



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*October 2009; Volume XX, Number 7*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

**The Oil Scouting Fraternity: "Don't Tell Me How -  
Just Get the Information"**

**A talk by Derry MacFarlane, Oil Scout**

This month the Petroleum History Society will be treated to the recollections of a long time member of the oil scouting world. This vital function in the oil patch enjoyed a particularly important role during the highly competitive years during which the Western Canadian Basin was opened up. Stories of their ingenuity are legend. Many disguises were used to get the job done and to place the critical information into the hands of the employing company. Significant land sales were won and lost as a result of the critical data that was obtained through the inventive approaches used by the scouts.

*Derry MacFarlane was born in Calgary and raised here, as well as in Vancouver, British Columbia. He began work as a draftsman for the Ohio Oil Company in 1952 rising to the position of Chief Draftsman. He then moved as Chief Draftsman to the Skelly Oil Company in 1957, while at the same time taking on the role of oil scout after 1962. MacFarlane moved to the Atlantic Richfield Company in 1969 as District Oil Scout, a position he held until 1975. Since that time he has been self-employed as a landman with Dermac Resources. During his years as a scout he was president of both the Canadian Oil Scouts Association (COSA) and of the International Oil Scouts Association (IOSA). He published his memoirs of growing up and work in the oilpatch in "Mr. Mac's Memories of an East-End Kid", [Calgary: 1998]. Derry has also enjoyed other pursuits including municipal politics and hockey.*

**TIME:** 12 noon, Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

**PLACE:** Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Cardium Room

**COST:** Members \$30.00 and Guests \$35.00 (most welcome) (cash or cheque only)

**R.S.V.P. if you wish to attend to: Clint Tippett, 403-691-4274 or  
[clinton.tippett@shell.com](mailto:clinton.tippett@shell.com) by noon, Monday, October 19**

**Individuals who indicate that they will be attending but do not materialize will be considered "no shows" and will be invoiced for the cost of the luncheon. Individuals who do not R.S.V.P. cannot be assured of seating.**