



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

November 2009; Volume XX, Number 8

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, November 25, 2009

Bringing to Rest an Industry Icon: The Dingman #2 Well, Turner Valley

A talk by Kary Cuthill, Engineer and Abandonment Specialist

This historical account reviews the incredibly significant discovery of the Turner Valley Oil and Gas Field through the eyes of a young risk taker named Archibald Dingman, and the many successors who worked tirelessly to bring Canada's first gas field to commercial success. Following the discovery of wet gas in the Cretaceous section in Dingman #1 in 1914, a stepout well was drilled just to the west. When Royalite took over the operations of Calgary Petroleum Products in 1921, this well became Royalite #2. Over the years the condition of the wellbore deteriorated. Small amounts of gas seeped to the surface on the adjacent riverbank where it was kept burning for safety reasons. This oft-visited site was commonly mistaken for Hell's Half Acre. Recent attempts (unsuccessful in both 1949 and 1981 and successful in 2009) to abandon the Dingman #2 well are a living part of history and provide a modern day context and interesting final chapter of the story for this important well.

Kary Cuthill, P.Eng., M.B.A. is President of Lionhead Engineering, a division of CCS Corporation. Kary has twenty-one years of oil gas professional engineering and management experience. Prior to joining Lionhead as a project engineer in 1995, Kary spent eight years with Amoco Canada Petroleum Company in various production and gas processing engineering positions in Canada and the United States. Kary has a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alberta, and an M.B.A. from the University of Houston. Kary is an active member of APEGGA and SPE.

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, November 25, 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 by noon, Monday, November 23**

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.



Dingman (Royalite) #2 at Turner Valley – drilled in approx. 1915 (above) and during final abandonment in 2009 (below). Photos courtesy of Glenbow Museum and Archives (NA-2335-5, above) and Jon Noad, Shell Canada (below)

