 pages and is divided into 5 parts.

### **Part 1**

The history of 22 men and the transport company each of them founded in the years between the 1920's and 1960. Some of these companies are no longer in existence, while others have grown to become major carriers. The companies are from across Alberta including the south, central and northern areas. Pictures of the men and their equipment.

### **Part 2**

This part has very short histories of companies and their founders. It gives the names of the company, the founders name, where they operated to, and what commodities they hauled. What happened to these companies, when known, is also covered.

### **Part 3**

This part is a listing of settlements, villages, towns and cities in Alberta and truckers that served them. The majority of these records came from the files of the Alberta Motor Transport Association.

### **Part 4**

This part is the history of the Alberta Motor Transport Association and the two men that served as managers of the association from its inception in 1939 to 1998. The history of the Teamsters Union Local that served it's members in Alberta is also. covered.

### **Part 5**

This part contains the history of men who worked in the industry through the majority of their working lives. Included is the history of the Honourable Gordon Taylor, past Minister of Highways and Clarence Kenway, the man who developed many of the early regulations and committees that studied truck transport in Canada. Included is a short biography about the author who spent his working life in the trucking industry.

To order a copy or copies of **BIG WHEELS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE** please fill out and mail this page to the address below.

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To: BWATP Publisher  
P.O. Box 36052  
Lakeview Post Office  
Calgary AB., Canada. T3E 7C6

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **Big Wheels Across The Prairie – a history of trucking in Alberta prior to 1960.**

Price Per Book: \$32.71

GST \$2.29

Total \$35.00

Add Shipping and Handling cost as follows:

To Alberta points **\$8.00** per book.

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