

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Harry Alger

INTERVIEWER: Jack Minchin or Peach?

DATE: Oct. 27, 1981

#000 Jack: I'm taping this interview on the 27th of October, 1981 in the office of Harry Alger and that's at 1901, that's the floor number at 727 - 6 Ave. It's Executive Place in Calgary and so away we go first of all with asking Harry Alger where he came from, what his family was and where he was brought up. So away you go Harry.

Harry: Well, my father came from Ontario to Saskatchewan in the early 1900's and established a homestead and finally married my mother in about 1917 I believe. I was born the third of three sons at a little town called Prelate Saskatchewan.

Jack: Where's Prelate

Harry: Prelate is 35 miles east of Empress and about 100 miles northwest of Swift Current. It's on what they call the Empress - Swift Current line. It was a small farming Community and thrived very sincerely through the farming years, the early farming years in that they had nine elevators in that town, were serviced by the Canadian Pacific Railway. In fact in 1928, I think they broke all records for wheat per acre in the province of Saskatchewan.

#015 Jack: So it would be almost as big as in Vulcan.

Harry: Indeed it was. At the time it was quite a place. The depression showed it's ugly head in 1929 and we were forced to sell the farm due to my father's losses on the open market and we went to town, to the town of Prelate and established a garage business there under the partnership name of Jensen and Alger. This partnership thrived for two or three years and they sold a lot of cars and had the British American products to dispense at the pumps.

#020 Jack: What was your car manufacturers?

Harry: They seemed to have two. They sold a lot of Chevrolets as well as a lot of Nashes. Nash was a very popular car in those days.

Jack: ???ignition 6 and the Ambassador and all the rest of them, wonderful cars.

Harry: Yes, they were. We enjoyed our life there even though it was a very desperate style of life in that not only did the depression hit but so did the, what's the best word for being. . . . the drought. Same era.

Jack: All those dry years, dreadful ones.

Harry: Yeah, and it was just pathetic to watch cattle literally dying right in front of you and farmers just going under one after the other because they just couldn't

get their seed back and it was a terrible arrangement.

Jack: It was the time of the grasshoppers too, and the dust.

Harry: Grasshoppers and cutworms.

#028 Jack: Everything happened at once didn't it.

Harry: Yes that's right. There was a lot of Russian Thistles blew around those days. We even tried to feed them to the cattle and I'm sure a lot of guys succeeded that way plus what straw they could clean off their field to use for feed. In 1932 my father thought that there must be other ways to make a few dollars so he spent each summer from then until 1936 out in Kelowna, British Columbia, where he not only worked in a garage for a fellow named Cecil Moore but he also picked fruit for anybody that would have him, you know, in the orchards. I don't know what they got for it, it wasn't very much but it kept us out of starvations rolls in Saskatchewan.

#035 Jack: Oh, he went out there alone and left the family back

Harry: Yes, he would go alone each summer and do all this and he would come back in the fall. At which point he would usually warm up an old truck and go to places like Meadow Lake for a truck load of frozen fish and down to Moose Jaw for a truckload of potatoes and so forth and distribute them amongst the townspeople, of which there were say, some 500 people total. And he was very good that way, I felt a very generous man in that respect and I'm sincere about that, I don't think too many guys would perform. . .

#040 Now did he do this trucking just as a gratuitous thing or. . ?

Harry: Just as a gratuitous thing, oh yes. You see, literally everybody except the banker and ourselves and maybe some of the teachers were on what they called relief in those days. In fact it was an abominable situation but one way or another we managed to keep body and soul together. On one of his return trips from Kelowna, Jack, he stopped at Turner Valley to see some of his old friends, whom we had visited incidentally on a holiday in 1932 and knew there was a gas field there of course and knew a little bit about what it smelled like and so on, just from memory.

#047 Now were his friends oil people or were they farmers.

Harry: No, they were store keepers. The McLeod family of Turner Valley, they were formerly from Musiman, then got to Prelate and then subsequently out Turner Valley. I think they got to Turner Valley in about 1928 or 9. In any event they befriended him and said Carmen, it looks pretty good out here, why don't you mover this way. And he watched the traffic go by and heard that roughnecks were making \$5 a day and he said Jesus there's got to be some money in this town, I think I'll get some of it. So he came back to Prelate and said we're moving. I bought an old shack in Turner Valley and we're going to move. And we didn't have, you know, a glamorous house of any kind in Prelate either, it was just an ordinary, a very ordinary house so it wasn't hard to leave there. It was

hard to leave our friends naturally.

#055 How did your mother feel about this?

Harry: Just terrible, absolutely terrible and I don't know whether she was maybe starting to become ill at that time or not. I really can't remember that, that clearly but she died in two years after we left Prelate.

#058 Terrible upheaval for a woman with a family in those days to suddenly uproot. . .

Harry: Yes, it was Jack, that's true. But she got to Turner Valley and took over right where she left off by teaching piano lessons to anybody that wanted them as well as she became Sunday School superintendent within a couple of weeks and that type of person is always hard to find and so she

#062 Jack Oh, so she had a very cultural side to her then

Harry: Precisely.

Jack: Did she teach all of you boys the piano?

Harry: Yes, every one of us. In fact our oldest brother would have been the Liberace of his time had he lived, he was killed when he was 23 but he was a magnificent musician. My brother Ross is no slouch and I play a little.

Jack: I didn't know that Ross played the piano.

Harry: Yes, he plays rather well as a matter of fact. ???church and stuff like that, not you know, not to entertain.

Jack: She would have you into church and literature and all the rest of it then?

Harry: Church, literature, Sunday Schools, yes. Good reading.

Jack: What they used to call in quotes, the better things in life.

Harry: I think so, yes. What there was of them, we got the best.

#070 Jack So you're into Turner Valley and she's plunged back into this again, well good for her.

Harry: Right. Dad brought out a carpenter from Saskatchewan and this shack was 24 x 36 and wide open Jack. Not a piece of wood in it anyplace, no partitions, no nothing, but we had our piano, we had our wood stove or coal stove which we quickly converted to gas naturally because we got the gas for nothing so it wasn't hard to heat this monster of a building.

#075 Jack Gas came up the back lane didn't it?

Harry: Well, it came right down our front street where we were.

Jack: But a common pipe and you. . . .

Harry: Of course, everybody hooked on. It was a forty pound line and that's what you had in your stove was forty pounds, that's lots.

Jack: This is the kind that would blow the stove lids off every now and then wouldn't it?

Harry: That's right. It would just burn the hell out of the stove and if you lit it badly you'd have the lids in the ceiling.

Jack: What about the grates, I suppose. . . .

Harry: Well they'd warp funny, and you know, it ruined all those stoves eventually, but who cared, you know, you could get another one cheap.

#080 Jack: This would test the woman's cooking ability. A forty pound line shoving gas into a stove, I suppose she had to readjust all her ideas of baking.

Harry: Well, I think the steadiness of the heat once you got it settled you know, you had a big lever on your one inch valve so you wouldn't get too much or too little on, you'd just get it about right and then I think the steadiness of the heat fooled her for a long time because with coal and wood it was up and down like a bride's nightie you know. It would be hot one minute and cold the next. But we baked our own bread and so forth so this kind of thing was quite an asset in that respect because of the steadiness you know, and the rest of the cooking was I suppose very similar to what we'd been used to.

#087 Jack: And of course there's be a lot of housewife swapping there because there were a lot of women in precisely the same boat.

Harry: Precisely. Dad was . . . oh independent I guess is the best word, he tried working for the Royal Lake for 40 cents an hour and the Valley Pipeline Company and people like that but he really didn't enjoy digging ditches and I didn't blame him a hell of a lot.

#091 Jack: That was his first job was it, ditches for pipelines?

Harry: Yes. But the old truck that he moved us out there was about a ton and a quarter, ton and a half Graham truck and it would be a 1929 vintage so it was seven years old even at that but still a pretty good old truck. And he managed to move gravel for people and little things, oh they might even want a toilet shifted some days you know and stuff like that which he would do. And he even moved rigs part of that time with that same old truck. He'd load steel on by hand and load it off by hand and same with the gravel, he shovelled it on and shovelled it off, didn't have a hoist or he didn't have a loader. And he successfully got that truck into a bigger truck and finally got onto the Royal Lake mud haul, where he hauled mud for Royal Lake and he hauled it for Oilwell Contractors, Manual Canadian and eventually became the, well I guess you might say he had the franchise on the mud in Turner Valley. ??? clay and you dug it out of the ground.

#102 Jack: Right there in the valley.

Harry: Right in Turner Valley, yes. On the north side of Turner Valley on what they call the McDougall Cedar Lease. They had a block of land there that was classified as native clay and it would be. . . , you'd boil it up at the rigs with those big steam rigs and that was your drilling fluid. It wasn't all that refined as it is nowadays, the fluid itself was just kept heavy so the well wouldn't blow in and that type of thing. They'd learned a lot of lessons. By this time Jack, most people were into rotary tools, there were still a lot of cable tools used in drilling but rotary was coming into it's own and now I'm up to almost 1940 literally speaking, now

this is on my father's behalf.

#110 Jack: With the need for mud.

Harry: With this need for mud.

Jack: And so you say he just about the franchise, all of that sort of thing.

Harry: Well by 1942, I guess you could literally say he was hauling it all. Sam Venji and different fellows were with him . . . oh, they went to other fields and I don't know where the hell all they got to. But between Sam and let's see Kimble and Carter were a trucking firm there. Geez, I know some other and I can't think. . . Don Veters trucked quite a while, gravel and so did Bill Ross. Bill Ross was a big gravel contractor.

Jack: Johnson

Harry: Yeah, what was Johnson's name?

Jack: Sam.

Harry: Well Sam Johnson was a rig builder I think but there was another fellow named Johnson from the north Turner Valley School that had a good big truck and another fellow named Ted Lee. He was the real rig mover and finally when ??? and that had to be picked up and moved by winch in that style of truck. He had the first tandem truck I think that I ever saw.

#121 Jack: What year would that be, in the '40's.

Harry: No, I would guess that would be close to 1938.

Jack: And no roads, everything to travel, it was terrible.

Harry: Well yes, that's right. There was road allowances of course but they weren't built up or gravelled like they are now or paved and so forth. No they were pretty tough, location roads in particular were just a goddamn mess.

Jack: You have to have real struggling trucks to make the trip with that kind of load that they haul.

Harry: Yes, that's true. Ted Lee I can remember him yet lumbering out of there off that Sioux City Lease and he would. . . he lived down there some place and had a shack of his own and would warm up this old truck and away he'd go. Royal Lake finally bought a big truck of their own. They had one of these big winch trucks later on.

#131 Jack: Were the Rennards in on this at all.

Harry: Dave Rennard was in the oil field all right but I really can't tell you exactly too much about Dave Rennard. I know him better now than I knew him then but I think he was, among other things, after he finished what might have been a colourful career, he was more or less a salesman and a watchman for the Turner Valley Supply Company. Now that's my knowledge of him, it's limited I have to confess that. I should know more about him, I should have interviewed him myself by this time but I haven't done so.

#137 Jack: Now here you are with your father doing all this trucking, what were you doing in the meantime.

Harry: Well I was in grade 8 when I arrived in Turner Valley and finished my public and high school then in five years in their rather elaborate high school system as opposed to anything that anybody else had at that time. They had an absolutely beautiful high school and taught such courses as manual training and house economics and things like that, that hardly any schools of that era ever even thought of. And among other courses that they offered was geology, so in grade 10 my partner and I, my present partner and I, Dan Whitney took geology together and between our association with his father who was a drilling man and my father who was a trucking man, we sort of just naturally blended into the oil industry I guess. Never thought of anything else, we never thought of dentistry or lawyering or accounting or anything.

#148 Jack: Well, it was all around you anyway, wasn't it?

Harry: Precisely, yes.

Jack: Now, who was the elder Whitney, which one was he?

Harry: The elder Whitney that I know is Roy Whitney.

Jack: R. J.

Harry: R. J. Whitney was my partner's father and indeed my father-in-law, I married his daughter in 1944.

#152 Jack: So the boyhood companionship developed into something more than that?

Harry: We played hockey together and ball and borrowed his dad's truck to haul the team around in the summertime and borrowed his old man's car to haul the team around in the winter time so we got around that way by just who would drive you here and there. And Dan and I played a lot of hockey together as well as quite a bit of ball.

#156 Jack: What position did you play in hockey?

Harry: I was a left winger in hockey and a first baseman on the ball team.

Jack: They were pretty active down in the valley too weren't they?

Harry: Oh yes, there were a lot of kids and a lot of good sports and a lot of very fine athletes that finally emanated from there, particularly in the swimming world oddly enough. there's another thing Jack, that most people don't know anything about. In 1936 they opened a swimming pool, almost on the day we arrived, it must have opened within weeks, either before or after, I've forgotten, but for a five dollar bill the whole family could have a membership for the year.

#163 Jack: Where was that?

Harry: At the bottom end of Turner Valley, below the plant level, up on the banks of the Sheep River, by the swinging bridge, we used to have a little swinging bridge there to go to school across.

Jack: Which is on the way over to Snob Hill

Harry: Exactly, at the base of Snob Hill as well but across the river from them.

And we all learned to swim and in fact took part in the Wrigley swim for 2 or 3 years in a row which was the Alberta style contest for the best of swimmers.

Jack: Not the Lake Ontario one but the western one.

Harry: Yes right. And we had oh, we had fairly long distance races, a lot of sprinting races and quite a few relay races as well as diving contests. And those Turner Valley boys for that price and considering there was a lack of swimming pools throughout the whole country at that time, they learned a lot about swimming and diving that most kids don't know yet.

#175 Jack: This was in the pool or did you go outside?

Harry: In the pool.

Jack: No lake business, this was strictly. . . .

Harry: No right in the swimming pool. It was a hot swimming pool, we could use it winter and summer.

Jack: Of course it would be heated by gas I suppose.

Harry: Heated by the water from the gas plant.

Jack: From the Royal Lake plant.

Harry: The water just flowed down through the swimming pool and out to the river.

Jack: That's making good use of it.

Harry: Well it was. And it was controlled to a degree with reference to chlorination and so forth, they threw a little in now and then. I don't suppose anybody really cared how much. Some days it would be hard on your eyes and some days it wouldn't.

Jack: But the temperature would be just about standard all the time.

Harry: The temperature was close to 90 degrees which was a little too warm for good swimming but it was sure nice for laying around in and old folks and young folks alike played and rested in that pool for blessed years that I can remember, at least five years.

Jack: What happened to it?

Harry: I don't really know. I left Turner Valley in 1942 and I didn't come back again until '45 and I can't remember if the pool was there then or not. I think it still may have been although we didn't use it that much by that time but they built a new one anyway up on the town site of Turner Valley which is still getting a lot of use but of course is like every other pool now, it's a controlled water system and so forth.

#191 Jack: The other one must have been surely a social centre too.

Harry: Oh it was, it was indeed. They had an upstairs room in the actual change house that we played ping pong in for hours and hours at a time, that type of thing.

Jack: Now was this mostly for the young people or did a lot of the workers on the rigs use it.

Harry: I think everybody in Turner Valley utilised that pool to a degree but mostly the kids that were going to school, public and high school in the actual Turner

Valley system used it a lot more than others. But yes, a lot of good drilling men, I can remember Harry Morris yet diving off our 8 foot board there, what we called the high board, well he was just a magnificent swimmer. He was an old Turner Valley driller. Not, he wasn't old at the time. . . , I think Harry has slipped along, I'm not sure.

#202 Jack: Taking time out I suppose, to help the kids learn.

Harry: Well not that so much, I think more for his own amusement. He had children of his own that he brought over, Joe Morris, I remember Joe was a pretty heavy kid and he came over a lot and learned to swim. And we had a few Chinese people in town and they were good, they each turned out to be good athletes and good swimmers. I don't remember any Negro families in Turner Valley although we did have one at Prelate that was a very enjoyable family which has not bearing on this. We did have a few Indians working on the rigs later on in my life but even very few of them.

#210 Jack: How were they on the rigs, the Indians, this is to divert for a minute?

Harry: Well, I'd have to classify them as, they'd do what they were asked, they sure didn't do any more than they were asked. Well literally they didn't know what to do, they were on their own, you know. They weren't really what you'd call drilling types but they liked the job and they liked the money I guess like everybody else.

#215 Jack: While we're on that particular branch of things Harry, what about the Americans versus the Canadians in those days?

Harry: Well, in my formative years from say '36 to '42 there was some pretty phenomenal changes in the oil field, in that as I mentioned earlier, the cable tools were slowing down to a degree and getting less and less contracts. Although Grandpa Whitney was on the contract for the Turner Valley royalties well for it's first drilling stage up till about, I think 3,700 feet. When they ran out of money they brought in rotary tools then, a year later and they said to Roy that perhaps this would be the way to go and he agreed and that was the real discovery of genuine crude in Turner Valley was at Turner Valley Royalties well. There was lots of crude in those high pressure gas wells but not enough to call it crude wells, they were really gas cap wells.

#230 Jack: Now, this is within the thing, not to get off the topic, when the rotaries came in did it mean a whole new crew, i.e. a crew of Americans who knew the rotary rig.

Harry: Well, literally speaking, I suppose in a way you could just say common expansion didn't put anybody out of work, at least not to my knowledge. The cable tool men carried on their work until they were completely out of work at which time they usually became battery men or production men for somebody else while the Newell and Chandler rigs and some of the big Royal Light steam

rigs that went to rotary or were already at rotary, their men would stay on the payroll, literally forever. If you had a good job on any of those rigs you didn't give it up and the only time you lost it, if you did indeed lose it, was for breaking your leg or something like that and somebody would be waiting at the end of the ??? for that job, that's the way it was, you know. No I wouldn't say the influence of Cody and Spencer and Matinoul or any of those fellows took away from anything in Turner Valley, in fact they added a good deal to it.

#246 Jack: Did that make them popular, when Cody Spencer. . . .

Harry: Cody Spencer was very popular, so was Matt because there was work to be done and fellows were coming in to get those jobs. Yeah. And they paid well, they paid the going rate for whatever it was and they drilled a lot of wells and oddly enough didn't hurt too many people. The accident rate, I wouldn't say was as high then as it is now on a per capita basis. Now mind you I'm not using any statistics, we sure as hell hurt a few guys and killed a few guys but not the way we're doing it now.

#255 Jack: So when these people came in, I suppose it was looked upon, I would gather it was looked upon as another whole horizon for the workers in Turner Valley.

Harry: Yes, and in fact that's right. There was a group called Bowler toward the middle of the Turner Valley near Hartel, Bowler, he formed a drilling company and . . . A lot of them you know, oddly enough got involved in the production of the stuff too, they. . . , well they seemed to earn an ownership, as it were, through the drilling of the well and many cases if the well was dry they just didn't get any money. but if it was a good well they'd pay the roughnecks double what they were supposed to earn and then they'd take some of their earnings out of production. That was quite a common habit in those early years. But with reference to your actual question, did they offend or irritate, I would say no, I would say they were a boon or a blessing to the field in that respect. If you enjoyed progress they were sure as hell help making it.

#271 Jack: They would bring in a lot of know-how that I suppose they would share with the local people.

Harry: They brought in a lot of expertise and they brought in a lot of things that didn't work in the Turner Valley. They were sure that they could rattle out these holes in no time and they discovered that shortly thereafter that they were in ??? country and they just had to be as careful as everybody else and take as long as everybody else. It wasn't uncommon Jack, to drill a well and take a year to do it. It wasn't uncommon to plant potatoes in the spring and take them out in the fall and it wasn't uncommon to see roses and flowers all around the big steam rig you know, because there was lots of water and lots of time and they were usually on pretty good land.

#281 Jack: It was a learning process for everybody.

Harry: In short it was, that's right.

Jack: And for you.

Harry: Well for me, it was the greatest experience of my life of course to be there and to be amongst these kind of men. I had a sort of, I suppose and independent ambition of my own in a way, none of us had any money so my first kick at the cat at earning some money was delivering the Turner Valley Flair, selling and delivering. I had to sell it as well as deliver it for a nickel a copy about once a week and then Mrs. Gooding gave me a job delivering the Calgary Herald.

#290 Jack: Who's Mrs. Gooding?

Harry: Mrs. Gooding is a long time resident of Turner Valley who handled the Ontario Laundry Co. as well as dispersed the Calgary Herald which amounted to right in our district, about, close to 500 and some odd papers and we boys, there were six of us would split them up. My route was about an average of 70 people long and in actual length just over 10 miles and it had to be done six days a week and you got 10 cents a paper out of it so my earning power then was about \$7 a week.

#300 Jack: Which was pretty good

Harry: It was damn good at the time. and then I also got on with Charlie Shepherd and helped sell gas down at his garage, Shepherd Motors was. . . , everybody will remember it, as well as I delivered bits a lot of times for Scotty Rowe. So I had a good persuasion if you like of oil men on my paper routes as well as roughnecks at the rigs because I was packing their bits in while they were coming to the hole or something like that. And my knowledge of the field and where the wells were became very astute for the simple reason that I had to find these rigs and deliver these bits and then coupled with what I did with Charlie Shepherd's Oil and Gas I often had to go out with his wrecker to pick up the odd car so you know I got to know the district like the back of my hand.

#314 Jack: Yes, you would get to know it very well, and the people there.

Harry: Yes, and then studying geology of course, in grade 10 with Dan Whitney, we did an awful lot of work on foot in the surrounding mountains behind us, about 20 miles west of us. We'd be into real good geological areas where you could pick out ammonites and . . I can't think of the fossils of every kind, I can't think of their name but we discovered several. In fact one of the boys in our school discovered a fossil that had never been named. Roy Gould was our teacher by the way.

#324 Jack: I was going to ask who the teacher in geology was.

Harry: Roy Gould took it upon himself to teach that course and he got permission, I guess from the school system and he was an excellent teacher at it and a very genuine and interested teacher.

Jack: Where did he get his training, do you know?

Harry: I have no idea. He was certainly a war veteran and in 1914-18 was and I

believe served again in 1939-45 but I can't remember when he went in because he was . . . , it seems to me, I finished school in 1942 and it seems to me he was still there but he did serve again I'm sure for a year or two in the last war.

#337 Jack: So it would be one Roy in school and another one out in the field.

Harry: Yes, Roy was a pretty predominant name in my core history.

Jack: Now when he took you out, you talked about your field trips, this would be a good deal later or was this really in conjunction with your high school.

Harry: No it was in conjunction with high school. In fact it was in 1940 when we were in grade 10, 1939 in fact we were in grade 10 I guess. And there again my father through just his generosity, on his old Fargo, by this time he had about a 19. . . oh 35 Fargo or something like that and he would load the children up, the students in this truck and haul us away up to Burns mine or out that way where we would camp and he would stay at the camp for the three nights and bring us all in.

#353 Jack: He was still doing it. What a wonderful man he must have been.

Harry: He was a great guy, no question about it.

Jack: Yes to take such an interest in

Harry: Yes, he liked young people, no question about it, he enjoyed young people and the younger the better it seemed like. He used to amuse us sometimes in Saskatchewan he'd even load up 10 or 12 of us, we'd go out to the River Heels??? and we'd roll rocks down

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In mid-sentence

#000 Harry: we drilled a lot of wells there at Carmen Wells??? and the Americans at that point in time, this was called the [Canol???] project and they built a line across to Whitehorse and we finally shipped oil there for, literally it was designed for the Japanese Theatre. As luck would have it, it was never required, which was a good thing I think.

#003 Jack: You were rough necking there?

Harry: Yeah I rough necked till I was 19 and actually I was a driller just before I came out, I had two weeks drilling time in and I would have had a good job had I gone back but I elected by that time, we had lost my brother, my oldest brother and Ross was in the Air Force then and I thought I'd better do my part too. So I joined the Air Force, became a wireless air gunner but that too, it doesn't have a hell of a lot of bearing on anything in particular because when I was on my embarkation leave they finished the war up and we never did get overseas. However I was a well trained wireless man for awhile.

#010 Jack: It did take time out of your petroleum career though.

Harry: That's true and having started the petroleum career on the rigs and sort of enjoyed it and having already made quite a little pile of money at it I went right

back to Turner Valley on the night of my discharge, May 6, 1945 and I was working at midnight.

#013 Jack: Really, now that's not wasting any time.

Harry: No, I was working for Floyd Welker, he sent me out to [Royal Light Lowry 3???] and Don Bishop was coming off bottom with ninety stands of drill pipe and I'll tell you what, he pretty near broke my heart before morning because I was in pretty tough shape. And you can appreciate swinging pipe like that or racking pipe for Don and doing it all night, I goddamn near cratered. But I enjoyed it very much and I learned a lot about drilling through working with Don Bishop and Jimmy Archibald was another one of my drillers. I even put in a tower or two for Harry Morris as well as Jim Rowan and worked with some awfully nice fellows, good men, Don Gowdy and Albert Hill and Bennie Wenner and Louis Stevenson and Dick Knights and Mike Knights, I worked with all those fellows at one time or another you know. But usually I was on the same crew and our crew for whatever reason seemed to be kept on deep holes. They seemed to shift us to the wells as they were getting close to total depth.

#023 Jack: What were some of these wells that you worked on, do you remember?

Harry: Well, I worked on all the Royal Light, Lowry Wells, 2 and 3. I shouldn't say all of them but I certainly worked on those two. And then in the foothills we did, I've forgotten 23 and 24, this was up in the north end toward Millarville and I think I was about, well I was cat-heading then for Jimmy Archibald I believe when I finally came into the office system of the Royal Light and I learned to be a clerk.

#028 Jack: Flying a desk rather than. . . .

Hary: Yes, I got in on what they call the distribution work of the accounting system and finally became payroll clerk and then I was in production accounting, I was in that for about, I'd say less than three months when Imperial sold to Royal Light and I was offered an opportunity to go to Calgary and become a scout and landman for the Royal Light. See Royal Light then were going to be a separate entity, I think the Bronfman's owned us by that time and so I worked with Fred McKinnon and Bill Gallup and Murray Angus-Smith and guys like that, to learn land and Jonesy. . . , a fellow named Jonesy used to be the greatest scout in the world, he's about your size as a matter of fact and a very pleasant jovial type, knew lots of jokes. Anyway I worked with all those fellows and stayed with it until April of 1950 when I resigned to form Whitney Well Servicing with Dan Whitney.

#039 Jack: Who would be your. . . , is this the old school boy?

Harry: Yes, this is Dan Whitney the schoolboy and by this time of course he's my brother-in-law and has been for six years. He'd been with TransCanada Airlines for a long time which had no bearing on his oil upbringing either and for one reason or another we both seemed to want to get into a business that we could handle ourselves. Our fathers being the same types of guy, you know, they were

independent fellows and didn't like working for another as it were. So one thing led to ten and we formed Whitney Wells Servicing, we actually called it Whitney Oil Well Drilling and Servicing Corporation at that time. It was a long name and we had high hopes for going into drilling as well as . . . , oh construction work and all types of things but when we got into servicing, the way that developed was a fellow wanted to borrow some money from Mr. Whitney to help pay for his rigs that were at that point in time were working in Redwater. And we went up and looked at the rigs and we came back and said, Mr. Whitney, if you feel you should loan him \$8,000 you might as well give it to us and we'll buy a rig of our own and go into business.

#051 Jack: This is Whitney senior you're talking about?

Harry: Yes, Roy Whitney senior and he didn't think that was too bad an idea and we rustled up about, well to tell the truth we formed a little company and got some partners, Fred Schultz was one and Billy Peterson and a fellow named Sandy Gilchrist and they raised \$40,000 and Dan and I put up a few dollars and we formed our company and bought our first rig that was manufactured in Torrance California and we went down on the 1st of May 1950. That's why we called . . . , that's our inaugural date, we didn't even have one but that's what we classified it as and we were there until the 15th of June while they build that rig. And we brought it home ourselves, Dan and I drove it all the way home on a three axle army truck and went to work. And our first job was at Continental 17 in the Leduc field. It had had a bad history of ??? casing and two or three service rigs had already been on and off the job. And anyway we were hired to see if we couldn't complete, bring this well in. And it took an awful long time but we finally got it done but it got us kicked off in the oil business, in our own business.

#066 Jack: Because it was a producer.

Harry: It was a producing well. But that had no bearing on us, all we did was work on the well Jack, you know. In fact we've never participated in anybody's production.

Jack: No I just want to say, not participation exactly Harry, I was just thinking of this being a success, when you brought it in it was a success.

Harry: Yes, that's true, that well is pumping to this day. But as I say and if I went through the history of that job alone it would take me an hour. But in any event from there we finally got on with Imperial Oil and we did an awful lot of Imperial's work and in fact from that day to this we've had at least one rig working for them practically every day for the last thirty odd years.

#072 Jack: That's a long time.

Harry: Yes it is. Yes, Imperial have been an exceptionally good customer of ours. There's many days when they've worked as many as ten of our rigs on the same day you know.

#074 Jack: What have you now in the number of rigs?

Harry: We, as I mentioned to you earlier were purchased in September of last year, at which point we sold 22 rigs to Canadian General Electric.

Jack: They bought you out.

Harry: Yes, and we . . . , since they bought us, we've sold one of those rigs but bought seven more so we really have a compliment of 28 rigs. One of those is wrecked so we're really only fighting for 27. With reference to the initial formation of the company I mentioned Mr. Schultz, Mr Peterson, and Mr. Gilchrist, they were our original shareholders and as we got going we got a little drilling contract, everything wasn't servicing at that point in time. In fact we were one of the very early people in well serving. So we tried a little drilling to keep body and soul together and went out with Canadian Delhi down to a place called [Cesford]??? We didn't make the discovery there but oddly enough, Cesford became quite a little field after we had been released and left because whatever we found was dry so we didn't get anyplace. But to get back to that, it looked like we would be in drilling then and Russel Wilson who was our supplier, he and Mr. Whitney got their heads together and bought us an [Ideco]??? 40 drilling rig and they bought it literally unbeknownst to us and brought it in and we were in the drilling business in a bigger manner than we thought.

#090 Jack: Just as a matter of an aside, have you any idea what a rig like that, and [Ideco]??? would cost in those days?

Harry: I think we rigged it up for about \$200,000. But to get the money, to get it across the line, we had to go public, so in a kind of private public way, Roy Whitney raised \$5,000 apiece from all the friends and associates he could think of just literally overnight and paid for the rig and brought it into the country and we had enough money to get started then. So we went into drilling and we drilled a few contract holes, I can't really say that we made any money at it but we didn't do too badly and then we drilled four of our producing wells in the MacLeod Pool of the Leduc field. And this more or less took the sting out of the days when we weren't working with either rig, that you know there was a little oil production in the background so we managed to stay afloat as it were. And it wasn't easy then you know. Getting jobs was a pretty serious arrangement. Commonwealth and GP of course, in those days were big drilling companies by comparison to anybody else and they could outbid you and they usually had a rig somewhere near the vicinity of where the man wanted to drill. Us with the one or two rig, barbershop type drilling company, you could say we were stymied because we couldn't afford to move very far and still get in the ballpark with our bid.

#106 Jack: Was Brinkerhoff in the picture at this time.

Harry: Brinkerhoff, no, not at that point in time. I can't remember when they got there but it would be a little later than that. This is in the very earlier 50's Jack.

Jack: Ah yes, Mclver would be. . .

Harry: Mclver were. . . , now what the hell were they classified as then. . . , they were still Oil Drilling Contractors I think from the south end of Turner Valley and which subsequently became Mclver and hence Hightower and now Bow. . .

#111 Jack They went out east?

Harry: Yes, they went every place. They had lots of rigs. In the drilling business then, as I say, we had more shareholders than we really wanted to have and yet we couldn't do much about it but the drilling was that touchy and service rig business seemed to be improving, so we thought we'd stick with something we knew more about and cost less money to get into. And we subsequently sold Norman Gustafson our Ideco 40 drilling rig and I think I remember the figure of \$94,000 for the whole bloody thing, pipe and all. And he was a little like us, he was too small to be big and too big to be small so he wanted another rig to get bigger and we wanted to get bigger in our own. . . and so we took our money from that rig and . . . Well we paid a few bills for one thing, we bought out a few shareholders for another thing and we bought another service rig or two, you know. They weren't very good ones but they were something to keep you in business, in you know, rod jobs and different things like that. We homemade a couple of rigs and it didn't work out very good.

#124 Jack: This would enable you surely, to make shorter hauls in order to get out to where the. . .

Harry: Precisely, when you established in the field you literally stayed there anyway with the service rig. We went down to Turner Valley shortly thereafter and bought what we called rig 4 and it was a Turner Valley Royal Light rig that they were interested in getting out of. They didn't want to do their own work any longer, could a good contractor buy them out and so for \$20,000 they sold us their rig.

Jack: That would be a good price

Harry: Oh Christ. You know, you can't even get a fence built now for \$20,000. So we got this old rig and all the junk that went with it, the buildings and all the. . . oh there was tons of iron down in the yard and that sort of thing. And by golly come to think of it they threw in a set of hydraulic jacks for lifting casing out of the ground too. They were fantastic.

#133 Jack: They'd be worth the price alone.

Harry: Oh yes, absolutely. Yes they surely were. And then plus the fact we were given what work they had out in Turner Valley so we stayed there and rattled around with that old rig till. . . , well till it wouldn't go anymore, I guess that was about the size of it.

Jack: What was your role during all this time?

Harry: Well I started out as derrick man on our first rig. And the became an operator or a driller as we went into the drilling business. Then I started pushing tools later on as we got two or three rigs going and before too long I was field superintendent and general tool pusher I guess for six service rigs in the Devon Field. I stayed there most of the time by this time, I was done rattling around Turner Valley and all over hell and we started operating in Saskatchewan as well in 1956 and we had another man down there so I was really the field superinten-

dent in the Devon Field for. . . well till 19. . . almost 1960. At which point in time I came to Calgary and I've been here ever since, more or less on sales and contracts and public relations and whatever.

#146 Jack: I was just noting in my own mind the business of you becoming an Accountant and Secretary Treasurer of the company but that had not occurred by that time. This was still in the future, because you were listed as Secretary Treasurer of the company weren't you?

Harry: No I don't believe so Jack, if I was it was an error. I've been the Vice-President for a lot of years but I was never called Secretary-Treasurer unless. . .

.Jack: In the listing they. . .

Harry: Unless for some bloody reason. . . .

Jack: Was Ross the. . . .

Harry: Ross was.

Jack: Ross was. While you were still working in the fields?

Harry: I was working but Ross was in the office. Ross was neither an owner or partner but he did all our auditing and all our really good accounting after our first couple of years. We got into a kind of an income tax bind and he got us out of it and you know, then we used him ever since after that.

#157 Jack: Yes, I should have asked where he was during this time as to when he entered the picture.

Harry: Well he served for two years overseas after the war as well as his service during the war in what they called Empire Air Navigation School. And they put together a lot of things that I suppose, are used to this day in the nature of, oh you might call it aerial surveys and things that they must have been doing. And in any event, when he came home he took his Masters degree in Toronto and married Lois, about the same time, so this would be pretty close to 1948 or 9 and then came out here and articulated for Henderson, Teer and Wayne. And after he was done that he set up his own business with a fellow named Loren Baxter. and they set up an accounting company and they did our accounting. He in particular did our accounting and he and Loren ran a pretty good business here in Calgary. He's been here ever since as well.

#169 That's where the two of you then came together, he as the accounting. . . ?

Harry: Precisely yes. He came in to help us with the accounting, we had a pretty makeshift arrangement here in 407 Lancaster building with a girl named Mrs. Fowler who worked for Fred Schultz. And Fred being one of our partners, he thought he'd do the books and so forth and I think she sent the federal government \$30,000 our first year in business and we felt that was a little stiff and so Ross came and got it back for us and we've kind of relied on him ever since to keep us out of tax binds. Mind you it's nice to be in a position to pay income tax but it's no use giving it all to them.

#177 Jack: No, no. so it would be when Ross was your Secretary-Treasurer that you

would have Peterson and Gaylen Jones [???], Lore [???] and R. D. Whitney as your Directors.

Harry: Yes, they were directors of the actual Whitney Oilwell and Servicing Corporation. Wait now, maybe we changed our name by then, I don't remember. In '52 we made some kind of a change.

Jack: Whitney Oil and Drilling Co. Ltd., 1952.

Harry: All right that's about it then. Whitney Oil and. . . .

Jack: Whitney Oil and Drilling.

Harry: Yes, that's right. That's when they formed that company. Yes as you say Bob Lore was a big wheel in that one. R. Z. Lore, T. C. Armstrong, I've mentioned Bob Gilchrist lots of times, Sandy Gilchrist [???]. I can't remember any of the others.

#189 Jack: Gaylen Jones.

Harry: Gaylen, yes of course. Gaylen was a kind of an entrepreneur type of sorts. He was really a car salesman in Arrowwood and a farmer, had been a farmer before that. And he was strong in the Shrine, in fact he was potentate in about 1956 or so. But in any event he often would drum up little drilling contracts for us so that you know, we got into farm outs and things like that through Gaylen's endeavours. We were in the meantime, we were still pulling slips and working hard at the rig.

#196 Jack: He was from Arrowwood you say.

Harry: Gaylen was yes.

Jack: What about Harold Herron?

Harry: Harold Herron. Goddamn if he had anything to do with us from a director's point of view I can't remember. He may have though.

Jack: He was in 1954 according to the

Harry: He was eh? Well Dan would have to remind me of that. We had a drilling contract with the Heron boys at Ocalta [???]. That was one of the last ones in fact, that we did with our own rig before we sold it. Harold may have been involved, that's true. And as I say the directors really didn't annoy me that much because we didn't see them at all. I didn't worry about them. Roy Whitney himself did all that here in Calgary.

#206 Jack: So you were strictly the field man.

Harry: Yes, definitely.

Jack: How did you feel about the switch from this very intensive field work to sitting work when you were flying a desk as it were?

Harry: Well to tell the truth, it never seemed to slow me down. I still worked the field an awful lot. Even from here I travelled to Edmonton a good bit and Turner Valley a lot and even Saskatchewan quite a bit. See we were getting diversified, spread out. We started to go to Fort St. John and Valleyview and that type of thing before I even came here you see. So I just carried on that way quite a bit, I did a lot of office calls as you can appreciate but then also got out to see that the

work was done right. So I was still the superintendent in actuality. I've never been anything more than a glorified tool pusher in this business.

#217 Jack: My kind of a person that you want to be out there where the action is.

Harry: Yes, that's quite right. We got a lot of fishing jobs and stuff like that where even our own men wouldn't really realise how much the rig would stand, that type of thing, in the pulling department and fishing and jarring and so forth so you had to go out and sort of set the limits for them and then even watch them quite a bit because every once in awhile they'd pull a rig in on us just as sure as heck. We had more power than we had rig usually and in many cases we got into trouble that way.

#224 Jack: Tell me one of those occasions that you can remember.

Harry: Well the one that I can remember precisely was I had a young man named Steve Wasalishen [???] on the break and we were abandoning a well for Imperial in the field and we stretching 7" casing. And you determine by the stretch how much casing you can recover, that's just kind of a rule of thumb type of thing. But in any event with him [ravvin???] up and down I was on the lease but off it if you know what I mean, I was away off to the side about 2 or 300 yards about the time that I heard my rig come in. But it was simply because he was working it too fast, had he worked it steadily enough he'd have never done it. But he did collapse the crown area, what we call the water table and we had to take the rig down and repair it all and then start over again. We finished the job all right but that was one of the instances. And then of course we don't always pull them in, we often roll them over on the highway, there's been accidents like that. We even had one explode not more than six months ago. Rig 24 burned right to the ground right on the highway.

#241 Jack: That was where?

Harry: Up near between Spirit River and Peace River, up on this road here someplace.

Jack: Exploded on the highway

Harry: Yes, just caught fire. The reason being that the drive shaft broke and all the. . . . it wrapped up around our fuel lines and electric lines and air lines and it made a nice combination and it caught right at the motor area. So all the fuel immediately was on fire and all the tires and so forth and all the driver could do was get out from under and let it burn to the ground. Even the fire extinguisher is right beside the motor so he couldn't get it.

#249 Jack: Oh dear, this is the sort of thing that happens. What are some of the other things that have happened over the years? Can you come up with anecdotal stuff at all Harry?

Harry: Well in the one of our highlights I guess was selling the company in 1965 to the Dresser Industries and we formed a company then called Dresser Contract Services which was still Whitney Well. But the object at that point in

time on Dresser's behalf I'll say this for them, it was a great idea but it was 10 years too soon, companies weren't ready for us yet to offer them the complete package. You know, we'll take her right from the grassroots to production. and they weren't ready for that so we didn't go over all that big, but at the same time Jack there was quite a lull in business from '65 to '70 and even staying in our own endeavour, just in straight well servicing, we didn't make them an awful lot of money. And they consequently and subsequently offered us to buy the rigs back or sell them back to us and we took their offer up and went back into business and went back into business on our own and that's why our company now is called Whitney Well Servicing 1971 Ltd. because we had to reform.

#269 Jack: And now what's the story as of now. You're owned by General Electric and what's your role.

Harry: Well I'm still Vice-President and Sales Manager and still work out of the Calgary office and I'll retire on April 30th of next year.

Jack: Rubbish.

Harry: Dan retired April of this year and I think I'll retire. I have a ranch now.

Jack: Oh well that makes a difference.

Harry: I have things to do.

Jack: I can't imagine you being inactive.

Harry: Well I certainly won't be inactive, there's plenty to do out there. But Jack, with reference to anecdotes and such, I can't really think of any. But some of the more colourful men that I worked with were Woodrow Wilson for instance and Bill Henderson and as I say Dick Knight. I mentioned him earlier and Jack McKay. That's in this business that I'm in now and these fellows were superintendents of sorts with Imperial and they directed our rigs here and there. Art Branscombe was the man that really took us down to Saskatchewan and got us started there where we still operate five rigs.

#289 Jack: Oh, do you, whereabouts?

Harry: In Oxbow, out of our base at Oxbow. Service rigs are funny that way, they sort of base and they get a home plate and then they work away from

Jack: Hang out from there.

Harry: Yes a little bit, they don't usually go much over 60 or 80 miles and then there would be competitors in there so that's the way it works out a lot anyway. But Bill Henderson was quite a . . . oh, he was a beautiful man really and he got very excited one time about why I could move my rigs so much easier than Kenyons could move theirs, for much less cost and I said well Bill, it's an entirely different style rig, this is a truck driven rig and Kenyons is a big 16 wheeler on a fifth wheel. It takes a lot of money to get a truck to even move it and a lot of extra time but over the whole I said, they're probably very competitive to us you know. And he said, Well I don't know as they are even at that, let's go out and see what you've got for rigs. So out we went and oddly enough we were on Imperial-Leduc #1, the very discovery hole when he took me to the lease. And we went in his car. WE went about 4:30 in the afternoon and whatever transpired that day, the

men had finished early so they shut the rig down so there wasn't a soul there. So he said, Harry, why do you need such a big tool house. And I said Bill, if you had everything that you owned out of that tool house and back to your warehouse I wouldn't need the tool house at all. Well he got really excited, jumped in his car and sped off the lease and left me standing there of course, thinking that I So he finally drove back and picked me up and he started to laugh but it was a funny day really. But you know, that was what they were like, if you changed anything for them you kept it in your tool house in case you needed it at the next lease and as this went on and on and on, christ we had tensions and well head stuff, you know, ells and nipples and flanges, bolts and nuts by the ton. Yeah, he was a good man. I used to kid him about his high blood pressure which I now have myself. But I'd say Bill, remember your high blood pressure, he'd be getting excited behind the desk you know, when there were five or six rigs listed there. He worked you know. . . , they had good drilling men out there, Bud Brownbridge and Harry MacMillan andoh gosh just a host of good tool pushers, Paul Knutson, that were beautiful men and all came in every day with their reports and so forth. Harry MacMillan subsequently sold his part of McIver or Hightower or whatever it was at that time and he got a garage business going in Devon that's still operating to this day, although I think he has sold it. But he ran it for years.

#339 Jack: Did you have a lot. . . or anything much to do with Ralph Will.

Harry: Not a lot to do with him. I had more to do with him as a Shriner than I had actual business. Ralph was a very dedicated Shriner and a strong contributor to the Crippled Children's Hospitals. Ralph and I really didn't see much of each other, there again we were in different phases of the business. He was a drilling contractor. Same way with Cody Spencer and Matt Newell and all those fellows, while I knew them well enough and we often. . . . Maybe I shouldn't say often, but occasionally we'd have lunch together some place, I really didn't associate with them from a working point of view.

End of Tape 1

Tape #2 - Side #1

Harry: In Cody's case, when we were drilling and had our drill pipe come to the lease, we'd tell the roughnecks to Cody the pipe. And nobody knew what that meant but it simply meant get it up there and stagger it, every tool joint had to be staggered just exactly right and it all had to be lined up like you knew the what the hell you were doing out there.

#004 Jack: Cody the pipe.

Harry: Yes, we called that Codying the pipe because that was his idea. One of his American features was

Jack: Is it used widespread as an expression now?

Harry: Oh yes, well I don't know how the expression is used or not but the pipe is sure handled that way an awful lot. See every other collar then sits like this and as you go down the string it looks real nice.

#007 Jack: Yes of course it's really nice, instead of fanning out one end. One thing I noticed through this conversation Harry, the repetitive business of the Shriners. Did Shriners and the industry join together pretty well?

Harry: No, not per se. I suppose some of the Shriners in the business tried to get other guys to come into the Shrine in a kind of a way. Gaylen Jones of course was my champion and he got me started into the Shrine and I think consequently or subsequently groomed me all the way through it until I became potentate. He was a remarkable man in that respect and so was Ward Tennis and well as we've mentioned Ralph Will and fellows like that. But no as Shriners per se there was no real connection from an oil patch point of view. In short you didn't lean on one another because you were Shriners.

#016 Jack: Now you brought up Ward Tennis' name, where did he fit into all of this?

Harry: Ward became. . . . he formed a group called Canadian Well Services and what he did before that I'm not very sure. He was involved in oil, it seems to me in Oklahoma but

Jack: Yes, he was very deeply involved before he came up here.

Harry: Yes, and anyway he got up here, I suppose after the Leduc and Redwater discoveries and he formed Canadian Well Services and they were in a construction group, he and Walter Ronigan. Walter was a very , another astute Shriner, they formed this company and they did a lot of lateral lines, battery work, well head completion work, that style of thing around the well, not inside the well but around it. Welding, pipelining and so forth, just general construction work. They had several crews out and they worked off of 104th Street in Edmonton,

109th St. actually in Edmonton and I've forgotten where their office number was but it doesn't matter. But they worked there for a long, long time and subsequently sold their company to a group called Kenting. Kenting took them over and Walter retired. Walter lives in Kelowna and Ward came down here and formed the Western Investigation or something like that..

#030 Jack: Yes, he spends half his time here and half in

Harry: Yes, he lives south of Tucson someplace right now in the winter time.

Jack: Yes, in the summertime he comes up here for a short while.

Harry: This ceremonial that's coming up is in his honour as a matter of fact.

Jack: Oh is it, in Ward's honour, really.

Harry: Ward Tennis.

Jack: He's been around a long time.

Harry: Yes, he has. He's quite a guy.

Jack: All right one other thing before we wind this thing up or at least one other thing. What have you seen in the industry that has been of tremendous impact over the course of time. I don't want this to be a dirty question but from, you have talked about the turn over between the cable tool and the rotary. Now taking off from there what has been the biggest thing you've ever seen, ever encountered that affected your particular work.?

Harry: Well I suppose in a way I would have to refer you to what we call the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors. They with us, have been a very logical group and they've helped keep these companies together and working and thinking together and thinking along the same lines and they've been very instrumental dealing with governments due to change of policies every once in awhile. And one of the most beautiful things that was accomplished through that organization was the setting up of our drilling school in Edmonton where we teach hundreds of roughnecks how to roughneck in the first place and secondly a great, tremendous safety program that helps them keep from getting hurt. Now then through that school and through PITS [???] and CPA and IPAC and all of them coagulating their respective endeavours, as a consequence we are developing a damn fine programs. For instance the Hydrogen Sulphide program, I've just talked to some men this morning, that if I can have this job I've got to bring down trained men for it. The Blowup Preventer Program which tells them what to do in the event of a loss circulation problem when the well's coming at them. First Aid, in case we do get hurt, you know that type of thing. All these things, if there's any one thing I can't think of it that stands out in my mind, of a tremendous change or anything but this development, in my mind, is one of the most precocious and necessary features of the business in general that I can think of.

#055 Jack: CAODC has a fine reputation in the industry.

Harry: They have indeed and the members of the board are elected for a two year period. Many of us have served there on several occasions. I've served there for over six years. The service rig group is a wing of the drilling group and

we tried this little association idea ourselves in the '50's and '60s, never got it off the ground so we finally got into the bed with them and it worked out a lot better. And so have surface and supply companies. Now I just read where they're going to pull away from it.

#061 Jack: Oh but they've been a wing of it haven't they.

Harry: But they have been a wing of it yes. And it has been a magnificent group. They've held their Safety Conferences in Banff for every year that I can remember. These are good features, both social and technical and they do the rough-necks a lot of good and the drillers a lot of good and families in general get together and see how each other operates. You know, we bring men in from Oxbow and we bring them in from St. John, just in our little company and they don't even know each other, well it's great for them you know. That type of thing, that's the social aspect and then the technical part is very astute, the papers are always good and that sort of thing. And if you pay attention at all you can sure glean something out of it.

#068 Jack: Now you're on the very threshold or getting toward the threshold of retirement Harry. How do you feel about the industry as it is right today. . . , with problems and . . . ?

Harry: Well, with present day problems being what they are and all these deals being made it would almost seem that the politicians, both Provincial and Federal are making tremendous deals without consulting the producer which I think is a dreadful mistake. And they seem to be going beyond him and I would say, there again bringing in CAODC and CPA, IPAC and groups that are heavy like that, that it would be a . . . , I'd have to guess a two year period before they really get it straightened out. You know, politicians are funny and you can't mover them if they get an idea in their head you're kind of stuck with it.

#077 Jack: I've heard it voiced Harry that once some of these measures are taken into. . . , some of the moves are. . . , become reality they never go back, they never reverse, they keep on going. Once A government has achieved, once government has achieved, regardless of which party it is, has achieved some of these things, the next, the successive party can't really backtrack. Do you think that's true?

Harry: Well it better not be true because I think they'll have to backtrack in this case. They can't gobble up all the industry and expect the producing people to survive. The only thing that could come out of that of course is that they could inherit the earth as it were and then we'd all be working for a socialistic system and the oil business which I don't think would be worth a goddamn.

#086 Jack: Do you think it's inevitable though?

Harry: No I don't think it's inevitable, I think really in retrospect to your remark I think that you'll find that they will backtrack a little bit. Whether parties change or not I'm sure that they've got to learn that they have to give the producer a better

shake. It may be that the producer at one point in time had his own way a little too easy, I don't know. But if he has he's sure as hell spent the money around here, it isn't as if he's been taking it home and putting it in the can in the garden. He's been blowing his money and building buildings and putting people to work and drilling wells all over the bloody country that normally wouldn't have been drilled. When you mentioned American money, I couldn't help but think and I'm positive you've heard it a thousand times, if it were not for American money, even in the turner Valley it would not have been fully developed. Even to this day if we hadn't brought in American money and foreign money of every kind for that matter.

#096 Jack: We wouldn't have put the money into it that's for sure.

Harry: Hell no. Two reasons we didn't have it and we're not very good gamblers anyway.

Jack: Right because I was thinking back to the days when you were talking about living on a shoestring and getting these rigs together and whatnot, Canadians are not gamblers.

Harry: No sir, not by their very nature they're not. It's got to be a sure thing or they won't go. This girl here on the phone just asked me to buy some 19 1/2% bonds. Well you know, if I have any brains I'll get some at 19 1/2% but on the other hand I'm gambler enough to say that hell I can get 22.

Jack: Yes that's right, but there are damn few of you around, that's the point. Harry thank you so much, this has been a very enlightening talk.

End of tape