

ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

February 2016; Volume XXVII, Number 2

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2016
**An Exploration Geologist's Adventures in Canada and N.W.T.
between 1950 and 1970**

by R. James (Jim) Kirker, Explorer Extraordinaire

In 2010, after fifty years of oil and gas exploration in Canada, offshore Europe and Australia, Jim Kirker began writing his memoirs to share his adventures, hoping to inspire the next generation of geologists. In this presentation he will discuss the Canadian and N.W.T. components of that story including getting a start at Cominco's lead mine and smelter in Trail, B.C., experience at the giant Sullivan Mine in Kimberly, B.C., camp life in 1951 in the Peace River region, the Simonette days, adventures at Rond Lake, N.W.T., the challenges of drilling on the ice of Great Slave Lake, and how the fish called "Dunvegan" got away. In this talk, Jim will draw on his vast experience in both the technical and the business aspects of exploration.

Please see page 3 for our speaker's bio.

Time: Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Place: Calgary Petroleum Club
319 – 5 Avenue SW, Calgary; Cardium Room (but check marquee)
Business casual dress.
Cost: P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$30 and Guests \$35 (most welcome).
Only cash or cheque at the door. Payment can be made in advance by credit card
or by e-mail. Please advise payment method with reply.
Lunch: Soup, sandwiches and cookies. Gluten-free? Vegan? Advise with reply.

NOTE: Instructions for registering for the Luncheon:

Reply, if you wish to attend, to: Loreen Sherman at 403-289-2292 or
loreen@petroleumhistory.ca by noon, Monday, February 15, if not sooner.

Those who register but do not come, or cancel after the deadline, will be invoiced.

Those who do not register by the deadline may not get a seat.

The Bull Wheel



Call for contributions and speakers: The Petroleum History Society values your input. If you have an article that you'd like to see in *Archives* or if you have a talk that you'd like to give, please be sure to get a hold of us. Contact President Clint Tippett at the address indicated on page 3.

Membership Renewals, Information Verification and Hard Copy *Archives*: Membership renewals for 2016 have either been e-mailed to members or were enclosed with the January issue of *Archives*. Lifetime members are asked to simply verify their membership details. Members are reminded that if you would prefer to receive *Archives* as a hard copy through the mail rather than via e-mail, you can request that on your form, by contacting Micky Gulless at the "contact" address indicated on page 3 or by calling her at 403-283-9268.

Upcoming P.H.S. Events:

March 30, 2016: P.H.S. Annual Meeting featuring keynote speaker Charlie Fairbank discussing the interpretation of petroleum history in southwestern Ontario.

May 4, 2016: Luncheon with Graham Taylor (Trent University) on International Petroleum Ltd., the subsidiary of Imperial Oil that operated in South America, including the parallels in developments with Western Canada.

June 1, 2016: Luncheon with Chris Turner (author) on the use of the P.H.S. Oil Sands Oral History Project records in the Glenbow for the research involved in his forthcoming book on the oil sands.

Free Student Memberships Now Available: The Petroleum History Society offers free membership to full-time students until the end of the year in which they graduate. They will receive the same benefits as regular members - *Archives* newsletters and invitations to our events. Membership applications are available at:

www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/index.htm#join.

Book News: Davis, T. and Resnick-Ault, J. 2016. Hess – The Last Oil Baron. Bloomberg Press. 278 p., hardcover. \$41.95. Includes some information on the Amerada-Hess deal. **Gow, B.A. 2012.** Early Developments in the Canadian Gas Processing industry: The Turner Valley Example. Chapter 12 in: History of the Prairie West Series, Marchildon, G.P. (ed.). Vol. 4: Business and Industry. University of Regina and Canadian Plains Research Centre Press, pp. 265-290, \$59.95. **Hanan, Z. 2001.** Heading for Home. Dundurn Press. 200 p. About her fight with Imperial Oil at the Quirk Creek gas plant. Some free copies available – advise with luncheon response and your copy will be brought to the luncheon for pickup.

Luncheon Details:

Biography: Jim Kirker graduated from U.B.C. in Geology in 1950 and began working for Rio Bravo, an affiliate of the Canadian Superior Oil Company, as a computer (not the kind we know today). His career of 30 years was bookended by his last position as Canada Northwest Energy's (Sherritt's) International Exploration Manager.

Jim was the President of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists in 1960 and was awarded honorary membership in 1981. In 1992 he received the C.S.P.G.'s highest award, the Stanley Slipper Award, for his many contributions, including the exploration and discovery of the Simonette oil field when he worked for Western Decalta / Pembina Resources. In the late 1960's he conceived and organized the first seismic program and the drilling of three wells on Great Slave Lake. Later he was responsible for the drilling of a remote wildcat well in the Yukon Territory that required the building of 180 km of winter road to bring in the drilling rig from Fort Good Hope in the N.W.T. In the early 1970's while working for Canada Northwest Energy, he convinced the Company to explore offshore Europe leading to the discovery of the Columba Oil Field in the North Sea, the Casablanca Oil Field in the Mediterranean in offshore Spain and the Vega Oil Field in offshore Italy.

Foreign Ownership in the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry: Many of our readers will recall F.I.R.A. – the Foreign Investment Review Agency, a branch of the federal Government in the 1970's and 1980's that had a mandate to track foreign ownership in our industrial sector. The need for this information grew out of concern over non-Canadian control. The data was used in the context of initiatives like the National Energy Program that had Canadianization as a major objective. In an article by Andy Blanchford in the Jan. 23 issue of the Calgary Herald, the headline stated "Foreign ownership in energy sector unclear". Apparently the Finance Department has only a "rough estimate" of this parameter. The implication is, despite the caution shown on approving transactions like the CNOOC takeover of Nexen, that substantive "creeping" acquisitions by overseas concerns could ratchet upwards the level of foreign control. Certainly the Federal Government no longer seems to have any goals in this regard and indeed is actively involved in attracting additional foreign investment. This subject also came up during discussions of a more open trade relationship with China with the condition from that country being that this was a possibility but only if there were less restrictions on foreign ownership. As per the article in last month's Archives, there is a risk that assets may be scooped at bargain basement prices and that long term control of industry activities like marketing and strategic investment may be lost.

Editorial Comment: Please note that unless otherwise indicated, all contents of this newsletter have been created or assembled by P.H.S. President and *Archives* Editor Clinton Tippett.

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Contacts: info@petroleumhistory.ca
President: Clint Tippett – clintontippett88@gmail.com 403-208-3543

Call for Nominations – Petroleum History Society Executive and Board: We are currently in the run-up to our Annual Meeting on March 30, an important component of which is the election of our Executive and Board. If you are interested in running for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary or Director, please let Clint or Bill McLellan know as soon as possible. Bill is coordinating this year's cycle – his contact information is on the website. Thanks to him for looking after this for the Society.

Call for Nominations – Petroleum History Society Awards Program. This is also a key part of our Annual Meeting. Awards are presented for Book of the Year (2015), Article of the Year (2015), Multimedia Award (2015), Preservation and Lifetime Achievement. Clint and Director Doug Cass are coordinating this year's slate so please contact them if you have some suggestions for these awards. There are no specific forms to be filled in.

Energy-related Assistance to Mexico: On January 25, 2016 it was announced in the Daily Oil Bulletin that *“The University of Calgary and the Mexican Ministry of Energy (SENER) had recently signed a collaboration note that opens up a long-term partnership to help Mexico boost its energy sector. As a part of this partnership, SENER has allocated \$12 million over four years for Mexican organizations to collaborate with the University of Calgary on energy research and education.”* One would hope that part of this knowledge transfer would relate to the evolution of land tenure in Alberta and the learnings that Mexico might derive from that knowledge.

Mexico has experienced the two extremes of land tenure. Private ownership to begin, complete nationalization in 1938 and full government control since then through Pemex. Alberta, on the other hand, has had a small component of private (freehold) ownership but mostly government (Crown) ownership with leasing and licencing to companies. The success that has been experienced in Alberta is at least in part attributable to the ability of the government to maintain overall control while allowing companies to operate fairly freely under regulation. Hopefully Mexico will be able to navigate into this “sweet spot” as well and to avoid the temptation to exert too much direct control. The discovery of large new accumulations would certainly be a test of their sincerity in “opening up this sector to foreign investments”. One only need look to places like Venezuela where the multinationals have been victims of repeated bait-and-switch tricks with their investments over the years.

As Usual: Stephen Ewart's column in the January 8, 2016 issue of the Calgary Herald stated that the Macondo blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico *“dumped 4.9 billion barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico”*. Of course this is incorrect by three orders of magnitude – the correct information, from the U.S. Government, is 4.9 million barrels. Is it any wonder that people get freaked out about the industry when events are misrepresented like this? As far as I know, the Herald did not issue a correction. Another famous trick is to exaggerate volumes involved, for example by expressing a relatively small volume as “thousands of milliliters”. Of course the eye is attracted to the “thousands” so the actual amount of only 2 to 3 liters sounds huge.

Turner Valley Ownership: As you may have noted, Legacy Oil and Gas Inc., the lead operator in most of the Turner Valley Field, producing about 6000 boe/day there, was purchased last July by Crescent Point in an all-share deal worth \$1.53 billion. Legacy had a strong community outreach program and was instrumental in supporting things like the Centennial celebrations for the Turner Valley Field in 2014. It remains to be seen if Crescent Point also steps up – although their hands are somewhat tied by industry conditions and a plunging share price.



Last June P.H.S Director David Finch reported that a new rig had appeared on the horizon in Longview on the south end of the Turner Valley Field. As photographed above by David, the rig is a replica cable tool structure made of metal and sited just to the north of the Twin Cities Hotel. It is a $\frac{3}{4}$ replica of a 120 foot tall wooden cable tool rig. The hotel owner indicated that their plan was to let it rust for a year and to then coat it with a material to make it look like wood. I hope it is grounded as it would be a magnificent lightning rod! The hotel itself was originally built by two N.H.L. players back in 1936 during the oil boom that followed the Royalties discovery. If you haven't had a chance to visit the hotel you should work it into your plans. The main restaurant contains many old colourized pictures of Turner Valley rigs flaring. These shots seem to have been illustrating production testing and the "cleanup" of new wells rather than the burning off of "waste" natural gas, as it is often described. Undoubtedly there was lots of the latter but not all flaring at Turner Valley was of the "Hell's Half Acre" variety.

News from Leduc: As reported in the November 2015 issue of their newsletter "Catwalk", the Leduc #1 Energy Discovery Centre continues to thrive. One item related to a staff addition:

"We are pleased to welcome Kevin Brunt to Team Leduc #1. Kevin has been working in museums since 1998 and has done so in Ontario, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories and is happy to be doing so here in Alberta. He has been busy working with the Alberta Museums Association to get our recognized museum status which will help us in our ongoing quest for funding. He is hard at work managing our collection and making plans to enhance it in 2016."

Leduc #1 was also the set for the cast and crew of Baggage Battles! - a reality show that follows auction specialists who pick up unclaimed and lost property in a bid to turn a profit. I haven't seen that show publicized yet. Maybe you will see some of your lost suitcases on it.

Historical Society of Alberta – Annual General Meeting. This event will take place on May 28, 2016 in High River. The registration fee is only \$55 and includes the AGM, the Awards Luncheon and a tour of the historic Bar U ranch. Mayor Craig Snodgrass will present a talk entitled "High River after the Flood of 2013". If you stay for the evening, you can enjoy a dinner. Nothing says The Spirit of the West like a lobster boil! A true Canadian event.

PASSINGS

Morimoto, Thomas Eiichi. Tom was born May 18, 1918 in Edmonton, Alberta and passed away peacefully on December 14, 2015 in Kelowna, BC at the age of 97. Tom grew up in Fort McMurray, Alberta. His experiences in the formative years of the oil sands were captured in the P.H.S. Oil Sands Oral History Project. He enlisted in WWII as a radio operator in the Third Canadian Divisional Signals. On returning he attended the University Of Alberta and graduated in 1949 with his B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. In 1952 he received his M.Sc. He had a subsequent successful career in the global engineering industry.

Henderson, Gerald “Gerry” Gordon Lewis. Gerry Henderson passed away peacefully Friday, March 14, 2014 in his 88th year. G.G.L. Henderson was born on June 10, 1926 in the Vernon Jubilee Hospital. After the family's Oyama apple orchard burned down, they returned to Northern Ireland where they operated the Henderson Eadie woolen mill. Gerry and his brothers spent much of their time outdoors leading him into scouting where he distinguished himself by earning the level of King Scout. Gerry was extremely bright, with a near-perfect memory, allowing him to excel in his studies at the finest schools. He started at Trinity College Dublin, and while waiting to be called up to the Air Force, moved on to Oxford University where he found himself to be the only Geology student with seven full time professors! Gerry continued his studies at McGill (Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Geology), Princeton (Ph.D. in Geology), and Stanford Universities.

Upon graduation from Princeton, his initial work was with the B.C. Department of Mines where, among other duties, he mapped the Gulf Islands. In 1953, he was recruited by Chevron Canada Resources where he remained for 34 years. His first job as Field Geologist meant he spent every May through September leading field parties, mostly on horseback in the Rocky Mountains. Rising steadily within Chevron, he became Chief Geologist in 1963, Vice-President of Exploration in 1967, and ended his remarkable career as the first Canadian-born President of Chevron Canada. Gerry was a leader, equally at home negotiating in the boardroom or leading exploration in the bush. Chevron, under Gerry's leadership, had repeated exploration success with major discoveries at Kaybob South, West Pembina, and Hibernia (the largest offshore oil development in Canadian history). These successes changed the face of the Canadian oil industry. He was admired and respected by employees, industry competitors, and members at all levels of government. In 1986, at the age of 60, he retired from Chevron. Gerry received innumerable awards and recognitions throughout his career. In 1954, he was awarded the Canadian Society of Professional Geologist (C.S.P.G.) Medal of Merit; in 1973, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1985 he received an honorary Ph.D. from Memorial University. In 1994, the C.S.P.G. awarded Gerry its most prestigious award, the Stanley Slipper Gold Medal for a half century of scientific contribution, exploration success, business acumen and love of geology. Gerry's contributions to the science of geology and the industry of petroleum exploration continue to make him an outstanding inspiration in his field. On retirement, Gerry and Bev relocated to the Vernon area where they enjoyed many years on Kalamalka Lake. He remained active serving on the Executive of The World Petroleum Congress for ten years and on a number of charitable society Boards. Gerry's love for life continued in retirement with a focus on his family and the many friends who were fortunate enough to share in his joy, warmth and acceptance. *[A short version of this obituary was originally listed in the October 2014 issue of Archives].*



Moshier, Marguerite Flood. Marguerite Moshier passed away peacefully in Calgary, AB on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at the age of 99 years. Marguerite was born in Calgary on March 28, 1916 and graduated from Olds College in 1936. She was one of the founding members of the Desk and Derrick Club, and was inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame in 2005. She was a long time member of the P.H.S. who until very recently attended some of our luncheons and the Hall of Fame induction dinners along with Helen Turgeon and Faye Mortimer. I can remember her complaining not so long ago about her doctor telling her that she shouldn't be partaking in certain activities. The Calgary Herald obituary website contains a number of photos of Marguerite from over her life and career. She always seemed young at heart so I chose the picture above for us to remember her by.

The following is from her Hall of Fame citation:

"Marguerite Flood Moshier took her war-time experience gained organizing the logistics of the service and supply of the many air force flight schools while working as a secretary for Air Force Command and parlayed it into an over 30-year career in the oil industry.

Moshier also used her superb organizing skills to help found and build The Desk and Derrick Club to advance the role of women in Canada's oil industry.

Moshier began her career in the oil industry working for United Geophysical Company in 1948. The company, owned by the son of U.S. President Herbert Hoover, had proven successful using seismic technology to find oil and gas in the U.S., Latin America, and the Middle East. With the

discovery of Leduc, it was ready to try its hand in Western Canada. Staffing and winter logistics were the challenges it faced. Mosher, who had worked after the war helping relocate and settle returning veterans, had skills in both areas.

After joining United in 1948, she quickly took over and almost immediately helped solve many of the company's logistical and human resource challenges. Noticing the limited opportunities for women in the male-dominated oil industry, in 1951 Mosher played a key role in the development of the Desk and Derrick Club of Calgary, attending its first meeting in 1951 and rising to its presidency in 1959. In 1966, she became the first Canadian president of the Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs International. In 1953, Mosher moved to the fledgling TransCanada Pipelines, after being hired by President Nathan Tanner to set up an engineering department for the vice-president of engineering who was soon to arrive from the U.S.

In 1958, Mosher did a one-year stint at Westcoast Transmission in Calgary before moving onto the Northern Natural Gas Company where she would spend the next 22 years. Mosher began as a secretary at Northern, advancing to office manager, with the responsibility of hiring new personnel as the company grew. By 1969, when Mosher had risen to the position of corporate secretary and assistant to the president, the Northern Natural Gas Company had become Consolidated Pipe Lines, and Consolidated Natural Gas. Mosher stayed with Consolidated until her retirement in 1981.”

Grant, George Donald. George was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on November 12, 1926. He passed away on Friday, January 22, 2016 at the age of 89 years. George was raised in Regina and studied Geological Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. He then headed west to begin a career as a geologist at Chevron Canada, a career that ended up spanning 43 successful years. He was committed to serving his community. He was President of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists in 1970 and contributed to a number of its important publications. He was a dedicated supporter and volunteer for the Alberta Conservative Party and was very active with his community association. His extra-curricular pleasures were simple: gardening, curling, bridge and golf. George's prairie roots remained strong, drawing him back to his beloved Qu'Appelle valley every summer where he had many wonderful times with his brother Jack and his many childhood friends. His loyalty to the Saskatchewan Roughriders remained unshakable right to the end. *[I note that an accompanying obituary for Michael Dennis Hallahan referred to Michael's "beloved Saskatchewan Roughriders" – an amazing and widespread degree of loyalty to this football team.]*

Southern, Ronald Donald. Ron Southern was born in Calgary, Alberta on July 25, 1930 and passed away on January 21, 2016. His life and career have been well-documented in the media. Although he is perhaps best remembered for his role in the development of the equestrian facilities at Spruce Meadows, he had strong connections to both the Canadian and international oil patches. His company, Alberta Trailer Company (ATCO), supplied mobile accommodation, facility equipment and pre-built permanent facilities to many parts of the industry over the years including drilling camps, construction projects and remote operations. As expressed in his obituary, his activities encompassed gas and utility companies, midstream, drilling, pipelines, logistics, manufacturing, workforce housing sales, leasing, maintenance and operations. ATCO, as a Canadian company, was also involved in the exploratory drilling in places like the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea as a part of the consortium that farmed in on Imperial Oil's large acreage spread. Truly a giant in our industry.



Been wondering what you can do with your old rock collection?
As recently spotted at Homesense, just glue them into a frame and put an outrageous price on them. Your spouse will be so happy!

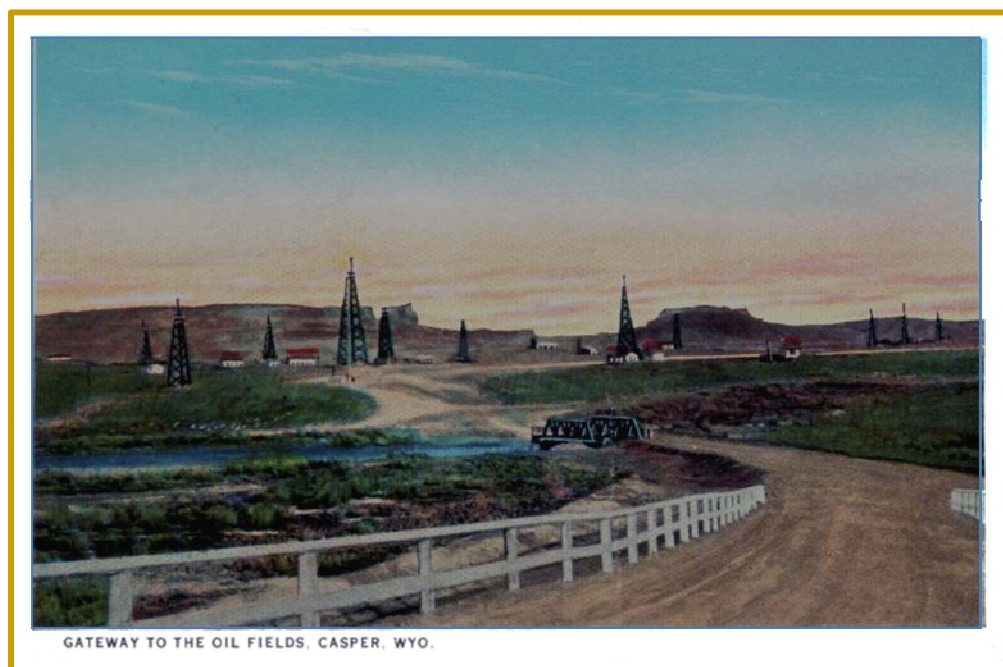


A truly artistic scene - Victoria Harbour 1967 – Construction of the Sedco 135F semisubmersible that was used in the 1967-1969 West Coast Offshore drilling program (Shell Canada Collection).

CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: April 15, 2016

PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2016 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Casper, Wyoming “The Oil City” July 28-31, 2016

REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION
Thursday, July 28th, 2016

PRESENTATIONS – ORAL AND POSTER: Friday, July 29th, 2016
Symposium Headquarters: the *Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center*, Casper
Proceedings to be published in the 2016 volume of *Oil-Industry History*

FIELD TRIP: Saturday July, 30th, 2016
Stops will include Teapot Dome, site of the 1920’s Presidential scandal,
and the giant Salt Creek Field, discovered 1889

For symposium details, see: www.petroleumhistory.org

ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED NOW
Please send abstracts to: Dr. William Brice - wbrice@pitt.edu
or call Marilyn Black – 814-677-3152 ext. 105

