



ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

September 2016; Volume XXVII, Number 6

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Tailings Tales from Suncor

by Patrick Sean Wells – Senior Engineering Advisor – Tailings, Suncor

Who better than Suncor to bring the historic story of tailings and the oil sands to the Petroleum History Society? The company that first made bitumen commercially viable at Fort McMurray is at the leading edge of solving this engineering challenge that is part of the oil sands development process. All the land the oil sands companies mine for bitumen will eventually be reclaimed. Sean will bring us up to date on current technologies and plans for the future.

Patrick Sean Wells, an engineer, has been intimately involved with tailings work since 2002. He currently serves as the Senior Engineering Advisor providing validation and assurance that best practices and sufficient technical rigor are included in Suncor tailings plans, projects and operations. Working to create a tailings technical centre of excellence in the company, he collaborates with other technical experts to ensure that competencies are identified for decisions related to tailings and that technical teams are developing and have access to those identified areas of expertise.

Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, September 28, 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: Micky Gulless at 403-283-9268 or micky@petroleumhistory.ca by noon, Monday, September 26, 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 get a hold of us. Contact President Clint Tippett at the address indicated on page 3.

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.

Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – November 10, 2016 at SAIT: The 2016 contingent of inductees was recently announced and is made up of Troy Ducharme, Peter Tertzakian, David Collyer, William Hunt, Greg Stringham, Brett Wilson, Albert Mayland and George Goruk. Mayland's nomination was prepared by Gordon Jaremko and was supported by the P.H.S. Mayland was active as an oilman in Turner Valley and as a diversified entrepreneur in Calgary. The increase to eight inductees from the normal six is in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Hall of Fame – and the selection of SAIT as the venue is a tip of the hat to that institution's 100th Anniversary. Additional details from the citations will be communicated to our readers after their release at the event. In a departure from the sit-down dinner of past years, this time it will be a cocktail reception at the Johnson-Cobbe Energy Centre at SAIT. For more information and to purchase a ticket (\$150), contact cphf@jwenergy.com

Calgary International Film Festival: This year's edition runs from September 21 through to October 2 at a range of venues. Amongst the documentaries to be screened is "*Limit is the Sky*" which was described in an article by Louis B. Hobson in the August 25 issue of the Calgary Herald as follows: "*Julia Ivanova's 'Limit is the Sky' couldn't be more topical as it looks at the impact the plunging oil prices had on workers at the Fort McMurray oilsands, especially foreign works [sic] who had come expecting to live the Canadian dream. The documentary looks at the impact of the oil crash on seven men and women who had their dreams crushed*". For more details, go to calgaryfilm.com

Beakerhead: This self-proclaimed "*Smash Up of Art, Science and Engineering*" and "*Sandbox for Human Ingenuity*" ran from September 14 through 18 in Calgary. It involved a host of exhibits and events. A review of its comprehensive program revealed nothing obviously related to the petroleum industry with the exceptions of a tour of Ian McGregor's Museum of Making west of Cochrane (site of previous P.H.S. tour) and a fossil session at Fort Calgary.

The Derrick Gin Mill & Kitchen: This establishment is located at 620 – 8 Avenue SW in downtown Calgary. Volunteers to make a visit and report on oilpatch-related cuisine are welcome. Another restaurant with a partial petroleum (or at least geographical) name is Township 24 in Bow Valley Square.

Mini-Pocket Guide to Downtown Calgary: This small fold-out directory to downtown points of interest has been created by the Telus Convention Centre. Copies can be picked up at the escalators near the 9th Avenue entrance. It is entitled “*40 Year Stroll*” and features events going back to 1974. It does include some fairly recent petroleum industry history. The P.H.S. has been considering the possibility of designing its own equivalent that would complement our own walking tours and cover the full historical range of the industry’s activities in Calgary.

Calgary Heritage Authority: The P.H.S. is in receipt of the monthly digital newsletter of the C.H.A. and hopes to bring to your attention events or activities that relate to the heritage of petroleum industry in Calgary. The organization has an annual awards cycle called the “*Lions Awards*” for advocacy and awareness, community vitalization, landscape design, resource conservation and lifetime achievement. On September 24 they will be involved in a program called “*Doors Open YYC*” described as “*Many of Calgary’s most intriguing and beloved sites participate ... with buildings in all quadrants of the City opening their doors – free of charge – to the public and providing special revealing tours and behind-the-scenes experiences. Whether you’re a geek for history, architecture, the environment, art, sports, science or engineering, this is your chance at an insider’s view of Calgary’s vibrant and dynamic cityscape*”.

Historic Calgary Week: This annual event, organized by the Chinook Country Historical Society, ran from July 22 to August 1, 2016. The P.H.S. did not run its walking tour (ha ha). Apparently many of the events were well, or even overly attended, which is a good sign for the level of interest in local history.

Getting (Building) Stoned in Calgary: It was announced in the Herald on September 10 that a move is afoot to revive stone quarrying in Calgary to supply our famous brown sandstone to historic (and possibly other) building projects. Ward 9 Councilor Gian-Carlo Carra was going to propose a motion to “*identify potential stakeholders interested in small-scale quarrying and processing*” with the intended locations to be Edworthy Park and the J.A. Lewis Quarry sites.

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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REMEMBRANCES

(with thanks to the Calgary Herald and the Edmonton Journal)

We are catching up a bit here. I should note that the month of May 2016 was a bad one for students of the Devonian with the passings of Adam Hedinger, Charlie Stelck and John Andrichuk all within that period. Not to be flippant about this – but in academic circles this would be the equivalent of a mass extinction.

Govier, George Wheeler. George was born in Nanton, Alberta on June 15, 1917, and passed away on February 22, 2016 in his 99th year. He was the son of George Arthur Govier of Parry Sound, Ontario and Sarah Gertrude Govier of Minnesota. He grew up in Nanton, Penticton and Vancouver, graduating as a chemical engineer in 1939 from the University of British Columbia, and moving to Edmonton in 1940 to be a lecturer at the University of Alberta. He brought with him his bride, Doris Eda Kemp, who he had met while both were in elementary school. In Edmonton he completed his Master of Science in Physical Chemistry in 1945, and later his Sc.D. (Doctorate in Science) in 1949 from The University of Michigan. He served on the faculty of the University of Alberta, setting up the Department of Petroleum Engineering and becoming Professor and then Dean of Engineering. He was an excellent teacher and also conducted and directed research on multiphase flow. His book “*The Flow of Complex Mixtures in Pipes*”, co-authored with Dr. Khalid Aziz, remains in use today.

In 1948 Dr. Govier was appointed a member of and later became Chairman of Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board, in which position he served for thirty years. He became Chief Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources in 1971 in the Peter Lougheed government of Alberta. From 1978 he served on boards of directors of a number of companies, and enjoyed a full career for nearly thirty more years as consultant to corporations and to both Canadian and foreign governments, before entering full retirement in 2006. He was President of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta and of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He was active in the World Petroleum Congresses, serving as Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee for eight years. He received honorary degrees from the Universities of Calgary, Waterloo and McGill. In 1967 he was named winner of the Sesquicentennial Award from the University of Michigan, as "resource conservationist educator". He was inducted into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame in 1999, and received the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2013, cited as a builder of key Alberta industries "as a university professor, researcher and leader in regulatory development". He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1982. George was a long time honorary member of the Calgary Petroleum Club. He was fond of fishing, skiing, cruising and playing bridge, and in his later years became a student of the economy and the market, and a keen gardener.

Hedinger, Adam Stephan Wladyslaw. Adam was born on July 27, 1952 in Edmonton, Alberta and passed away on May 2, 2016 at the age of 63 years. Adam was a generous, well-read, intelligent man. He was passionate about many things: geology, music, history, politics, art, hiking, skiing, wine, and more. His wide circle of friends was frequently treated to e-mail missives on international affairs and matters of justice and history. And jokes, lots of jokes...

Adam was a member of the P.H.S. and although his health didn't allow him to participate as fully as he would have liked, he always took a keen interest in our activities.

Stelck, Charles Richard. Charlie Stelck was born in Edmonton May 20, 1917 and died on May 14, 2016. Attending Westmount School and then Victoria High in Edmonton, he received the Teglal Scholarship for the top high-school marks in Alberta enabling him to attend the University of Alberta where he earned a B.Sc. in Geology in 1937 and an M.Sc. in Geology in 1941. In 1951 he was granted his Ph.D. from Stanford. He also received a D.Sc. (Hon.) in 2003 from the University of Alberta. During WWII he worked for Imperial Oil, mapping the geology of the foothills from Jasper to the Arctic by horseback, canoe and dogsled. This included time spent on the Canol Project in the N.W.T. Following the war he began a long career as a faculty member at the U. of A. as one of only three professors in the British Empire teaching petroleum geology. Over his career he authored 111 refereed articles, his last one at the age of 98, as well as writing dozens of works on the geology of Alberta and N.E.B.C. in various text books. He supervised 44 M.Sc. theses and 9 Ph.D. theses. His consulting work during sabbaticals took him and his family around the world including work on locating one of the earliest onshore oil and gas fields in Australia. Although his focus was on the microscopic fossils that help locate and date oil fields, his excavation of dinosaurs in the Drumheller River valley and the Peace River area predated work of the Tyrell and Currie Museums. His honours and awards for geology are numerous and include induction into the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame, the Distinguished Educator Award of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the Stanley Slipper Gold Medal of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, as well as other honours from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta, the Engineers of Canada and the Geological Association of Canada. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and had been appointed as a Decorated Officer, Order of Canada in 1997. In 2008 (DE5) the astronomer Andrew Lowe named Asteroid 187680, *Stelck*.

Alex MacNeil, a student of Charlie's from U. of A., added: *"If you're not a U. of A. grad, or you're only a very recent grad, you may not recognize his name, but much of our stratigraphic framework in western Canada, at least at a first order, was defined by the likes of Dr. Stelck with his good friends P.S. Warren and John Allan (at several points in his career he also worked with or reported to Ted Link). He was probably best known for his micropaleontology work on the Triassic and Jurassic but from the late 1930s to 1960s he was heavily involved in western Canadian carbonates. He used Norman Wells to demonstrate that reefs could exist in northern Canada (he used dog sleds to get out to his sections, at least until the snow melted), determined that Leduc #1 was Devonian in age – I believe he even argued probably Upper Devonian – at a time when much of the subsurface in Alberta was thought to be Silurian (!), and was involved in subsequent discoveries including Swan Hills and other Leduc reefs. If you really want a good read, check out his interview from 1984 with full of details from west Pembina and Turner Valley to how he (briefly) worked for the US Pentagon at the Glenbow.*

It was amazing to have conversations with him in the hallway at U of A., an encyclopedia of knowledge, and professor to at least hundreds or probably a couple thousand geologists that went on to work quite successful careers in the patch. About 5-10 years ago he donated his library, which was quite extensive, to Mount Royal University. He was on my Ph.D. thesis committee and my own funny story with Dr. Stelck – I knew that he liked to bring a selection of rocks to Ph.D. Candidacy exams, so I figured I'd bring my own tray of fine specimens for discussion. After he entered and sat down in the room, sure enough with a tray of rocks, he noticed my own tray of rocks, and that I had a few more than he did. He looked at his watch, sort of tapped the table and got up and left, returning soon with additional rocks, to counter whatever I possibly could have brought along – I knew it was good time to quit..."

Andrichuk, John Michael. John was born on July 4, 1926 and passed away on May 24, 2016 at the age of 89 years. John was born in Downing, Alberta. He received his Ph.D. in Geology, at Northwestern University in Illinois. He was very active in geological research and published many scientific papers. Later in his career he became interested in the study of reefs. In 1956 he went into partnership with Dr. Ralph Edie, Ph.D. Geology. They had a firm that was named Andrichuk and Edie, Independent Geologists. They continued consulting, exploring and researching various aspects of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Together they received many awards for their geological publications including the Stanley Slipper Gold Medal from the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. Their partnership in geology lasted for 51 years. Dr. Edie passed away in 2007. John worked two years longer and retired in 2009.

John was one of the original members of the Petroleum History Society and was an active participant in our luncheons and other activities. He was always complementary of the work that was being done to preserve our petroleum heritage. John and Ralph were part of a loosely affiliated group of prominent local geologists, including Don Axford, who enjoyed exploring together when they weren't having lunchtime discussions in the plus-15 level of the Lancaster Building. Some of John's best known work had to do with the identification and description of the Late Devonian Duvernay Formation. He recognized it as the organic-rich, deep water facies equivalent of the prolific Leduc reefs – and the likely source of their oil and gas. John lived long enough to see the Duvernay become an exploration and development target in its own right through the application of horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracturing within the "right" maturity window. So I'm sure that his advice would be to not throw out those old technical papers – there are likely some nuggets of knowledge in them.

Mooney, William John "Bill". Bill was born on February 27, 1929 and passed away on August 11, 2016. Bill admits to being wild in his early days, when trips to pick-up games of hockey took the place of attending school. Things changed when Father Athol Murray accepted him as a student at Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Saskatchewan. It was done as a favour to his mother Esther and nobody at the time expected the free-spirited boy to thrive under the school's rigorous standards. Bill confounded all expectations and emerged as a successful scholar, talented athlete and student leader. Having completed his second year of post-secondary Liberal Arts studies, Bill left Notre Dame in 1952 with a steadfast belief in Athol Murray's core principles that every life is insignificant until you yourself make it great, everything is done by people and everyone has a responsibility to serve community and society.

Bill had an illustrious career in oil and gas after graduating from Colorado College in 1954 with a B.Sc. in Geology. He joined Cities Service as a geologist in 1957 and became President of Canada Cities Service in 1975 followed by a move to London, England in 1978 as President Cities Service Europe, Africa and Middle East. Bill continued in the industry with various companies finishing his career as President and CEO of Centipede Energy and then Millipede Energy.

Throughout his career, Bill Mooney has been front and centre during some of the most pivotal moments in the evolution of the Alberta energy sector, serving as a valued advisor to provincial and federal government leaders on a range of matters and policy accords. Central to his contributions has been his ongoing commitment to finding effective cooperative solutions between government and industry on issues of the day. For example, in 1975, Bill was credited

with facilitating the agreements between three energy companies (Imperial, Cities Service and Gulf) and the Governments of Alberta, Canada and Ontario to ensure effective collaboration on what was then known as the "Syn crude Project." In all negotiations and cooperative efforts throughout his career, Bill held true to one over-riding belief – that if he put the interests of his country first, his province second, and his company third, then every solution would be beneficial for all parties involved. Bill humbly offered the lion share of credit to others who worked with him on various initiatives over the years, but colleagues in the industry are quick to recognize his singular contributions.

Bill's other commitments to the industry included membership in numerous professional organizations as well as service as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame and Chairman of the Saskatchewan Petroleum Industry Hall of Fame. He was Vice-chairman of both the Alberta Environmental Research Trust and the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation. Bill is a Member of the Saskatchewan and Canadian Petroleum Halls of Fame. He held the Notre Dame Medal of Honour, the Alberta Centennial Medal and the Alberta Order of Excellence. While Bill Mooney spent his career serving the energy sector, he found equal time to support many worthy community and non-profit endeavours. He was a member of the Board of Regents and Board of Governors for his beloved Athol Murray's Notre Dame and raised funds and organized events for a wide range of charitable organizations in Alberta. Bill placed a particular focus on efforts to support hospitals and medical research as well as disabled youth and children's aid programs. He served as a chairperson, event speaker and key fundraiser to organizations such as the United Way, the Calgary Children's Hospital, Rockyview Hospital, Don Bosco Homes, the Calgary Zoo, the Liver Foundation, the Mazankowski Heart Institute, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Calgary Milk Fund. His lifelong passion for sports was reflected in the volunteer service he has offered to the Calgary Community Midget Football Association, the Canadian Old Time Hockey Players and the Calgary Stampeders Football Club.

When asked what he is most proud of, Bill pointed to his family and all of the great friends that had helped him do what he wanted to do over the years. What he has always wanted to do is to act as a steadfast Canadian and Albertan and a faithful promoter of the best interests of the province and country that he was honoured and privileged to call home.

Bill knew from very early in his life he had been adopted. After many years of wondering, a Murphy cousin helped him in a serious search and he discovered his birth mother was a Campbell from P.E.I. and he had many Campbell cousins, most of whom he met three years ago and they brought much joy to his life.

A Celebration of Life was held at The Markin MacPhail Building at WinSports Canada Olympic Park on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. By all reports it was very well attended with speeches from friends and acquaintances stretching out the ceremony from its start at 1:00 p.m. until well past 5:00 p.m.

My memory of Bill is shaped mainly by his Chairmanship role at the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame dinners that I attended. He always told the same jokes and the crowd always loved it. The one I liked was about the geologist spotting a fossil snail in a core from a deep well and the rig hand commenting that that was "one burrowing little bugger". That and his pensive pose and trademark cigarette, as seen in the portrait in his obituary.

NEWS FROM OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

There are lots of groups out there that are interested in history and that often overlap with the things about which the P.H.S. and its members are concerned. So here's a sampling:

Historical Society of Alberta and the Chinook Country Historical Society: These large organizations address the full spectrum of historical topics in Alberta and Calgary, respectively. Three come to mind for us – Historic Calgary Week (that we sometimes participate in), the *History Now* newsletter and *Alberta History* magazine (that contains petroleum history on some occasions, and even a special issue on the Turner Valley centennial). The Summer 2016 issue of *Alberta History* contained an article entitled “*Our Glorious Times at Calgary – When we all thought we had struck oil!*” by “A Scot who was at the big stampede”.. I'm sure that we have all heard the stories of people who lost their shirts in the Dingman and related speculations – but apparently that was not always the case. The article quotes from the Sunday Post of Edinburgh, Scotland of July 22, 1922 to the effect that “*There was one Scottish lass of my acquaintance who did act shrewdly, being content to sell out within a fw days of the strike. She hailed from Glasgow and was a waitress at a popular Calgary restaurant and, in addition to investing some of her savings in the Dingman proposition, had received quite a number of shares by way of presents from customers who had reached the conclusion that the Dingman well was destined to remain as dry as the Sahara. This young lady netted a comfortable little fortune of approximately 10,000 pounds (\$50,000).*”. Trust the Scots to make the best of it!

Society for Industrial Archeology: This Michigan-based organization issues a very nice journal and runs several annual tour packages at locations throughout the United States. Unfortunately there isn't a lot of petroleum-related material – but the idea is interesting and might be adapted. The upcoming 2016 tour (Oct. 27-30) is described as “*The Industrial Archeology Fall Tour will explore historic, industrial and cultural sites in Wisconsin's Fox River Valley. Site tours include a cheese factory, electronics assembly manufacturing Plexus Corporation, a PCB treatment facility, the Vulcan Street hydroelectric station and a boat tour through the DePere Lock. Historic sites include the Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum, the Courtney Woolen Mill, a former paper mill and the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. There will be an optional two-hour tour of Lambeau Field for Packers fans.*”

Canadian Drilling Rig Museum (Selkirk, Ontario): This crew work to preserve some old drilling equipment in southwestern Ontario and they do that primarily by raising money through social events. There is an annual two-page newsletter featuring their latest get-togethers and (this year) the recipe for tomato, cucumber and sweet onion salad.

Leduc/Devon Oilfield Historical Society: Our friends near Edmonton have their wonderful facility at Leduc #1 Energy Discovery Centre and issue a newsletter called “Catwalk”. They have lots of activities – both technical and social. Lifetime membership is \$10. They are master fund raisers and are to be congratulated on the ever-expanding scope of their activities, in particular on the educational fronts including summer camps for kids. Their annual Discovery Day was held on August 7, 2016 and featured free hot dogs, bouncy castle, face painting, ice cream social, science stations, rig demonstrations and more. Tim Hawkins, formerly of Imperial Oil, is their current President. In 2016 they had a contingent of four summer students working as tour guides and on the Centre's collections.



Canadian Pacific's Calgary Train Station being demolished in 1969 (Glenbow Archives).

The base of the Husky (now Calgary) Tower, built in 1967-68, is in the background and the east side of the Palliser Hotel can be seen just past it. The tower was built as a joint venture between Husky and CP's Marathon Realty as a way of rejuvenating this part of 9th Avenue South in downtown Calgary. It was originally pitched as a 1967 Centennial Project for Calgary but the City wasn't interested. Anecdotally, it has been said that it was the wife of Husky's President Glenn Nielsen who finally pushed the project into execution on the basis that *"other places like Seattle and Niagara Falls have towers, so why not Calgary?"*

A Towering Issue: Early in 2016 the Petroleum History Society was approached by the management of the Calgary Tower to participate in the creation of a new audio guide for visitors to the Tower. The reason given for their approach was to include the early petroleum history of Calgary using the original name (Husky) as a segue into a brief discussion of early activities including drilling within the city, Turner Valley and the Husky connection. Ultimately your President accepted this as an opportunity and dove into doing the necessary research. In May an audio tech arrived at my door and we proceeded to conduct the interview with the interviewer being on the phone. As mid-summer rolled around, a visit by some relatives led me to visit the Tower with them and I saw that the new audio tour had been put in place. Naturally I was eager to see how it had come out. To my exasperation, there wasn't a shred of the interview in the package. Leaving aside the obvious disappointment, I also soon realized that there isn't a bit of petroleum history in the entire audio – and you wouldn't know that Calgary is largely based on the petroleum industry from all the descriptions and vignettes that are provided. This is shameful. Apparently they think that a story about a kid with a little red wagon delivering ice to hookers is a more important story. Check it out yourself. Did I mention that the producers of the audio are from New York? I guess Calgary folks are either too busy (sure) or not good enough.

PETROLEUM HUMOUR

With the industry on the ropes, we need a few laughs so in the tradition of “Crude and Refined” cartoons, here’s a few things to brighten your day.

Ad for “The Pipeline Expo” in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 4-6, 2017. One of the headline features is “A bus trip to T.D. Williamson’s West Tulsa facility to see a pig launched, tracked and received”. I thought that we had done all of those animal experiments in the early days of the space program back in the late 1950’s.

Group names: According to Reader’s Digest, the following terms are used for collections of certain people – accountants are “a balance”, librarians are “a shush”, dentists are “a wince”, dermatologists are “a rash”, and (most appropriately) creditors are “a curse”.

You’re kidding – right?: Recently received – a note from a Mrs. Ethelene Morgan with money to give me. This made me think that C.A.P.P. should launch a drive to get people to name their kids after types of hydrocarbons – like Propane Robertson or Butane McDougall. Sort of a “Raise Your Hand” thing.

Ad from Canadian Tire: Promoting a small tent that “protects against up to 2,000 mm of rain”. I think that if you had 2 m of rain, your tent is probably the last thing that you’d be worried about!

Recent article on Iraq: The title of the article in PennEnergy daily newsletter is “*Iraq exports first natural gas shipments in its history*” and contained the sentence that “*A Panama-flagged gas carrier sailed Sunday from Iraq’s southern port of Umm Qasr on the Persian Gulf with a cargo of about 10,000 standard cubic feet of gas in the form of condensates, Oil Ministry spokesman Assem Jihad said*”. For those of you who don’t get it, 10,000 standard cubic feet of natural gas is the factor usually equated to one barrel of oil to calculate barrels of oil equivalent. Obviously this is an error – or they are starting at a very small level of exports! Just another example of news releases being re-sent along as news without anyone looking at them critically.

Bank Roll: According to Gould’s “Oil” book, this term refers to the practice by some drillers of not telling management the depth that they are actually drilling at. That way, if they have problems, they can pretend to be making progress in the hole as they fix the impediment, all the time reporting continued progress.

Flummoxing the shareholders: There are lots of good abbreviations in the financial world, for example EBIT for Earnings Before Income Tax. A new one is ACFFO for Available Cash Flow From Operations. As things get tight, you need some new metrics. And if you are in the offshore, how about an AHTS – for Anchor-Handling Tender and Standby Vessel.

Granny-Ragging: Defined as an early form of wrapping pipe which utilized gunny sacking material and molten tar, usually applied by hand.

Doodlebugger: Defined as an amateur geologist with the explanatory quote being “More oil has been found by doodlebuggers than by regular geologists”. *I’m offended – I thought that doodlebuggers were geophysicists!*