

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Roger Couture

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: October 2, 1985

Side 1 – 29:00

AK: I'm Aubrey Kerr, and I'm in the home of Roger Couture, and that's C-O-U-T-U-R-E. And he lives at 3509 27th Avenue in Vernon, British Columbia, and today is Wednesday, October 2, 1985. And I am very pleased to be here with you, Roger, to get some of your reminiscences and I'd like to start off with how you managed to get a job at Imperial Oil.

RC: Well, I seen Campbell Aird in Leduc at that time...

AK: That is when the office was still in Leduc?

RC: That's right.

AK: Where the Legion is.

RC: Yeah. This was June 1947.

AK: Yeah. We just barely got that building finished.

RC: Yeah, right.

AK: Okay, and Campbell said...

RC: That I could start on Monday, and I...

AK: And what was your job to be?

RC: I went to work with Erickson, building Battery 4 at that time.

AK: And did you lay flow lines as well?

RC: No, ??? I stayed on, you know, the battery crews and built like...

AK: These were bolted tanks?

RC: Yes.

AK: You built the tanks?

RC: No Smale done them, like BSNB Tanks.

AK: Oh yes. S-M-A-L-E, Smale.

RC: Ed Smale.

AK: Yeah, right. But you put in the separators and hooked them up to the tanks.

RC: Yes, like we done all the piping for the flare pits, flare lines, manifolds for the wells to come into.

AK: And these were bolted tanks.

RC: Yes, at that time they were.

AK: Right. And then they went to welded later on.

RC: Yes. Sparling and Davis tanks came in later.

AK: Right. Okay. And then you worked through the winter and you continued to sort of work with Bill?

RC: Yes.

AK: And then in the spring of 1948, when did you first hear about Atlantic 3 having problems?

RC: It was the morning of February 28, I think, or 29th. We were coming to work in the oilfields and we saw the well blowing wild.

AK: And the oil was going right up through the derrick.

RC: Yes it was, at that time.

AK: And the ground was still heavily covered with snow?

RC: Oh yeah.

AK: And the frost was still on the ground, of course.

RC: Yes it was.

AK: Right. And then what next do you recall?

RC: They then brought in pumps and until the well, by night time that night, they had the well under control, so they figured, you see. But then when they put the blow-out preventer in the place and closed the valves, in a day or two the oil started to flow out around the surface plate.

AK: And this would be the hydro, wouldn't it?

RC: Yes.

AK: And this was before Imperial took over?

RC: Yes, Imperial at that time had nothing to do with the well.

AK: No. Do you remember working with any of the fellows before this? Or you were completely separate from them? You never went near...

RC: No, with Atlantic 3 until Imperial took it over.

AK: Well then, my understanding is that the middle of May, the Conservation Board gave Imperial Oil the right, the power to do what they could do. Did you hear anything of why Imperial was given the job and why McMahon was...?

RC: I believe... the rumour in the oil patch at that time was that Atlantic had gone short of funds and Imperial Oil had to try to help to, you know, put the well out.

AK: Well, all the money that came from the oil was held in escrow by the Conservation Board, and then they settled it up after.

RC: After.

AK: Ultimately, it made McMahon a rich man.

RC: I didn't know it.

AK: At that time... well, that's alright. So what was the first job that you had to do as soon as Imperial took the well over?

RC: The first thing we done was bring in a bunch of 2x12's and laid planks into the... over top of the oil into the well. And then we started to lay lines, like, one was going to gather some of the oil out of the well and to separate it in tanks that we built at the Atlantic Lease.

AK: Well, that was over in Leduc Consolidated ??? to the east.

RC: Yes it was, right.

AK: Yeah right. Okay. So that was the first thing. Well then, you told me that shortly after that, Tip Moroney, who was then in charge, of course, he started the two directional holes.

RC: Yes.

AK: Did you hear any discussion about the holes? Why they were drilling the holes?

RC: We knew that they wanted to flood the well out with water...

AK: Yeah right.

RC: ...but they first had to get the holes drilled in. And the pipeline runs from the river up to these western relief wells...

AK: Yeah right. Okay. But you were telling me something I hadn't known before and that was, well there were two things that I hadn't known. First of all, when you put the well head control on, you were saying that the shale and sand that was coming up through the drill pipe up into this well head that you people put on, was cutting out the fittings.

RC: Yes, we had to replace the fittings about once a week.

AK: That's right. And even so, there was only a small amount of oil that was flowing through.

RC: There wasn't like that much oil, you know, going to the little tanks...

AK: Yeah. And this was on top of the hydro, and then the hydro was hooked on the casing. But the drill pipe was still in the hole, wasn't it?

RC: Yes it was. Yup.

AK: Did you hook directly on the drag pipe or?

RC: No. No, we hooked through to the hydro.

AK: Right. Okay. Now you told me that you had had, at least Tip thought that he could maybe kill the well by pumping redwood bark, oats and other material down through this wellhead.

RC: Yes.

AK: So you had it fixed up so you could put a chiksan in, I guess...

RC: It was a chiksan.

AK: Chiksan (that's c-h-i-k-s-a-n) connection and that was hooked up and turned to the Halliburton wagon?

RC: And valve, both were there, and we pumped for about 20 hours or so. But then the materials that we pumped down the well started to flow out into the sump and around the well itself, the casing, so we had to stop.

AK: There was no doubt about that.

RC: No.

AK: I say, it came back.

RC: It did come back, absolutely.

AK: But it was no use at all.

RC: No.

AK: At that time, the waterline had not been laid from the river.

RC: No.

AK: And what you were doing is you were hauling water from the river. And what was the name of the truck driver?

RC: I believe Devon Tank Trunks were...

AK: Yeah, they were contracted.

RC: Right.

AK: And why do you think Tip Moroney couldn't make a deal with Sammy Hector who had lines there?

RC: Well, I don't really know that but... Hector probably wanted an arm and a leg for his supply.

AK: Yeah. But you never worked in the Valley before?

RC: No. No I didn't.

[00:10:03] AK: I should have asked you, what were you doing when you came to Leduc? Were you a farm hand or what were you doing?

RC: Yes, I was a farm hand.

AK: Where? What part of... whereabouts had you been farming?

RC: West Edmonton.

AK: You mean Stoney Plain or?

RC: Around Spruce Grove.

AK: Spruce Grove, oh yeah. That was out in the country.

RC: Yeah.

AK: Not anymore!

RC: No.

AK: Okay, so this first attempt, had you recalled Tip Moroney coming around and talking to you fellows?

RC: Oh yes. Tip Moroney was out talking to us a lot, and so was Charlie Visser.

AK: Yeah. What was your impression of Tip?

RC: Oh I thought he was a fine man.

AK: Yeah. And he didn't, he didn't demand leadership, but he got it. He got it.

RC: Yeah, right.

AK: He got you fellows to work for him willingly.

RC: Oh yeah. He had no problems at all.

[00:11:19] AK: It went good that way. Okay, well then, at that time I suppose you were still working on other wells too, or were you kind of assigned to Atlantic 3?

RC: Yeah. They assigned about eight of us to check all the piping and, you know, the separators and the well head itself. Like if the derrick started to tip, we had to jack it up and straighten it out.

AK: Alright. You're...

RC: Pretty well, like all, on that job every day for...

AK: Then who, was your boss still Bill, Bill Erickson?

RC: Uh yes. But Jack Wurzer was kind of in charge of all the guys at the well site at that time.

AK: That's W-U-R-Z-E-R.

RC: Yeah. That's right.

AK: Jack Wurzer. And you said you'd come up from the Valley?

RC: Turner Valley, right.

AK: Right.

RC: He was an old pipeline man down there.

AK: So he was kind of the general foreman of you fellows. Now you were working, you said, day shift.

RC: Yeah. But it was long days, like we were often called upon to do 14, 16 hours a day, you know.

AK: And you got time and a half or double time when you were working overtime?

RC: We got time and a half, plus danger pay bonus that they offered to work on that well.

AK: Right. Would you mind telling me what you got on a per-hour basis in those days, what your wage was? Or do you recall?

RC: Well my regular pay was 93 cents, but, per hour, plus I think 12 cents an hour danger pay.

AK: And then, if you worked time and a half, well then that would be just that...

RC: Right.

AK: But in those days, a dollar an hour was pretty good wages.

RC: Yes it was.

AK: So you weren't, you know, that was fair wages.

RC: Yeah.

AK: Certainly not as much as what the roughnecks and drillers were getting?

RC: No, probably not.

AK: Did you ever feel that you'd like to work on the rigs?

RC: I did work on them some after.

AK: Oh, after this thing was over, yeah.

RC: That's right.

[00:14:18] AK: And during this time, do you recall any particular incidents, any particular stories of people getting into trouble and...

RC: There wasn't many, like, people didn't, got into anything serious. You know, we all knew what we were doing and we all watched and...

AK: Well, there's a story of this fellow – I'm desperately trying to find, his name was Cliff Covey. C-O-V-E-Y. And he's a fellow that set fire to himself in the backhouse.

RC: Oh yes.

AK: When he was roughnecking. I think this was before Imperial took over.

RC: Yes it was.

AK: Do you know anything about that chap?

RC: We just heard the story that he'd gone into the backhouse and lit a cigarette there...

AK: He was sneaking a cigarette.

RC: Yes.

AK: Against orders.

RC: Yep. The place exploded, I guess.

AK: Well, it was lucky that they put it out.

RC: Yeah.

AK: But I'm trying to find out where the heck he is. I can't...

RC: I don't know.

AK: You don't have any...

RC: No.

[00:15:37] AK: No. Okay. Well then, moving on then, during the summer the rigs, the two directional holes drilled, did you have any connection with them at all? Did you go over to do anything for them at all?

RC: No we didn't bother them at all. They done their work at the rigs, and we just...

AK: You were a drilling crew and that was it.

RC: Right.

AK: Sorry, they were the drilling crew and...

RC: Yeah.

AK: And you were this other thing.

RC: Yeah.

AK: Okay, and how often did you have to go in to right the derrick?

RC: Towards the end, like the last six weeks of operation, of the well blowing, it got worse and worse. We were doing it once a week at least. And then the last few days, we had to do it about every three days. It was sinking down pretty fast, like on the southeast corner of the derrick.

AK: Okay. Could you describe how you righted it? What did you use to right it with?

RC: We had Simplex jacks and we just lifted it up under the big timbers and then we'd block it up with more...

AK: More timbers.

RC: Yeah, right.

AK: But the timbers kept settling and settling and settling?

RC: Right.

AK: The ground must have been...

RC: They were just saturated with oil, it was just soaked.

AK: And you were saying that when you walked around, if you didn't stay on those plank roads, you'd be up to your knees in oil and mud.

RC: Oh yes, at least to the knees.

AK: Okay. So did the Kerber (K-E-R-B-E-R), did the Kerber brothers ever come in and do any work on that derrick? They worked for Histal.

RC: Yes, they did.

AK: What did they do?

RC: They brought in new timbers, longer, for the corners, and put in new timbers, like bigger sets, you know, to stabilize it.

AK: So they did some of the work as well as you did, then?

RC: Yes, yeah. Right.

AK: But they were rig builders, that was their job. I just wondered why you fellows were called in to do it.

RC: We didn't have the proper equipment at that time...

AK: Yeah, I see...

RC: To do the complete job that they did.

AK: No, well they were... So you were saying that as this thing got worse and worse, you were going in more frequently.

RC: Right.

AK: And was there more oil and gas bubbling up around the rig more than ever? Or did you see it diminishing? Or did you notice how much was bubbling?

RC: No, it was about the same thing every day. It didn't change much until the derrick fell and then broke the pipe off and then it formed a crater, of course.

AK: Yeah. But when the rig was sitting there, there really wasn't that much change, then, except that the ground was settling and settling.

RC: Yes, and getting softer, like, deeper in the ground, you know.

AK: Now there is a little bit of disagreement here, Roger, and that's just fine. There's no worry about it. But your recollection is that you went off shift at 4:30 that afternoon.

RC: Yes.

AK: And the derrick was, had started to really, you could see that it had...

RC: Tipped over quite a bit...

AK: Tipping quite a bit.

RC: It was leaning a lot.

AK: It was leaning a lot, right... yeah...

RC: We had tried earlier to straighten it, but it kept sinking.

AK: So it was a lost cause, and...

RC: That's right.

AK: Wurzer...

RC: Mr. Wurzer at the time told us that it was best to stay out now because it was looking kind of dangerous.

AK: But prior to that you had standing orders.

RC: That's right. We had standing orders...

AK: To go in and... but you'd been working with the Kerber brothers to some extent.

RC: Yes we did. That's right.

AK: Okay. So you went home, you were eating your evening meal, and you saw the big black smoke, I suppose...

RC: That's right.

AK: From the farm. What did you do then?

RC: Well, we drove out there to the field, naturally, to see what was going on. Like, we thought it was the Atlantic that was ablaze.

AK: Did you have any orders to report to work or anything that night?

RC: Once I got out there, they put me to work.

AK: And what did you do?

RC: We tried to build up those far sumps on the far corner because the fire made the oil in the sumps swell from the heat. And they were afraid that the sumps would, like, run over into the ditch, you see. So we brought CATs and built up the sump walls.

AK: So you were able to get some CATs.

RC: Yes, we had about three CATs there right away.

AK: And where were they? Just in the fields somewheres?

RC: There was two of them that had been working on the pipeline so they were handy.

[00:22:26] AK: Yeah, now speaking of pipelines, you had nothing at all to do with the water line?

RC: No, I didn't help...

AK: The water line at Imperial. No.

RC: No. Like I worked on the well part itself.

AK: Okay. So okay, there's the well burning, you're out there helping them build up these ditches.

RC: Yes.

AK: And it must have been a mess because all this stuff was saturated with oil. How could you get that close to it?

RC: We got soil from behind the sump which wasn't saturated.

AK: Oh I see, dry soil.

RC: Yeah. And tried to build a firewall that would hold them...

AK: Did you have corrugated iron shields to prevent getting burnt?

RC: No.

AK: Well, how close was the fire, were you...

RC: Oh, probably 200 feet...

AK: Is that right?

RC: From us, yeah. 300 feet, maybe.

AK: But wouldn't that have singed you?

RC: No, but it was pretty hot! (laughter)

AK: Yeah. But you weren't thinking of those things.

RC: No.

AK: You were just thinking of getting that job done and pushing the dirt up.

RC: That's what it was then, you see, was to get things...

AK: And then you worked through the night, I guess?

RC: Yes.

AK: And then by morning, did it show that it was kind of burning off then pretty well? It wasn't burning as much?

RC: What we could see by morning was the outside oil that had been burning through the night was pretty well burned off, and that the fire was down a lot.

AK: But those sumps right at the corner, did they catch fire?

RC: Yes. Yes they did. They burned for about a day and a half.

AK: Right. So there was no way that you could have controlled the spread of it.

RC: No. No.

AK: In other words, you couldn't have built a firewall. There was no hope.

RC: No, no.

AK: So then, what did you do the next day then? Did you just try to build up the wall some more, or what?

RC: No, there was no need to because the well started to die down then, like they knew that the flooding process that they had started was working well. They killed it off.

AK: Did you see the water coming up with the...

RC: Oh yes, yeah.

AK: Well, how did you know that that was water coming up? Could you see it?

RC: It wouldn't burn anymore.

AK: No. Was there a lot of steam with it? Steam?

RC: Not really a lot, no, because like the oil was burning on the surface and it didn't...

AK: That's really what killed it. It was the water being pumped down west relief.

RC: Yes. It was. That's what flooded it out.

AK: Well now, did you have anything to do with pumping anything else down west relief?

RC: Yes, we pumped earlier in the season. We'd pumped a whole bunch of oats, bags of oats, bark...

AK: Yeah, but this is not the same as pumping it down Atlantic 3.

RC: No. No, on the west relief you mean? No.

AK: No you didn't have any...

RC: No.

AK: Because all west relief was doing was pumping water.

RC: Right.

AK: And then south relief, that was when they tried to cement it with, and they cemented five, and then they cemented up their casing, their drill pipe. I don't know if you ever heard that, did you?

RC: Yeah, I did.

AK: They ran calfield?? and they cemented it solid. Okay so, when the fire was out, you didn't do anything with the crater? You left the crater as is?

RC: Yes, for all that year.

AK: And then you just went on to your other jobs around the field, and then you went back in the spring. And who was your foreman then? Still Wurzer?

RC: Mr. Bergan.

AK: Oh Henry.

RC: Yes, yeah, he took over the whole thing.

AK: Yeah, alright. And then what was his instructions? What was he supposed to do?

RC: Just to clean up the mess around, you know.

AK: And how was that done? By using bulldozers and blading the...

RC: Yeah. They bulldozed it right up level, and then they got a farmer in there with a cultivator and they cultivated.

AK: They did?

RC: Yeah. They worked it all up with the cultivator.

AK: A deep... they had it set pretty deep, I guess?

RC: Yeah. And then they done that every month, like.

AK: They'd cultivate it every month?

RC: Oh yeah.

AK: Well then you said that you had those, you put those little pump jacks in.

RC: Put those little pumps into, to pump up the surface oil that was still, like left in the ground that hadn't burnt.

AK: And they were powered by little gasoline engines?

RC: Right.

AK: So how much would they pump a day? Would they pump very much?

RC: Oh no, just what they could pick up, you know, would be four or five pail-fulls a day.

AK: Do you think it was effective? Do you think it was worthwhile? Or was it a waste of time?

RC: They helped a little, but I don't think they done the job that was expected of them.

AK: No, I see. Right. We're flashing here, so I'll turn the tape over.

Side 2 – 14:00

AK: And you were saying that the cultivator would go out. You hired a farmer with a cultivator.

RC: Yeah. Imperial Oil did.

AK: Imperial Oil paid for this.

RC: Yeah.

AK: And you don't recall too much of the presence of Lyle Caspell or...

RC: No.

AK: Howard McIntosh or Frank Varnegan?

RC: No I don't.

AK: They could have been around.

RC: Oh absolutely, because there was a lot of people around, you know.

AK: Had they put those other two wells, had they put them back on production? One and Two?

RC: They did the following year, like you know.

AK: Did you hear anything, when you were working around there, did you hear anything about farmers wanting to sue Atlantic for damaging their ground and damaging their crops?

RC: Oh yes. There was talk of that, you know. Like one farmer apparently was saying that the gas killed his chickens and stuff. I don't know if this happened at all because we worked right in that stuff every day, and we never wore masks so it was pretty sweet gas.

AK: Well, it's fortunate it was sweet!

RC: Oh yes.

AK: Would have been, what they had at Drayton Valley...

RC: Oh yeah.

AK: Because that gas at Drayton Valley, that was just, and then at that, was running wild without being burnt.

RC: Oh yeah, would have messed up ???

AK: You were dead right now.

RC: That's right.

[00:02:09] AK: So then after you got this work done, then you returned to your normal job of, over with Henry working on tanks?

RC: Yes. We then, they put me on tying in the new wells into flowlines and stuff like that, bringing in new wells.

AK: Well, did you have a swabbing unit there?

RC: Yes, and some days we had four wells a day, you know.

AK: Well, what would you use? Was it that Frank's rig that you used?

RC: No, like, the rig swabbed in the well themselves. Like, we just used...

AK: Oh, you just used the rig, yeah. That was before the service rigs really got going.

RC: Exactly.

AK: Yeah. Yeah. But then it got to the point where, you see, the old standard derricks went out, and then when you had the masts, you couldn't afford to leave a rig there. You had to get it off and get it moving.

RC: Yeah.

AK: Right. So you were working bringing the wells in. And who was your boss then?

RC: Henry Bergen.

AK: Henry, ???

RC: And Mark Blain also, like the two of them.

AK: Yeah, Mark Blain Senior.

RC: Senior, yes. They were the production supervisors.

AK: Right. Did you see much of Vern Hunter in those days?

RC: Oh yes. Yeah. Vern was always around with the guys, you know.

AK: Yeah. And what about Campbell Aird?

RC: Oh he was always with the men, you know. He'd come right out in the field and work with the folk. He was a nice man.

AK: Yes, that's right. He was my next-door neighbour, you know.

RC: Yeah.

AK: He was at the corner there of Jasper Court East. Well then, what about the engineers? Did you remember anything about Hugh Nalbert?

RC: Oh yes. I knew him well.

AK: And Harry Simpson?

RC: Simpson, yes, and Feskey.

AK: Bob Feskey. He's dead.

RC: Yes.

AK: Hank Bonet? Remember Hank?

RC: Yes.

AK: Hank was glad to get out of there. Harry's retired.

RC: Is he?

AK: Yeah. And then there was Maurice Paulson. Do you remember Paulson?

RC: Yeah. Oh yeah. That's right.

AK: How did that work in those days? Were those fellows out there working with you people pretty close? Or how did that go?

RC: Bob Feskey worked with us on the reservoir, worked quite a bit. And then Bob McQueen took over from Bob. Bob went up the ladder and...

AK: In those days, did you run bottom hole tests?

RC: Yes.

AK: With Bob?

RC: Yeah, yeah I run that for about nine months, I guess.

AK: And then, what, would you compare them with Bill Kinghorn?

RC: Yes, exactly.

AK: How did they...

RC: Bob McQueen and I took a complete survey, and we were a half a pound out with the Conservation Board.

AK: And that was with the dead weight.

RC: Yeah. That's right.

AK: And you had the Carter bomb, didn't you?

RC: Yes, we did. That's right.

AK: What did Kinghorn, what did they use? Did they have the same type of bomb?

RC: They used a Carter also for a while, and then they switched to that other bomb.

AK: Well now, was some of this testing that you were doing, was that as a result of seeing whether the pressures were coming back up again after the...

RC: Yes, that was a lot of the reason that we done this.

AK: And how frequently would you take these?

RC: Oh, we took them steady for about four years.

AK: No, but I mean would you do them once a week, or once a month? Or...

RC: About once a week.

AK: To start with.

RC: Yeah. And then it tapered off.

AK: And then you didn't need to.

RC: Yeah, that's right.

AK: Okay, while we're talking here, I guess that would end your experiences with Atlantic 3 then, would it?

RC: Yeah, that's about it, I guess.

(0:07:03) AK: But I'd like to – just for the record – put on the tape why you left Imperial? And what year you left?

RC: I quit Imperial in April 1954 to start my own business.

AK: And you felt that you had a pretty good chance at doing your own thing.

RC: Yes, Imperial had trained me quite well. I felt that I could do better on my own.

AK: Right. So you started off doing what then, when you were on your own?

RC: Y-line work.

AK: And what did that consist of?

RC: Well, we de-waxed wells, like, serviced and swabbed in dead wells that were loaded up with water. And we also done some bottom hole work for Imperial Oil.

AK: Did you do any acidizing?

RC: No.

AK: Just hot oil for the waxing?

RC: No.

AK: You didn't do hot oil? Just scrapers.

RC: Just scrapers.

AK: Okay, and then you said that later on you got into construction work.

RC: Yes, I sold my Y-line and I went into construction.

AK: And this was in 1961?

RC: 1961 to 1969. I sold out in 1969.

AK: When you were doing construction work, what did that consist of?

RC: Well we done pipelines, built batteries anything that had to be done ...

AK: But this was all contract work?

RC: Yes it was.

AK: For anybody.

RC: Yeah. Most of our work was Imperial.

AK: Well that, there'd be quite a bit of work with Imperial because they went unitizing in '60.

RC: Exactly. That's right.

AK: So they would give you quite a bit of work.

RC: Yeah, we, we remodeled a lot of the tank lines.

AK: Well that's right because a lot of those wells would never be on production again.

RC: That's right.

AK: Did you ever, you didn't do any re-working like Mark Wayne?? did you, you didn't go in and pull tubing, and...

RC: No.

AK: Abandoned holes or anything...

RC: No. I didn't have a service rig.

AK: No. So, your work expanded, you said, right through to Manitoba you were doing work.

RC: When I was surveying?? I would...

AK: How big a crew did you have?

RC: We had, on the wire ??? 5 trucks and 10 men, and on the construction later on, I had a size of 15.

AK: Yeah, I see. And where were your offices?

RC: In Devon.

AK: Right in town there. In your house?

RC: No, no.

AK: You had an office.

RC: We had purchased the old Imperial Pipeline building.

AK: Yeah, right.

RC: And we had our office there.

AK: Why did you choose Vernon?

RC: Oh, I don't know, we just liked it here when we came through.

AK: You drove through and stopped for gas and that was it, eh?

RC: Yup, that's right.

AK: Well, I think you chose pretty wisely, there are many lovely places in the valley here. Each one has their own, if you want to get baked to death you go to Osoyoos, and if you want it fairly hot, Oliver and Penticton's too hot for me, and Kelowna is getting too big.

RC: Seasons are nicer here too than they are in the south end of the valley. We have some of each here, which is nice.

AK: Yeah, right. Well you and Don Gamble didn't do the same thing, Don stayed on.

RC: Yeah.

AK: And it was his career.

RC: Well Don quit you know.

AK: In '81.

RC: Yeah. No, he quit...

AK: Oh, he quit at one time, that's right.

RC: He quit in '51, and he came back in '53.

AK: Yeah, he was working for Johnson Testers. Well, I don't know, is there anything else that you'd care to add in this interview, Roger, that you'd like to say about your, what you thought about the oil patch? It must have done you good.

RC: Oh, I enjoyed it. I liked the... sometimes I wish I was back there but...

AK: Oh. And you're working now for the Gas...

RC: School Board.

AK: Oh, you're working for the School Board?

RC: Yeah, I'm a maintenance man for the School Board.

AK: I see, you run around and check the plumbing and the...

RC: I operate equipment for the School Board.

AK: I see. But you were with the gas plant for awhile.

RC: Yeah, I was 5 years with the gas plant, as a pipefitter there.

AK: Yeah right. And you're going to continue to work for awhile?

RC: 2 more years. That's it.

AK: Then you've gotta quit.

RC: Yup.

AK: Then you go back to your own construction work or something.

RC: Yeah, that's right, a person don't know what will happen then.

AK: Well that's good. Well I thank you very much, Roger, for your time, and I appreciate having got up to date, perhaps we can, you can think some more about those pictures, maybe I could check and maybe borrow one or two of yours if I may, but I think I've got that, you helped a lot in clarifying the location of those lines and some of the other things that went on, so... thanks very much and it's now nearly 9:30 and we'll sign off.

End of interview