



**PETROLEUM  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**ARCHIVES**

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*May 2013; Volume XXIV, Number 4*

**P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, May 1, 2013**

**Oil, Uncertainty and Gasoline Prices**

**by Karen Chang, Winner of the 2012 P.H.S. Scholarship at the U. of C.**

There is a common belief that gasoline prices respond faster and by more to positive oil price shocks than to negative ones, which is referred as an asymmetric relationship between gasoline prices and oil prices. In the study that Karen undertook, both the effect of oil price uncertainty on gasoline prices and the relationship between gasoline and crude oil prices were investigated. Karen used monthly data for the United States, over the period from January 1976 to January 2013 and found that oil price uncertainty has a positive effect on gasoline price changes and that there is indeed an asymmetric relationship between crude oil and gasoline prices. The results are robust to alternative measures of the price of oil and alternative model specifications. **Please come out and support our winner.**

*Dongfeng (Karen) Chang is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Calgary. She is also a member of American Economic Association, Canadian Economics Association, Chinese Economists Society, Economics Society of Calgary, and Beta Gamma Sigma. Karen's research interests are in the areas of econometrics, energy economics and monetary economics. Specifically, her research deals with long term macroeconomic issues with emphasis on consumer demand, fiscal and monetary policy and related econometric methods. Karen's publications have appeared in the Economics Letters and Journal of Applied Econometrics. Before coming to Calgary, Karen obtained her Bachelor's degree in Economics (Honors) from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and a Master's degree in Economics from Carleton University in Ottawa. Besides doing research, Karen enjoys spending time in the mountains around Calgary, photography and movies.*

**TIME:** 12 noon, Wednesday, May 1, 2013.  
**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: Micky Gulless, 403-283-9268 or [micky@fuzzylogic.ca](mailto:micky@fuzzylogic.ca) by noon, Monday, April 29, 2013, 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:** Our luncheon slate is wide open for this coming Fall. 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.

**Publications Available at Luncheons:** Director Neil Leeson has undertaken to promote the important work that members of the P.H.S. have done to document the history of the petroleum industry through the publication of books. A variety of oilpatch classics authored by P.H.S. members will be in display at our luncheons - with free copies to all attendees.

**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](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)

**Book Signings:** P.H.S. Member Terry Steinkey of Maptown in downtown Calgary has advised us of three petroleum-related book signings scheduled for his store during May, specifically May 16 – Rick George (book: Sun Rise); May 23 – Sanjay Patel (book: The Future of Oil); May 30 – Joyce Hunt (book: Local Push – Global Pull). All are welcome. Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change so maybe call ahead to confirm. Maptown’s address is 100 – 400 5 Avenue S.W., Calgary. Call 403-266-2241.

**Corb Lund Exhibit at the Glenbow:** Advertised as “Inspired by his music, framed by his interest in Alberta’s history and drawn by his family’s, and the Glenbow’s, collections of art, artifacts and historical imagery, songwriter Corb Lund has curated a unique exhibition that brings new twists to established Alberta themes”. Runs only until April 28 so hurry down and don’t miss it. Corb Lund and his band won the P.H.S. Multimedia Award several years ago for the video that they produced for their song “Roughest Neck Around” that was filmed at the Leduc-Devon Centre.

**Claiming credit:** A feature appeared on April 1 on the CBC website in which Dan Themig of Calgary-based Packers Plus described the technological breakthrough that has set the stage for how hydraulic fracturing is now being applied to the global energy industry. Well done!

## Treasures:

One often thinks that significant vestiges of the past can only be found in museums but it seems that with some knowledge of where to look and some perseverance, there are gems to be found out there that have historical significance. Amongst recent finds now in your editor's collection are:

Beerstecher, E. Jr. 1954. Petroleum Microbiology – An Introduction to Microbiological Petroleum Engineering. [Book] Inscribed as being "From the Library of C. Warren Hunt". *Hunt sparked a major controversy in the 1980's and 1990's with his theory about the a-biological origins of petroleum. Indeed this laid the basis for the famous well drilled up near Fort McMurray by promoter Larry Ryckman to probe the petroleum potential of the Precambrian crystalline basement. An ironic book for Hunt to have had in his collection.*

Meyerhoff, A.A. and Meyerhoff, H.A. 1974. Tests of Plate Tectonics. Reprint from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, autographed by A.A. Meyerhoff. *The Meyerhoffs were amongst the most prominent skeptics of and vehement opponents to the now commonly accepted theories of continental drift and plate tectonics.*

Annual report for 1959 from Trans-Canada Pipelines. *Brings back memories of the fall of the federal Liberal government in 1958 as related to their financial support of this critical piece of Canadian infrastructure. Makes one realize why more recent governments have not stepped up to the plate for initiatives like the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Northern Gateway Project which are arguable just as important for Canada's energy future as the Trans-Canada Pipeline was.*

Serry Hunt, T. 1870. Report on the Goderich Salt Region. From the General Report of the Geological Survey of the Dominion of Canada for 1867-1869 and addressed to Sir William Logan. Printed by Dawson Bros. Montreal.

Serry Hunt, T. 1883. The decay of rocks geologically considered. Reprint from the American Journal of Science. Autographed as being from the Library of Robert Bell.

Serry Hunt, T. 1890. The Geological History of the Quebec Group. Reprint from the American Geologist. Autographed as being from the Library of Robert Bell.

Bell, Robert 1907. The Tar-Sands of the Athabasca River, Canada. Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Serry Hunt was one of the foremost scientists of the Geological Survey of Canada and was an adherent to the theory of the volcanic origin of petroleum. Robert Bell became Director General of the G.S.C. Both individuals are well profiled in Morris Zaslowsky's book "Reading the Rocks".

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

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Secretary: Helen Turgeon – [helen1954.rt@gmail.com](mailto:helen1954.rt@gmail.com) 403-239-4863

## PASSINGS

**Don Redman**, May 7, 1918 - April 14, 2013. Don was born in 1918 in Ottawa, Ontario, while his father served as a Member of Parliament, and became a Calgarian in 1919, when his parents returned home. Calgary remained Don's home for the duration of his life. Don's entire career was spent in the oil and gas industry, which he loved, and through which he made many life-long friends. He worked summers in the Turner Valley oil fields, while attending the University of Alberta, attaining his degree in Mining Engineering. Upon graduating, Don was the first Canadian Engineer to be hired by California Standard (now Chevron). He later worked for Central Del-Rio, before finishing his career as a Vice President and Director with Sulpetro. Throughout his retirement, Don continued to be active in the oil and gas business through his own company, Audon Resources, which will be carried on by his family. Don was an avid bird hunter and fisherman, always happiest outdoors. He loved his log cabin in Bragg Creek, and spent many happy years chopping wood, hammering nails, wandering the river and passing on his love and appreciation of nature to his children and grandchildren. Don highly valued relationships in his life, and friends once made, lasted a lifetime. Throughout the years, regardless of his own circumstances, Don was always more than happy and willing to reach out and help anyone who needed it. *Don was one of the earliest members of the Petroleum History Society. He once gave us a very entertaining talk about the experience that he had in the oilfields of Turner Valley in the 1930's where he had to wrestle with the oil-gas separator on a highly prolific oilwell.*

**Gus Van Wielingen**, November 18, 1920 - April 1, 2013. Gus Andre Van Wielingen was born on November 18, 1920, in Stockholm Sweden. Gus was raised in Amsterdam and attended the University of Amsterdam, where he completed a degree in Chemical Engineering. Gus's life was interrupted and heavily impacted by the Nazi invasion and occupation of the Netherlands and the onset of World War II. Gus was active in the Dutch resistance and experienced first-hand the distress and horrors associated with the war in Europe. After the war, in June of 1945, he formally entered the Royal Netherlands Forces in South Sumatra, Indonesia. In November of 1947, in Indonesia, he joined N.V. Standard-Vacuum Petroleum as an engineer, which was the beginning of what became a long and distinguished career in the oil and gas industry. In 1951, Gus and his new wife immigrated to Canada, with two very young children, Margaret and Robert, and with extremely limited financial resources. They settled in Calgary where Gus foresaw great change and opportunity in the energy sector. Gus's first job was with Canadian Gulf Oil Company. He subsequently worked for Sproule & Associates as a reservoir engineer. In the early 1970s, Gus demonstrated his own entrepreneurial passion through the creation of Sulpetro, which grew to significant prominence, and again late in his career with the creation of Nugas. In all his entrepreneurial and business activities Gus consistently demonstrated a "can do" attitude.

**Grey Austin** passed way in Calgary on January 28, 2013 at the age of 91 years. Born in Bridgetown, Barbados, Grey had many fond memories of growing up outdoors in this lovely island environment. Grey was a graduate of Harrison College and studied Classics for one year at Codrington College, Barbados. He joined the Royal Navy on December 7, 1941 and received his first commission as a sub-Lieutenant. He became a full Lieutenant and served as a Navigator on several ships involved in anti-submarine tactics. After the war, his desire to see more of the world brought him to Montreal, where he received his B.Sc. in Geology from McGill University in 1949. His love of adventure brought him West. After working as an exploration geologist for Mobil Oil, he left the corporate world in 1968, founding his own company, Austin Exploration. Starting his own company was amongst the best decisions of his life. He took enormous pleasure in a long and successful career. *Grey was a member of the P.H.S. and we recall his attendance at our meetings and his comradeship with fellow Navy man and Mobil alumni, Don Axford.*

**P.H.S. BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2012**

**TO: ARNE NIELSEN**

**FOR: "WE GAMBLLED EVERYTHING: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AN OILMAN"**  
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS

**P.H.S. ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2012**

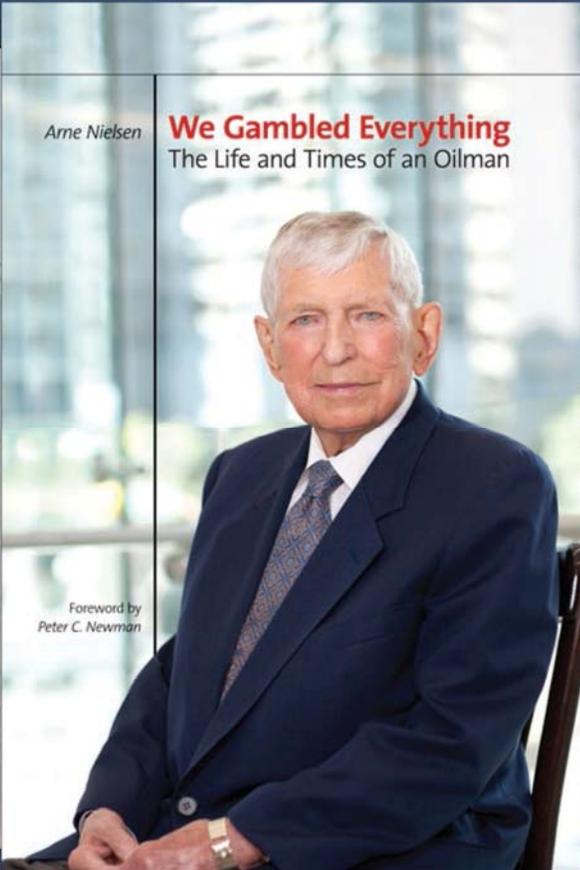
**TO: PAUL CHASTKO**

**FOR: "ANONYMITY AND AMBIVALENCE: THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN  
OIL INDUSTRIES AND THE EMERGENCE OF CONTINENTAL OIL"**  
PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY,  
VOLUME 99, NO. 1, PP. 166-176

**P.H.S. PRESERVATION AWARD FOR 2012**

**TO: THE NORMAN WELLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FOR: YOUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF  
THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN THE NORMAN WELLS REGION,  
INCLUDING THE CANOL PIPELINE AND TRAIL, THROUGH YOUR EXHIBITS AND  
RESEARCH SUPPORT AT THE NORMAN WELLS HISTORICAL CENTRE**



Arne Nielsen

**We Gambled Everything**  
The Life and Times of an Oilman

Foreword by  
Peter C. Newman

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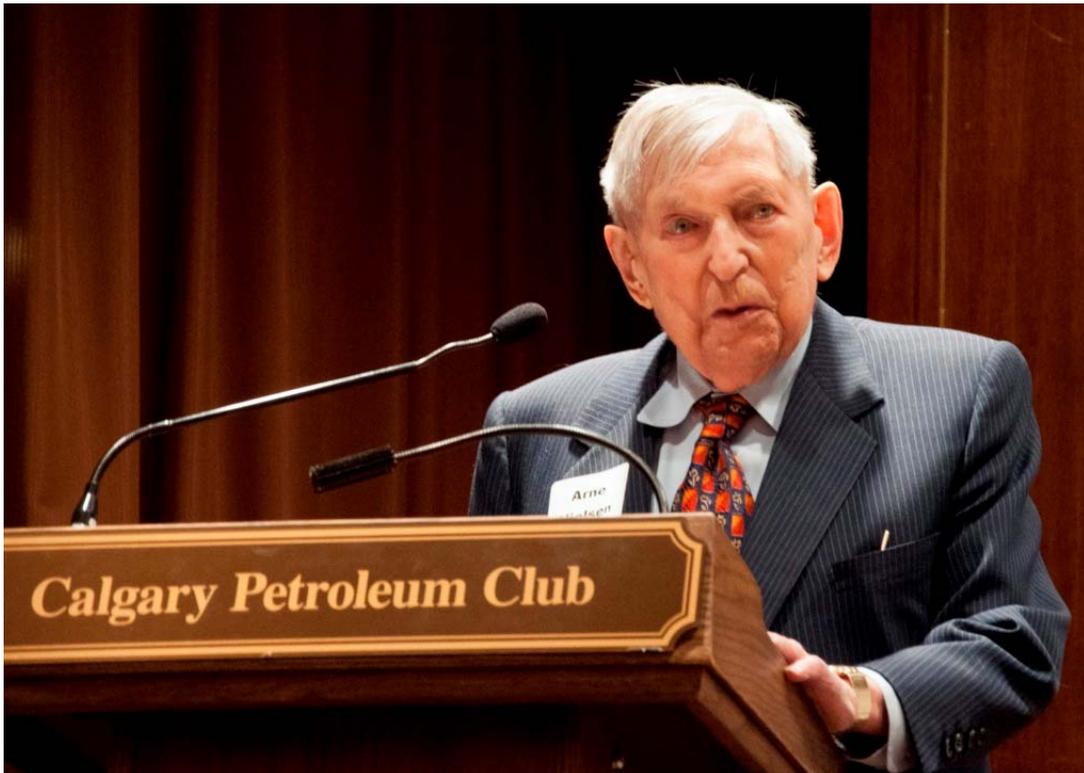
**We Gambled Everything**  
The Life and Times of an Oilman  
Arne Nielsen  
Peter C. Newman, Foreword

"Arne – everyone refers to him by his first name – is lucid, insightful and passionate. A member of the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame, his lively anecdotes and candid assessments of the many battles he survived fill his biography."  
David Finch, *Calgary Herald*

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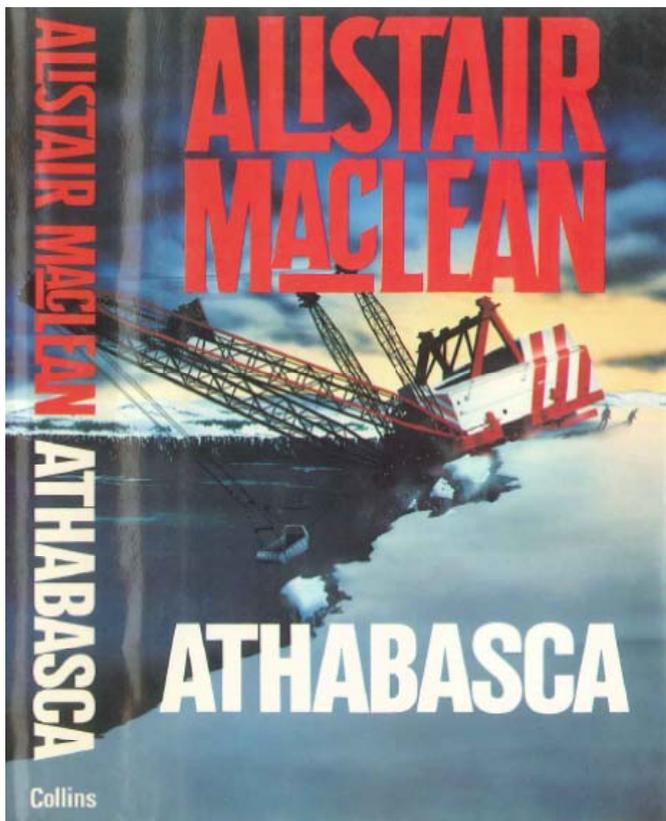


P.H.S. Annual Meeting - March 27, 2013. Photo captions: Upper - (L-R): Director Nathan Hawryluk accepting the P.H.S. Article of the Year Award for 2012 on behalf of Paul Chastko; Arne Nielsen, winner of the P.H.S. Book of the Year Award for 2012; Keynote Speaker David Finch; P.H.S. President Clint Tippet; Sarah Colbeck accepting the P.H.S. Preservation Award for 2012 on behalf of the Norman Wells Historical Society. Lower - Arne Nielsen accepting his award.

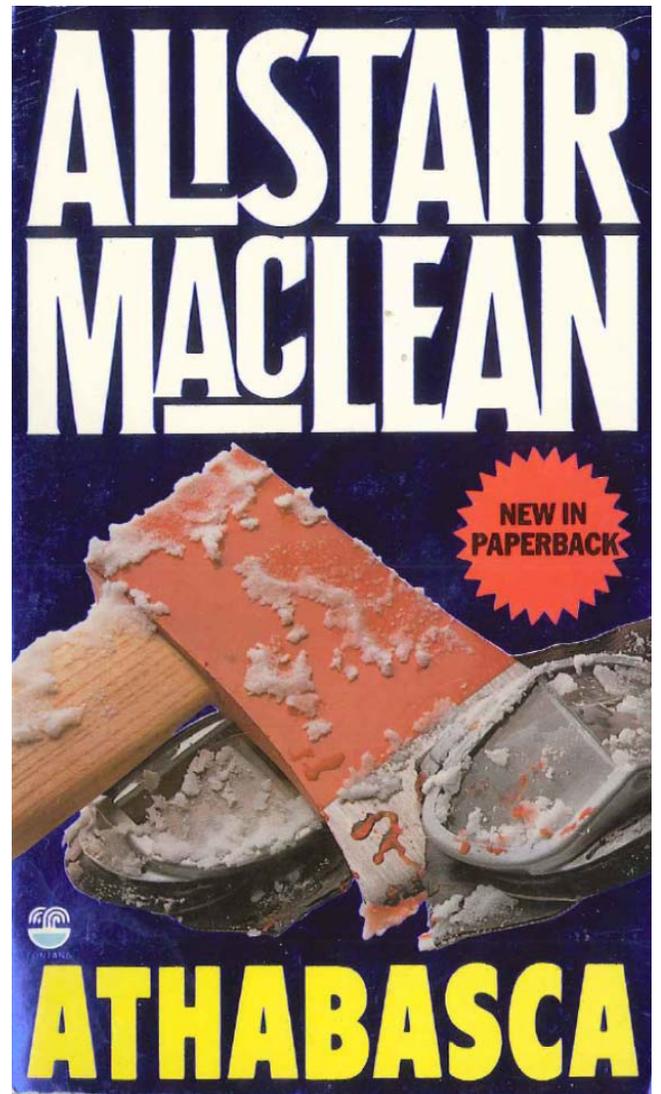


Norman Wells Historical Centre – Museum, Gift Shop and Resource Centre, Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, run by the Norman Wells Historical Society. Photographs courtesy of Sarah Colbeck, Manager. Top – Welcome to the Sahtu Region. Bottom – trucks salvaged from the 1940's Canol Pipeline Project. Next page, Top – Resource Centre. Bottom – Historical artifacts from the Norman Wells area including drilling equipment, geological materials and displays of many types of its natural history and industrial legacy. Please go to [www.normanwellsmuseum.com](http://www.normanwellsmuseum.com) for more information.





*Alistair MacLean at the tar sands.*  
 Photograph by Peter Snell



Two of the biggest oilfields in the world, one in Alaska, the other in Canada, are simultaneously threatened with sabotage. The oil flow could be interrupted in any one of thousands of places down the trans-Alaskan pipeline. The Canadian field, in the tar sands of Athabasca, has an unguardable fourteen mile perimeter. More than one million barrels of oil a day are at risk. The security teams can only hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

The oil companies' best hope lies with Texan Jim Brady and his team of industrial troubleshooters, hastily summoned from warmer climes to Arctic winter of sometimes 60 degrees below zero.

Into this ice-bound hell inexplicable chaos and violence suddenly strike. One of the pump stations on the pipeline is wrecked by an explosion and two engineers are found shot dead. Hours later the field operations manager vanishes. In the Athabasca field, a thirty million dollar dragline is ingeniously disabled and two people are kidnapped.

Who are the saboteurs? What are they after? Their motives are a complete mystery, and their targets, unerringly chosen, fall one by one to the deadly handiwork of a hidden enemy.

Petroleum Fiction – This novel was published in the U.K. in 1980 when the oil industry was a top story in many ways.

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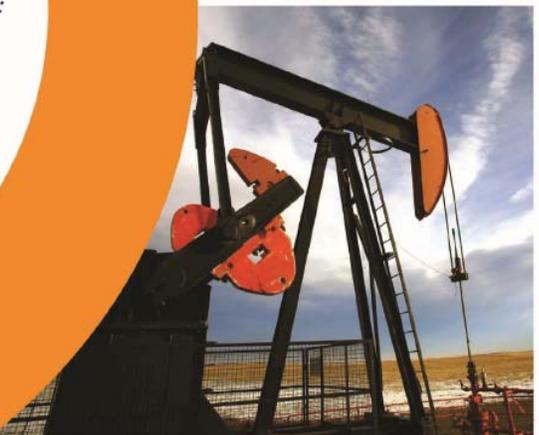
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Come and see the Petroleum History Society Booth. Volunteers needed to assist.