



# ARCHIVES

*Newsletter of the Petroleum History Society*

*January 2019; Volume XXX, Number 1*

P.H.S. Lunch and Learn Meeting – Wednesday, January 30, 2019

**Forest Landscapes, Applied Science, and the Oil and Gas Industry**  
by Robert (Bob) Bott, Industrial Historian

Both the forestry and petroleum industries involve very significant field-based activities and consequently interact and sometimes conflict with each other. Amicable resolution of such cohabitation of the natural environment is essential to the smooth operation of our economy.

P.H.S. member Robert (Bob) Bott has observed this interaction and its evolution from multiple perspectives as a historian of both the energy and forestry sectors and as a writer and consultant for companies and government agencies. His most recent project, co-authored with forester Robert Udell, examines the development of applied science supporting sustainable resource management on forest landscapes.

*Please see page 4 of this issue for an expanded description of the subject matter of this talk.*

Time: 12 noon, Wednesday, January 30, 2019  
Place: Calgary Petroleum Club  
319 - 5 Avenue SW, Calgary; Cardium Room (but check marquee).  
Dress: Business casual.  
Cost: P.H.S. Members and Student Members \$35 and Guests \$40 (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, January 28, 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.

**Next Luncheon – mark your calendar:** After our January 30 event, the next luncheon talk will take place on February 27. Andrew Fox, retired geologist, will be speaking to us about “The First Commercial Use of Natural Gas in Canada” that occurred in the Niagara Falls region of Ontario back in the 1800’s.

**Membership Renewals:** P.H.S. Treasurer Micky Gulless is currently sending out renewal notices and contact verification requests to our members. Several options exist for payment, as explained on the renewal form. Please take a moment to look after this important piece of business. We have maintained the level of our dues for this coming year.

**Donor Recognition:** One facet of the Society’s financial structure is the generous donation that many members add to their membership dues or make independently. For 2018 we would like to recognize for following people who have supported us in this way. These are Joshua Groberman (BOE Report/Grobes Media), Adriana Davies, Micky Gulless, Dick Haskayne, Ian Kirkland, Gerry Maier, Preston Manning, Doug MacNeill, Alice Payne, Nick Taylor, Uldis Upitis and Patrick Sean Wells. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thanks.

**Petroleum Industry Oral History Project:** As you know, this was a major initiative, originally involving Aubrey Kerr, back in the early 1980’s. Many of the interviews were transcribed with the resulting documents available on the Glenbow Archives website. The Glenbow also hosts the original tapes and any accessory resources. Early last year the P.H.S. Board realized that a significant subset of the interviews had not, indeed, been transcribed and their contents were therefore not easily accessible. As a result we decided to initiate the transcription of the approximately 60 remaining hours of interviews. We are sharing the cost of this work with the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Total project cost is about \$12,500. Completion is expected in early 2019.

**Great Petroleum Slogans:** Famous oilman J. Paul Getty’s exhorted his employees with “*Rise Early, Work Hard, Strike Oil*”. Of a more local derivation, a recent Molson Canadian commercial told us that “*The best way to honour history is to continue making it*”. While obviously intended to promote their beer sales, we will gladly take on this sentiment for the petroleum industry.

**Making the most of Archives:** As previously announced, Treasurer Micky Gulless has completed the loading of the past issues of *Archives* into the P.H.S. website – all the way back to our inaugural issue in September 1987. This represents a very large body of historical work but sometimes finding what you are after can be a challenge. Micky offers the following instructions for conducting a search of these records:

To see the back issues visit <http://petroleumhistory.ca/archivesnews/index.html>. If you are looking for a particular story or speaker, an easy way to find it is to use Google for a site-specific search as follows: *search phrase* site:petroleumhistory.ca. For example, “leduc discovery site:petroleumhistory.ca” or “grant macewan site:petroleumhistory.ca.”

**Gender Bender:** I think that we have all heard about the Prime Minister’s expectation that gender-related aspects be included in the review process for major projects. There has been some significant pushback about his comment that problems arise when male-dominated work crews arrive in local communities.

One wonders where this judgement comes from. Thinking back in history, however, this does seem to have been true in some cases during the earlier days of the petroleum industry in Canada. Indeed the story goes that the reason that the town of Devon was built was that the townsfolk of nearby Leduc didn’t want their daughters to be at the mercy of male oil field workers. One also recalls a portion of the CKUA video “Roughnecks, Wildcats and Doodlebugs” where attempt is made to cast this sort of interaction in a humorous light. Perhaps the P.M. is indirectly recalling something that he read in a book about this distant past.

**Karl Clark and the Oil Sands:** P.H.S. Director Doug Cass alerted us to a 2018 history thesis by Shane Roberts of the University of Western Ontario entitled “*Separating the Sands: Karl Clark and Early Oil Sands Research in Alberta*” that is accessible through: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7517&context=etd>

**Canadian Pipelines:** Doug also notes that Professor Sean Kheraj of York University is writing a book on the history of pipelines in Canada and released in May 2018 a short article entitled “*The Complicated History of Building Pipelines in Canada*” that can be accessed through: <http://theconversation.com/the-complicated-history-of-building-pipelines-in-canada-97450>

**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.

**Archives** is published approximately eight times a year  
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# Forest Landscapes, Applied Science, and the Oil and Gas Industry

*A presentation to the Petroleum History Society by Bob Bott*

There have been some years in recent decades when the energy sector cut more trees than Alberta's forest companies. The biggest "clearcuts" in the province are the corridors of roads, pipelines, and power lines leading to and from the Fort McMurray area, as well as the oil sands operations themselves. The oil and gas industry has created many thousands of kilometres of "linear disturbances"—roads, seismic cutlines, pipelines, and power lines—that provide easy access for ATVs and snowmobiles and easy travel for wolves and grizzly bears. Each crossing of a watercourse is a potential hazard to fisheries and water quality. The impacts on endangered species such as caribou now require major investments in remediation and could make some area off limits for exploration and development.

*Learning from the Landscape: the fRI Research story* was published in December 2018 by fRI Research, the Hinton-based institute formerly known as the Foothills Research Institute and, before 2007, the Foothills Model Forest. (The name changes reflect the expansion of the institute's activities beyond the original foothills land base, across Western Canada and in some cases internationally.) The lavishly illustrated, 360-page hardcover book details the research undertaken by the institute since 1992; it also includes the historical, social, political, and environmental context for each research topic. Print copies are available from fRI Research for \$40, and an e-book is also planned.

The oil and gas industry has been a supporter and partner of fRI Research since its formation in 1992. In fact, the current board president is Jesse Kirillo from Repsol Oil & Gas Canada. Here are some examples of the relevance to energy stakeholders:

- Biological diversity: changes in practices and regulations regarding grizzly bears, caribou, and bird species; creation of the Foothills Landscape Management Forum; integrated land management; impact remediation; landscape-level planning; biodiversity monitoring
- Healthy forests: advances in reforestation and fire management
- Soil and water: research on water, fisheries, and erosion, which led to creation of the Foothills Stream Crossing Partnership and provincial policies on water crossing inspection and remediation
- Climate: research examining the role of forests as carbon sources and sinks, the effects of climate change on forests, and the possible commercialization of forest carbon credits (the latter deemed too risky for implementation)
- Social and economic impacts: how uses and users affect forest landscapes, and the effects of management on communities and society (e.g. FireSmart programs)
- Society's responsibility: Indigenous involvement; communicating land use knowledge to practitioners, decision makers, and the public.

*Thanks to Bob for taking the time to make this presentation to us.*

## Books of Note – Past and Present (key words highlighted)

Fair, H.J., 2016. **Industrial Scars** – The Hidden Costs of Consumption. Published by Papadakis. 204 p., large format. \$45.00 U.S. Chapters Energy – Coal, Fracking, Oil; Raw Materials – Aluminum, Copper, Steel; Farming – Food. Very colourful and even artful aerial photos plus explanatory texts. The oil section includes Fort McMurray, drilling and pipeline operations in Pennsylvania and North Dakota, and numerous pictures from the Macondo – Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lawyer, L.C., Bates, C.C. and Rice, R.B. 2001. **Geophysics** in the Affairs of Mankind: A Personalized History of Exploration Geophysics. Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 429 p.

Dirsa, T. 2018. **Leduc**: Then and Now. Lulu Publishing, 155 p. Available from the Leduc Public Library. \$20.00. This new book was reviewed in the Winter 2019 issue of Alberta History magazine in which it is stated that “*This book traces the development of Leduc from an overnight stopping place on the Calgary & Edmonton trail to the modern city of today. ... The discovery of oil a few miles from Leduc put the town on the map. Leduc No. 1, which blew in on February 13, 1947, resulted in a boom in petroleum exploration and development across the whole of western Canada.*”

Osborne, W. late 1800's. Echoes from the Oil Country. W. Osborne's experiences repairing machinery in Western Pennsylvania in the late 1800's. Selected articles from early issues of **American Machinist** Magazine. Volumes 1 through 5 with 61, 64, 93, 175 and 64 pages, respectively. Reprinted by Lindsay Publications Inc. 2002 and 2003. These volumes were provided to me by Dr. John Lake, a Saskatchewan geologist.

Rosenberg, G.D. and Clary, R.M. (eds.) 2018. **Museums** at the Forefront of the History and Philosophy of Geology: History Made, History in the Making. Geological Society of America, Special Paper 535, 348 p. Although this book is not specifically about petroleum, geology and its many sub-disciplines are such essential components of petroleum exploration and development that the volume is bound to have appeal to those who have these interests.

Towe, B. (ed.) 2018. Bert Riggall's Greater **Waterton**: A Conservation Legacy. Fifth House. 312 p., \$60.00. Although this book is mainly focused on Riggall's photographic records of and accompanying commentaries on his life in the Waterton region between 1904 and 1959, it does include a short chapter (No. 3) by Chris Morrison touching on the Oil City area and the spurt of activity that took place there in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He would have been aware of British American's Pincher Creek discovery of 1948 with its early development beginning in 1957 – and of Shell's Waterton discovery of 1957 just to the north of Waterton Park - but as far as I can see, neither of those later petroleum-related activities figure into the book. Fred Stenson, of gas processing's Waste to Wealth fame, provides a biographical introduction. Quite a beautiful book with the photos either black and white or sepia.

Randal Kabatoff Soul of Alberta **calendars** for 2019. Randal and his team created a “Petroleum Pioneers” calendar (or wall book as he sometimes describes them). Also a “Work Horses” one. Both were available at the Glenbow gift store. These are great compilations of photos and descriptive text. His byline is “Bringing Canadian Heritage and History to Life” and he succeeds.

## JACK BOWMAN TRAIL – TURNER VALLEY

The Turner Valley Oilfield Society recently worked with Crescent Point Energy, the Town of Turner Valley, the Turner Valley Golf Course and local contributors to construct a walking trail along the south side of Sheep River adjacent to the historic Turner Valley Gas Plant (on the north side). A series of plaques have been created and mounted along the length of the trail.

Access to the trail is from the west. If coming either south or west into Turner Valley on Highway 22, turn south on Main Street at the right angle bend in Highway 22 in the town centre. Almost immediately turn left (east) onto Dekalta Dr. (should be Decalta?) and proceed south across the bridge spanning Sheep River. Take the next high angle turnoff left onto Imperial Dr. This road used to cross the golf course and eventually lead to Black Diamond but it has been torn up where it intersects the course and now terminates in a turning circle within which parking is banned. You can, however, park along Imperial Dr. Some of the plaques are detailed below:

**Jack Bowman Interpretive Trail:** This trail honours the people who discovered, developed and operated the Turner Valley Oilfield and the Turner Valley Gas Plant. Jack Bowman was a company superintendent for many years. Like many senior oilfield personnel, Jack not only managed operations in the oilfield and at the gas plant, but also contributed to recreational, fraternal and social facilities, and activities in the area.

**Oil Boom Communities:** Workers and families flocked to the Turner Valley Oilfield during the booms. Communities sprang up in the oilfield: Whiskey Row, Poverty Flats, Dogtown, Snob Hill, Cuffling Flats, Naphtha, Mercury Camp, Hartell, Little New York, Little Philadelphia and Little Chicago. Some faded away or became part of Turner Valley. Little New York, now Longview, and Hartell survived as separate communities. Snob Hill, located here on the hill, is now the Royalite Subdivision and part of the Town of Turner Valley. Built to house the executives of the largest oil company in the oilfield, its nickname reflected the affluence of its residents.

**Dingman No. 1 – 1914:** On May 14, 1914, Dingman No. 1 well blew in beside the Sheep River. It began the first commercial oilfield in Western Canada. Drilled by Calgary Petroleum Products, the discovery well became known as the Dingman well because A.W. Dingman was the general manager of the company. The company's investors included founder W. Stewart Herron, Senator James Lougheed, R.B. Bennett, A.E. Cross and William Pearce. The discovery well struck oil at 828 m (2,718 ft) and resulted in an 18 m (60 ft) gusher. It produced four million cubic feet of gas a day as well as liquids similar to gasoline.

Other plaques feature:

**Turner Valley Oilfield**  
**Turner Valley Gas Plant**  
**Flaring**  
**Scrubbing and Sulphur Plant**  
**Compressor Building**  
**Turner Valley Golf Club**  
**Horton Spheres**  
**Gasoline and Propane Plant**

## REMEMBRANCES

*(With thanks to the Calgary Herald and Legacy.com)*

**GILBERT, Edward Everett (Ned).** Born May 3, 1922 in Madison, Wisconsin and passed away November 16, 2018. Ned had a free-spirited childhood. After finishing college, he moved to Calgary as the first employee of Sun Oil Company, now Suncor, where he became exploration manager. His dedication, courage and foresight were instrumental in the creation of Canada's oil industry. In later years he became director of the land management program at the University of Calgary, thus following in his father's academic footsteps. Ned married Evelyn (Lyn) Gilbert in 1947 and, together, they raised their two children. Ned and Lyn were actively involved in their neighbourhood, their community and their city. They were well-loved and loved well.

Funeral Services will be held at Temple B'Nai Tikvah (900 47 Ave SW, Calgary, AB) on Saturday, January 26, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Reception to follow at the Temple. All are welcome.

*Ned was a long-time member of the Petroleum History Society and a frequent attendee at our events. He recently worked with David Finch on a book about his life and donated multiple copies of it to the P.H.S. for fundraising purposes. Please contact us if you are interested in buying one. Details of his funeral service are included here as probable receipt of the newsletter precedes it.*

**GRAHAM, Mervin William (Merv).** Born September 24, 1932 in Russell, Ontario, and passed away December 25, 2018. Merv grew up on the family farm where he was the middle child of five children. As a young man, Merv headed west and found work in the oilpatch with his brother, Willard. He met Cecilia Pascal while she was working as a nurse at the Didsbury Hospital. They were married November 8, 1951 and raised six children. Merv's career at Mobil Oil enabled the family to live in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Alaska, and Norway, eventually retiring in Calgary in 1988 to be close to family. Merv enjoyed golfing, curling, downhill skiing, his 1929 Ford Model A, travelling and working around the house and making improvements and updates to it. His activities included being active in the Model A Club and skiing with the kids from Wood's Homes.

*Merv was also a long time member of the Petroleum History Society.*

**O'SHEA, Henry (Hank).** Hank served in World War II in the Canadian Navy (RCNVR). He later graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia in Science (Geology) and worked throughout his life in the oil and gas industry as an exploration geologist in western Canada, in Ontario and in neighboring provinces and states. He was a founding father of the Ontario Petroleum Institute and served as its first President.

*Thanks to Chuck Buckley, his third cousin, for alerting us to this passing.*

**PATTERSON, Arthur (Art) Moxon.** Born February 29, 1924 in Calgary, Alberta and passed away December 26, 2018. Art grew up in Calgary in what became known as the Hart House above Sarcee Trail. He trained as a navigator during World War II. Following the war he graduated as a Geological Engineer from the University of British Columbia. This led to a long and successful career as an exploration geologist in the oil business in Calgary. His first assignment was with Imperial Oil doing geological mapping of the Front Ranges of the Rocky



Mountains from southern Alberta and British Columbia into the Northwest Territories. Transportation those summers was initially by horseback and packhorses, followed by early bush planes and finally helicopters. There are many colourful stories about friends, colleagues, pilots, and their adventures from those days that Art loved to tell!

Art and Margie both loved the mountains and were always creating family wilderness adventures, from Christmas at Halfway Hut, to camping in tipis up the Spray, to kayaking the Liard River in spring flood! His love of skiing and familiarity with helicopters led to the idea of helicopter skiing and to a long association with friends and guides at Canadian Mountain Holidays. He was very involved in ski touring and building the first huts along the Wapta Traverse. Art was also a major influence in the lives of many young people as a Cub Scout and Venturer Leader (perhaps as a means to keep his free-spirited son and friends occupied and out of trouble!).

A memorial celebration of life will take place The Glencoe Club 636 29 Ave SW, Calgary, AB on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

*Art was also a long time member of the Petroleum History Society. On March 27, 2002 he was the keynote speaker at that year's Annual Meeting. The topic of his address was "Notes on Global Climate Change – Past, Present and Future". Details of his funeral service are included here as receipt of this newsletter will precede it.*



## EAST COAST HIGHLIGHT

The obelisk commemorating Dr. Abraham Gesner in Camp Hill cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. P.H.S. President for scale.

Inscription reads: Abraham Gesner, M.D., F.R.S. Geologist born at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia May 2, 1797. Died at Halifax April 29, 1864. His treatise on the geology and mineralogy of Nova Scotia, 1836 was one of the earliest works dealing with those subjects in this province and about 1852 he was the American inventor of the process of kerosene oil. [Note: "American" vs. European]

Erected by Imperial Oil Limited as a token of appreciation and for his important contribution to the oil industry.