

# ARCHIVES

Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society

June 2017; Volume XXVIII, Number 5

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, June 7, 2017

**“Crash, Whoof, Wump & Poof:  
Four Oil Price Crashes since 1985”**

*by Dr. Bob Skinner – Executive Fellow, School of Public Policy,  
University of Calgary*

With layoffs and cutbacks in the oilpatch and the ripple effects spreading out through Canada's economy, it may seem as though the latest drop in oil prices could stall the economic engine in Alberta for a long time. The current rout is unlike the other three major ones (when the price of oil dropped 60 per cent or more) experienced in the last 30 years. The factors affecting the oil price drop and its potential for rebound differ significantly. In this talk to P.H.S., Bob will bring some new perspectives to the ever-challenging world of price projections and their impacts on the Alberta and Canadian economies.

*Please see page 2 for Bob's biography.*

Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, June 7, 2017

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](mailto:micky@petroleumhistory.ca) by noon, Monday, June 5, 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 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](http://www.petroleumhistory.ca/about/index.htm#join).

**Members Alternate E-mail Addresses:** We like to keep more than one e-mail address in your membership record in case you change e-mail suppliers or work e-mail addresses. However, if you wish, we can stop e-mailing to both your addresses. Just send an e-mail to [micky@petroleumhistory.ca](mailto:micky@petroleumhistory.ca) advising which one is your preferred address.

**September 13, 2017 Luncheon:** We plan to screen a video from the official opening of the Great Canadian Oil Sands Plant in Fort McMurray to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**June Speaker Bio:** Bob Skinner's career has been long and varied: Government, Industry and Academia. He first came to Alberta in 1966 as a student assistant on a Geological Survey of Canada field party first at the Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump near Fort Macleod then up on the Athabasca River and the Swan Hills. After finishing his doctorate he worked for the G.S.C. developing diamond and base metal exploration techniques, then went over to the “Dark Side” - energy policy. He was the oil price regulator after the National Energy Program, then was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy Commodities in 1985. He has since served as the policy director at the International Energy Agency in Paris, brought TOTAL to the oil sands in 1998, then director of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and on retiring again, brought Statoil to the oil sands in 2006. He is currently Executive Fellow at the School of Public Policy writing a history of national energy policies in Canada. He also advises the University of Calgary on energy research.

Bob is an accidental historian; as he puts it, *"If you live long enough, pay attention and have a good memory, you might become an historian"*. Perhaps his Ph.D. research on the glacial stratigraphy of the James Bay Lowlands tuned his sense of time and drove his curiosity to sort out interesting stories from what otherwise appears to be a jumble of peat, sand, mud and boulders.

**Historical Anniversaries:** 2017 apparently marks at least two major benchmarks. In an article in the Wall Street Journal on April 1, 2017, author Tim Holland notes that *“This year marks the 2,500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of fake news. That, at any rate, is how the more malevolent critics of Herodotus would put it. Two and a half millennia ago, the ancient Greek writer commonly called the Father of History – but not infrequently condemned as the Father of Lies – was born in Halicarnassus, on the Aegean shore of what is now Turkey. In the book that has come down to us as “The Histories”, Herodotus provided a panoramic account of the great events of his age – from the rise of the Persian empire to the emergence of Athenian democracy, from the last stand of the Spartans at Thermopylae to the great Greek naval victory in the Straits of Salamis”*. The second anniversary is for a more recent development, only 500 years ago. In an article in that same issue of the WSJ, Richard Evans writes that *“On October 31, 1517, an obscure monk in the small Saxon university town of Wittenberg posted a one-page document on the door of the Castle Church, presenting 95 theses for public debate. The monk’s name was Martin Luther, and the event is traditionally taken to mark the launching of the Reformation, which split the united Catholic Church and inaugurated over a century of violent religious conflict in Europe”*.

### Upcoming events:

June 13-15, 2017: 2017 **Global Petroleum Show** at Stampede Park. Go to [GlobalPetroleumShow.com](http://GlobalPetroleumShow.com) to check for possible free admission for pre-registrants. If you enjoy learning about the latest technologies used in the oilpatch and/or like to wander around heavy equipment, this is the place for you.

July 28 – August 7, 2017: **Historic Calgary Week 2017**. This year’s theme is “Building a Vibrant City within a Great Country”. Go to [hcw@chinookcountry.org](mailto:hcw@chinookcountry.org) for details.

**Hotels runneth over:** We recently mentioned a discussion about the location of “the Alberta Hotel” in the context of Winston Churchill’s visit to Alberta. A search through the Glenbow photo archives confirms that there are/were such buildings in both Calgary and Edmonton – but also reveals that there was also an “Alberta Hotel” in at least Olds, Okotoks, Banff, Innisfail, Pincher Creek, Vermilion, Vegreville, Wetaskiwin, Claresholm, Innisfree, Crossfield, Acme, Cochrane, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Mannville, Birch Lake, Blairmore and Greencourt. In light of current practices, one might suggest that this was a chain of hotels but that sort of thing didn’t exist “back in the day”.

**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 Tippet.

**Archives** is published approximately eight times a year  
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## REMEMBRANCES

*(with thanks to the Calgary Herald)*

**Jones, Norman.** Born July 2, 1927 and passed away March 11, 2017. Norm was born in Lethbridge, Alberta. He enjoyed spending time in the garden, golfing, travelling and barbecuing the perfect steak. His career in the oil patch spanned over 46 years starting with Heiland Exploration, then Century Geophysical, Sinclair Canada Oil Co. and CGG. He concluded his career as President of Sigma Exploration.

**McGinnis, Brad (Roy).** Born November 10, 1934 and passed away February 27, 2017. Brad was born on his parents' farm near Lintlaw, Saskatchewan. He grew up in rural Saskatchewan making many friends. Brad loved boxing, playing baseball and hockey. In his early years, as most young men in Saskatchewan, he helped his dad on the family farm. In 1951, Brad met the love of his life, Casmere, at a country dance. Brad and Cas were married in 1952 at the age of 17 and raised a family, travelled the world and enjoyed many years together. He began his career in the oil patch as a roughneck in the drilling industry. In later years, Brad was honoured by the Oilfield Technical Society as an industry leader dedicated to the advancement of the rat hole drilling industry in Canada. Many of his improvements, ideas and practices are still in use today. One of Brad's greatest joys was golf, mixed in with a little bit of betting with his fellow golfers. As an avid golfer, he travelled to Palm Springs in the winters to play golf, and being the sociable person he was, made numerous friends there. Later in life when it got more difficult to golf, Brad found joy sitting with his yorkies.

**McGuffin, John William.** Born February 19, 1930 and passed away February 11, 2017. A firm handshake, a warm smile and a kind heart. John was born at Calgary General Hospital and attended Crescent Heights High School. He went to the University of Alberta for a period and then went to work for Sinclair Oil as an oil scout in northern Alberta. In June 1959, he married M. Elizabeth Ralston. In the late 1960s, John went to work with his father-in-law Ron Ralston at Marshall Knop Western Ltd. in Calgary, where he eventually became President until 1981. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker. He was also a member of the Masons and a Shriner. John was a long-time member of the Glencoe Club where he enjoyed curling, tennis and squash. He spent many summers at the Shuswap and winters occasionally in Maui with family.

**Palmer, Kenneth Raeburn.** Born April 18, 1935 and passed away February 28, 2017. Ken was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, grew up in Oyen, Alberta and attended SAIT in 1954 to become an aeronautical technologist. He moved to Toronto 1956, where he worked at Avro on the Avro Arrow. With the cancellation of the Arrow program, the family moved back to Calgary where he worked as a computer programmer with Shell Oil and Home Oil. He retired in 1996 and founded a company to sell his desktop computer system "Jiffy Plat", which was a land map plat system for oil companies. Ken was very active and over the years enjoyed gliding at the Cowley and Black Diamond airstrips, running distance races, swimming, skiing and cycling.

**Driscoll, Lloyd David Vicar.** Born December 29, 1934 and passed away March 18, 2017. Lloyd was born in Calgary, attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering in 1958. From 1958 to 1974, he was employed by Texaco International, Gulf Oil Canada, Total Petroleum and Pennzoil United Inc., working in all phases of the oil and gas industry. In 1974, he joined Coseka Resources Ltd. where he remained as Senior Vice

President until 1992. At that time, he ventured out on his own, and along with dear friend and partner, George Paulus, founded Vintage Resource Corporation and subsequently, Zapata Energy Corporation. He retired in 2010. Lloyd loved sports and was a gifted athlete and a dedicated coach. He played basketball, baseball and hockey, and he was an avid golfer, regularly "shooting his age" in his later years. He was proud to say that he was the oldest member of his oilmen's hockey league for a number of years until his knees had to be replaced. He was a long-time member of the Glencoe Club and the Earl Grey Golf course.

**Evans, Calvin (Cal).** Born July 13, 1935 and passed away April 24, 2017. Cal was born in Withrow, Alberta, and grew up in Washington State and Alberta. He started his career on his dad's saw mill in Seebe at the age of 16. Cal built his own cabin to have peace and quiet to continue studying by correspondence at night for high school. That year, he won the Governor General Medal for the highest high school mark in the province. After high school, Cal worked with his brother Bob and friend Paul fixing ThermoKing refrigerators. He studied Geology and Physics at the University of Alberta, completed his Master's field work in Jasper, and then went to England on scholarship completing his Ph.D. in Geology and Geochemistry at Oxford, Oriel College. His thesis contributed to confirming the theory of tectonic plates. He finished his Ph.D. in two years instead of the usual four. There are many stories of his field work adventures in Scotland with his wife Doris and then two-year-old son Tom. He was offered a post at Oxford, but declined and returned to Canada. There Cal worked for Imperial Oil for 25 years, based in Calgary, ultimately as VP of Exploration. He moved to London, England, as Manager of Esso Europe where he retired in 1986. Cal loved geological exploration. He earned his P.Geol., was made an honorary member of A.P.E.G.A. and was awarded the Frank Spragins Award. He was President of both A.P.E.G.A. and the C.S.P.G. His retirement did not last long before he started up Pemoco Resources with some of his colleagues where he continued to work until 2010. In 1974, he had begun building a ranch, clearing the land and building a house by hand with his family. His dad and brother Bob joined him in founding and running Alsike Construction in 1975 from the ranch site. Cal loved sports and was an avid outdoorsman. He played football in high school while in Washington. More than anything, he loved fishing, travel, and geologizing while hiking and camping. Cal co-founded the Skitchine Fishing Lodge. He took his family cross country skiing up the mountains nearly every weekend. There were many an epic ski trip with neighbours and friends. He was also an accomplished woodworker: building a cradle for his grandchildren, a giant doll house, book cases, head boards, countless TV stands, and a dining room table, many with birch logged from the land. He loved a good story, puns and practical jokes. Cal also helped so many people along the way. He never hesitated to help, especially supporting the education pursuits for anyone who had the ability and the need. He passed away in Maui, Hawaii.

**Hittel, Alexander.** Born August 19, 1931 and passed away May 17, 2017. Alex was born in Section 13, Township 19, Range 26 W3, (near the town of Fox Valley, Saskatchewan). Being a farm boy raised in a loving yet economically challenged environment gave Alex an early appreciation for hard work as well as the happiness and thankfulness that comes from life's simpler pleasures. Alex was athletically gifted, with golf representing an almost unhealthy obsession. In fact, Alex spent time hitting balls at the driving range of his beloved Silver Springs Golf and Country Club on the day of his passing. Alex was a land surveyor by trade holding extreme pride in his chosen profession. He was a long standing member of the Alberta Land Surveyors Association, as well as the Association of Canadian Land Surveyors. Alex had a long career with Shell Canada, Shelltech, Nortech and All Can Engineering and Surveys. His love

for technology saw him immersed very early on the use of government satellites for commercial navigation purposes. To this end, Alex led a company that designed and manufactured satellite receivers for commercial land surveying applications. He was a humble man yet had many accomplishments. Alex was granted the Alberta Land Surveyors Professional Recognition Award in 1979. He received The Canadian Petroleum Association Award of Merit in 1975. Alex was granted the P.Eng. designation from A.P.E.G.G.A. in 1981, despite not having an engineering degree. He was most proud, however, of the creation of the Survey Engineering Program at University of Calgary (now the Department of Geomatics Engineering) in 1979. Alex played a significant role in the creation of this department through his formal 1974 proposal and herculean dedication to create a Geodetic Research Institute at the university. Five years later it was a reality. Alex loved his family more than words can express. Family get-togethers were something that he absolutely cherished. Christmas dinner for the entire extended family at Alex's home was something he looked forward to with zeal. He would begin planning in July for the December event.

### **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

Sternbach, C. A., Shoup, R. C., Wilhelm, C. T. and Reynolds, A. S. (editors) 2017. *Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist*. Volume 2 of the series (incorporates Volume 1). Published by the Professional Affairs Division of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 125 plus 66 pages. Approx. 100 career profiles – each of which includes career history, proudest achievements, biggest disappointment, anecdotal story and “my advice to you”.

Gries, R. R. 2017. *Anomalies – Pioneering Women in Petroleum Geology: 1917-2017*. Self-published but available through the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. 405 p. Approx. 130 career profiles plus ancillary text. This is an outgrowth of the PROWESS project led by Robbie. The profiles are primarily of Americans but include Canadians Diane Loranger (Imperial) and Helen Belyea (G.S.C.).

Cashman, T. 2002. *Gateway to the North*. Duval House Publishing. 193 p. This large and comprehensive book, which I had somehow not seem before, is described on its dust cover as *“Aviation has shaped Edmonton’s history since the first display of powered flight in 1911. Ahead of its time, Edmonton rose to fame worldwide as the key to the vast Canadian north, and as an essential player in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan during World War II. “Gateway to the North” tells the dramatic story of the Edmonton City Centre Airport through the eyes of skilled pilots, engineers, entrepreneurs and adventurers who made it roar throughout the twentieth century. Share the adventures of the fearless bush pilots and fledgling airlines. Join the crowds on summer Sundays when the airport is the best show in town. Witness the transformation of Blatchford Field into the Gateway to the North”*. The book is notable from a petroleum history perspective due to the critical importance of aviation to mobilization and supply in northern exploration and production operations.

Hein, F. J. and Parks, K. P. 2016. Public geoscience in regulating Alberta’s oil sands development: A Historical Retrospective 1960-2010. *Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology*, v. 64, no. 2, pp 362-383. As expressed in its abstract, this paper focuses on the roles played by geoscience investigations at Alberta’s energy regulators in the understanding of the oil sands resources and the optimal ways of dealing with their tenures and exploitation.

## **J. O. G. “Pete” Sanderson – Cowboy and Geologist**

A feature on Pete Sanderson is topical for several reasons. Firstly we are in the run-up to Stampede and no one captures the Calgary spirit quite as much as he does given his relationship to our greatest industry (petroleum) and our greatest public identity (cowboys and ranching). Secondly, we have been advised by P.H.S. Director Doug Cass that Sanderson's papers are awaiting funding for their indexing at the Glenbow Archives and there may be a role for our Society to spearhead the modest fundraising necessary to enable that to take place.

Doug has provided the following article about Pete Sanderson written by the famous Stampede founder Guy Weadick. I have transcribed it here for your reading pleasure and have populated it with a couple of pictures from the Glenbow Archives (thanks for that as well Doug):

### **ALBERTA COWPOKE TURNS DOCTOR**

By Guy Weadick, High River, Alberta

In “Canadian Cattlemen” magazine, March 1949, pp. 179-183

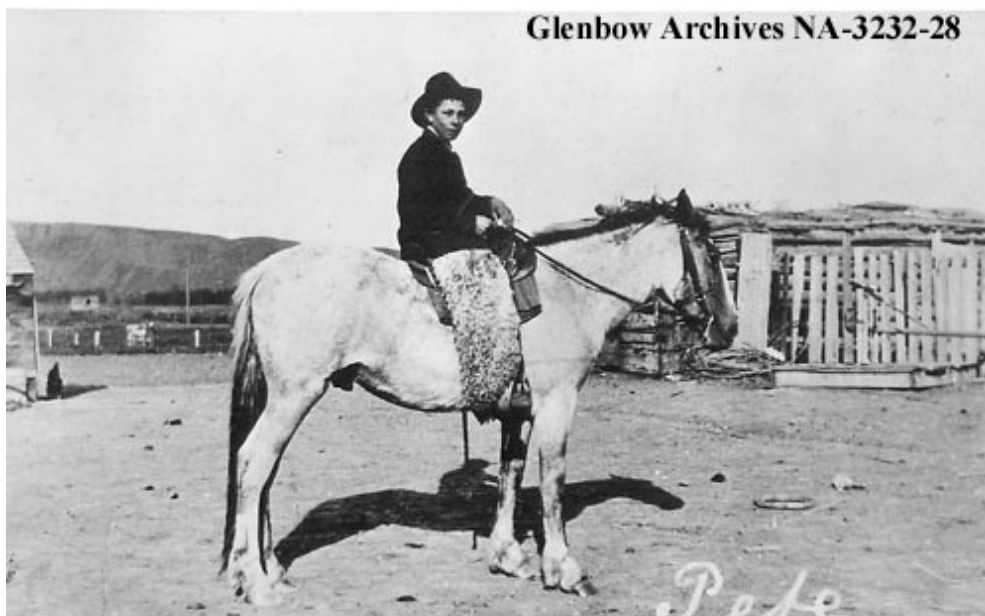
In the open range days, it used to be said that the dream of many a cowpuncher was to become a wagon boss and when his range years were over to graduate to a steady job as a bartender. Be that as it may, there is one Alberta cowhand who early decided that cowpunching as he had known and enjoyed it was passing from the scene to be continued mostly under fence and under a far different routine than he had experienced and liked. So, he decided he would move into another field of endeavor that in his opinion had great possibilities in his own Province of Alberta. Once having made that decision he started in with every intention of reaching the top of the ladder in that particular line of business which sometimes brands its top hands with the degree of Doctor. No, not a vet or dentist or a doctor of medicine, rather a Doctor of Philosophy – an expert upon land formations which greatly help to reveal what lies under the surface of the earth with emphasis upon minerals, gas and oil.

The ex-Cowhand to whom I am now referring is none other than Dr. J. O. G. Sanderson of Calgary, originally of Medicine Hat where his family were among the pioneer settlers in that district and who for many years were active in the livestock industry when the range was open and wide. Dr. Sanderson is today recognized as one of Canada's leading geologists – one who no doubt has spent more active time in the field exploring Western Canada's various localities as to their underground hidden wealth than any other individual.

“Pete” Sanderson, as he is best known to his countless friends, springs from a truly pioneer Western Canadian family or families. Both his grandfathers were early settlers on the frontier of Western Canada. His father's father was James Francis Sanderson, a free trader and freighter, all the way from Selkirk across the plains to Medicine Hat country where he settled in the early '80s. He built the first livery stable in the “Hat” and conducted it along with his livestock interests from his arrival until 1895. Pete's father, Owen, was the eldest son of J. F. Sanderson. As a youth he built quite a reputation as a clever jockey and all-round horseman, first in riding with great success his father's string of fast-running horses (many of the early ranchers prided themselves with the fast horses they kept) and later on as a top hand in breaking bronks. Owen Sanderson died in 1907 of bronchial pneumonia, having contracted it when left afoot on the range by a played-out horse he was riding in a storm.

Pete's mother was the eldest daughter of the noted early day Mountie and stock inspector who ranged from Maple Creek to Gleichen for twenty years – John Henry Gresham Bray, who was also father of the two well-known cowboys of the Medicine Hat district, Harry and Reg Bray. Both of Pete Sanderson's grandfathers, J. F. Sanderson and J. H. G. Bray, were fast friends. They were responsible for the organization in 1896, of one of the first Stock Growers' Associations in Western Canada which was later amalgamated with the present Western Stock Growers' Association. J. F. Sanderson was the first President and J. H. G. Bray was the first Secretary and Manager, a position he held for about five years. Pete has the original minute book of that association. It contains much of interest as to the early association.

Pete got his early schooling in Medicine Hat where among his schoolmates were Jesse Day, a brother of Ad Day the rancher, as well as with Addison Perry Day, Jr. (sometimes called "Boy" Day) and Horace Day. Both were sons of Ad Day. They all became fast friends and young Sanderson spent much of his spare time on horseback, riding with the Day boys. Ad Day supplied a lot of the livestock used at "The Stampede" in its original presentation in Calgary in 1912 and naturally young Sanderson wanted to see the show. Leaving school flat on its face, young Pete talked a friendly C.P.R. conductor into furnishing him with transportation to Calgary. Upon his arrival he contacted me, saying he was with his uncles the Bray boys, Harry and Reg, who had entered a relay string in the contest, and obtained a pass to the grounds for the week as a groom with the Bray stock. Harry Bray let him sleep in a box stall to watch the tack and equipment of the boys and this, together with bringing him into close touch with the visiting cowboys from the Medicine Hat range, gave the young fellow quite a kick. He thought he was sitting on top of the world.



Pete's return to school at Medicine Hat was followed by trips to the Day and other ranches in between school dates and it was only natural that during the 1913 summer holidays he was to be found along with Boy Day around the Day livestock which was being readied for "The Stampede" to be held in Winnipeg in August. Both he and Boy Day had saddle mounts and were soon trying to duplicate the stunts in fancy and trick riding executed by both Otto Kline and Johnny Mullens who were working out a string of horses suitable for trick riding to go to the Winnipeg contest. Both boys and their horses turned up in Winnipeg. Although both boys were



young they had been around stock enough to savvy what not to do and soon had worked their way into assisting in the corralling and moving of Stampede stock on the ground and in making themselves generally useful. That year we brought a genuine range chuckwagon to Winnipeg with a real roundup cook in charge and it was at this wagon on the grounds that all the cowboys working on stock, chutes, etc. were fed. In this way young Sanderson got his meals during the big show and as well picked up extra money for his work.

At "The Stampede" in Winnipeg in 1913 we had the cream of the world's crop in both fancy roping and trick riding and the young Medicine Hat team of Pete Sanderson and Boy Day worked in to show what they had picked up in the way of lessons from Otto Kline, then the World Champion Trick Rider. The result was that they sprang a new novelty with both boys working on the one horse at the same time. One of their stunts was for Boy Day to stand erect in the saddle with both hands high in the air while Sanderson did a back-drag with his hands picking up gravel and throwing it up in the air as he hung head down with the horse galloping down the track at full speed. It was a stunt that always brought tremendous applause from the crowded stands as well as from the professional trick riders who admired the earnestness of the two young riders.

In 1914 when Pete and Boy Day were herding the Ad Day string of bucking horses on the range around Eastend, Saskatchewan, Ad and Pete Strong were drilling an oil well in the vicinity. Hanging around the well in off times when not herding the bronks, young Sanderson became interested in oil drilling and geology. He read up on it some between times when schooling and ranching did not conflict. In 1915 he, along with A. J. Bryson, rode on the roundup with the 76 Outfit where Ira Triplett was wagon boss under Harry Otterson who was manager for Ryan and Fares. In 1916 he still furthered his cowpunching education while riding on the Sage Creek range with Art Barton on the old Day place where the brands used were Cross Z and Crossed Walking Canes. Pete gained a lot of information regarding brands from Bill Brooks who worked for Ad Day in 1912-13-14.

1917 found Sanderson working on Milk River and later with Vern McLean on Lost River. That year he won the Southeastern Alberta bronk riding held at Manyberries. He used a double-rigged Gallup and Frazier saddle which Emery LaGrandeur had given him in 1913. In 1918 he was a top hand for the Milk River Cattle Co., near Pinhorn. Later he was hired out to Knight and Watson who were ranging stock on the Blood Reserve and the Kircaldy ranch. The cowhands were drawing down \$45 per month and found. Pete collected \$75 as he was riding the rough string. Art Barton was the ramrod and the first horse he cut to Sanderson was known as the "Milk River Black," a half-Percheron raised by Ray Knight – a horse Paul Hester will no doubt recall as they say Paul had tried to break him out as a three-year-old without success. They kept him around to mount new hands on. He was a big, strong horse and later became a well-known contest horse used in Chicago and many other contests in the United States.

All during these range engagements Pete kept up his studies, returning to the University of Alberta in 1919. He took out the week to attend "The Stampede" at Calgary to act as a pick-up man along with others, among them his uncle, Harry Bray, whom I shall always regard as one of the best pick-up men – always well-mounted for the purpose – I have ever seen and I have looked at a lot of them through the years. At that contest Pete also rode for the fancy roping of the late Chester A. Byers, the acknowledged top fancy roper of all time who roped at Calgary that year.

Every season since 1919, just thirty years ago, Pete Sanderson has done active work in geology in the field in the Canadian Northwest in practically all localities. His studies on that subject were made at the University of Alberta from 1917 to 1923, with the exception of 1918; at Yale University in 1924-25-26, and at Toronto University in 1926-28. He was employed on the Great Slave Lake exploration in 1920 by Imperial Oil Co. as well as by both the Provincial and Dominion Governments during the years 1921-22 and 1924-26, and again by Imperial Oil Co. from 1927 to 1932. Since that time he has operated as a free-lance and consulting geologist conducting his own office in Calgary. During the past sixteen years he has handled many big jobs for leading oil companies such as Home Oil Co., Shell Oil Co., Socony-Vacuum and many others including local Alberta companies and top-flight American oil-producing companies.



Pete Sanderson (far right, other than the horse) on Foothills field trip ca. 1938

Pete Sanderson has never found it necessary to leave Alberta, either to get work or obtain experience. Distant oil fields have never been an attraction to him. He says there is much right here in Western Canada that is well worth the active study of any geologist. His success in his chosen profession in his own part of the world amply demonstrates the logic of his contentions. The strikes made by companies for whom he has acted and is acting give stronger testimony than words. Sanderson claims that if a geologist hops, skips and jumps to too many locations he is apt to get Persia, Iran or Peru mixed up with turbans, fez and snowshoes and this might cause a geologist to wind up being morose. Could be!

Although a busy and successful geologist, Pete Sanderson remains a cowhand at heart. He still numbers among his friends many of the old-time ranchers of Alberta and some of the early-day cowhands who were prominent in the cowboy contest field. In addition he is still a genuine rodeo fan and whenever possible attends to watch the performances of the present-day aspirants for prize money, trophies and titles. And although he carries the official brand of "Doctor" in the geology herd, which apparently stamps him as a top hand in that profession, he is still known as "Pete" Sanderson from Medicine Hat to a great many who wouldn't know whom you were talking about if you referred to him as "Doctor" Sanderson.