



**PETROLEUM
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

May 2011; Volume XXII, Number 3

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Seismic Goes Digital

by Roy Lindseth, Geophysicist

The seismic reflection method was first proven for oil finding in about 1925. Almost immediately, Amerada Petroleum recognized the value of the method, set up a new research subsidiary, and had the original developers operate it. For one reason or another, the method was not widely used before 1930, when the group left Amerada to open Geophysical Services Incorporated; an independent service company. Many competitors soon followed. Herbert Hoover Jr., the son of US President Hoover, was one. Even so, basic seismic operations and technology essentially remained unchanged for about 30 years until analog magnetic tape recording came along. But that was only an intermediate step compared to the major advance of computers and digital signal processing. Sometimes digital signal processing seemingly worked magic to improve sub-surface imaging. This brief review will attempt to follow the introduction and workings of some of the major improvements in seismic techniques that have occurred over the past 50 years or so.

Roy Oliver Lindseth is known internationally for his contributions to the science of petroleum exploration and development. He pioneered in digital seismic signal processing (DSSP) and invented Seismic Trace Inversion. In 1971, he founded the precursor to Teknica Corporation, a Calgary based petroleum service bureau that from time to time operated in 140 countries and installed primary digital software systems in 50. Roy's many awards include Member of the Order of Canada and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Roy also holds the Maurice Ewing Gold Medal, the Virgil Kauffman Gold Medal and the J. Tuzo Wilson Medal.

TIME: 12 noon, Wednesday, May 4, 2011.
PLACE: Calgary Petroleum Club, 319 – 5th Avenue S.W. – Viking 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, May 2, 2011, if not sooner.**

**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. by the deadline cannot be assured of seating.

THE PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY
THE BULL WHEEL



Next Luncheons: Following the May 4 luncheon, our next event is the last luncheon of the Spring program on June 15. Our speaker will be Eric Newell, a prominent industry-related figure and one of our key supporters for the Oil Sands Oral History Project. For subsequent luncheons we are always seeking speakers and interesting subjects. If you are considering making a presentation, please contact Clint Tippett, President P.H.S., at 403-691-4274.

Canadian Centre for Energy Information: 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. Please see 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

Community Spirit Grant: P.H.S. Treasurer Micky Gulless has informed us that the P.H.S. was successful in its application to the Alberta Government program for a partial matching grant based upon the donations that were made to the Society over the 2008-2009 period. The grant is for \$1215. Thanks very much to our generous donors whose contributions made this possible and, in particular, to Micky for identifying this opportunity and for pursuing the application process. The Board will shortly decide on the final disposition of these funds.

Petroleum Accountants Calendar: P.H.S. Member and Award winner Randal Kabatoff has asked us to see if there are any members of the Society or their networks who are petroleum accountants that might be familiar with the workings of the industry in the 1950’s and early 1960’s. Randal has selected this topic as the subject for an upcoming historical calendar and would like to get in touch as soon as possible with possible sources to pursue this research. Randal can be reached at info@soulofcanada.com

Petroleum History Institute – Call for Papers: The P.H.I. is holding its annual conference in Marietta, Ohio on June 23-25, 2011. The focus this year is on the history of the oil and gas industry in the Ohio-West Virginia regions but papers on all topics related to the history of the industry are welcome. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts of their papers for publication in *Oil-Industry History* (“the only peer-reviewed professional journal devoted exclusively to the history of the international oil and gas industry”). See also page 6.

Interesting books related to the industry:

- Joel Achenbach, 2011. A Hole in the Bottom of the Sea – The Race to Kill **the BP Oil Gusher**. Simon and Schuster, 276 p., \$25.
- Petroleum News, 2008. Harnessing a Giant – 40 Years at **Prudhoe Bay**. 131 p., Anchorage Alaska.
- Bill and Marjorie K. Walraven for the Corpus Christi Geological Society, 2011. Wooden Rigs – Iron Men: The Story of Oil and Gas in **South Texas**, 399 p., \$75.
- Gian Battista Vai and W. Glen E. Caldwell, 2006. **The Origins of Geology in Italy**. Geological Society of America Special Paper 411, 223 p. Papers include: David Branagan on “Geology and the artists of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, mainly Florentine”; Nicoletta Morello on “Steno, the fossils, the rocks and the calendar of the rocks”; Ezio Vaccari on “The “classification” of mountains in eighteenth century Italy and the lithostratigraphic theory of Giovanni Arduino (1714-1795)”; Hugh S. Torrens on “The geological work of Gregory Watt, his travels with William Maclure in Italy (1801-1802) and Watt’s “proto-geological” map of Italy (1804)”, and Bruni d’Argenio on “Leopoldo Pilla (1805-1848): A young combatant who lived for geology and died for his country”.

Petroleum Museums: The American Association of Petroleum Geology Foundation Energy Resources Group as established an index to petroleum-related museums in the U.S. It can be found at: foundation.aapg.org/library/museums. Included are the Caddo-Pine Island Oil Museum at Oil City, Louisiana; the California Oil Museum in Santa Paula, California; the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, Pennsylvania; the East Texas Oil Museum in Kilgore, Texas; the Glenn Pool History in Glenpool, Oklahoma; the Kern County Museum – Black Gold: the oil experience at Bakersfield, California; the Rig Museum at Morgan City, Louisiana; the Society of Exploration Geophysicists Virtual Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and the Wood River Refinery History Museum in Roxana, Illinois.

Oil Sands Discovery Centre, Fort McMurray: If you are curious about the oil sands, maybe you should take a trip up to Fort Mac to check out the exhibits there, including many hands-on demonstrations of the equipment and technologies used in this vast enterprise.

Pictures on the Wall: DeMille Technical Bookstore on 6th Avenue in downtown Calgary is a great place to find technical books about the oil and gas industry as well as a few historical volumes. The store also carries a line of framed historical photographs produced by Randal Kabatoff and drawing on several historical collections including the Glenbow Archives (Calgary) and the Provincial Archives (Edmonton). Pick up a triple photo exhibit of Leduc #1 (1947) or of Lineham #1 (Waterton 1902) for \$285.

Archives is published approximately eight times a year by the Petroleum History Society for Society members.

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Back issues are archived on our website at www.petroleumhistory.ca

Contacts: info@petroleumhistory.ca

President: Clint Tippett – clinton.tippett@shell.com 403-691-4274

Secretary: Helen Turgeon – heldon@telus.net 403-239-4863

PHS AGM Keynote Address 2011

Peak What? Recurring Patterns in the Gas Business

By R. W. (Bob) Taylor

Bob Taylor spoke to our Society at our Annual meeting on March 30, 2011. Instead of recounting petroleum history to a group that included several authors on the subject, Mr. Taylor focused on his own experiences in the natural gas industry, current trends and future possibilities.

The following is a summary of his remarks by P.H.S. Director Nathan Hawryluk. Thanks to both Bob and Nathan for this contribution.

For the first fifty years of natural gas production in Alberta, gas tended to be an unwanted by-product. Though town gas, which was produced through coal gasification and the first pipeline from Bow Island to Calgary in 1911, demonstrated that natural gas was useful, it was not highly sought. For example, when Alberta's first gas discovery was made in Langevin, in 1883, Canadian Pacific Railway was drilling for water. Likewise, during oil production from Royalite #4 in Turner Valley, liquids were stripped and gas was flared off (a practice which continued offshore Nigeria until the early 21st century).

Although natural gas use increased in the 1950s, producers did not search for gas. In the 1960s, sour gas plants were built to handle gas from retrograde condensation reservoirs, where gas, including 'make-up' gas, was re-injected to maintain reservoir pressure allowing producers to strip the liquids and sulphur. In the 1970s, the first hydrocarbon miscible floods were conducted at Ante Creek, and later floods were conducted at Swan Hills and elsewhere. It was an era where gas returns were predictable – predictably low.

In 1973 gas became valuable after oil prices jumped. Pan Alberta secured gas contracts at 48 cents/million cubic feet (mcf) and began drilling smaller gas pools just for the gas. This was followed by the discovery and delineation of gas in the Mackenzie Delta, the Deep Basin discoveries, the Berger Report (which delayed the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline), and the disappointing discovery of gas offshore in the Beaufort Sea. A joint industry initiative, the Tight Gas Committee, was created in 1984 to study the extraction of gas from more accessible locations. In the early 1990s, producers jumped in at once, creating not only a bubble, but a 'gas sausage' with contracts at 90 cents/mcf. Scenarios projected a 'Natural Gas Age' where gas would trade at a BTU premium to oil. Renaissance and AEC made drilling a manufacturing process, drilling 100 to 150 wells at once. Producers examined adopting other manufacturing processes such as drilling and delivering gas 'just in time' for market demand. By the turn of the century, seasonal shortages caused prices to spike above \$10/mcf and looming continental shortages led to multiple liquid natural gas import projects on every coastline. Mr. Taylor recounted admonishing oil sands producers to "get off of natural gas" claiming, "By 2050 every molecule of natural gas produced in Alberta will be consumed by the oil sands." The alternative would be to "duke it out" with a housewife in Chicago and I can guarantee that she will win every time!"

The emergence of shale gas has made gas a true 'resource play.' Previously unheard of place names in the U.S. such as the Barnett and Haynesville shale and the Marcellus basin have become household words – at least among industry players and investment bankers. Technology developed in Alberta for the oil sands, such as long horizontal wells, has become

common in North America. In some cases, as many as twenty hydraulic fractures have taken place in 1.5 kilometres. In 2009, the Energy Futures Network studied “Natural Gas Possibilities to 2100” and concluded Canada has 267 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of conventional gas resources and a maximum 845 tcf of unconventional gas and hydrates. Under this projection, Canada's natural gas resources would be largely depleted by 2100. In 2010, using Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas estimates, the Energy Futures Network updated the previous study, predicting a maximum of 1,400 tcf of conventional and unconventional gas resources (plus an additional 300 tcf of hydrates). In that case, Canada can meet its growing needs, export 10 bcf daily until the end of the century and retain 500 tcf of gas resources, without using hydrates. These projections are almost twice as much as the Conventional Natural Gas Resource estimate in 2008.

Thus, once more, we are in an era of “too much gas.” Since gas trades at a 50% price discount to oil on a BTU basis, we may be looking for alternate uses and markets for natural gas, such as natural gas vehicles, replacing coal for power generation and liquid natural gas exports. Perhaps the 'Natural Gas Age' is upon us but it seems like the same old cycle is repeating: **Too much gas; too little price.**

EARLY GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE IN LIBYA 1954-1955

The following is an excerpt from an abstract for a poster session presented at the Annual Convention and Exposition of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Houston in early April 2011. The poster presentation was authored by Weldon G. Frost and Stewart Chuber and was accompanied by an array of interesting early exploration documents and artifacts.

The nation of Libya was formed by United Nations decree on December 24, 1951. Two years later, with the passage of Petroleum Law No. 9, the country, having a population of about 1.5 million, was opened up for exploration. Law No. 9 limited this exploration to surface studies and some reconnaissance geophysical surveys. The existing geological map was at a small scale and had been produced by the Italian professor Ardito Desio during the period of Italian colonization between 1908 and 1943.

The first geological parties arrived in February 1954. The authors were two of the four first geologists. The early work focused on measuring stratigraphic sections in the Gebel Nefusa south of Tripoli, along the coast and around the Cretaceous inliers of the Gebel Akhdar east of Benghazi. Then, using Land Rovers and Dodge Power Wagon trucks loaded with gasoline, water and supplies, survey trips of up to three to four weeks at a time were made into the unmapped desert to sample rocks and to verify the geological map. Traverse locations over the huge unmapped areas of the Libyan Sahara was provided by magnetic compass or sun compass and odometer readings of the vehicles, with occasional theodolite fixes on the stars. Mine fields and isolated land mines, both mapped and unmapped, had been left over from World War II and were a distinct hazard near the coast. Using the data provided by these reconnaissance trips, applications for Concessions were submitted in September 1955 under the terms of Petroleum Law No. 25 of April 1955. It is worth noting that the country was later explored and developed during the late 1950's and 1960's for the most part under the terms of this law – in the days of \$2.85 to \$3.15/barrel oil – because the Law assured the opportunity, prior to nationalization (1971-1973) for the companies to share profits equally with the government. Production had reached 3 million barrels/day by the end of the 1960's.

OIL-INDUSTRY HISTORY

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This annual publication of the U.S.-based Petroleum History Institute is compiled from the papers presented at their annual conference. Members will recall our joint activities with them in 2008 in the Sarnia-Oil Springs-Petrolia area of Ontario marking the 150th anniversary of the discovery of oil in that region. Membership is \$40 US per year. Back issues and lifetime memberships are available. The papers are generally well-researched (another petroleum joke).

PASSINGS

BOYLE. Patricia Boyle died on Saturday, April 2, 2011 in Victoria, B.C. Pat was born in Guelph in 1941 and lived in London, Ontario; London, England; Saskatoon and Calgary before coming to the west coast. It was during a brief and lucky stop in Newfoundland that she met her beloved husband of thirty years, Neil. Their travels together to six continents, gardening and many games of scrabble were part of a deep love that began from the moment they met. Pat was a true renaissance woman. She lectured at the University of Western Ontario in Geography, worked as a writer and editor in the oil patch, was a Calgary School Board Trustee and later, Advisor to the Calgary School Board on Gender Issues. She was a strong feminist role model for all the women in her life - and the men, too, including her two sons. She was particularly proud of her role in ending corporal punishment in the Calgary School Board, her work with male primary school teachers, and the work she did for gay and lesbian students. In Victoria, she dedicated herself to becoming a native plant gardener with special interests in Garry Oak ecosystems. She was proud to help naturalize the woodlands at Government House, which she coordinated with many other volunteers. She received the Acorn Award in 2009 from the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team. She loved many things, including her friends, books, cryptic crosswords, Canadian art, Scrabble, birding, travel, hiking in the Rockies (particularly Lake O'Hara), politics, and people. She had an amazing ability to bring out the beauty around her, in her relationships with people, gardens, and homes that she lived in. *Note: Pat Boyle was involved in the founding of the Petroleum History Society in the 1980's and continued as a member into the 1990's.*

FUENNING. Paul Fuenning passed away on February 6, 2011 at the age of 92. Paul was born in Fort Morgan, Colorado. He graduated with a Masters in Geology from the University of Nebraska and then joined the U.S. Navy in 1941. At the end of the war he joined several fellow Navy geologists at Geophoto Services, applying the aerial photo technology they had used in the Navy to locate oil and gas. Geophoto brought him to the Alberta where he met and married his wife Rey and settled down to make Calgary his home. Paul stayed involved with his profession his entire life through the C.S.P.G., A.A.P.G. and the Oilmen's. *Note: Paul was also a long time member of the Petroleum History Society.*

COADY. Bernie Coady passed away on August 29, 2010 at the age of 76. He was born in Cardston, Alberta and attended the Colorado School of Mines, earning a degree in Chemical Engineering. He started his career in Calgary as a process engineer with Shell Canada Ltd. and then followed with Petrofina Canada. In 1966, Bernie founded Delta Projects Ltd., the first Calgary headquartered company to provide engineering, procurement and construction services to the hydrocarbon processing industry in Western Canada. Delta Projects Ltd. expanded and became Delta Catalytic Corporation where Bernie was Chairman and C.E.O. for ten years with operations throughout Canada and internationally. Bernie retired in 1997 having participated directly in the development of the Canadian natural gas processing, petrochemical and heavy oil recovery industries during his forty-three years in engineering and construction. In 1988, Bernie was recognized by the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta with the Centennial Award, the Association's highest honour and with the Pinnacle Award for outstanding business leadership in Calgary. He was also honoured by the Colorado School of Mines in 1993 with their Distinguished Achievement Medal. In 2010 the Gas Processing Association Canada awarded him with its Outstanding Achievement Award. Beyond these and many more significant career accomplishments, Bernie was an inspirational philanthropist and had a magnificent passion for life. He generously shared his love for the arts, culture, history, politics, horticulture, travel, and sports with anyone who would listen. It was hard to be untouched by his contagious enthusiasm.

OIL SCOUTS

This is the third and final installment of the presentation on “The Oil Scouts Fraternity: “Don’t Tell Me How – Just Get The Information” that was presented to the Society by Derry MacFarlane on October 21, 2009. Thanks to again to Derry and Doug Cass.

The second story, when ended, actually resulted in a huge change in the wellsite laws on **trespassing rights**. A **Goose River** area hole being drilled by **British American (Gulf)** was the target. I had scouted an **Imperial** abandoned site two miles north and thought this would be a good camp site to work from and could be accessed by the old road clearing. The only road into the B.A. site was **chained** about four miles from the rig and manned by a Commissionaire.

It was late spring the muskeg was thawing and it had been pouring for over a week. After driving to the old road site I quickly realized it was impassible and started back to my **Valleyview** hotel room. The slickness of the mud gave me trouble and I went off the road, down the embankment and eventually halted when the muck and mud had piled up in front **enough to stop my motion**. I wound the window down, looked out and realized that I was about **six feet from a cliff edge** into a **ravine**.

I knew I had to get out but when I tried to push the mud from the door the car moved forward **about two feet**. I thought of the window but was afraid to move. About twenty minutes later two young guys came down to the now opened window and **offered to get me out**. Their truck had a **winch** on it and they slogged up and down through the muck, hooked up the winch and slowly pulled me up onto the road.

I told them I had been out looking for **deer**. They roared and stated that the **only game around that area were Oil Scouts**. I thanked them and away they went. My small truck wouldn't start. I lifted the hood and the **engine was completely encased in mud**. I sat there for some time **hoping a rig vehicle would come by**, but it never happened.

Two hours later a vehicle came from the **Valleyview** direction. When the men got out two of them were scouts that I knew, **Ralph from C & E Exp.** and **Bob from Triad**. The third fellow **Laurie** was a rookie geologist from Triad on a **“get some field knowledge trip”**. They were planning to **scout the B.A. rig**. I suggested we go to **Valleyview**, partner up and jointly attack the target.

My vehicle was hooked to a tow rope and we headed for our motel. My rental was put on a flat deck truck and sent to Edmonton. I convinced them that **vehicle travel was not a choice**. What we planned was that **Bob take all of our gear in by helicopter** to the old **Imperial site** and we three would come in on the old cut-line road. **Ralph** had a small version of a motor bike with a chain driven back wheel that he was going to use. **Laurie and I decided to rent horses** at a **wranglers** ranch we had noticed.

Early in the morning **Bob waited for the chopper**, while we headed for the ranch with **Ralph's machine** in the back. I convinced the cowboy that I was terrified of horses so he picked a **small pony for me** and a huge red horse for Laurie and away we went on a **ten mile trek**.

As we were leaving I **was cautioned** that if the little horse put his ears back he probably smelt a **bear or cougar and to hang on**. That horse **knocked me** off four **times in seven miles**. Laurie

kept bringing him back. I finally tied him to a tree and walked the last three miles. **Ralph's cycle went out of sight in a muskeg** about four miles into the journey.

When we arrived at the site **Bob had it all set up**, the kettle was boiling and a toddy was served. I said that I would like to scout first in order to give me time to go back to **Valleyview as Skelly** wanted daily reports. I am **sure my bosses never had a clue of the northern terrain**. Jack was from **Midland and Gene was from Tulsa** and neither of them had been **north of Edmonton**.

Bob suggested that **Laurie go with me** then he also could return to the hotel and report to Triad. It was agreed that we take the day shift and **Bob and Ralph would go down at night**. Laurie and I tramped the two miles sat for a five hours, watched them trip out and we got a stand count. We walked back to the tent had a refreshment and left for town.

Early the next morning we started back in, arriving at the tent about **eleven o'clock**. The **tent was closed and a note was pinned on the entrance**. The note read "**Bob and Ralph are being held at our rig - don't come near**". **Phil Rand**. We had a laugh and went inside. While sipping my drink I picked the note back up and looked closer. I was President of the **C.O.S.A.** at that time and **Phil was Treasurer**. As I studied the signature on the note I soon realized it **truly was Phil's**. Laurie and I immediately headed back to **Valleyview** going directly to the **R.C.M.P.**

The Mounties radio-ed the rig and the rig admitted that the **two scouts were their guests**. I told the **Mountie** that I would go in with a **helicopter and bring them out**. I arranged for a **chopper to pick me up at a fire tower** and I headed for the tower. After arriving at the tower I radio phoned the rig and told them I was **coming in to pick the guys up**. The response to that was if you come in here "**we will knock you out of the sky**".

I called the **Mounties**. **They called the rig back and told them that if the boys** weren't out to their gate in **fifteen minutes** he would be coming in and **charging them with kidnapping**. I cancelled the chopper and headed for the gate. **A crew cab came up the road** and the guys and four rig hands got out to get rid of some water. **Bob sidled over to me and whispered that they had an oil discovery**. I called Calgary, but nothing could be done as it was two hours before sale closing time in Edmonton and our offer had been submitted

I found out later what had happened. When **Bob and Ralph** arrived at the site two other scouts, **Jim Seymour and Len Messier**, had arrived on horses with a wrangler from **Fox Creek**. While standing in the dark woods around **ten o'clock** they were **ambushed** by a crew of rig hands and fled in all directions. **Bob** was less than a week from having had a **cast removed** from his leg and couldn't run so he **lay down next to a log**. When the **marauders were returning** to the rig one **accidentally stepped on Bob**. **Ralph was grabbed when he went back to find Bob**. The two of them were locked in a tool shed until released.

I believe the outcome eventually was a court case. One of the factors of the court decision I think was a huge factor in the changing of the trespassing laws. Prior to the changes trespassing areas consisted of the whole of the mineral lease area. Not long after this incident the rulings were altered. I believe it went **from anywhere on the leased land to a flagged area of one acre**. This was certainly much more beneficial for the "**Industrial Spies**".

A sincere thank you for the invitation , it was my pleasure to speak to you.

The following awards were presented at the Annual Meeting on March 30, 2011.
Congratulations to all the award winners and participants.

BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2010

TO: JOHN McQUARRIE

FOR: "THE ALBERTA OIL PATCH – THEN AND NOW"

PUBLISHED BY MAGIC LIGHT PUBLISHING AND JOHN McQUARRIE PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2010

TO: ERIK LIZÉE

FOR: BETRAYED: LEDUC, MANNING, AND SURFACE RIGHTS IN ALBERTA, 1947-1955"

**PUBLISHED IN PRAIRIE FORUM,
SPRING 2010, Vol.35, NO.1, PP. 77-100**

MULTIMEDIA AWARD FOR 2010

TO: GASOLINE ALLEY MUSEUM, HERITAGE PARK HISTORICAL VILLAGE

**FOR: THE CREATION OF
A WORLD CLASS FACILITY FEATURING
THE HISTORY OF
THE CANADIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**

PRESERVATION AWARD FOR 2010

TO: PIXCOM GROUP AND DISCOVERY CHANNEL

**FOR: CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF THE
CANADIAN UPSTREAM DRILLING INDUSTRY
IN THE DOCUMENTARY SERIES
"LICENCE TO DRILL"**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2010

TO: PETER MCKENZIE-BROWN

**FOR: EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION
AND COMMUNICATION RELATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE
CANADIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**