

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: George Blundun

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DATE: September 1982

I: I'm in the Glenbow Institute and it's October 7<sup>th</sup> and I'm talking to Mr. George Blundun. Mr. Blundun, do you have a middle name.

GB: John.

I: George John. And you were born in Saskatchewan, could you tell me the date. . .

GB: I was born in Brandon, Manitoba.

I: Oh, in Manitoba.

GB: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1907, I had my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

I: For goodness sake, that's just four days past. I think I probably talked to you on your birthday when we made the appointment. Where did you go to school, your early schooling?

GB: I was moved from Brandon to Grenfell where we lived till I was about 6 or 7 years old then moved to south Qu'Appelle, about 40 miles east of Regina and lived there until about 1925, where I finished grade 11, then went to Normal School for a year and then went teaching.

I: So you went teaching, what year would that be?

GB: It would be 1926 in a rural school about 40 miles east of Saskatoon, a little village called Peterson. It was actually, I don't know whether a Ukranian or Doukabhor settlement. 52 in grade one, 25 of them couldn't talk English. I lasted 3 months.

#013 I: So from there what did you do?

GB: Well, I went to another rural school near Valkeris??? Saskatchewan and got kind of tired of that and decided to try something else. So I went in as an apprentice at Magneto??? Service outfit on Broad St. in Regina, 35 cents an hour.

I: What were you doing?

GB: Winding armatures and a little work on metal lathes and that sort of thing. That lasted for a few months and then I switched to an electrical house wiring outfit, I've forgotten their name now, and I lasted about 6 months there. Then the Depression came along and I went back to school teaching in 1930 near Arcola???, Saskatchewan. And got married on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1932 so it's nearly 51 years.

I: Going back to this little. . .this would be, was it a one room school that you were teaching in?

GB: All of them up to this point. Grades 1 - 10 sort of thing.

#023 I: That would be quite a challenge, you taught all subjects of course.

GB: And then I went from there to another rural school near Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, until 1935 and I'd started to attend summer school. Well, in September of '32 I went to the University of Saskatchewan and took first year engineering and ran out of money. And that's when the Depression really got going and. . . .

I: There were no scholarships of course, in those days, either.

GB: No, if there were I didn't know about it. And then I started going to summer school in '35 and I didn't graduate until. . . that is, a class in the summertime, a class and a half or two in the wintertime, correspondence, so I didn't graduate until 1938 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics.

I: If I could just interrupt, that is quite a thing to be able to take your whole university, a lot of it still, by correspondence.

GB: Well, about a third of it, the first year, in a Bachelor of Science degree and the rest of it I had to do in summer school. So in the summer school I'd take mathematics and in the wintertime I'd take history, economics and that sort of thing to fill in. Not too much of a choice. It was lucky in the summer school set-up.

#035 I: Being able to have access to libraries would be a difficult thing when you were doing it by correspondence I would think.

GB: Exactly. I did grade 12 the same way. Well, we got married the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 1932. My wife lit a fire under me and said, get working on your grade 12. So it took me two years but here again, I did it with the assistance of the Principal of the high school at Arcola, Ollie McLean. He was fabulous. Ollie charged me for instructing 2 hours a week for about 6 months for about \$15.

I: What were you making as a teacher in those days?

GB: Well, when I was in the rural schools it was around \$500 a year. And I became the Principal of the Alameda school, about 40 miles east of Estevan and in 1935, through the good graces of a friend who had been the Principal and an excellent one, he moved to another job and he recommended me, so the school board took a chance. A guy with grade 12, straight out of a rural school and there were four rooms and I had to teach grades 10, 11 and 12, all subjects. I rather enjoyed it but my salary was the first year, \$900, the second year, \$1,000 a year and so come Christmas of 1938 I'd had it because the School Board had no money. I might get \$10 this month, \$25 the next month. So I finally quit that Christmas of 1938 and went to sell insurance for the Mutual Life of Canada in Regina.

#053 I: Was it very lucrative, trying to sell insurance in 1938?

GB: Oh no. I made \$230 in the first 6 months. But they changed the manager at that point and as soon as he took over he called me in and said, you'd do better selling in the country than in Regina. And as a matter of fact I did very much better, not that I did that well but I did a lot better. He loaned me \$90 to go out and buy a Model A Ford car so I could get around the country. And that. . . .

I: Was that the full price?

GB: Yes. And that year, I outsold all the other agents. But nobody was doing very well

because the Depression was still with us.

I: Going back to when you first started teaching in 1926, were you making more than \$500 before the Depression.

GB: Yes, I think I got \$900 or \$1,000, I've forgotten now. It was on that order. I know when I quit the electrical business as an apprentice and went back to teaching school at Arcola, it was \$500 and it stayed that way.

I: \$500 when you could get it. Did you get paid. . . .

GB: Oh they had the same problems. Little or no money. Because when I left there to go to university, they still owed me \$200. Come Christmas time, we were living in a one room deal up in Saskatoon, my wife and I, with some cooking equipment, they still owed me \$100. And come the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, we were down to 35 cents, and the next day the cheque arrived. My wife met me at the door and she said, it's here, it's here. I was in a bad humour about something so I got nasty, I said, what do you mean, opening my mail, which is a dreadful thing to say.

I: So Christmas was a real Christmas that year?

GB: Yes, it was. We couldn't afford to have here stay with me from Christmas to April because \$200 was all I had to go on. As a matter of fact I did that full year on a total of \$600 covering books, fees and living.

#076 I: Did you work then, while you were there?

GB: While I was at university, no.

I: Because you probably couldn't even get a part time job.

GB: No, it kept me busy keeping up with the classes.

I: What did you major in?

GB: Mathematics and physics. And it sure paid off. Because in the spring of 1940 I was approached by a radio station in Regina to leave Mutual Life and go sell advertising for them. It was a reasonably good offer, life insurance you sell on commission, this was a salary. And I had applied 9 or 10 months before to the Air Force for a commission on the outbreak of war. So it was sometime in June, I had the nerve to write a letter to the Chief of the Air Staff, do you need me or don't you. And I explained my situation about making a living. So I'll never forget it, I was in the office of Mutual Life on the morning, it was early in August and my wife phoned me and said, your telegram is here, you're to report to the Air Force by Monday. So I went in as a Pilot Officer to an area navigation instructor's course at Trenton. I was told to report not later than Monday. The curious part of it was that they said, via Trans Canada Airlines. So I go into the recruiting office with this telegram and the corporal said, no, you'll do like the rest of them, you'll ride the train. Well no way, not with this, I said, you go in to see the commanding officer. He came back out in about 30 seconds and said, I guess you ride Trans Canada Airlines. So I got on to Toronto, via Toronto to get to Trenton and I couldn't get a hotel room so I had to sleep on the bench at the Walker House across from the Royal York. I caught the train the next morning and ran into a lad having breakfast, sitting alone, a red-headed fellow, Duncan Derry was his name and he had in front of him a book, AP1234, blue cover book about an inch thick, Air Navigation. So we got talking right away, so he was going on the

same course. So we report out to the Trenton station, which is about a mile out of town, we walked as a matter of fact and go to report into the orderly room and one of them said, which one of you is Blundun, I said, I am, and he said, you're now a Flying Officer.

#102 I: How exciting, how come?

GB: Well, this guy Derry turned to me and said, what the hell gives here. I said, well I put in 5 or 6 summers in non-permanent active militia, from the time I was 17 to 20 in the 16<sup>th</sup> Canadian Light Horse Cavalry outfit in Qu'Appelle and they moved it out and moved in an infantry thing, I've forgotten the name of that, so I went to 6 military camps in the summer time, 14 days each case. I think that had something to do with it.

I: Did you go into the militia in the summer because it gave you a little extra money or because you thought it was good training?

GB: It didn't make that much difference. Because I was working for a farmer every summer from the time I was 12 up till I was 19 and I started out at \$1 a day and it went from that to the final summer I got \$50 a month. And the pay for the militia summer camps wasn't that. . . .

#114 I: It would be about \$50 a month and you worked a lot harder, or different kinds of strains on you. So you're planning back there, all of it sort of came into play didn't it?

GB: It did and while I was in the Air Force I was lucky in that I seemed to be in the right place at the right time. Because the fact that I got that early promotion to Flying Officer jumped me over fellows who were in Air Navigation classes, say 3 and 4. We're number 5. So that was from August to November and I was posted then to the Service Flying School at Macleod, from there to Regina Air Observer School, that was in May of 1941. That September posted from there to the Air Observer School in Edmonton. I was there until about February and while I was there in Edmonton was when the promotion to Flight Lieutenant came through. That meant I jumped about 30 fellows. And I was there until about February.

I: Do you have to apply or does it just come?

GB: No, it just comes. You're on a list and as they work through the list they get to you and you stay in that order until you're promoted and then you go on a different list. I was there until February of 1942. . . let me get my years straight here. . . 1941 in November was when I was posted from there to 4ITS??? across the river in Edmonton because the Air Force decided they had to teach navigation to the MBO??? air crew pilots, they weren't anything then. When they finished a course at the Air Observer School or the ITS, which was 8 weeks, that's when they were selected as either pilot trainees, air navigation trainees, air bombers and that sort of thing. So I was put in charge of that and I was there until July of '42. And I applied to the Command Headquarters here at that time for a posting to Rivers, Manitoba, where I'd get a chance to teach Celestial Navigation. Rivers, Manitoba is a real hole in the ground.

#144 I: I understand Rivers is probably one of the coldest places that you could ever be posted to.

GB: Well, dreary too, 40 miles from the nearest city, Brandon, I got in there once. I taught

Celestial Navigation for 2 months.

I: It would be that navigation course that you were interested in and rivers had to come along with it.

GB: Yes, but after 2 months I'd had that one too. My wife in the meantime, she had to move 23 times during my time in the Air Force. And she'd moved to Calgary. We'd decided Calgary was the place we wanted to settle in. And she'd moved here so I came out on a holiday. Before I left Rivers I packed my bag and put a tag on it and spoke to one of my friends, if I send you a telegram, just grab that bag and ship it out to me. So I get here and I'm on a holiday, I'd only been here 2 or 3 days and I went to a show one afternoon, I got home that night and my wife said, go down to Command Headquarters tomorrow morning right off, 9:00, they want to see you. So I came down here and while I'd been at the ITS, we'd had no curriculum, we had no texts, nothings. So the eight instructors. . the gang of us, we got together and wrote out a curriculum and prepared a text, which we had printed at the station's expense and the Commanding Officer said, we'll sell it to the trainees, we're not supposed to do this but we've got to recover the cost, at 50 cents apiece. Well the fellows at Command Headquarters here arrived the day the little booklets were delivered, and put on my desk, so I opened them up and handed them over. They were quite impressed with it. Well, I had served on an Air Observer School, a Service Flying School, the ITS and it turned out the second in command at the Command Headquarters, Kenneth McLure???, had been posted overseas to a special navigation course at Greenwich, England and they needed a replacement and they needed him right now, so they said, would you like to come here. I just jumped at it of course.

#170 I: It was almost intuition wasn't it?

GB: Just the way it worked out. So I sent this lad a telegram in rivers and my gear arrived and oh, about 3 months later then, because of the position I was holding, I was promoted to Squadron Leader. The chap who was in charge, Wing Commander, Joe Frizzell???, and I'm going to Halifax the end of the month and I may see him again. He's a permanent force officer and he has since retired. I was promoted to Squadron Leader and I was in that position for about a year and as a permanent Force officer he felt that he had to see some overseas service or he would be let holding the bag as far as his own career was concerned so he applied for a posting overseas and he got it. That meant I took his place. About a year later, then I was promoted to Wing Commander. So again, when I said earlier, I was in the right place at the right time.

#183 I: But at the same time really, the work you had done was what brought you to the attention of the people, absolutely.

GB: Well, that I expect is true. So I was here at the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hudson Bay building, #4 Training Command and after about a 2 year period, it would be August of 1944 I was posted to #2 Air Navigation School at Charlottetown as the Chief Instructor. The chap who had been Chief Instructor . . . in the meantime by the way, I had complied with certain requirements to move from Administrative Air Navigation Instructor to Air Crew Navigator, which meant I could wear the badge, which is a single wing. I had to pass

certain signals communications test and a few other minor things.

I: That would be rather interesting, as the Wing Commander, taking courses yourself.

GB: Well, I did that as a Squadron Leader. However, they posted me down there because I was Air Crew whereas the current Chief Instructor was not Air Crew. Not that I think it made bit of difference. Because I was not regular ir Crew because I was too old to see service. So I don't think it made that amount of difference. Well I was in Charlottetown as Chief Instructor from August of 1944 to February of '45 and I was released. That's it.

#203 I: And did you apply to be released or. . . .?

GB: Oh no, they told me. Blundun we don't need you anymore, away you go.

I: They had finished the training, the war was winding down.

GB: Oh, it was winding down all right. You see, VE day was the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 1945 and it was winding down. There wasn't the push or the pressure or the need for air crews that there had been.

I: How did you feel after that many years, you'd really become very much a part of the ir Force life?

GB: Yes. I enjoyed it very much to see over five years service. And the thing I liked very much about it, was the air navigation part of it, which was technical. And the math and physics background was right up my alley. And so when I got out of the Air Force I came back to Calgary and I went back to selling life insurance, Mutual Life again. But after. . . oh around the end of April, it just wasn't my ball of wax. I wanted to get back to technical. I didn't know anybody at Imperial Oil but I went in there to discuss what the possibilities were. Where I got the idea of geophysics I don't know.

#220 I: Because it wasn't really very well known in the Canadian. . . .

GB: No, it was just breaking in. So they said, we've got no place for you but they said, Gulf Oil company is moving into Canada and they have an office over in, I've forgotten the building now. . . .Henry Bedford was the Manager and the Landman and the Geologist. . . .???, said go talk to them. Which I did and they said, Ray Good, was his name, is bringing a seismic party in from Denver and will be in here in about 2 weeks time, it would be about the middle of April I was talking to them. We'll phone you when he get here. Which they did. So this lad Ray Good said. . . Ray D. Good was his name. . . said, we're bringing in an American crew but we're going to change it to all Canadian as fast as we can and we'll give you a job as a computer, a technical computer on the interpretation of seismic data.

I: Did you know anything about what that job entailed at that point?

GB: Not a thing. They said, you will eventually, we hope become the interpreter and responsible for the operation. . . and the Party Manager and responsible for the operation of the crew. And you'll be working out of Pincher Creek. So I said, how much. \$200 a month. Well, I was back working on commission on the life insurance bit and the same problem, feast and famine sort of thing.

#245 I: And you didn't get your money until a little bit down the line on this too.

GB: Right.

I: What had you been making as a Wing Commander coming out as compared to the \$200 a month?

GB: \$700 a month.

I: And your board and uniform.

GB: No, we had to buy our own uniform. No, we got board and room and that was it. When you went on holidays, you paid your own travel and all the rest of it. So I went to work for them, for Gulf at Pincher Creek and the first well that was drilled there, Gulf, Pincher Creek #1. . .let's see that was in. . . I arrived in Pincher Creek on VE day of 1945 and it was raining cats and dogs. I went down by bus and they were having a parade because of VE day and everybody was drunk as skunks including the Mounted Police. And Art Davis was managing the hotel there then, and of course, I don't know whether you are familiar with the name or not, they were quite prominent in Calgary, they owned the Wales Hotel, I don't know if they owned the Queens, they owned the Noble. Anyway, they were mixed up in the hotel business here. And I worked with Gulf there until November of 1947. They moved me to Red Deer. . .

#266 I: Before we move out of Pincher Creek, was Stan Pearson with you at any time. .?

GB: I hired Stan Pearson. He had just nicely come out of the army. I went to work in May and I hired him later that summer. He was still wearing his army uniform. I've forgotten whether he was a lieutenant or a captain. But his family lives there so he came in to see me. He was looking for a job as a computer because he had heard there might be room, well there was so I hired him at that time. Well I didn't have him too long because Bob Lockwood, the Gulf Geologist here in Calgary had gone to Ottawa to try and find a geologist. And Pearson was a graduate geologist. Well, while he was down in Ottawa, Lockwood hired Dr. Oscar Erdman???, he's been with Gulf ever since. Well then Lockwood came down to visit us on the crew later on and when he found out Pearson was a graduate geologist he said, I want him. So he applied to the Gulf Research and Development office in Pittsburgh, whom we worked for. We worked for the Gulf Oil Company, but their technical branch. He wanted Pearson so they said, okay take him. Well, he had Pearson for two years at least in the field in the north country doing geology. I don't remember precisely where. But to come back to 1947, to leave Pincher Creek for a minute, we moved to Red Deer and that summer I was instructed to hire a full additional compliment of Canadians to start a second crew but to use them that summer working double shift to train them. So from May to October I had a double crew to run. That is, from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 and from 1:00 til 9:00 sort of thing. It worked out very well as a matter of fact. And they formed a new party #23, and sent it up to . . .north of Edmonton, I can't remember the name of the place. . . doesn't matter. And then in February of 1948 the company started a second crew. . .another crew and sent it down to Cardston. They put me in charge of that crew, I had to organize it, hire the people and all the rest of it. And that was a dreadful winter in Cardston because snow, 6 and 7 feet deep. A wet spring, that sort of thing.

#311 I: You were working in the winter?

GB: The one thing the Canadians were able to do that the Americans could not, we worked

right through the winter.

I: Why could you and not the Americans?

GB: They just assumed you couldn't do it. But to come back to Pincher Creek, for example, that American crew that had been moved in from Farmington, New Mexico, apparently they'd been up here before, I didn't know that, and they'd come up in April and go back in November and then come back the next April and work this way. So when we had the Canadian crew set up in Pincher Creek, we just presumed we would work and we did. And we had to use bulldozers to move snow drifts but we got the work done and it just carried on. We found out other crews, Cec Cheshire of Canadian Exploration. . . I think that was the name of his company. . . they worked in the winter time. Heiland Exploration out of Denver had worked in Canada a lot, they did Jumping Pound out here for example, and so did Cheshire do some work on Jumping Pound, and they did the same as Gulf, move in in April and move out in November. When they saw us working, they decided they could do it too, so from then on, all crews that came in to Canada, worked right through. The Americans never stayed very long, they were switched to Canadians quickly.

#336 I: You were very quickly into . . . you were right away into one of the pioneering things right at the beginning then.

GB: Yes. I wanted to come back to another point at Pincher Creek. When Gulf decided they were going to drill a well down there, they picked the location that I had recommended rather than the one that research people in Pittsburgh had recommended and furthermore they said, we want you to forecast the total depth to the limestone, which is the producing section. And I won't forget, I came up with 11,700 feet and the supervisor came up after we had moved to Red Deer and said, I understand you called it right on the nose, he said, I'd like to see a copy of your report just to confirm that that was a fact and fortunately I was able to produce it.

I: For goodness sake. How did you come up with that figure, from the seismic data?

GB: Exactly, yes.

I: With this Pincher. . . the seismic, really this was the first time that seismic was recognized as. . .

GB: No, seismic had really been brought into use I think back in the late '20's by the Germans.

I: But I mean in Canada.

GB: Well, in Canada, the. . . I don't know when it really got going here. . . .

End of tape.

GB: [in mid-sentence]. . . so it's sensitive. Well as a matter of fact I've seen a workman lie on his back and put a geophone on his chest and on the instruments record his heartbeat so that's how sensitive. They are. Well, the geophones spread is set out about 1/4 of a mile each way, the geophones probably 100 feet apart, 1/4 mile each side of the shot point. Well in refraction you can use heavy charges of dynamite or light charges but the geophone spread may be 5 or 6 miles away. I'd have to go through a technical explanation of what goes on but the principal can be really explained, if you stick a knife into a glass of water you can see how the knife bends when you look at it, knowing full well it hasn't actually bent. Well this is the sort of thing in refraction. And five or six miles away, with five pounds of dynamite one might think, you can't detect that, that wasn't the case. The first instrument operator on this job was an American from Denver again, I can't remember his name, it doesn't matter, but he would fire what he called a cavity shot at the bottom of a 70 foot hole, maybe 50, 60, 100 feet, he'd fire a cavity shot say, of 25 pounds or 10 pounds. When I say cavity, it was created there and then he would drop in 500 pounds. Well it so happened we got records that were unusable, they were just wild. So he was sick one day, so his assistant, who was also a Canadian, Ned Bragg, he operated that day and he decided let's get smart, let's record the cavity shot, five pounds, geophones five miles away. A beautiful record. So from that day on it was five pounds. Well, we got really nice usable data. As a matter of fact, to come back to the hiring of personnel, there's a chap in Gulf's office here, Bob Cochrane, I don't know what department he's in, he's still here because I ran into him at a party not too long ago, he was the first Canadian employee of Gulf. He's been hired in 1944 when the crew was up here. When they departed in October of 1944 to go back to the States, they'd hired Cochrane that summer and they took him with them. I was the second employee, hired in May of 1945 and this lad, Ed Bragg was the third. Cochrane was employed as a shooter on the crew, that is the one who loads and fired the dynamite. Bragg was an instrument operator and I was the interpreter of the data.

#027 I: That's really the beginning of Gulf in Canada.

GB: No question about it.

I: Could we go back to Pincher because Pincher was a very important discovery. Because of Pincher we had the pipeline and all this. You were there. Could we talk about the exploration and that first discovery well.

GB: Well, while I think about it I wanted to mention that shortly after that, maybe it was after the well had been drilled and the discovery made, that Carl Nickle in his Daily Oil Bulletin wrote up quite an article and I still have it, mainly centered on me as a Canadian, working for Gulf, doing the interpretation and as a result of my contribution and the crew's, Gulf had drilled this well and made a gas discovery. I haven't seen it in over a year but I've got a bit of a scrap book, between the oil business and the Air Force.

I: But it was, it was a real landmark for Gulf.

GB: Yes, it was.

I: And would have, I would think, influenced them as to their future in Canada.

GB: Yes. I don't know how many wells they drilled after that. They'd just finished the #1

when I was moved out of there and sent to Red Deer. They drilled I wouldn't be sure, but 7 or 8 other successful wells since. The only unfortunate thing about that is that the pipeline that was built from Pincher Creek up to the Trans Canada pipeline, I don't know where it hooked in, Brooks or Bassano, that area, they built quite a large pipeline because of what they thought would be extensive gas production at Pincher Creek. Well, it's turned out that the gas production has petered out. And since that time of course, Shell have drilled in what's known as the Shell-Waterton structure and Texaco have drilled in Castle River and they were both successful gas fields and much more prolific than Gulf's Pincher Creek structure.

#048 I: At the time of the discovery, did you feel that there was a much bigger field there?

GB: Well, I knew from my data that the structure must be at least 7 or 8 miles long, if not longer.

I: What did they base the fact. . . eventually they found that there wasn't as much, what made them think that there was much more?

GB: Well, the initial output or flow of gas from the well on the discovery was quite large. I can't recollect the exact flow figure but at least 50 million cubic feet a day which is not insignificant.

I: Did you work in the Pincher area when they discovered the outside edge of it?

GB: Well, we knew from our seismic data where the controlling fault was. We had defined it without any trouble and we knew that the west flank of that fault was where we had to drill. Because the position of the limestone there west of the fault was about 2,000 feet higher than it was on the east side of the fault. So one drilled on the east side and one drilled on the west side and it was the proper thing to do and it paid off.

#061 I: How long did they work in the seismic exploration before they made the decision that now we will drill? How many summers or how many years.

GB: Well, when I went there, we started, let's see, '45, '46, '47, two years, let's say. Maybe 2½ years. They had decided before we left that they were going to drill but they hadn't pick the location.

I: What made you decide on the location and what were your reasons for saying yes it should be here and why did it differ?

GB: Well, the shallower, the better, so pick the shallowest point. And the point that is controlled by the best data.

I: And what had Pittsburgh originally wanted, why had they wanted to drill somewhere else?

GB: They admitted that what we had defined and my interpretation here, they admitted it was a good structure. And I was also aware that there was another structure to the north which they had on their maps because I had to send them a copy of my maps every week and they would send me copies of their maps so we could compare.

I: But that was quite a feather in your cap to have them decide on yours.

GB: I thought so.

I: Was Mr. Pearson still part of your crew at that time?

GB: Part of it, I'm not too sure what month I hired him, whether it was July or August and I didn't have him more than 3 or 4 months.

#077 I: Can you remember anything about him, why you hired him?

GB: Well, we needed somebody and I liked his appearance and his general mannerisms and personality. I thought he would be an asset to the crew and of course, he was.

I: when you left Pincher, where did you go?

GB: Red Deer. I moved the crew to Red Deer and of course, went back to reflection shooting. It was in February of 1948 I think, that oil was discovered at Leduc and it was a D3 reef so the company was very interested in finding out, is there more D3 reef in the middle of the province. So we moved to Red Deer. We worked mainly east of the number 2 highway, so we were in Delburne, Bashaw, Big Valley, largely those areas. And of course, Gulf eventually did make a discovery, a discovery field at Big Valley. And Erskine, they made a discovery at Erskine, we did work there. And another gas field immediately west of Erskine, I can't remember the name of it, it doesn't matter.

I: You stayed with Gulf until what time?

GB: September of '48. In the spring of that year, they had moved an American seismologist, which is the proper term to use, I think, rather than interpreter, up from Pittsburgh to Calgary because at that time there were then, when they moved him up here, three crews running. The original out of Pincher Creek, party #4, which had been moved to Red Deer, the new one that had been formed with the double crew there, party #23, which had gone to Westlock and then the third crew, that I had started, #30 down to Cardston. Three crews that should have a supervisor up here. Well, he and I couldn't get along.

#101 I: Who did they bring up?

GB: Brockway??? was his name. I've forgotten his first name. But he and I just couldn't get a long so it was about the time that Jack Macmillan, one of the partners with Northwest Seismic Surveys and Jack Timmins, they came after me, they needed an interpreter, would I come to work for them. And they were prepared to double the wages that I was getting from Gulf. I was getting \$400 a month from Gulf and Macmillan and Timmins offered me \$700. I refused at first and then when I couldn't get along with Brockway I thought, to hell with this. And so I quit and went to Northwest Seismic Surveys. It was a good contract seismic company, they had crews working for Imperial, Mobil, I don't know what other companies. And in the case of the Imperial, they did their own interpreters, in the case of Mobil, I had to do the interpretation.

I: What was your official title?

GB: Well, I was the interpreter or seismologist. Chief Geophysicist was the term that was used.

I: Right and Mr. MacMillan and Mr. Timmins, were they. . . .

GB: They owned the company.

I: But they were not scientists?

GB: No, they had the money, they bought the company, they bought the equipment, the drills, the instruments, and hired the people and paid them and kept their own records and that

sort of thing.

#119 I: But you were really, as far as. . . .

GB: I was on my own as far as the interpretation was concerned, they didn't enter that at all.

I: Where was your first office?

GB: This will surprise you. That stone building. . . .aside from my basement, was the first office working. . . that's where Spike Brown got his start on my ping-pong table in the basement.

I: You actually started in the basement of your house?

GB: Oh yes, we didn't have an office at that time. I rounded up an office, it's kitty corner from the Bay, that old Sandstone building about 2 stories high, I've forgotten the name of it.

I: Alberta Hotel? On 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue?

GB: 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street West, kitty corner across from the Bay, and up on the second floor there were a number of different offices, lawyers, accountants, what have you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. So we were there for some months and in the meantime MacMillan and Timmins had been looking for a place. They had a large garage where they could put their equipment when it came in out of the field for repair. So they found an office with a large garage behind it on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, I'm trying to think of the block number, it would be about . . . .between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east side. I can't think of the name of the chap who owned it. But at any rate, we moved there and we had the main floor.

#138 I: By this time, there was certainly more than you, were you the first employee they hired?

GB: Yes, technically. Shortly after I got started I hired two chaps, Alan Campbell a graduate mining engineer. He had just nicely graduated in '48 from the University of Alberta in Mining Engineering. And Eugene Cook, E. T. Cook. I hired those two fellows that spring.

I: Prior to that, did Mr. Spike Brown come to work before then?

GB: Yes, I hired him a few weeks before. And I had another fellow Jack Wegh and he was working in my basement, he and Spike. And Wegh, when he left. . . .I've forgotten how long he stuck around but he finally quit and went to work for Gulf. And they sent him to Africa, he was in Africa for some years, then they brought him back here and they had his retirement party about two months ago, which I attended. There were a lot of ghosts out of the past because at this retirement party there were people that I had hired for this second crew business up in Red Deer that eventually became party #23. A lot of those fellows I'd hired on that crew, I didn't recognize when I saw them at this party and they would come up to me and I had to ask them, what's your name. Well of course, the minute I got the name I could tie it down. And of course, there were other fellows that have since retired that I had hired at Pincher Creek and Red Deer.

#160 I: Jack Wegh worked with this crew in Red Deer did he?

GB: No.

I: No, but he subsequently worked with them when he was at Gulf I guess.

GB: Yes.

I: So the two of them were in the basement and then the three of you moved over to the

stone house. . . I think that is officially the Alberta Hotel, where Bob Edwards used to hang out in the first floor, not the second. And then by the time you moved into on 10<sup>th</sup> St. you had Mr. Campbell and Mr. Cook, had both come. So your operations grew rather rapidly.

GB: Well, I had Campbell, Cook, Wegh and Spike. And I held that crew together for quite a while. Cook had a bit of a flare for being a good field manager too. So eventually MacMillan said, I'm going to take Cook from you because I need him to run a crew.

#172 I: Well, Mr. Cook also had been in the Air Force, you never knew each other there at all?

GB: No, a little background on Cook because he's an exceptional person. When war broke out he was teaching school at Rocky Mountain House and that's where he met and married his wife, Carol. Shortly after that he joined the Air Force and applied for Air Navigation. He was trained as a navigator, not as an observer but as a navigator. Well for the first year after he'd completed his course, the Air force had him at Portage La Prairie teaching navigation to trainees. He was posted overseas to Bournemouth and the usual procedure was such people were sent to an Operation Training Unit, OTU. Well, they bypassed that in his case because having instructed for a year, they figured he'd know his stuff. Well he did 33 trips as an air navigator over Germany and he was given leave, I don't know how much, 30 days I suppose. And then when he came back they put him on the Pathfinder Squadron. He did another 30 trips over Germany.

#187 I: Pathfinder. Those are the ones that go in front of everybody and mark the spot.

GB: And drop the fire bombs so that the target can be easily marked. Well he did those 30 trips and I won't forget him telling us at a party one night that his last trip when he got out of the aircraft he said, I got down on my knees and kissed Mother Earth. He said, I was so pleased to come through this alive. Well . . . I stayed with Northwest Seismic Surveys until the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1953 and I had become dissatisfied with the way the company was being run.

I: what were they doing that you were not happy with?

GB: Well, I didn't think some of there practices were quite ethical and they made promises of raises to various staff which they didn't keep.

I: Was it still owned by the same people?

GB: Yes. Still Timmins and MacMillan. In the meantime Timmins and MacMillan had a row and MacMillan had the bigger interest so he kicked Timmins out. Eventually he had to pay him for his share of the company. So I decided I had enough. In the meantime we had a Northwest Seismic crew working for Home Oil doing refraction work, if you please, down at Turner Valley which was eventually in company with Shell. Shell had objected, they were paying half the shot, they had objected to the use of refraction but because of my experience at Pincher Creek, I persuaded Home Oil, Aubrey Kerr as a matter of fact, to use refraction, not reflection. So Shell finally went along with it and we subsequently picked and drilled a successful well down there, Sarcee #. . . .

#208 I: So once again you proved that you knew what you were doing.

GB: Well. Sarcee #1 and it produced, it tested 50 million a day and it still puts out gas. We drilled a couple of wells afterwards which didn't pay off, Shell and Home did. Well, this refraction was under way and I came in one day to Home Oil's office to see Aubrey Kerr to show him the maps and report what was going on and he introduced me to Alex Clark who was the Home Oil's Operation Manager down at Casper, Wyoming. He had been an ex-employee of Shell's. So Clark said to me, come into my office. They were then in the old Insurance Exchange building as Federated Petroleum, this was when Bob Brown was taking over Home Oil. He said, I'd like to talk to you. So he offered me a job, would I come in as Chief Geophysicist. I said, I would be glad to but I want the same rate of pay at least of what I'm getting at Northwest Seismic Surveys. He said, how much. I said, \$1,000 a month. Oh, he said, that's kind of high, I'll have to think about that. I said, well, if you're not prepared to pay it you can forget it. So about two weeks later he phoned and he came and see me again and he said, okay, we'll pay, if you want the job it's yours. So I warned MacMillan and I also informed Cook and some of the other fellows that I was leaving and I'd start to work with Home Oil the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Well Cook said, it's funny, you know, I've just told MacMillan this morning I've had it here too. I said, where are you going, he said, I don't know, I'm thinking of Imperial Oil. So I said, before you commit, talk to me. So I had a call from him about a week later, Imperial Oil, they had offered him \$700 a month. He said, I don't quite relish working for a major. I said, well, you can work for me if you like, or Home Oil, he said, okay I will. So Cook to this day, he didn't retire, he retired a year ago, he's been with Home Oil ever since. And he was my number one man if you like.

#239 I: Obviously you saw his . . . .

GB: I knew he had great capabilities. Speaking of recognizing people's capabilities, it's one of my shortcomings. When I was running Gulf's crew down at Cardston and my assistant was a chap by the name of Jack Stevenson. He'd been a sergeant in the artillery. As a matter of fact, he was in Pearson's regiment, he and Pearson knew each other. And he'd run into Pearson in Italy and I remember Pearson telling me one time, that Stevenson was quite a guy and I had him as a sergeant. He said, we were short of ammunition one evening and I mentioned it to Stevenson and he said, okay I'll take care of it. He said, that guy got the ammunition, where he got it from I don't know. I think he and some of the fellows stole it from the next regiment. But anyway, he said, that's the kind of a guy he is. Well, he was such a quiet retiring individual, I had loaded him up with what I thought was a dirty job because I couldn't keep on top of it and that was to keep track of the invoices, the cash on hand and the financial statement the end of each month. So I turned it over to him and he did an excellent job on it, we were never a cent short. While I was doing it I might be \$100 short but not Stevenson. So when I left they had sent in an American by the name of Giles to take over the crew. It didn't take him long to realize that Stevenson had a lot on the ball. Well, I hadn't really given him all the credit he was due. I felt kind of badly about it when I left. Then when I left Northwest we had another lad working there who I didn't think had too much on the ball. I thought he was clever enough but that he didn't keep his nose to the grindstone as much as you like, Frank

Hickey. He'd been working for Mobil, a graduate Chemical Engineer as a matter of fact. And he quit them because he had a problem with his supervisor like I had with Brockway with Gulf and he came down to see me. . . . Let's see, Northwest Seismic Surveys, we were in the Alberta Hotel, our next move was not over to 10<sup>th</sup> St., our next move was to on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> St. East. It was an area where hookers rented a few houses so we called it Strawberry Row. Anyway Hickey came down to see me and as a matter of fact, we talked standing on the sidewalk out in front of. . . we were in the showroom of Southwest Industrial Electronics. They sold seismic instruments, geophones, everything that connected with the exploration business. So the showroom they didn't need, so we rented that. I don't know how long we were there. Anyway I talked to Hickey standing out on the sidewalk and we made a deal right there so he came to work for us. So I had Frank Hickey and when I left Northwest I thought to myself, well I wonder what MacMillan will do now but Hickey stepped in and did an excellent job. And I didn't recognize that he had that capability. Me wife says that's because I'm a chauvinist.

#295 I: So when you went into Home, Mr. Cook came with you and what was the first job that you did? Where were you working at that time? That would be in '53?

GB: Turner Valley. We continued with that. We had only the one crew. No. Home Oil already had another crew, Exploration Consultants, owned and operated by Norman Christie and that crew was working up in Sylvan Lake, Pigeon Lake area. We moved them around, I don't know from there. Well, Cook sort of looked after that crew and I looked after the crew working in Turner Valley on the refraction because I knew the refraction and Cook didn't.

I: This is where you were working with Mr. Kerr? You continued to associate with him. Can you recall anything about Mr. Kerr, about Aubrey?

GB: Well, he was what was known as in charge of development which is development of wells after discovery has been made. The only comment I'd make about Aubrey, he hated like hell to take chances. He would avoid a risk if he could.

I: That's interesting at Home because Mr. Brown was just the opposite.

GB: Yes, I would say this about Mr. Brown now that his name has been raised, exploration wise he knew when to take a risk. Financially, he didn't know which end was up in my opinion. As a matter of fact I think it's what eventually killed him.

I: We'll come to Mr. Brown I hope later on.

GB: Well, I've got 10 minutes.

I: Well, we'll get to the end of this tape. What I wanted to do. . . .

GB: So far as myself is concerned just to complete this part of it. I was Chief Geophysicist at Home until November of '59, at which time, Mr. Clark, who had been the Exploration Manager had been moved up from Casper to Calgary, he was the Vice-President and the Exploration Manager for Home Oil. He didn't move up here until 1955 or something like that. Shortly after that, '55 or so, when he came up here, the company hired Bart Gillespie who had been the Operations Manager for British American here. Bart was well up in years at the time.

#344 I: And at that time, when he came over, interesting Gulf had just engulfed BA but it was still called BA, right?

GB: That's right. Bart Gillespie came in and he did something that the company needed badly done at that time and that was to set up a budget and stick to it. Brown just spent the money, no planning, nothing. Gillespie changed that. Clark resigned in October of '59 to take over the presidency of what was known as C&E, Calgary and Edmonton Corporation at that time. And that's when Brown called me and said, I'd like you to be the Exploration Manager. And in 1966 I was appointed Vice-President of Exploration and I retained that until I retired the end of October '72.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

I: All right, our talk today, Mr. Blundun, I thought it would be a good idea to just get on record the status of what became Home Oil at the time you came in as the Geophysicist?

GB: Well, I was hired by Mr. Alex Clark who was the Vice-President of Federated Petroleum at the time and he was located in Casper, Wyoming temporarily. I made my deal with him in the Federated Petroleum offices owned and operated by Bob Brown located in the old Insurance Exchange building where Bank of Commerce main branch is now. After we made our deal Bob Brown came out of his office with his coat on and Alex Clark introduced me to him and it very evident to me right then that Bob Brown didn't take to me. So I said, to myself, what the hell. . . .

I: Why did you think he didn't take to you?

GB: I could sense it.

I: Is that right?

GB: Oh sure, and I'll come back to that. So he went on his way, he was going to the airport to meet someone. That was about a week before I was to start and then the morning I was to start, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1953, I went into that office and John Scrimger??? was sort of the Executive Vice-President and Manager of Federated at the time, he said, we'll have an office for you in ½ hour over in the Loughheed building. He said, I'll arrange for it. He got on the phone and he got hold of Jack Balfour and what he said to Balfour I don't know but then Scrimger came out of his office and said, on your way. So I went over there and found Balfour whom I'd met before.

#019 I: What was his position with Federated?

GB: Personnel. That's all I recollect of what he did at that time. So he said, give us 15 minutes and we'll have the office ready. I found out afterwards that what Scrimger had told Balfour to do was to go into Bid Lowry's??? office and tell him to clear out his desk, his books, everything and get out of the place. Well, I didn't know this until quite some days

later. I felt rather badly about it because I . . . . .

I: This would be very upsetting to you hearing. . .

GB: It was upsetting to Lowry too, it had to be. And I had met Bid Lowry before and I'd found him quite a decent type so when I found out about it later I felt pretty badly about it. That was a hell of a way to treat a person.

I: And this was Major Lowry's brother?

GB: Right. Major Lowry's brother. Well I never saw bid Lowry again. I saw him come out of the office. He just sort of half bowed to me as if to say, okay buster it's yours. Well I had met Major Lowry some months before. I was in Northwest Seismic Surveys at the time and we had a crew working for Home Oil and Lowry walked in a meeting one day and he was accompanied by a chap who was his general manager at Home Oil at the time, a chap by the name of Ted Crawford??? Later they differed and Crawford got fired. However aside from all that, I shook hands with Lowry and that was it. I didn't have occasion to have any contact with him because Brown was in the process of taking over control of Home Oil largely through purchase of the company's stock on the market, which in those days was \$3 a share. And I found out later that he got the money to do that by borrowing from the Bank of Commerce which was the company's banker then and subsequently.

#039 I: The first of the kind of takeovers that we've seen so much of in the late 70's and 80's.

GB: That's right. The word was common in the industry, nobody else can get money out of the Bank of Commerce, Bobby Brown can.

I: So actually when Bid Lowry left, you really saw the end of the Lowry era.

GB: That's right.

I: And a rather unfortunate ending.

GB: It wasn't too long after that Bob Brown did acquire control of Home Oil and of course, he got rid of some of the current directors of the company and appointed new ones. A couple of names come to mind, Calgary types like Ralph Will and Red Dutton.

I: They came in or went out.

GB: They came in. Will of course, was an oil well drilling contractor and Red Dutton was an entrepreneur of the first order in construction. Other people brought into the company as director's that I can recollect are from Toronto, Dr. Bill James, well know in the mining industry and a hell of a nice guy. At the present time he's older than I am and he's still very much alive. And Marsh Cooper who was the President of Falconbridge Mines. Neither one are directors now. There was another chap Brown brought in, I don't know whether he became a director or not, Dr. Burton, I've forgotten his first name. He was the president of a small company formed about that time known as Almanex??? and it was made up of a group of mining companies out of Ontario, Alberta Mining and Exploration, they shortened it to Almanex. Almanex has since been taken over by Canadian Superior. But it was a very active little company and it participated with Home Oil and a large number of it's exploratory ventures, particularly Swan Hills and Virginia Hills. Those two fields really made Home Oil and it also made Almanex.

#062 I: I want to go back into Swan Hills in more detail. When these people. . .sorry I'm

interrupting.

GB: Let me finish this connection. Then when Bob Brown took over the company he had to have an operating company of some kind so he resurrected an old company of Federated's known as Oil Well Operators. So for the first year the company was run by Oilwell Operators, still with the same management personnel but our pay cheques were made out from Oil Well Operators. That went on for years until Brown got all the paper work in hand to take control of Home Oil and from then it was switched to Home Oil and it remained that way.

#069 I: As the Oil Well Operators, was it still under that umbrella when you were involved with Westward Ho?

GB: No. . . . well, it was shortly. . . . See as Oil well Operators, that lasted I would say, from the spring of '53, here again, it's off the top of my head, to the spring of '54. And then it became Home Oil's responsibility. So far as Westward Ho is concerned, it really didn't come alive in that area until I think it was 1956. There again off the top of my head but I think it was 1956. Westward Ho was the first discovery made by the company as Home Oil under Brown's direction.

I: You were very much involved with Westward Ho, would you like to recall some of it?

GB: Well, I was the Chief Geophysicist and the geophysical section was responsible for picking exploratory locations.

I: Whereabouts was Westward Ho located?

GB: It's a very short distance south and east of Sundre. Straight west of Olds. I would say, maybe, I don't know 12, 14 miles southeast of Sundre.

#083 I: What made you decide on that particular name?

GB: Westward Ho. Well there's a little village up there named Westward Ho. An elevator or two and a post office, a little store. I've been through it, it's a hole in the wall if you like. But there is actually a village there named Westward Ho.

I: Was this discovery as the first one that was as Home Oil, how much did it influence the further exploration work of Home Oil?

GB: Quite a bit because . . . well, we drilled one well up in there known as Home, Shell, Bergin, Yaunt??? I don't remember if I can remember the exact location but I think it was and LSD of section 18, now when it comes to township range, that gets away from me. That was drilled as a test of the D3 reef. Unfortunately it put out water. And then we moved from there southeast 3 or 4 miles to drill on the structure defined by seismic and we had done a lot of seismic in that area and that well discovered gas, quite a good flow of gas. So the next thing Alex Clark wanted done which we did was move down dip a bit and rill for oil and we discovered oil. Shortly after that we moved north onto a farm out from . . . I forgot whether it was C&E or Hudson Bay, drilled a well there and made a discovery. Well this whole area there became known as the Harmaton??? area and we had done a lot of seismic in that area, principally on lands framed out from the C&E, Calgary and Edmonton Corporation. We had quite a good spread. Not as much as we would have liked. And we had one and sometimes two seismic crews working in that area for one to

two years. As a result of this seismic work we subsequently drilled a well in what became the Carstairs gas field. In other words it seemed everything we put our hand to we got lucky. So Westward Ho, two shots, Bergin unit a dry hole, Carstairs a gas discovery and it was a major discovery and it's still putting out gas. The only thing that has bothered me about Carstairs is our deal with Trans Canada pipelines was 14 cents an NCF??? and today gas that's being explored in the United States is around \$4 and a half and NCF so quite a contrast.

#115 I: And yet they were still able to make money at that time but not too much.

GB: At that time.

I: In that short period it would only be from when you came in and Home was being assembled until say, '56, do you remember where the shares went from the \$3 they were at that point?

GB: They went up to around \$20. Because shortly after I was hired I flew down to Casper with Alex Clark, the Exploration Manager on some venture, they wanted me to look at some seismic maps and that sort of thing. So in the course of the flight I said to him, how about suggesting to Bob Brown he consider granting stock options to senior responsible people. He said, well explain what you mean. Well, basically a stock option is that the company grants so many shares to an employee under certain conditions. For example, they cannot be exercised for the first year and after that only so many shares a year can be exercised. And in exercising a stock option employees say, Boss, I would like to exercise my option on 1,000 shares. It can be exercised whatever the stock market price is that day. And so the employee go to a bank or the company might lend it to him. He pays the company for his stock, he takes it to a stockbroker if he wants to sell it and had the stockbroker sell it, then he pays back the bank or the company, whatever. So he said, that sounds to me like an excellent idea. He proposed it to Brown and Brown grabbed it right now. He said, this is a hell of a good idea and his major object being to spook the employees to do their best work and they'd be recompensed for . . .

#138 I: They'd have a part of the company?

GB: Exactly. And it worked out very well. So some options were granted, not too many and the size of the options weren't that much, 2,000 shares or some people got 5 and 6,000 shares.

I: This would be the certain level, having been with them for so long and at a managerial level.

GB: Depending on the position that they held with the company. Geophysicist, which was me, Chief Geologist, Chief engineer, Morris Paulsen, the Senior Accountant, that sort of thing. I suppose there were a half a dozen people got the first options. It was expanded after that to include lesser lights, if I may use the phrase. But it paid off very well. In 1956 or 7, I'm not sure of the year, it was in that area anyway, there was a company in this city, Regent Refining. And the head of that company was Dr. Suter??? who is with Home Oil now on a retiring basis. So Alex Clark made a farm out agreement with Suter for a farm out in Swan Hills and Virginia Hills of land that they held there that Regent had on which

they had done a great deal of seismic work. And he permitted Clark and me to look at these seismic maps to see if we saw any features that might be worth drilling. Well we liked what we saw. So about the time that the deal was to be signed, Texaco took over Regent Refining and they immediately said to Suter, you will not sign this deal with Home Oil and give them the farm out. Suter said, you just stand in the corner and forget it because I have given them my word and we are going to sign, as a matter of fact, I am signing this afternoon. So he signed the agreement. Texaco took over control of Regent the next day and it included Suter but they sort of paid him up by standing him in the corner, they gave him an office, they paid his salary but they gave him nothing to do. Well this went on for a year and he decided, enough of that nonsense. So he came to see Clark. Clark called me in because I had been in on the original negotiations and said, Suter's looking for work, can we use him. I said, well why don't you bring in John Carr, Suter is a geologist, Carr is the Chief Geologist and see what he thinks. So Carr said, why not. Clark immediately went to Brown and explained the situation, Brown said, to him, you give Suter a job, if he never does five minutes work because of the deal with Swan Hills and Virginia Hills. We've got to repay that guy somehow. So Suter still to this day is working on a consulting basis for Home Oil. He has since that time and he charges just for what time he puts in.

#178 I: Did he from that day just charge for what time, was he a consultant at that point?

GB: Yes. From that point on he was a consultant. If he worked 50 hours during the month he would charge accordingly. If he worked 5 hours he charge accordingly.

I: Very honourable man.

GB: Very honourable man. He's got one lousy habit, he smokes cigars. And he smokes them right down to stumps and he doesn't get rid of them, he stumps them out in his ashtray and the place really stinks of cigars. But nevertheless. And he's no fool. He's a shrewd old boy. I like old Doc Suter. I run into him on occasion on the street and we visit and this sort of thing.

I: Now he was very involved with Swan Hills of course, prior to Home and there's always been this discussion as to how was Swan Hills discovered by geology or geophysics?

GB: Geophysics. I attended a geological conference one time here in Calgary at the Palliser Hotel shortly after the discovery was made in Swan Hills and Alex Clark gave a paper and a Shell Oil geologist, Peter Moore stood up and said, will you tell us if seismic was used here at all. And Clark said, no seismic was not used. Well I was at the back of the room and I was furious about that because it was not the truth. As a matter of fact, I suppose I had reworked the seismic data supplied by Regent Refining 3 times to come up with the location. And I almost got up on my feet, if I'd had any guts I would have and said, Mr. Clark you're wrong, you know as well as I do the seismic was used, why you would say it wasn't used I don't know. But I didn't do it. But I tackled him afterwards. And he said, well I didn't want to reveal the secret. Well what the hell.

#203 I: It was long after the fact.

GB: Very much so. It was a year after the fact.

I: Now I talked to Mr. Suter awhile ago and he mentioned the fact that he looked at outcrops in the Rockies and the outcrops that lined up, sort of this, diagonal across the province from where they found Leduc and where they found Redwater and then where the same outcrops were here and he kind of looked back and the only lump around was Swan Hills and so he thought that's where it is. Now how much of that information was relevant when it came to drilling?

GB: I wouldn't know because the instigation to make the deal with Regent refining on Swan and Virginia Hills originated with George Fong, one of our geologists. He was one of the senior geologists but not the Chief Geologist. And it was George Fong's idea that this was a good place to explore. And that's why it was put to Clark by John Carr, the Chief Geologist and so Clark pursued it. And it sure as hell paid off.

#220 I: And then that's when the geophysical crews went in or had Regent had some geophysical crews?

GB: Oh no. They had done a lot of shooting of their own, which we reworked. And then we put in a couple of crews and did a lot more seismic work.

I: The crews that you had at Home, were they Home crews or. . . ?

GB: No, contract crews.

I: Did Home ever have their own crews?

GB: No Home never did have it's own crews.

I: How did you feel about that as the Chief Geophysicist?

GB: It didn't bother me a bit because contract crews as a rule were efficient, particularly if they had a good Party Manager. We had one crew put up by Exploration Consultants, owned and operated by Norman Christie, who still lives in town here. He's basically Canadian, became an American citizen, went to university in Colorado . . . not Colorado Springs. . .

#232 I: The mining. . . .

GB: Well at any rate, he became an American citizen and when Leduc was discovered he came back to Calgary, set up Exploration Consultants. So we had one of his crews and we had a crew operated by Independent Exploration. And I'm trying to recollect, did we have one from Northwest Seismic Surveys, I couldn't be sure. But at any rate, we did a lot more seismic work of our own. And in addition to the four townships in Swan Hills, we did a lot of work on the four townships immediately to the south. At a subsequent reservation sale by the provincial government, these four townships were put up for bidding and there was Home Oil, Almanex, a French petroleum company and Pure Oil company out of Chicago. Brown wanted to bid 4 million dollars for those four townships and all companies agreed on the 4 million dollar bid with the exception of Pure, they said that's too much money. The most we'll go for is \$3,750,000. Well Brown bucked that but he needed 100% agreement so he said, okay that's what we'll bid. Well the sale came up a couple of days later, who should get it but Pan-American and Gulf and they bid 4 million. Well Brown was furious, absolutely furious and I didn't blame him. He said, never will we deal with Pure again. Well shortly after that Pure pulled out of Canada.

After that about 6 months later or maybe a year later there was a sale of another four townships immediately to the southeast of the Swan Hills reservation. We had a name for that area, it escapes me. at any rate, the French company joined Home Oil in bidding on those four townships and we had done a lot of seismic work in them and I didn't like the looks of the townships at all. I said, there's nothing here that's significant and I don't think we should bid on it and I said so to Clark and I said so to Brown. Well at the time of their meeting 3 or 4 days before the sale, Almanex was part of that group. So Dr. Freddie Burton, he came down to see me, he broke off from their meeting and said, I'm going down to talk to Blundun. He came down to see me and he said, what has been your recommendation to Brown and Clark and I said, not bid. He said, why and I told him. He said, that's all I need to know. He went back to the meeting and immediately withdrew, he said, we will not put up a nickel, I want no part of it. Well Brown was mad about that but it turned out that it was the right thing to do because we drilled a number of wells after that and every one was a dry hole.

#278 I: One of the first setbacks really. How did Mr. Brown react to you having told them no?

GB: I don't know, he never said, anything to me. If he had it would have been just another bit of evidence to me that he didn't like me in the first place so what the hell, why should I let it worry me.

I: You mentioned that when you first went, your first impression was that he didn't like you. How did that manifest itself, were you correct?

GB: Well, I used to argue with him on occasion. So did John Carr but he never held it against Carr. For example when we discovered Westward Ho, Brown immediately wanted to put four rigs in here and start drilling. Carr said, that's ridiculous, you do it one well at a time, you just follow your nose, as long as you're lucky you continue that trend. You put four in, you get four dry holes and then what do you do. So Brown reluctantly accepted. That. Well I could argue with him about a deal with terms I didn't like. I may have been the Chief Geophysicist, he had sort of a management crew of which I was a member, which way should we do, what kind of a deal should we make. This crew vetted all these proposed deals, farm outs, leases, what have you. So I'd speak my mind, he might accept it, he might not but he always made it pretty damn plain if I disagreed with him that he didn't like it. Well, one case in point, 1964, I'd been made the Exploration Manager in November '59. The British were putting out blocks in the North Sea for bidding or application and we, for partners, we got Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas, now known as Pan Canadian and Almanex. No, it wasn't Almanex. They're now known as Norcen, I can't remember the name as they were in that day. I got a phone call from Brown on a Sunday morning, be out at the airport at 1:00, we're flying out to Victoria to see Ian Sinclair, the President of CPR, who owned the controlling interest in Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas to see if he'll take 25% interest in this North sea play. So we went. Sinclair listened to me present the case. Well we were also accompanied out in Brown's aircraft to Victoria by Jack Taylor, who was the President of Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas. He had his geological maps and everything there. But Sinclair never asked him for an opinion or asked him to present his thinking of the play at all. When I finished Sinclair turned to

Brown, okay we're in, we'll take 25%. So Taylor went to get up on his feet and say something and Sinclair said, sit down Jack, the deal's made. Well Brown, he had a home in Qualicum and he asked Sinclair to spend the night with him, and Taylor. Well Taylor didn't have any choice nor did I because we had to have a place to stay. So Sinclair declined so we got in the company aircraft and over to Qualicum and spent the night there. So we're out in his cabana alongside the pool and doing a bit of drinking. That night I was imbibing some of Brown's best brandy and Taylor was sitting there in the corner with a drink in his fist and just as I poured the drink, Brown came over, picked up the cork, stuck in the bottle and he said, you've had 11 of my good brandy you're going to get. He said, I don't like you. This was in Taylor's presence. I said, yes Mr. Brown I've know that for years. That shut him up right there. Taylor's mouth fell open, you know, what kind of an outfit is this.

I: It's interesting that you. . . .

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 2

GB: [ in mid-sentence]. . .not dead. He immediately increased everybody's, of the senior people, he increased their salaries by 50% right now.

I: Interesting that Mr. Brown was so flamboyant and free with money in exploration but was so chissely in other areas. It's a great contrast.

GB: Chintzy. There's no question about it, he was chintzy. Anyway I got that out.

I: Having seen this list did you immediately go and ask for a raise or were you able to do that at that point?

GB: Oh I could have done it but I didn't. One other time when he promoted, it came out of the blue, Morris Paulsen and Ross Phillips to Senior Vice-Presidents. We'd all been ordinary Vice-Presidents. He promoted them to Senior Vice-Presidents. And shortly after that we made a trip to London and those two fellow were along with certain others, Brigadier Max Wier??? who was Chairman of the Board actually, at this meeting in London and it was all over, I was somehow late getting out of the meeting and Brown had got himself pretty well loaded and so he nailed me as I was going out the door. He wanted to talk to me. I thought to myself, I'm going to hit you with this. When I got back to the room I remarked on these two guys Vice-Presidency, I said, as far as Home is concerned in my opinion it's an exploration company, it is not a holding company. And you promoted these two guys and they have little or nothing to do with exploration. I said, I think you slapped me in the face by passing me over. He said, well one thing I will do, I can't do anything about that now but I will raise your pay and as he was pretty well corned he hollered for his secretary. Well of course, she was back in Calgary. Hazel come in here. He said, I'll see that your salary is increased to the same as theirs, \$37,500. I said, yeah, I'll believe it when I see it. So it's an example of the man's outlook towards his senior employees.

#021 I: Did most of the senior employees stay with him though, they were fairly loyal? What was there about it that you think held you there, all of you despite this . . . ?

GB: Well, it was an active successful exploration company. That was more than enough.

I: It was exciting to work there.

GB: Sure it was. Something different. He pulled of a play for example, he made a deal up on the north slope of Alaska with Atlantic Richfield. \$20 million exploration over a period of 3 years including the drilling of one well. We all bucked it. We said, we can see the company taking not more than 50%, maybe 25%. Well shortly after that he was approached by Nielson, who was the President and Chairman of the Board of the Husky Oil Co. who said he would be glad to give Brown, provide \$10 million for ½ interest. And Brown turned it down. Why, I don't know. Well later he took the deal, the full \$20 million. That had something to do with killing him later. I'm sure it did.

#033 I: It was very unsuccessful.

GB: It was absolutely unsuccessful. We joined the Hamilton brothers in bids on reservations

up there and we paid too much for it, we drilled a hole on it and it was dry. Well that was the end of that. The only thing I can say in favour of the deal was that after 2 years Atlantic Richfield sent one of their engineers up here and said, you still have, what was it, I don't know something like 2 or 3 million to spend yet. We'll let you off the hook, we'll cancel that, we'll forgive it. I'm glad they did of course.

I: We're sort of jumping ahead but in the whole deal with Prudeau Bay, that was a rather, when you talk about an exciting exploration company. That was the time, or was it, when you were all in this mystery train running back and forth between Calgary and . . . . Could you describe that time, what it was like and why in the world it ever happened?

GB: We were with Hamilton Brothers, which is a Denver based company, but they had a Canadian based operation, whether they still have or not I don't know. I don't hear anything of them anymore. And they put together this nutty idea of a train. Well as it turned out, the train was on a side track out here between here and Drumheller. It lasted for two days.

#048 I: It was tow days that you were on it. They story has grown on to where you were o nit for a week riding back and forth.

GB: No, two days. There was Campbell and Paulsen and me representing the company and we had presentations by primarily the Hamilton people who were acting as the operator on what we bid on and how much we would bid. Well, I've forgotten, it was millions, I've forgotten what Home's share was. The idea when the deal was finished was that they would make up two sealed bids, one to be carried in an aircraft operated by Don Douglas on the Home Oil aircraft and another same bid, in another aircraft operated by a pilot for the Hamilton brothers and they'd head for Juno, Alaska where. . . .

I: Why would they need two planes?

GB: Well, not to take any chances. One might gum down or something, might have an accident. So they did it that way. And we had, some months before made arrangements with the telephone company in Juno to provide us with a line directly form the scene of where the hall where the sale was being held and announced who the successful bids in each case. That was maybe a couple of weeks later. So we had that directly into our telephone operator in Home Oil's office. And we had the announcement came in over a loud speaker. And we had a Director's meeting going on at the time so Carr was rushing in and out. Such and such a parcel taken by Imperial for so many millions and so on. And one that we had bid on with the Hamilton Brothers we got and this sort of thing.

#066 I: did you overbid do you think?

GB: No question about it.

I: What were the others going for?

GB: At the moment I don't recollect what they were but they were up in the many millions. I still cant remember what we bid. I could quote you a figure but I could be so wrong.

I: So they made a lot of money on the land most of which was not useable.

GB: That's right.

- I: Now when you were in this train, were you parked on a siding then? Can we get the story straight because certainly there are many stories about it running back and forth from Edmonton to Calgary and nobody was allowed off. . .?
- GB: They might move it from one siding overnight to another siding. Which they may have done, at this point I don't recollect.
- I: Why were you in the train like that and how did you live?
- GB: Just complete secrecy. Well, there was a dining car hooked on to it and railway personnel.
- I: It's a rather flamboyant type of operation to do, was it to impress the Hamilton people do you think?
- GB: It was the Hamilton Brothers that organized it, not Home. We were just invited to come along.

#079 I: Well, that was sort of a different type of a bidding system. Again, a first in Alberta, not one that you would particularly want to be associated with. There was another bid, when we're talking about bidding, that I've made a note of here. For a quarter section at Bonnie Glen, for a very strange amount.

GB: Yes, \$1 million.

I: I have a \$1,666,666.66.

GB: Could be. Alex Clark maybe got fired over that.

I: Oh can you tell me about it?

GB: Yes, I can. The middle of the summer I think it was. We had done seismic work up there so I went into Clark and I said, now are we going to be bidding on this quarter section because if we are I must spend more time on the seismic and if we're not I'll just put it away. He said, forget it, we're not going to bid. Well they had their meeting, the management committee had their meeting, I wasn't involved and they'd had a memo from Al Morrison, one of the engineers suggesting we should bid on it. He'd made certain assumptions that there would be 90 feet of D3 pay and it would produce 9 or 10 million dollars of oil and it was worth bidding on. So the company decided to bid. Well I didn't know that we had bid until the paper appeared one morning a couple of days later and here Home Oil had payed this million plus for this quarter section. Well I was furious about that. Clark wasn't around that day, he and Brown and some of the rest had taken off for New York including Fred Davis, a Director of the company, retired employee of Shell Oil living in San Francisco. Well, they'd all gone to New York. But that day there was a company party down at Millarville, summer picnic sort of thing. So I've forgotten who I rode down with but coming back I rode with John Scrimger so I blew my cork to him and he's the Executive Vice-President and General Manager. The story about this Bonnie Glen quarter section. United Oil put up the money and United Oil didn't have any money, they had to borrow it. So he was quite upset about that. The minute we got into town he phones Brown in New York and gives him the story. So a couple of days later Fred Davis arrives in my office. Says Brown had told him to get out of New York and get up and talk to me at once and find out what was going on from his point of view. So I told him the same story. It was nip and tuck, would they fire Clark or not but they didn't.

#109 I: Did they lose that money, was there anything. . . .?

GB: Yes. They lost every. . . .

I: There was nothing there.

GB: No they drilled it and got a dry hole. Brown called me in after they got back and said, never again will we bid on anything without your opinion.

I: Had great respect for you Mr. Brown did.

GB: He did whether he liked me or not.

I: Which is all that really you were looking for at that point.

GB: It was all that mattered.

I: Right. You obviously had a very fine reputation for knowing your business.

GB: Well, I spoke my mind anyway.

I: Well, I think the two things are very important aren't they. To know what you're talking about and to be ready to talk about it.

GB: Well, to jump ahead a bit. Bob Brown died on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1972 and it was they year we were holding the World Figure Skating Championships here of which I was the general chairman. And prior to that, I don't know whether I mentioned this or not. I had written Brown a couple of memos, one of them had to deal with my successor because I was due to retire at the end of October '72 and the other one, I wanted two months leave of absence during February and March for these championships. So I wrote him a memo in each case. In the memo about. . . .it doesn't matter which memo, some time prior to that, 6 or 7 months, Brown on occasion used to have a bit of a snooze during a Board meeting. He'd sit there and go to sleep. Well, Bob Campbell, Executive Vice-President and General Manager proposed to the Board that it was apparent that control of the company was going to pass out of the hands of Brown into the hands of Consumer's Gas. That was general knowledge and he proposed to the Board that if any senior employee and he named 11 people and I was one of them, we became known as the infamous 11, that should we. . .the conditions of our job and employment, should they change to the point where they were unsatisfactory to us or should they change our job completely, shift me say, from Chief Geophysicist to Chief Accountant, I could then resign but be paid two years salary in full as recompense. Well the Board approved that and when Brown came to it had already been approved and he was furious about it.

#141 I: Why was he furious?

GB: He thought it was not the Board's business, that he, as President of the company should have had something to say about it and the fact that they put it through while he was asleep. Well at any rate, Campbell proposed this and the Board bought it. I knew that Brown didn't like it so in one of these memos I mentioned that I was aware that he didn't like it and that I was prepared to renegotiate my settlement. To take two years salary in pay over \$60,000, I'd lose over half of it in tax and that I didn't want. What I was interested in was additional pension. That this money should be used, or whatever it took, should be used to buy me additional pension which is not taxable. It's known as a retiring allowance under the Income Tax Act. He turned it over to Ross Phillips. Phillips came to me and said, I've worked out a figure that I think will do what you want and be equivalent

of the \$60,000. I said, how much, he said, \$35,000, I said, forget it, my elementary arithmetic tells me it's more like 45. I said, I propose we go to Mercer company, they had an office in the natural gas building and I happened to know the manager of it. They are actuarialists, they calculate pensions and premiums and this sort of thing, primarily in the pension business. So I went to them and I explained the situation. They said, piece of cake, we'll have it for you in a couple of days. 10 days went by and I phoned him, he said, it's not as simple as I thought but we will have it in a couple of day. Well it was in my office a day later, it was all typed up neatly, they'd come up with a figure of \$46,000.

#165 I: That's very close to what you had said.

GB: Yes. So I said, give me a letter to that effect which he did. So I turned it over to Phillips and I said, this I'll buy. He hummed and hawed, he didn't say anything. But Brown was going to Toronto the next day so he gave the letter to Brown and when Brown was down there he presented it to Oka Jones??? who was the Chairman of the Board of Consumers Gas who is now Chairman of the Board of Signas??? which controls Home Oil and Home Oil. He read it and he said, this is equitable in my opinion and he initialed it, it's okay. So when Brown came back he gave it to Phillips, Phillips came in and gave it to me. He said, you've got a deal. After Brown died there was a meeting of the Board on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 72 and Jones called me in and he went through this letter and he said, this has been approved by the Board. The only thing I wanted to say to you, in the two years that I've been around here now, you've been very forthright with me and expressed your opinion and you've never misled me. He said, I wanted you to know I appreciate that. But Oka Jones, poor old bugger, he's dead now.

#181 I: But he appreciated that forthright way you had which is the way you operated obviously throughout your life, right from the Air Force, right through.

GB: Well, I hope so. Time is sure flying. How much have you got there.

I: You promised me 2 hours. I have a couple of other things. I want to get into your figure skating but before we go into that, there are some names. . . .

GB: Do you mind if I load my pipe, does that bother you?

I: No, not at all. I wanted to just talk about some of the people. We've glanced over them rather quickly and I wondered if I gave you the names if you might just recall your connection with them and perhaps any anecdotes you might have where you have worked with them or they with you. You mentioned Morris Paulsen for example. Do you have any recollections of your work together?

GB: No too much. I didn't have occasion to work with Morris too much because I was exploration and he was engineering. He came into the fact after the act. We would make the discovery and he would take over the wells then and look after the completion of the wells, the production of the oil, building the pipelines and that sort of thing. Although he did attend a meeting one day, how he got involved I don't know. It had to do with making a deal and I still don't recollect why he was there but he was opposed to it. He said, it was too risky. So I said to Morris, risk, you can barely pronounce it, I bet you can't even spell it. That didn't sit too well with Morris and I really didn't blame him but I was mad as hell

about his desire to avoid risk. He was coloured with the same brush as Aubrey Kerr, he hated like hell to take a chance. Although when it came to a card game or shooting dice he took plenty of chances.

#212 I: Do you think that having that balance of those that followed Bob Brown's very big risk taking and certainly you were always an optimist and been proved right. Do you think having that balance helped the company?

GB: I suppose it did because Paulsen was recognized in the industry as a very good engineer. He never really had to take any risks.

I: Engineering you don't have to, it's after the fact.

GB: No, it's there and you just deal with it.

I: Another name I have here that we mentioned. When you were the head of the geophysical, John Carr was head of the geological. The two of you were sort of Vice-Presidents together. So your paths would cross a great deal.

GB: A great deal. For example when we were doing our seismic shooting up in the Carstairs, Westward Ho area, our mapping, it became pretty plain to me in working the seismic data. We were mapping amongst others the top of the Mississippian limestone. I was convinced that what we were getting was a very uneven surface. While the beds above and below would be fairly smooth and sloping this one particular area, the data was rough, hilly, eroded. So I took all this data and had a session with Carr. This is the sort of thing that went on from day to day. This session lasted all one afternoon. We looked over these records and I said, in my opinion we're dealing with an eroded Mississippian surface. He agreed with me at once. He said, this is what we're looking for. So he said, I think this is the sort of thing we should be drilling on. Drilling for production, oil and gas, from Mississippian limestone, that's the technique to be followed. This is the sort of connection there was between the two of us. There would be times when Carr and I, he'd want to make a play in some place that didn't appeal to me or the terms of the deal, the land people would have gone to a company like Hudson Bay for example, for a farm out. They would say yes, we'll farm out but under these conditions. To me these conditions mightn't be acceptable. I would call Carr in and say let's kick this around. If we'd agree that would be fine. If we didn't agree, more than once did he explode because I object and he would storm out of my office, the smoke coming out of the top of his head. We laugh about it now. But more than once did he blow his cork. That was all right. Basically we got along very well, I had a lot of respect for his ability.

#258 I: In the final decision, quite often in the different oil companies the geologist seemed to have the final say. How was it in Home, who had the final say?

GB: Exploration Manager. If it was Clark, he'd listen to me, he'd listen to Carr, well we'll do this. If it went against me it was a matter of accept it. If he supported me okay. We had one case where I went to the French oil company and was to pick a location that I was against buying, bidding on the southeast of Swan Hills and their Chief Geophysicist had a location, I had a location and we couldn't agree. Where he showed structure I showed a hole in the ground so I said no way will I agree to that. After we got back to the office,

Clark said, like it or not, we'll go with the Frenchman's location. I said, okay, you can be sure of a dry hole and that's what we got too. As I say the Exploration Manager called the shots. He had to sort it out and take the responsibility.

#278 I: So often the Exploration Managers were geologists rather than geophysicists because there were more geologists around really than geophysics. So did this bother you at all or interfere at all with your role as Explorationist?

GB: No.

I: Mr. Gillespie was the manager.

GB: The only thing that surprised everybody including me. When Alex Clark quit in October of '59, went as President of C&E, Brown asked me to become the Exploration Manager rather than Carr who was the Chief Geologist. I felt quite flattered about that. But because of my experience in the Air Force as a senior staff officer I had a pretty good handle on how to run a show and how to control things and get action. And this was apparent to Brown and the rest of the Directors.

I: How did you find it when you moved into that area as the Exploration Manager, you didn't have direct access in quite the same way. How did you enjoy that role?

GB: What do you mean I didn't have direct access?

I: You had the Vice-President who would be in charge of geophysics and the Vice-President in charge of geology . . .

GB: And the land department and the drafting department I had the four of them.

#300 I: Yes. So that it was a little different. You had to weigh it all rather than just going gung ho for your area.

GB: I was used to it. My experience in the Air Force and the weight I was able to exert as Chief Geophysicist was nothing new to me. The only thing that bothered me about it, I was made Exploration Manager and got a raise in pay but Carr as the Chief Geologist, he got a raise in pay to the same level, same salary. So I went to Brown about it and I said, this isn't fair. He's responsible for geology, I'm responsible for land, drafting, geophysics and geology. He said, well that's the way it's going to be.

I: Was this do you think because it was sort of, will it be you or John Carr.

GB: Brown liked Carr, he didn't like me, in spite of the fact that he made me Exploration Manager.

I: He couldn't do without you but he wasn't going to like you just the same.

GB: That's right.

#317 I: I have a couple of other names here too. I have. . . .

GB: I had a great deal of respect for Carr, still have and to jump forward a little on Carr, when I was going to retire from Home Oil in February of 1972, ??? had to have a replacement. Was it going to be Fong or was it going to be Bob Humphries who was head of the Land Department. Bob was pretty capable too but he was not an earth scientist and I felt that the Exploration Manager should be an earth scientist. I'd had one experience before with a gentleman who was the Exploration Manager with Signal Oil and Gas, we were

involved in a deal with them, and the Exploration Manager was out of the Land Department. Well he didn't appreciate the scientific point of view at all. So I thought that the Exploration Manager should be an earth scientist. I mentioned that I had written Brown a couple of memos and I pointed out that we had the two choices but that I thought we should go for Fong. Brown accepted that.

#344 I: He still had that kind of final say.

GB: Oh yes. When it came to senior people he called the shots. I had in the meantime spoken to Carr and he said, no way do I want to become Exploration Manager and whether you pick Fong or you pick Humphries it's up to you. I think it should be Fong but no way. So I said, I'm going to have a meeting of your staff tomorrow and the geophysics and I've got to get this sorted out. In the meantime I got approval from Brown. Carr said, provided you let me speak first to this. He went to some length and he wrote out two foolscap pages, a review of the situation and why he did not want to become Exploration Manager.

I: Why didn't he without going into two foolscap pages?

GB: He wanted to remain involved in geology. He felt that too much of his time would be spent in negotiating deals and sorting out things in other departments in which he was not interested.

End of tape.

Tape 3 Side 1

GB: So Fong was made the Exploration Manager over Humphries protest to Paulsen who had become the Executive Vice-President and General Manager some time prior.

I: Perhaps you could tell me a little bit about Mr. Fong?

GB: Well, he was quite an innovative thinker geologically and as I said earlier was responsible for the company getting involved in Swan Hills and Virginia Hills. And I've never missed an opportunity to point this out to Brown and the Board of Directors that it was Fong. Also due to the good will of Dr. Suter.

I: If I could just interject, that has been the base of their money ever since.

GB: Yes. Pretty much. After Fong. . . . Humphries comes in here somewhere. When I retired and Oka Jones died, Ross Philips was made president of the company. And for some reason or other he didn't like Humphries so he forthwith fired him. Fong continued as Exploration Manager but Philips refused to promote him to Vice-President.

#014 I: Why was that?

GB: I don't know. I was gone by that time. Eventually Fong had an offer from Siebens Oil and Gas to come over there and be their Exploration Manager. So he took it and he went. Well, shortly after that John Carr and Chuck Hemple??? also went to Siebens Oil and Gas. Not too long after that Siebens Oil and Gas was taken over by Dome. So that meant those three guys were working for Dome. Within the past year, when Dome got into financial trouble, they started to cut back on staff, they terminated Carr's job with the company, they said, you're finished, we don't need you anymore. Hemple was astounded at that, as a matter of fact, Humphries told me that Hemple was furious about the treatment afforded Carr by Dome and he went to the senior management and protested. They listened to Hemple and said, we disagree with you and we've decided we don't need you anymore either. So they fired him on the spot. To my knowledge neither one of them has found a job since, or they may not have tried. Maybe they don't need it. They had stock options with Home, which I'm sure they exercised, whether they had any with Dome or not I don't know. But I believe Fong is the only one that is still working for Dome out of that gang. So the company. . . .of course, Cook as Chief Geophysicist, he took over from me when I became the Exploration Manager, he retired about a year ago and he works for them occasionally, the odd half day but most of the old hands involved in the company's luck in the middle 50's and early 60's are gone.

#034 I: Mr. Fong, can you describe him a little, what he was like to work with, any particular anecdotes that you can think of concerning Mr. Fong?

GB: Well, other than the fact that he's a Chinaman, I never did hold that against him, he's a pretty smart cookie.

I: Do you think it was held against him in any areas?

GB: No, not really. And certainly not in the industry. No, that had no bearing on it, even

within the company. He was well liked. I don't know of any particular anecdotes that come to mind about him. But I always like Fong, he always spoke his mind, Carr always spoke his mind, so did Humphries, so did Cook. That was the beauty of working with that gang of guys, you knew what they were thinking.

#041 I: You said earlier that you felt that the whole business of Prudeau Bay is what eventually killed Mr. Brown. Why did you say that?

GB: Well, let me go back a little. The deal itself was very onerous. After drilling the dry hole and the money we were committed to drill, the \$20 million must have weighted on his mind because it was about to kill the company. The story that, I can't vouch for it, but the story that was prevalent at the time of his death was that he had borrowed \$25 million from the Bank of Commerce to personally buy Atlantic Richfield stock, which at that time was selling \$130 a share. Shortly after he bought it the stock started to fall on the market and had dropped down to \$45 a share. He didn't have the money to repay the bank. What he eventually did I don't know. And it's the thing that forced him to sell the Brown interest in Signas, who owned the controlling interest in Home Oil. I think it practically cleaned out the estate. So what his wife Jenny has to live on I don't have a clue. I did hear that she got a pension from the company of \$1,300 a month. With her style of living that wouldn't go very far. I think the financial commitment that he had undertaken personally forced him into more and more drinking and it's the drinking that killed him. He died at the same age as his father, 57, for the same reason. And in the York Hotel in Toronto as a matter of fact.

#061 I: With this progressive problem with drinking, how did it affect his ability to manage?  
How did you work around someone who had those kind of problems?

GB: Well, he was usually sober every morning and the better part of the afternoon. He might get loaded later on in the day. We had an executive dining room and a bar connected with it on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor so he had access to it any time he wanted to.

I: So the access was too. . . .

GB: It was too much.

I: Do you feel, is that the same today in Home for instance, or when you left was it the same, there was always that bar available.

GB: Oh yes, sure. If I, as a vice-President on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor wanted a drink, I could walk down and into the dining room and pour myself a drink. I never did. None of the Vice-Presidents ever did. That was Brown's bailiwick, we stayed out of it.

I: Looking at Brown probably stopped you right at the door perhaps.

GB: He would I don't suppose, ever have made an issue out of it. He would probably have said, well pour me one too, more than likely.

#073 I: There's something that we have not talked about. There are two things in the oil area that I want to go back and just clear up that I didn't get straightened and then I want to get on to a parallel career that you had all the time you were so involved and that is your involvement with figure skating. But just before we go into that, I have two points

here I wondered if you could just clear up for me. This is going way back, this would be when you were with Northwest and you were on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. And I have a little note here about a Jim Kidder and the lab, which I understand was a chicken house. Or do you recall that at all. It says the mobile chicken house lab.

GB: No, I don't remember using the phrase.

I: No you didn't, it was just one that in my research I found.

GB: Well, Kidder was the Chief Geophysicist for Mobil here in Calgary. And he was a most difficult person to work for. He would pick us to death on minor things and keep bugging us. And we just didn't like working for him at all. You had to be careful how you talked to him because the company needed the crew working for him. But he was most difficult to get along with.

#088 I: I have another note here and that is, at one point you said that MacMillan and Timmins had a disagreement and MacMillan took over. Do you know what the disagreement was over. No, it was outside of how they were running the company?

GB: That I don't know. It more than likely had to be something within the company.

I: But you weren't privy to that.

GB: No I was not.

I: All right let's get on to the figure skating because that is something. . . you certainly didn't start out life taking figure skating did you. How did you get involved with figure skating?

GB: I was a hockey player from the time I was 6 years old until the time I was. . . let me see, the last time I had a hockey stick in my hand, I think I've mentioned that.

I: This was down in the pass.

GB: Yes. In Pincher Creek in 1945. So I played hockey until I was about 38 or 40, somewhere in there. And then when I moved the seismic crew, party #4 from Pincher Creek to Red Deer, I bought a house in Calgary on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and moved the family in there. This was an NHA house. I moved the family in there and I used to drive back and forth from Red Deer to Calgary on the weekends. And I had occasion to go down to the Glencoe Club. Well, 1940, when we lived in Regina, I had heard of the Waskana Winter Club and I went around there. I liked what I saw of the ice dancing so I spent \$13 and bought a pair of figure skates if you please and I joined the club. It cost me \$9 or something like that. My wife objected strenuously to all this because she didn't even have a washer at that time, it was the old scrub board and we had two children. So I didn't blame here really. So I liked what I saw of the ice dancing. Well, then I had the career in the Air Force, started with Gulf, until 1948 when we moved into Calgary.

#113 I: So you didn't touch your figure skates at all in that time.

GB: No. We joined the Glencoe Club because I wanted the kids to take figure skating.

I: How many children did you have?

GB: Two. The boy, Jerry, is now 47, he lives in London, England, not married. I have a daughter, 45, she's married, lives here and has two children, a girl of 20 who's going to University of Alberta in Edmonton, taking Education and a grandson of 17, Charlie,

who's in grade 12 in Central Collegiate.

I: And what was your daughter's name.

GB: Carrie. Same as her great grandmother. Well, I liked again, what I saw of the ice dancing. We joined the Glencoe Club, the kids took figure skating, that didn't pay off. But I started to take instruction in the ice dancing, Wendy Silverthorn ??? at that time and an Englishman, Ed Edmunds???, now living in Moncton, New Brunswick and it just took off from there.

I: This is rather unusual for someone to take up figure skating. . . .

GB: Well, I was 45 before I got started. As I say I liked what I saw.

#132 I: Your wife never took it up?

GB: No. She grew up on a farm, never had a chance to get involved in sport.

I: So as an ice dancer, then you did dancing with couples, is this the kind of dancing. Who was your partner in ice dancing?

GB: Well, at first it was anybody who would skate with me. They'd have dance sessions and you could dance one dance with somebody and then you'd go ask somebody for another one and that sort of thing. Just the same as an ordinary . . . .

I: Ordinary dance only you had skates on.

GB: Sure. Eventually my regular partner became Muffy MacKenzie and her married name was Muffy McHugh. She was quite a good skater. Quite a personable young woman but she died about 14, 15 years ago. She was only about 38, 39, from cancer. Her husband, he was quite a booze hound. They had two boys, Bruce, that father's name was George and the eldest son was George and then Bruce. Some years shortly after she died the father committed suicide with a shotgun blast to the head in the presence of his younger son if you please. That was a hell of a mess. But at any rate, I skated with her pretty much from about '56 to '62 or so, somewhere in there. The club burned down, I lost my skates and everything else. I had taken all the tests in dancing and commenced to judge figure skating, figures, free skating and ice dancing, but my primary interest was still ice dancing.

#153 I: And you were appointed as a figure skating judge, this would be international, in '67 or would this be Canadian first?

GB: Well, to go back a little. The Canadian Figure Skating Association had their annual meeting here in Calgary at the Palliser Hotel in 1963. I was elected to the Board of Directors at that time. I was the President of the Association in 1968 and 69. Well, it was shortly before that. . . by that time I had progressed up the ladder as a competition judge and referee of ice dancing in the Canadian domestic scene. And in '67 or '68 I was appointed judge and referee of the International Skating Union. The International Skating Union controls both speed skating and figure skating. That's the first level, they have only two levels, there's the International and then what they call Championship Level. I had to be an International judge and referee for three years before I could be appointed to the ISU Championship level. To which I was appointed in 1969. So that in 1970 I judged my first World's Figure Skating Dance Championship.

#170 I: Where was this?

GB: It was in Ljubljana???, Yugoslavia.

I: How exciting that must have been.

GB: It was. And then I judged it again in 1971 in Lion???, France and then in '72 we had the World Championships here of which I was the General Chairman and that year I acted as the Assistant Referee of the dance championship.

I: What does that mean, Assistant Referee?

GB: Well, the Referee sits here, the Assistant Referee sits here and the Assistant Referee copies down all the marks of all the judges for each couple and if he wants to bother with it, can also judge and compare his marks with what the judges give and what the Referee gives. I've always done it that way. Not all Assistant Referees bother. They just copy the marks. I figured, hell I've got something else to do besides be a high-priced bookkeeper, so I would judge along with the Referee. The Referee is an Englishman, Chairman of the ISU Ice Dance Committee, Lawrence Demi, lives in Hull-Yorkshire, he'd turn to me, what did you give them. This sort of thing, you know. This was the way I wanted it. In '73 I didn't judge I was just an observer, I took my wife with me to Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, '74 in Munich, the same deal, I wasn't judging. '75 I can't remember where they were. '76 Stockholm, Sweden, I was the Assistant Referee, '77, Tokyo, I was the Assistant Referee. '78 I was the Referee of the European championships of the dance and also the Referee of the World's Championships in Ottawa. '79, '80, '81, '82, I haven't done anything. But in '71 I was elected a member of the ISU Ice Dance Committee, they had a Chairman and 3 members and I did well enough that, the Chairman was always by acclimation but then he would nominate who he wanted as the three members and anybody else could nominate also. Well, as it turned out, in each case, the elections in '73 and '77 I was top dog, I was the number one member so that if anything happened to the Chairman, I had to take over. I was on that committee until. . . their congress meets every other year and in 1980 in Davo???, Switzerland I declined nomination again. I though nine years was enough. That turned out to be a mistake.

#208 I: I was going to say, don't you fell that you miss it?

GB: Yes. No two ways about it. I miss it, I've lost contact.

I: Are you going to go back into it?

GB: No because now their elections are every four years. They changed that. So I could have been elected in 1980 and been on for another four years. Well it means that. . . the nine years I was on there, if I wanted to attend a World Championship, a European, or any Dance Committee meeting, the Canadian Figure Skating Association paid my expenses. Now if I want to go I've got to pay my own. That's one loss. And the other is I've lost contact with the judges but more importantly I've lost contact with the competitors. Because it got so that when I'd appear on the sideboards of a practice rink, the Russians, the Germans, anybody, they'd storm over to the boards, how are you Blundun, glad to see you, this sort of thing. I haven't been to a World's Championship, the last one was ??? in 1980, I've not been since.

#223 I: Tell me the difference from when you first started taking dance and the way they do it today? There's been quite a lot of change has there not?

GB: Tremendous improvement. Because when I started there was no such thing as a free dance. There was just three compulsory dances and that was it.

I: What were those three?

GB: They have twelve and they've got them grouped in four groups. I can remember off the top of my head, there's a polka, a waltz. Might be the westminister and a tango. They've got three other groups. The group to be skated next, the committee announces which it is going to be. For the next one, they also name what that groups going to be. So the competitors know, they've got six dances to practice. They know what group's coming up for the next year and they work on that. Then about 1971, they introduced what is know as an original set pattern dance, which is much the same as a compulsory dance. In a compulsory dance, the edges and the timing on each edge, whether it's one beat, two or four, whatever, it's specified. It's laid down in a diagram and you've got to skate to that. The original set pattern dance is the same thing except that it's got to be invented by each couple. So each couple, the rhythm of that year might be a fox trot and they would specify the tempo, not lower than 90 and not more than 100 beats per minute. They would have that range in which to work. Each couple invented their own dance to that particular rhythm within that tempo and that's why they called it an original set pattern dance. And they had to do 3 sequences around the rink as they did in compulsory dancing. In the early 60's they brought in what's known as a free dance. You've seen figure skating, you never see that on TV because nobody's interested but you've seen the free skating singles. Well, it's the same thing in dancing except certain restrictions. They can skate any edges they like to any tempo they like. They're supposed to change the tempo 3 times within a dance. That is part of it can be march, part of it can be waltz, part of it can be tango. But no more than 3 changes and it lasts for 4 minutes and it's timed. It's marked on the basis of originality and difficulty of the moves, the use of the ice, what they call harmonious composition, that is to say that the moves that are skated fit the music that's being skated to. The timing has to be right on. They can't be just using it as background. They've got to skate and dance to the music.

#269 I: The dancers themselves have changed so much too. For instance, you say you started skating at 45, doing dance skating, do you think that someone of 45 today could go into the dance competition, could start.

GB: Clubs in some areas have what they call a veterans dance competition. I competed in that in the middle 50's with Muffy MacKenzie. Anybody starting at 45 years old today looking at the World's Championships can forget it. Take the World's Dance Championships right now, Jane Torvill and Chris Dean, he was a policemen in Manchester, they're British. They're what, 22, 23. They've got what it takes.

I: It's much more vigorous and there are. . . are there lifts in the dance?

GB: Minor lifts.

I: Yes, but they always have to be touching, this is the difference between that and pairs,

isn't it?

GB: They're not supposed to be separated. Hand in hand is not permitted except for at the commencement of the dance. The first seven steps. Minor lifts are allowed where the man cannot raise his hands above his shoulders, it used to be above the waist, they just changed it this last year. They can jump, both at the same time, but not more than ½ a revolution. Or when he does lift her, they cannot rotate more than 1½ revolutions, things like that.

#295 I: So it really is still a dance. I can remember many years ago going to the Ice Capades and there was a couple that always used to waltz in it for several years. It was really the most lovely thing to watch. You were gliding over the ice.

GB: That's why I think ice dancing is the most attractive part of the whole sport of figure skating.

I: Because it is, there's much more symmetry to it and a smoothness, not the jerkiness that you sometimes find. Jumps are fine and twirls but. . . not as precise.

GB: Well, with lifts and jumps, it's an acrobatic sport and athletic rather than an interpretive, graceful sport.

#308 I: Before we finish our interview, I'd just like to ask you Mr. Blundun if there are any incidents or any people that you would like to just mention on this tape that you have been involved with during your time in the petroleum industry?

GB: A couple that comes mainly to mind. I first saw competitive ice dancing at a World Championship level in 1957 and 59, the World Championships in Colorado Springs and those were just strictly compulsory dances. Then again in '65 and again the same thing is true and the couple I saw then Diane Towler and Bernie Ford, a British couple, I thought should have been first, they placed third. The next year they did win the World Championships and they held that until 1969 when they retired. They both turned professional to teach. Towler stayed in Great Britain. For immediately moved to Toronto, right now is in Vancouver. An excellent ice dancer. Kind of a feisty individual to get along with. I complimented them on their dancing in '65 and told them they should have won it but anyway. When I went to Yugoslavia in 1970 to judge my first World Championships, the title was vacant because of the retirement of Towler and Ford. There were 3 dance couple at the stop of the list, there's no doubt about it. ??? and Eric Book of Germany, Schlepke??? and Shomeyer??? of the United States and Pakimova and Gorshkov??? of the U.S.S.R.

End of tape

## Tape 3 Side 2

GB: There was those three, Pakimova and Gorshkov??? of the U.S.S.R. in my book the top couple were the Americans, Schlepke and Shomeyer so I placed them first, I placed the Germans second and I places, Pakimova and Gorshkov third. Primarily let's say Schlepke and Shomeyer and first because they both did the difficult steps and their flow was absolutely tremendous and timing I though was fabulous, particularly Schlepke, the man. The German couple, their program wasn't nearly as difficult, although it flowed very well. The Russians, she did all the work, he was a passenger. He was on 2 feet most of the time. Well I just didn't buy that. As it turned out, it was a nine judge panel, four went for the Russians and four for the Americans but the 9<sup>th</sup> judge was a lady by the name of Molly Philips from Great Britain, she went for the Russians. Boy did we give her a bad time about that afterwards because in our opinion the Americans should of have it. Of course, Pakimova and Gorshkov became the champions and the remained the champions. They were champion in Lion in '71, Calgary in '72, Czechoslovakia in '73, Munich in '74, '75 I couldn't remember a few minutes ago and '76 was . . . . No '75 was Colorado Springs and they didn't compete that year because he'd had a lung drained about a month before. They came but they had to withdraw because he couldn't take it. And '76 was Sweden at Gutenberg???, that was the last year they competed. So from '70 to '76 they were the World Champions and when I first saw them and met them at the final party in Lugano??? in '70, she was just a young girl of 18, 19. She couldn't speak a word of English and neither could he. The one incident that occurred at that championship, we all ate in a common room, they set the tables and that sort of thing. And it got so that you always sat down at the same table. The Russians sat down at the far end, the Americans at this end, the Canadians in between. After that championship that night, the American dance couple Schlepke and Shomeyer were late coming in. So their team manager, a fellow by the name of Black from New Jersey got up on his feet and in a voice that could be heard all over the place said, and now I introduce you to the real and true world dance champions which was a lot of crap because they weren't, they didn't get it. And the Russians of course they understood enough of what he had said. That irked the hell out of me so I got up and I stalked down to the far end of the room and I shook hands with the Russians, complimented them on winning the world championships, then I went back to the other end and I complimented this American couple for placing second. When I sat down the current president of the skating association was there too, Doug Peckinpaw from Edmonton. He said to me, you're a feisty bugger aren't you. Anyway Pakimova and Gorshkov, they skated some dances that were out of this world. He improved, when they skated here in Calgary, they still won, but their coach came to me and said, have you got any comments on their dancing and I said, yes, tell Gorshkov for god's sake to learn to skate and to contribute something to the couple's dancing. I said, he contributes nothing, she does all the work and that's why they win. But he's got to improve. By the time 1976

came along, the last year they competed, he's skating the difficult stuff just as she did. They had paid attention to me as well as maybe to some others who had made the same comments. At the '73 congress in Copenhagen the British wanted to bring back 3 of the older dances we'd thrown out as not being good enough for world championship. So the committee, of which I was a member, said, we'll bring in 3 new dances, the polka invented as an original set pattern dance by the Americans in '71, in '73 the Germans had produced a dance for a waltz rhythm known as, they called it the Ravensburger Waltz, Ravensburger was their home town. And the Russian contributed a Tango that they had invented and skated first as an original set pattern dance in Munich. So the committee decided we'll introduce those as compulsory dances. The one by the Russians, Tango Romantica is one of the most difficult dances that we have. So they've left their mark there. But in addition to that, in 1976 at Gutenberg, Sweden, the original set pattern dance was to the Rumba rhythm and they skated a tremendous Rumba, it was fascinating. I'm sure it was due to the invention of Pakimova who was also a ballet dancer but it was fabulous. Well, her English had improved to the point where she could carry on a conversation with anyone in English. I learned about a year ago, I suppose she's 28, 29 now, her husband has since become a world judge and he judged the European Championships in '78 in Strasbourg and he's judged the World Championships in Dortmund??? 1980. They've had a child and they sent me a picture and I've got a picture taken of them here which I had them autograph. But I've learned in the past year she has cancer.

#075 I: Oh, how sad.

GB: So I'm going to the Skate Canada competition in Kitchener on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the first thing I'm going to ask the Russian coach there is how is Pakimova.

I: When you were Chairman of the World Championship here in 1972, there was an incident. There were all kinds of rumours about the other Russian pairs champion, where the next year she changed partners and the rumour was that actually he married one of the other girls and she got mad and he dropped her on her head. Tell me the real story, you were there.

GB: The other Russian couple were very good but not quite as good. The girl you're talking about is Irena Rodenina??? and her partner was Alexei Ulinov??? a big tall blonde. He and my wife became very chummy while they were here. His English was no hell but they could make themselves understood. I'll come back to that in a second. At any rate, they had just nicely competed in Sapporo, Japan at the Olympics and then they came here well ahead of time. I had to find ice time for them before the championship, they came out for about ten days along with the East Germans. Somewhere between Sapporo and Calgary he married the gal from the other pair. This gal from the other pair was a real sexy babe whereas his current partner Nina, she comes up to about here, very dark, no spark of sex about her at all and as hard as a board, all muscle. I danced with her on the dance floor at the final party, it was like dancing with a stick. She'd keep time all right but no give to here at all. So he married this other gal. Well, in practice he did drop her but I'm certain it wasn't deliberate because it was a difficult move where he tossed her up in the air and he

catches her coming down. Well, he missed her and she fell on her head. They dashed her over to the Foothills hospital and they wouldn't touch her until somebody produced \$25. Fortunately one of our supervising fellows was there and he put up the \$25 which I gave back to him out of our funds. The Russians, they never forgot that, that money had to be produced first in the emergency ward before they would even look at her. She recovered sufficiently that she was able to carry on and compete but he really did drop her on her head.

#104 I: They didn't compete together again after that, they . . . .

GB: They finished the competition here but the following year they separated and she got a new partner whom she finally married, Azetsev??? I've asked about Ulinov every chance I get and they say, oh he's skating in ice shows and instructing in Russia but he's never. . .

I: But he kind of went on the back burner because she was the front. . . .

GB: She was the one that was calling the shots in the pair. But they were very precise, they were fast, they were smooth, they were accurate. To come back to Ulinov for a minute, I took my wife with me in '73 to Bratislava??? and I'm on the rink board on the sidelines watching the practice and he and. . .he had a new partner for that year. . .he came over and the first thing he asked, where's your wife. I told him, she's here, he said, you see that I talk to her. Next practice I took her over, the rink was right next door to the hotel so they had a bit of a visit. And the day we left to come home the skaters always have to. . .they're nailed down for about a month with skate exhibitions in different cities. They were at the airport leaving, we had nearly an hour's wait. So Ulinov leaves his partner and spends that hour visiting with my wife. I saw him again later someplace, I don't know if it was '74 in Munich, I don't know what he was doing there, but at any rate, again he asked, is your wife here. I said, no she didn't come this time. He said, you give her my love. My contact with the Russians has been very good. In particular the Russians. The Germans, cold, the Austrians, not too. . . the French are very warm people, the British, not cold but not too warm, the Yanks, quite friendly, Czechs, so so, the judges quite friendly, the competitors wary. But of the lot I enjoyed the Russian competitors more than anyone else. The Russian judges, a little on the cool side. Madame Lacubashevskia???, she's been a judge at Skate Canada a number of times, big fat buxom woman, not too tall. Friendly enough, her English is not bad but there's nothing warm about her. But the Russian competitors, I really go for them.

#139 I: Your second career was as fruitful for you as your major career in oil obviously. Just before we wind up, is there anything, looking back into the oil patch, can you think of an incident that you feel was the most influential in your life or a person that perhaps that was the most influential as to the direction you took in the oil patch?

GB: Well, picking the successful location at Pincher Creek, Gulf, Pincher Creek #1 was certainly a highlight. And I suppose the next would be the Sarcee well at Turner Valley for Home Oil when I was with Northwest Seismic. And following that, our Westward Ho, Armatton??? discovery and certainly after that, Swan Hills, Virginia Hills. I suppose the

most significant of the lot was Swan Hills. And the one person that stands out in my mind in all the oil business more than any of the others is John Carr.

#156 I: Why does he stand out?

GB: I had so much respect for his ability and he was always forthright. He was always friendly except when he blew his cork but he would get over that in a hurry too. He always called a shot as he saw it, there was no quibbling, it didn't matter if it was me or it was Brown, he laid it on the line. That's the kind of thing I appreciate.

I: thank you very much Mr. Blundun, for taking this time. You've certainly added to the oil patch oral history archives and I do thank you for it.

GB: Well, for what it's worth.