

## PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Elmer and Evelyn Gavel

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1992

### Side 1 - 46:30

AK: Okay. Today is Saturday October the 10th 1992. I'm Aubrey Kerr and I have with me my wife Elsie and we are in the home of Elmer and Evelyn Gavel. That's spelled G-A-V-E L. And your address is 4618 - 47th Avenue. And, yes Wetaskiwin of course, that's right, and we are very pleased to be here. We didn't know you before, but I think we've already become good friends. And the idea of this interview is to get both of your recollections of the old days starting back where you had your beginnings, then through your career wildcatting and then the other stage in your life where you came to Redwater and got into this welding business. So I want to start off Elmer, if you can tell me where you were born and when.

ELG: I was born in Olds, Alberta in 1917, so that's a quite a while back.

AK: Your mother and father's name?

ELG: My dad's name was Steven and my mother's name was Ethel.

AK: And you were saying, we won't get into too much detail about your forefathers, but you are saying that it looks as if a way back in your history of the Gables that they came from Prussia, which was a part of Germany. Is that your understanding, right?

ELG: Yes.

AK: And Evelyn, were you born in Turner Valley?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Just outside of Medicine Hat, eh. And your parents said come from?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Your maiden name was McIntyre. That's M-C-I-N-T-Y-R-E, and you have some brothers in, that you had in Turner Valley that were in the oil business.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: You're well connected then with all those... are they still alive?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: So maybe you could tell me where you and Elmer met.

EVG: Okotoks.

AK: Okotoks, well...

EVG: He was working at a service station, and I was working for ???

AK: Who was Don Eastcott?

EG: He ran the little garage, right across the bridge from [inaudible]

AK: Oh, the Level crossing...

ELG: The Level crossing going into town. There was an old service station just ??? garage or something is still there ???

EVG: [inaudible] both talking at once - can't understand them.

ELG: [inaudible] Taylors... because ??? he was a horse and buggy doctor.

EVG: Don Eastcott ??? he got married ???

AK: He worked for Schlum... Yeah, that's right. He was one of the first employees and I believe I did talk to him. Right, Gough. That's G-O-U-G-H. You see I have to spell out of these words because the phonetics don't come out, you know. Yeah. Well, that's interesting, isn't it? So, what year did you two get married? 1940 I see, right. And had you had you switched out to Turner Valley then?

ELG: No, I worked in the garage and then I got a job when the war came on they needed help in the Valley and that looked like a little better prospect than the service station. So I went, I applied out there and got on in the plant yard, I worked in the plant yard under... which MacRae was that...

AK: Heck? There was a Jack MacRae. Which one was it that was in Devon Elsie, what is Jack?

ELG: He wasn't here, he was the man in charge of the plant yard under... Stevengale was the head man. MacRae was the man under him and I went to work there. Then I got transferred, which was quite a battle, because they had to show all the people ??? you couldn't lose your job. But I begged to differ and got away with it, and they transferred me down to the shop, and I apprenticed under Lou Archibald. And I apprenticed there for a couple of years and then they sent me out on the rigs wildcatting.

[00:07:26] AK: Let's back up. I believe you said that you had apprenticed under Jim Archibald, was it? Or it was Lou. Well now was Lou Ralph's father?

ELG: His father.

AK: Oh. Where does Jim fit in?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Yeah, well, just back up, did you feel that you had some mechanical skills that they could use?

ELG: Well I was mechanically inclined and I applied to get on as a welder and I told Mr. Stevengale that I was a cripple and I didn't think I could stand the bulwark in the plant yard and that I would like to get a chance to apprentice so I could get a trade, and he told me that I could get a ??? and I went under Hinden?? was the man at the shop, the foreman that said he would like to have me to replace Calderwood. Young Calderwood went to the Air Force and I replaced him under Lou Archibald and served out two years there, apprenticeship and then with out on the rigs for another two years and then in Redwater I wrote for my papers.

AK: Right. Well, that's back up again to the plant. I understand that Ralph's father had this technique for re-tipping bits, is that right?

ELG: That's for sure.

AK: And what was that substance that he used?

ELG: Boreum.

AK: Boreum, and did it throw off a very bad smell?

ELG: Well somewhat, yes. It was poisonous.

AK: Yeah. The way Ralph talks as if, as if it killed his dad.

ELG: Well, I wouldn't say that because his dad lived a pretty long life too, but under that, them days we never had the ventilators that we have now, the suction systems and things like that. We had to inhale them fumes that came from acetylene torch, you didn't use electric, you used acetylene and acetylene torch with the boreum and the substance that was in it was a poisonous substance and you inhaled those fumes because you never had a mask, you were goggles, but you never had a mask.

EVG & ELG: [inaudible]

AK: I'm... see what I'm trying to do here Elmer, I want to get right back to the very basics because what you're describing to me will be a lost art because 20 years from now, they won't know what people are talking about. So this is why I want to get it a fairly complete description. And what in what form did this boreum, boron come, did it come as a powder?

ELG: It's crushed particles in a mild steel tube. It's crushed particles, I ??? I have used it lots of times. I used it long after I get done with the bits. I went into the ??? by a hard surface cultivator shovel and I made a big Improvement there. I also went into anhydrous ammonia spreader shanks where they're spreading the fertilizer today, and I know my son-in-law is doing the same thing as I was doing, and that's part of my problem.

AK: Well you passed your secrets on to your son-in-law.

ELG: Yeah.

AK: Well, let's get back to that very beginning. Tell me how you... you had this in a steel tube and you'd have your acetylene torch going and you'd heat the tip of the bit...

ELG: You'd have the tooth, and you have to have that in a tub of water to keep the bearing cool because the bearing in that bit, and then you heat up the top of the tooth that is above the water and when it gets liquid, then you apply the tube and you apply it on liberally to start with and then less liberal back and forth as you build this tooth up and with the technique that we developed, both he, and he learned it from me, you build this tooth up, and then with a feathered carbonizing flame you wipe the side of the tooth. You wipe the material up the face and make a hard surface on the face of the tooth, so when you complete it, there's no grinding or any way to sharpen it except just within the flame itself.

AK: So what you were doing was a smooth, sharp tooth then. Yeah. And what temperature would you have? Would you have it so that the original tooth was...

ELG: Liquid hot.

AK: Yeah but it wouldn't be running.

ELG: Yup, you bet, that's what you had to control. Anybody else, it would run down it. It would... you try to melt metal and it's all going to run down, gravity pulls it down. But with this technique that you work, you pile a little more here and you whip it up, you blow that up the face of the tooth, you don't, you can't melt it because you got to keep it liquid hot because like a glassblower, you've got to move it at the right time. And that's where the technique comes in.

AK: Well that's right so there was a lot of art in this, you have to know exactly...

ELG: Yeah, there was a technique... ??? kept falling down and I couldn't get it to stay up because I was a second, I was a split second too long and it went down and then I took the rod and clipped it off, had to get rid of it. Then I'd start in again you see and try to bring it up. Now the more you, the more you burn that tooth, the more you burn that metal, then you haven't got anything because you burned the metal. So you mustn't burn the metal, but you must whip it up. You whip that up the face until you get that nice sharp tooth and then you get away from it, and let it set up and then you haven't burned it and you've got it where you want it, but that takes, that takes some skill.

AK: Yeah. Well, what age were you at when you were into this? You'd be 23?

ELG: Yeah, 23, 24, 25 maybe.

AK: And all this time Lou was probably tipping bits and the bits would come in from the field.

ELG: Well we started on reamers, we started on them reamers that they used, that they drilled a hole and then they have a big bit that's on a, the reamers are three big lugs on a great big body and then they would get them down. They would bring them in with a truck and then we had to take them on a chain hoist and set him in the tub to keep them cool, and then we built those cutters up. And so we would switch off after I got to do it, he would do what he could but after I got on to it, when I learned from

him, then I would spell him off and I would do a cutter, then he would do a cutter. We worked back and forth in the machine shop.

AK: So there'd be just the two of you. What was your starting wage when you first went in?

ELG: 35 cents an hour.

AK: 35 cents an hour.

ELG: That's apprentice rate.

AK: Did that increase from 1940.

ELG: Oh, yeah, it moved up because I work for 5 dollars an hour with a welding outfit. That's all I charged for a welder and I had a truck and a welding machine and I got 5 dollars an hour before my work in the field.

AK: Right Well now when, when you'd put in two years, did you get any kind of a piece of paper that says you've completed so many years?

ELG: No, I had to write an examination to get my ticket, but I got my journeyman electrical acetylene, when I done that then I qualified to go on my own. That's when I was a welder, not disputed by anyone.

EVG: ??? There's nothing on the bits.

AK: No, there was nothing particular, no.

ELG: ??? anybody can, but to weld, to do a bit, you can do it but you have to learn how to do it. In fact, I learnt half a dozen guys how to do. [inaudible]

AK: Right.

ELG: I learned ??? my brothers, and my brother-in-law, and in fact they're doing it in the shop down here today [inaudible]

[00:18:07] AK: Right. So we'll come to that in a minute. When you would put the two years in who was it that said, we want to send you out wildcatting. Did they want you to go out and ???

ELG: ??? from the company. I went, I went to I was wildcatting up at Coalspur, after two years with the company as an apprentice in the shop. They sent me up to Coalspur and they had a break in the boiler and they got permission from the government for me to repair that break in a boiler that has 300 pounds pressure. I had to cut that out and I had to build it up, but I could, I done it because I knew the technique that old Lou Archibald showed me to weld the bead and then peen it and weld a little bit and peen it, If I had just welded it like a welder would it would just split open. But because I apprenticed with him, and he was an blacksmith welder, I learned that from him. And I could weld cast iron spokes and things like that, that when they shrunk that if I, if I welded them with a ??? rod, which was a cast iron

rod them days, because they have lots of rods now we never had then, but I would justpeen that with a dull pointed hammer,

AK: Yeah, well peening is P-E-E-N-I-N-G, isn't it?

ELG: I think so.

AK: Yeah, but that's a technique using a hammer to kind of...

ELG: ... put that boiler back on, put that boiler back on with 300 pounds of pressure, never had no trouble with it.

AK: Now did they have to issue a certificate?

ELG: Yes, they had to get special permission for me to do it because I wasn't a pressure boiler, I wasn't a pressure welder.

AK: Did they send somebody out to inspect her out then?

ELG: No, they just put her back on the line, never had any trouble with it.

AK: All right. Now there's another person that comes up and his name was Hawkins. Wasn't he an inspector out of Okotoks?

ELG: I don't know him. [inaudible] I run into when I was doing my test. What was that... they asked me when I was doing my apprenticeship papers for welding if I was going to go through for a pressure ticket, and I said no. I just wanted my journeyman. That's all I was interested, because I was interested in getting into oil field work because that's where I could see the money and not really in the pressure work, but rather into that. And the plate that I finished he said you could go ahead and do your pressure ticket if you wanted to right now.

Spanky was one, no it wasn't Spanky, it was the other inspector that was there. But again that welding is a technique too because I could not do an overhead and get it to stick and neither could the man that I worked for, Lou Archibald couldn't get that overhead. He couldn't do it. He was a blacksmith welder, but he couldn't do it. He didn't show me and that's where I failed to get it and I had to go to school for two weeks and then they taught me in tech school how to put that overhead.

AK: Well, well, what's an overhead? What do you mean by that?

ELG: You ask a welder, there's overhead, vertical and flat, and overhead is when you weld two pieces of plate together [inaudible]. Yeah and vertical is when you weld it up, when they're standing this way, and flat as when they're laying down here. Pretty well anybody can weld it flat but try overhead, but when you can, when you learn how to weld and overhead pass I put that pass on there and put it right through and it looked like you welded from the other side and he said you can go for your pressure ticket. If you want to. I said I didn't want it, I was interested in...

AK: Yeah, tell me... all through this procedure, were you using oxyacetylene or electric?

ELG: This was electric when I was ??? because we done the other plates, we done acetylene plates, vertical, overhead and, and I didn't have any trouble with acetylene because that man could weld acetylene, but he couldn't weld overhead on electric, but he knew...

AK: Well now, when you use electric welders, that's a quite a high amperage, what about 500 volts?

ELG: Well it went up that high but you don't need to go up that high.

AK: What what's the amperage?

ELG: [inaudible] 180...

AK: 180 amperes. And that can be run off of a 4-cylinder engine?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: So that is that sort of procedure remained pretty well constant over the years?

ELG: Well the only thing that changed was they've got lots of techniques that I don't even know what, the, all we had bear rod, and fleet wells seven and five, they was reversing straight polarity. And that's all we had. They, we welded, we welded sleeves, protective sleeves on them subs that they used to put on a drill stem. And me and the old boy was the only ones that welded one and get them to stay, because the others couldn't handle, couldn't handle that bear rod, they were using the flux rod, there was other welders in the shop and the the old boy done it first and he learnt me and we used to use a bear rod with electric, we could hold an arc on that and there's windows in this sleeve that goes on, there's windows cut in it and you have to fill that, weld that through the window into the sub and weld that flow to hold a sleeve on this, on this here, there's a sleeve that goes over here and it's got windows in it. And you have to weld in here and theirs would break loose and we could, we could weld ours, they couldn't get theirs ??? flex rod, we used bear rod. [inaudible]

[00:25:00] AK: Yeah. Well now Evelyn, when you were, just after you were married you moved out to Turner Valley?

EVG: I was living in Turner Valley with my mom and dad.

AK: I see, right. And you stayed there until?

EVG: No, I lived in Okotoks, we rented a place there.

AK: Oh, you rented a place in Okotoks, I see.

ELS: [inaudible] And then we moved out there to work in the machine shop for a couple years, and then we went wildcatting on the rigs.

AK: Well now, when you went to, your first hole was at Coalspur was it? But that didn't start till about '44 though did it? What were you doing between '42 and '44?

ELG: Well, '44 was when I went to apprentice you see. That's when the war started. That's when I, that's when I started to apprentice in '42 and until '44, until, that was the two years I put in the shop. And then I then I was at Coalspur, from there we went to Nordegg, we went to ???

[00:26:30] AK: All right. Yeah, that's right. Well, let's stop for a minute at Coalspur, because there's a lot in common here with the four of us, and just to give you the picture Evelyn, I was up there as a geologist and we were surveying the outcrops to try to figure out a place to drill the hole. So it was, it was our fault that we didn't pick the right place. But that was in the... yeah Hank was, he was a geologist and he did a lot of mapping of the geology in order to try to figure out where the best place was. But once they'd chosen that well then the rig moved in. Now, where did that rig come from?

ELG: I don't really know where it came from.

AK: Well was it steam or power?

ELG: Oh, that was steam. [inaudible] I don't know. We had I think pretty near six boilers, we had a big steam rig.

AK: All right, now who was...

ELG: [inaudible] We hauled that in there in a cream car??? and we filled our tank every other day we'd get a carload of bunker fuel.

AK: Where they bring that from?

ELG: I came up from Edson, I don't know where it came from, it came up...

AK: Maybe Lloydminster.

ELG: Yeah, somewhere heavy.

AK: Yeah, it was very heavy Okay, now who was the tool push? Was it Joe?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Right and then who were the, who were the drillers? No, but I mean, you know the names?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: That's ??? Allistair? Well that's okay.

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: So everybody lived in a camp?

EVG: Not everybody. I didn't come up there for awhile.

ELG: She didn't come up there until later. I stayed in ??? some had their families, ??? was a driller, Stewie ??? was working for him and they lived, they took their families up and they lived in town and walked down every day. But the other people that didn't have accommodation lived in the camp. And when the cooks went on holiday Gibby?? and I was the cook. Oh, yeah we made roasts, we boiled potatoes and we put on a real good meal. We were the only ones that didn't have too much to do around there except when there was an emergency and then we were busy.

Well, Gibby was the well site guy.

ELG: Yeah, he was a sample chaser.

AK: That's right, yeah. Did he have anybody helping him pick the samples up or did he...?

ELG: Not that I know of. He was the man. I don't remember anybody else.

AK: Did he have his own shack?

ELG: Yeah. Well, that's the shack I stayed in with him when I was there.

AK: Is that where he looked at the samples? In that shack. Right. So when you moved up you rented that house across the stream from?

EVG: Well I stayed in a hotel for a little while but that was no good, I said this is no good, so I sent for my furniture and got that place ??

ELG: Didn't have much for furniture...

EVG: But, with a wee one, you know Donna was only a year old and she was [inaudible]

ELG: [inaudible]

ELG: They'd come down, they'd come up from the camp, and take her back down with them, they'd carry her back down there in the ??? Looked after her but they were busy and Gibby would say, well we'll take her back now, and ???

AK: All right. And what were the what were the hours that the men worked, were they 12 on and 12 off?

ELG: 8-hour shifts.

AK: So the other 16 hours they were on their own?

ELG: I worked the daylight shift all the time [inaudible]

AK: But if you worked daylight all the time, your main job was to...

ELG: I had to dump that bunker fuel, pipe it down to the tanks. I had a truck there that was mine, two and a half, three-ton truck that I drove from here to the road I guess, up that little incline to the platform

and get the stuff every time the train come in and load it on the truck, if I wasn't there some roughnecks did, but that was my job. And to do what welding and then if the boiler man wanted a break or something then I'd go and watch the boilers and see that the gauges was all half full of water while he would over and had his dinner and when he come back then I could go. So I was Joe boy.

AK: And as this hole drilled down were there any shows of gas or oil as you drilled down or?

ELG: Yeah, we had lots of gas, lots of pressure but no volume. There was lots of samples quite a bit of sampling down lower that was all just porous, tight porosity all the time, but put it in a pail it would boil, would boil away for quite a while so there was tremendous pressure in that formation, but it was so tight there was no way for any volume to be there.

AK: Was that out of... did you do some coring?

ELG: Oh, yeah, they cored and tested ???

AK: Who did they have out there ???

ELG: Dow??? used to come in. And done all the cement work.

AK: Did you leave a truck in there.

ELG: No, they'd ship me in.

AK: Oh, on a flat car eh?

ELG: They'd ship me in when they had to, yeah and do the work.

AK: And ship you out again.

ELG: A lot of that stuff was, I don't know how, really, with the steam and with the pressure, I don't know if they had too much but there was no way for them to get in there except that.

AK: Now, well that's understandable.

ELG But whatever was done, that's the way it was done. There was no road in, that's for sure.

[00:34:00] AK: All right now tell us about the mud that you had to weight up. You had to put a lot of weighting material in it. And that wasn't ????. You said that was some lead compound.

ELG: Well, yeah, we bought mud in the bags that was loaded with lead when it came in there. That's how they, that's how it would weigh so much to, so much more to the gallon because it was not mud, it wasn't water, water is so many pounds to the gallon, mud is so many pounds to the gallon but this had lead in it, so it was, to the gallon it was double that weight, but they needed that for the hydrostatic head to hold that gas formation from coming in from the ground.

AK: This must have been near the end of...

ELG: That was near the end, oh yeah. Yeah, that's when we hit the, most of the gas pressure.

AK: Well did they try to light this gas, did it burn?

ELG: Yeah, but we didn't have any gas until when they went to swab the well in, all we thought they had to do was swab the mud out and the well would blow in, but we removed all the mud and there still wasn't enough gas until we got the thing pretty near dry before any gas at all, and then we, it was a flare, wasn't more than three or four feet high and just like a little flare in the backyard. That's...

AK: Well did they ever think that they'd want to go back in and re-?

ELG: ??? enough formation there to hold gas.

AK: Well, then, you picked up and moved out. Where did the rig go next?

ELG: Nordegg.

AK: Nordegg. And that was back in the mountains again.

ELG: And then they changed, I don't know, we went on a diesel rig then, and then my job was changing oil and watching after the diesels and doing the welding that was to be done on the rig. And then where we did we go after Nordegg?

AK: You didn't... Evelyn, you didn't go to Nordegg?

AK: Evelyn is shaking her head.

EVG: No, I was expecting our second child.

AK: You went back to Okotoks?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Right. Then you...

ELG: I stayed there, I don't know how long I was on that one, I stayed there until that one was finished, I moved out on that one. And then where did I go... they sent me, I went back to the shop. I went back to the shop and they sent me out then to Winfield, that was ???.

AK: Well that's before...

ELG: Yeah.

AK: But who was pushing at Nordegg?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Well that's okay. But Gibby wasn't there.

ELG: No I don't think so. We had most of our drillers so Joe must have been pushing. I think Joe was pushing.

AK: Well, he'd been working in the mountains at Nordegg too, he was looking at the geology there. But you...

ELG: Joe was there because he sent me with a CAT over to that other rig when the compressor went haywire and we had to have another compressor there, so me and Gibb, Gibb was there. He must have been there because me, I think me and Gibb when went with the CAT, went about 20 miles over to another rig to get a compressor because our air compressor pooped out and when you got air clutches, you got to have air, and our air compressor went haywire, we had to go and borrow one from Shell, I think at that time.

AK: Yeah, well Shell were drilling not too far away.

ELG: Yeah. We went to Nordegg I think and on out with Shell ??? and then back with that compressor tied on the back of the CAT. That's when he switched off and got into office work in Edmonton from them. And then that's when Rod took over and he was at Winfield, and went to Redwater, he was there, and that was ???

AK: Right.

ELG: I don't know what happened then because [inaudible]

[00:39:01] AK: Yeah, well, that's just back up to Winfield. I think by that time didn't, hadn't Finn taken over as tool push?

ELG: Finn and the Bennets.

AK: Was that Earl Bennett or Jumbo? There was two Bennets.

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: I don't know whether they're alive or not even.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Oh, does she? I see, so she just... So at Winfield that was a long drawn-out hole, they drove a long time, yeah. Okay, and by this time Rod had come back Saskatchewan, yeah he'd spent, ??? a lot of Saskatchewan.

ELG: He was with Vern...

AK: Vern Hunter.

ELG: He was with Vern Hunter. [inaudible]

AK: Well, there's about 13 holes he drilled, all dry holes. And he and McClintock and, then there was a bunch of others that were kind of helping, you know. So when Winfield got finished, incidentally what type of rig, was this a Wilson rig or do you remember?

ELG: I think so.

AK: But it was a power rig wasn't it, the one that went to Eyot Lake?

[tape cuts]

[00:40:54] Now, when you were up at Winfield, you were still doing this type of work, welding and... did you have any occasion to re-tip bits up there?

ELG: Where?

AK: Up at Winfield.

ELG: Winfield. Oh, no, no, no reason to there. No, it was just when, after I got on my own.

AK: Well what were you doing? What were you doing mostly up at Winfield?

ELG: Well, just hauling water with the water truck and doing what welding had to be done around the rig.

AK: Could they call you a rig mechanic?

ELG: Yes.

AK: By this time what kind of money were you getting?

ELG: I couldn't, I wouldn't know, I have no idea. Wasn't that much, that's for sure. Because I say, when I started welding it wasn't that much so the company had boosted it by that time. But we were pretty poor, so it wasn't very much...

AK: Did Evelyn live with you at Winfield?

ELG: Mmm hmm.

AK: Did you have a skid shack?

ELG: No, we rented a house in town, in Winfield. And there's one pump in the middle of town and she had the baby at home and she had, Donna was small and so she'd start her out walking and she'd go over to the well and get a couple of buckets of water and start back and Donna would, she'd pass her on the way and then she'd drop the water and then she go back and pass her going back to the well again

to get more water to do the washing. That's how she babysat and done her washing because the only one pump in the middle of town we had to go and get the water to wash.

AK: Okay. So the rig then moved over to Eyot Lake, that's E-Y-O-T Lake which is not far from Cavanaugh up here.

ELG: Yeah, we stayed in Millet then.

AK: You lived in Millet.

ELG: In Millet, an old garage, we had two rooms in an old garage behind the station. So we lived in there for a while.

AK: Did you remember how much you paid for rent for that?

ELG: Ten dollars a month.

AK: Is that right.

EVG: [inaudible]

ELG: I don't know, not very much.

EVG: ??? he said, I'm going to have to raise your rent...

ELG: Maybe Evelyn knows, I don't remember?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: She thought that would kill it... So you continued at Eyot Lake and Finn was the push there wasn't he?

ELG: Mmm hmm.

AK: Do you remember some of the other drillers?

ELG: Anderson.

AK: Were there some of those that were on that list I sent you?

ELG: Alec Kenyon. Yeah, he was, he was on there.

[00:44:49] AK: Now we're just having a lovely cup of coffee here, and we're going to resume and what I want to do Elmer is to take you and Evelyn from Millet up to Redwater and tell me, when did you first hear that you were going to go and drill at Redwater?

ELG: Well, I don't know when we heard, when did we hear, Mother. Soon as we finished one hole, and that's where we're going next. That's all.

EVG: After you came home and you said, we are ??? to Redwater. Where's Redwater. I don't know but...

ELG: We tied the two chairs together and folded up the table and we were away.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: And what did you find, nothing?

ELG: Oh yeah. there was a place there, we were the first there.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Wilf Bo???

EVG: No.

ELG: Rosie?

EVG: They lived in the truck...

ELG: We used to kind of split the housing, we'd get a house and then we split it.

AK: Yeah. Now do you remember what you paid for rent up there

EVG: 8 dollars.

AK: 8 dollars for a half a house. Well, were you renting from a Ukrainian?

EVG: Yes, he lived right next door, Mr. Horble.

AK: Horble, how's that spelled, you remember?

## **Side 2 – 46:00**

AK: The Gables went up to Redwater and they rented half of the house, there's Elsie talking in the background, don't talk. So you moved, and who did you say was the other tenant in the house was...

EVG: Desrosiers. Yeah. Now was he a truck driver? He was a truck driver and you shared, did you share kitchen facilities? You had your own... and the fellow that rented it from you, or rented it to you, lived right next door. And as far as you can remember, his name was Horble. Well, I'll do some detective work on that. Maybe find the house you lived in. So you had got there, well then, you see this was before the boom. Yeah, there was nothing there and what, I want to know what was the people's, not the word attitude, but what was the people's reaction to you coming to this little quiet town of Redwater.

EVG: They were lovely people.

AK: They were lovely people, isn't that great.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Is that right. You weren't intruders. Isn't that something? Well, that's wonderful. You see your story is probably the most important part of this. Well it is, because you see this was before the big boom hit you see and then everything all just exploded. Yeah. So you were... and were your children of school age then? No. So you didn't have to worry about that. And did you remember the name of the postmistress?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: That's right. Yeah, and I interviewed her. Yes, and they had just they had just started up being posted. There was a lady before, Mrs. Walker No, but and they have a little they had a little hole in the wall down in the town didn't they?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Yeah, yeah, so these people, they all, you became a part of the community then. Right.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Right. Now was this... everything was just going along fine then.

EVG: Yes.

AK: Now where did Finn and ??? live?

EVG: They had a ??? shack.

AK: Was it on the edge of town or...?

EVG: ??? over there by the ??? office.

[00:04:29] AK: All right. Now the office is the next thing we've got to really get to. Rod Morris was the well site geologist, wasn't he?

ELG: Yes.

AK: They lived on ??? because they couldn't find a place now. Do you remember the office that Rod had at, right downtown in Redwater. The chicken coop. You remember the chicken coop?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: The chicken coop only became famous when oil was discovered because, if it was just another dry hole you'd have just picked up and you'd gone to some other town. Isn't that right? But this chicken

coop only became famous because Rod had to get some staff and he had a lot of extra work to do. You see what I'm getting at? Do you remember the Royers who had an egg grading station?

EVG: Yeah.

AK: It was right behind their house, in the lane.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: So Rod was worked up, was he? Was he feeling excited about it?

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Yeah, but they had shows of gas and oil in the shallow zones.

ELG: No, they didn't. No right toward the end, they didn't... in fact, they told a driller and Rod put a put a bit on and drill down to the depth that we were supposed to go and they were going to run a cement plug and abandon the hole.

AK: Is that right?

ELG: That's what was said. And that night, they lost circulation and nobody, because they didn't ever have an oil well, didn't know what was going on. And so what was happening and they didn't realize it was it the mud was dropping from the hydrostatic head and going into that ??? formation because we just walked into it like that with a drill bit. We didn't core into it. We drilled into it.

AK: That's true and you drove in about 30 feet.

ELG: Yeah, and before, and we lost mud and we were shoving everything we had in the hole to keep from losing circulation because we couldn't keep up with the mud. And then finally when they sent word for the for the mud man, I guess or somebody and then they got in touch with Finn, but by that time we had gassed up the hole so bad when they come out of the hole to do something or another it was so light that it blew, and them spies was all over the place and then that's...

AK: Were their spies?

ELG: Oh, lots of them, and they knew that what was going on and they phoned their representative outfits that then was grabbing and leases all over the place. And when they did that and, Royalite, or Imperial had only so much of that territory and that's why there were so many independents had a chance to get in there.

AK: Well, that's... that came a little later when they, when they chose the land but this is very interesting. The story I get from one source is that they were drilling and Finn came out, he drove out and he wanted to see what was going on. And they were going too fast, so he said, stop and he got mad at Gamble. He said well Gamble will just keep on drilling. Now this is the afternoon he said, but the story comes from the tour sheets is that this happened at about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. And they did

stop, somebody must have gotten hold of Rod and brought him out there. But do you remember Rod saying anything else about that?

ELG: No. I don't remember him saying any more except that they lost circulation and they figured that they'd run into something then that they hadn't expected. So that's when everything was up in the air then, like I said the next day when they pulled that pipe and went to go back in the hole and it blew mud right up over the rig so...

AK: Oh, when they were running the drill stem tester?

ELG: No, [inaudible]

AK: And it started to get away on them.

ELG: The gas blew the mud out you see.

AK: Right, okay. No were you there when they ran the first drill stem testing?

ELG: Well, I was there I guess, I wasn't right on it I don't think but I seen many of them after that whenever they tested, sure.

AK: [inaudible] The very first test, in the D3, there was some reason that they ran it at night. Now there were rules that they were not to run it at night, and they ran in and they ran this test and then they pulled up and they just shut her in till morning.

ELG: I don't know because I was off that night. I just was in the daytime.

AK: You were working days. Oh I see, well you wouldn't get in on that. Well, then do you remember when they decided to run the long string?

ELG: No, wasn't too long after that, Campbell Aird, what did he have to do with it?

AK: Well he came over from Devon. He came over...

ELG: Well he was out there anyway. He was production man or something.

AK: Yeah well he was the production superintendent...

ELG: They and run the long string.

[00:11:37] All right, so all this happened in 24 hours. And then what happened downtown with the people? What did they, what was their reaction Evelyn?

ELG: What was the reaction from the guys at the bank.

AK: Alright, give me that first.

ELG: First, Rod got so drunk that he...

AK: Rod got drunk?

ELG: Oh... I remember him coming up, he had an old car...

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Tell me that story, I need that story.

ELG: Well, it was a big old car of some description, I don't know. I can't think of the name of it. Big old high-wheeled car, that was our last big car we had anyway. The radiator was leaking and so I had to fill it up at the rig before I could come to town, I had to fill it up in town before I go to the rig, and we were so preoccupied when we had oil that we just bailed into the old card at 4 o'clock when the shift went off, and we went to town and we were well, in fact, I think the old boy had brought out a crock of, a case of whiskey that Cook, he owned the land. He brought out a case of whiskey because it was on his land. So everybody was drunk. Everybody was drunk before we went to town. We were steamed up, then we went right into the beer parlor and we just pulled right up in front of the door and the doors flew open and everybody was out of the car and into the beer parlor and whooping and hollering and everything was fine. We drank up for quite a while and then we went home, and before we went I said to everybody, well we're celebrating tonight, so we'll just have a bite to eat and get our wives and we're going to really do it up. So that was all fair game. They all went home and come back with their wives and I was out under the bed and they come to the house, where's Elmer? Well, he's sick. Well, he's got this thing going so he's got to come. So they all got down there and they wanted me to come I was so sick I could do anything. Rod was plum beat. He was out cold and that was, that was the story. We had a wing ding that night. That was a big blowout.

AK: All right. Well, that was a, that's...

ELG: That's why we [inaudible] whooping it up.

AK: Now what you're telling me is that you were ??? I mean, you were there and you saw it. Okay not what was the reaction in the town then about the people, did they, could they comprehend it or?

EVG: I don't think they could, I mean they wondered what was going to happen to them, their little community [inaudible].

ELG: I don't suppose they comprehended what was going to take place.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Did he run a store? All right. Now what about the other store called Boston's? Do you remember Boston's store?

ELG: That stayed pretty much the same.

AK: And there was a Mary Boston, she ran the switchboard. Do you remember that?

ELG: And then the brother owned another store, but it was Boston's store.

AK: A fellow named Tom, is that right.

ELG: Tom Boston. And then after that, that night, ??? red and white later on, he could see there was dollars there too because the contractor was coming in then...

AK: Well now, Zeniuk, did you know Zeniuk was Anne's father?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: The man that owned the acreage was Anne's father. And he sold it to Imperial Oil.

EVG: No, that was Cook's land.

AK: No. No. No, I'm talking about downtown.

ELG: Oh, downtown, yeah, all right.

AK: That parcel right next to the...

EVG: Yeah, right.

AK: That's right, isn't it, that Zeniuk... yeah. Can you remember what the local inhabitants said when this thing hit? Oh, I know it is. That's all the more reason to...

ELG: Well they were, the oil people were pretty well accepted all the way through there that I know, until we left...

EVG: Yeah, I know but when they got oil and thing started [inaudible]

ELG: Well there was another one downtown, I forget his name. He started up the theatre, Banchuk???

AK: Banchuk, that was it. Yeah, and he had the Egremont Hotel.

ELG: And then what about the guy with the hotel? Marooney???

that was Walter's uncle...

AK: Now we've got to get the story about the hotel because it burnt down very shortly after the discovery...

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: October of '48. Do you remember the time the hotel burnt down?

ELG: Well whose store burnt down?

AK: Well might have been the store...

EVG: Yeah, that was [inaudible]

ELG: Yeah, the hotel burnt down and then the townspeople all turned out, everybody went in to the store and just dumped the stuff off the shelf and walked over top of it to get the stuff on the top shelf and knocked it off and threw half it out in the street. A lot of it was pilfered, taken home and everything else, and then there was a story went around that the police were searching everybody's house. That was a quite a scare for a lot of people that had pilfered some stuff. They were burying it and hiding it and everything else, but nothing come out of it, the insurance company paid up, I guess, and that was the end of that.

AK: What was the name of the town policeman?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: He was a big...

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: He might have. But he was very good at handling people. He was a very big build of a man.

[Evelyn and Elmer talking at once]

AK: At that time Radway was where the hospital was, where the Sisters were.

ELG: Well that's another experience.

AK: [00:20:16] Oh tell me about that.

ELG: Our daughters were playing up in an old hay mound next to where we lived and they had put up a swing in the doorway and the older girl was swinging the little girl on the swing in the doorway, and she flew off the swing out the doorway and broke her arm, wasn't it? And Mike ???, he volunteered, I was working or away or something, but she asked him, and right now, he was hot to trot and just took her right up to Radway and got her fixed up. So they...

EVL: [inaudible] She has quite a voice.

AK: Oh, has she. Go professional then?

EVG: No, we should have but we just [inaudible]

[00:21:43] Well, when you were at Redwater, with all this excitement, then there was a general feeling of optimism, and you remember any of the Imperial Oil officials coming out and talking to you?

ELG: Well, not too much.

AK: Well they... kokay, so you were still, were you're doing any tipping of bits at Redwater on the rig?

ELG: No, not at the rig. Not for the rig. No, that didn't start until I got on my own.

AK: Alright, now...

ELG: But I started in Redwater.

AK: I know, now just tell me, we're coming back to what you said about ??? I'd like to get it on tape. When you got to a certain point, you went to Finn and asked if you thought it was a good idea.

ELG: To go on my own. Yeah, and he suggested that he thought it was, and he give me all the help that he could give me by letting me use a company truck after working hours to take the welder that I had purchased to go out and service the contractors and then be back to work with the truck in the morning to the rig for four months or so, until I was able to finance a truck on my own, which I made a deal with that driller and he said he would give me the truck nothing down and that I would pay him when I could, which I did and it wasn't only a few months till I paid him off for that truck and I was on my own in business.

AK: Now was this an electric welding arc, arc welding, eh? And you said that you had borrowed some money to ...

ELG: [inaudible]

AK: Right, and you paid that back too. Okay, now, how did the people find out about you and your skills as a ???

ELG: Well, I talked to the different tool pushes on the rigs and told them what I could do and offered to build up a bit and let them try it, and they did and that's when I could out hole the new bits and that's when orders came from Imperial Oil and after we left Redwater, they, Imperial Oil with others would leave word for use, to deliver their bits to our shop to have them cut down and that was at OSC 3, and they we cut that down and hard-surfaced it and then they would run that bit after they drilled out the plug in the surface casing and they would make 16, 17, 18 hundred feet a hole and we could out hole a new bit by 600 feet with a new re-tipped bit because what we was after was a good bearing, we needed a bearing.

AK: Well the bearings were good in the hews???

ELG: ??? and we would cut the tooth down from the original because the company only has boreum on one side, their idea is that the tooth will wear down on the side without the boreum, so the bit will stay sharp as it wears down, but our idea was to cut the top off and it would be square but not that much, but it will be square on the top and then we will build it up with boreum on the top. So we had a much harder cap surface on that bit and it was just as sharp as the new one, but there were more wear material.

AK: So it was solid boreum rather than steel.

ELG: Rather than steel on one side and boreum him on the other, and in that respect then the bit would dig more hole and do it faster than would the new bit. So his is where Scoville Murray comes in.

AK: Oh yeah, old Scoville.

ELG: Scoville Murray, he got the big idea, he took my bit, he took my bit and went to Houston and he said there's a farmer welder up here in Redwater in Wetaskiwin at that time, and he said, he is taking your brand new bits and out holing your new bits. And he said, now what are you going to do about it? So they had to get busy and what they did was come out with an OSC 3A and that was a bit with a few more teeth but sturdier built with more boreum on them. And then it was comparable then whether you cut the top off and put arboreum on, or whether you went with theirs. So there wasn't that much difference and that's the time that they used to have one drill stem on the bit. Then they began to use more drill stems, as they went in, they put more drill stems on...

AK: Drill collars.

ELG: Drill collars. So they put more weight, they put more weight on the bit and that way the re-tipped bit would break down because they were packing more weight, you see, so it had a tendency to break down where there's could stand up to it. So I couldn't beat them so that put the end to re-tipping the 9-inch bits.

AK: Yeah, but you still had the surface bits. Yeah.

ELG: The surface bit would get down, but the bearings were so big and so good, that we could re-tip that up to 5 and 6 times. So we got them from the rig when they drilled their surface hole, and built it up and then took it back and they paid for the re-tipping of that bit and that would be...

EVG: [inaudible]

ELG: Yeah, well they had [inaudible - all talking at once]

AK: Well now just a minute. Let's back up. Did he do this with your knowledge and consent?

ELG: No, no.

AK: He didn't. He just done that, what he wanted to do was to have Hughes produce a better bit for Imperial Oil or anybody else.

AK: Yeah, but he was cutting your throat.

ELG: Oh, he cut my throat bad ???

AK: Oh Jesus, that's terrible. Well, you see what... oh, yeah, you should have sued him.

ELG: Well, they just cut my water??? right off. But that's the way it was.

AK: Well, you see this what happened all through the oil patch, all these kind of guys cutting each other's throat. Well, you see, I guess the best way would have been, and it's no use of talking about it now is... no but I meant to, if you had had kept this idea a deep dark secret and then went and got it patented right away, then they, nobody could have touched it.

EVG: [inaudible]

ELG: They sued, they...

AK: As a matter of fact you shouldn't have been cutting them?

ELG: That was their problem.

AK: Yeah, well all right.

ELG: [inaudible] They've always got good lawyers.

AK: Oh, they've always got good lawyers.

ELG: That's what happened when ??? Now, if Hughes would have come in and said, look, we are buying, pay you out or something, then I could have made ??? but ??? he said, that farmer welder is out holing your bits, with 600 more feet of hole and 2 hours less time, than your brand new bits.

AK: Well, you know he was he was a shit disturber in a lot of ways.

ELG: He was a good company man.

AK: Oh, yeah, but he... I don't want to get into that part, but this is a very revealing thing and I could see the dilemma that you were in.

EVG: [inaudible]

ELG: [inaudible] because they had a tendency to want to put more weight on my bit, and I said don't put any more weight because when it slows down, all you're doing is hitting a little hard band and let that bit dig through the hard band, as soon as you get through that harder band in the formation, it takes off again. And so rather when it would slow up a little bit a lot of drillers will pack more weight and I would try and talk them out of putting more weight on then but just wait a little and let that dig along, for, but then it would dig through and then it would go again, but if they would push it too hard through the harder band, they would have a tendency to break the boreum down because the boreum is a... it's an inferior material to the hard steel in the bit. And so it's only a protective material. It's not particular, it's not a material in itself to stand up to that abuse. It's a wear material but if they would give it a chance not to break it up, then we got the best results that way, and they found that out. When they started somewhere along the line about that time, they started adding more drill collars and when they added more weight, they could go faster and that bit, because the tooth was stronger than my tooth, then that's where we begin to slip. But he got, that's when they came out with an OSC 3A and they did that from Houston because he went to Houston and said, look, this guy is doing it...

AK: Well, what, do you remember what year this was?

ELG: No.

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: And you'd set up shop here, and were you living in this house or?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: I see. And you had a shop here? Is the shop still where it was?

ELG: No, just a garage. A single garage in the backyard.

AK: And this is where you were doing all your experimentation? And on your own time too. Well, how much, all you got was so much an hour then, was it what is it ???

ELG: Well that's the way we established a price. How much were they, \$35? We'd cut the top off of that 9-inch bit and not much tooth on that 9-inch bit, so we'd nip the top off, put the boreum... we got \$45...

AK: In footage... just think what that saved those contractors.

ELG: Oh, boy, they saved hundreds of dollars. And then whenever that drill dulled a bit...

AK: And they would know about you people.

ELG: Oh, you bet they knew.

EVG: Because the Hughes boys brought them down...

AK: And the Hughes boys were quite agreeable to letting...

ELG: Well, Hughes went and double crossed me, they went and hired my driver, to ??? my bits, that Wilf Hunterson.

AK: And what did he do?

ELG: Well, he used to drive truck. He drove truck for me picking up bits and brought them in and my re-tippers re-tipped them.

EVG: This was after that ???

ELG: But Hughes hired him to go and work for them. He was a bit salesman for them. Yeah, but he didn't know anything about re-tipping bits though.

ELG: He knew what we were doing because he brought them in and he seen us doing it. But through the experience of how they run and different ones, and he they were looking for somebody to deliver their bits to the different rigs. He knew all the tool pushes because he serviced them with my truck picking up bits and delivering bits. So then I had to hire a new man and break him in. I went from Wetaskiwin out to Buck Creek here. There was a ferry, there was no Bridge there to Drayton and I went across the ferry and I serviced that Drayton Valley field for...

[tape cuts]

there along with a lot of 9-inch bids and packed them back here and done them and took them back out there. I serviced Big Valley from here, Staedtler, quite a few of all them surface bits out of that field. We had a big business with that.

AK: Well, then, well, how long did this this business of yours go on then? Or maybe put it another way. When did you retire or have you retired? You've never retired?

ELG: No, but what I did, I sold out to one of my one of my re-tip tippers, and a brother-in-law of his bought me out and they start re-tipping... I got fed up with it after a while. I had a farm and my bookkeeper said sell the farm and stay with the bits. I said, no, I'm going to go farming. So I sold the bit business, and I went farming for a little while.

AK: Where was your farm? Six miles north of Wetaskiwin. Right.

ELG: And I was told it was a hobby farm, because ???

AK: How many acres did you have there?

ELG: Quarter section.

AK: Quarter, yeah. And you lived there too or?

ELG: Yeah. Well we would still run bits from there, that's when I sold them. It was too much, the farm and bits and everything, it was too much. I had to ??? So I said, I'm selling that, and then we came to town. And then I turned around and I could see an opportunity for cultivators for the farmers, the cultivator shovels and the plow shearers, because, and I proved that point but they still won't do it because when I would hard surface a cultivator shovel, they, it isn't that the shovel would last any longer but that it was, it stayed sharper longer. You take a cultivator shovel gets thick like your finger. But because the boreum that I put on the bottom side and because it would wear off on the top side and I can show you the shovel out here, one side done in the other side not done, and that will show you the difference of how it wears and what wears out. But it, what happens is that it stays sharp and that machinery can be pulled in one higher gear. And so if you pull that machinery for a week or so in a higher gear the saving is in fuel not in the price of the cultivator shovel. And then the other spike shovels, we used to do them on the bottom side and the dirt sliding over the top would keep them sharp, but they would wear so thin before it would wear the boreum him off of the bottom, that the blade would fold up like a piece of tin. Because you see it, ordinarily it would wear down as the dirt wore it away. But when you put boreum on the bottom, then it would just, the dirt would wear on the top side, but the bottom wouldn't wear so the whole thing got so thin it just bent right over.

AK: Oh, sure.

ELG: But all the time, they could pull up so much easier that they were running in a higher gear with their tractor with the machinery. So that, that's where the benefit comes in from that. Well they didn't want to do it because they couldn't get that much more. They couldn't see the saving in the fuel or the one higher gear as compared, they was always looking at the new shovel as compared to the hard surface shovel and it didn't seem to last that much longer, shovel would only cost seven or eight dollars and I had to have seven or eight dollars to do it. So if I couldn't get more than twice the wear they didn't

think it paid off. But the payoff is in the fuel they shave on their tractor and they never counted that. So I forgot about that. I dropped it and I went to anhydrous ammonia spreaders which they used for putting this fertilizer in the ground and those points were wearing down. But all they did would wear a point off, and the new shank cost quite a bit of money and they had to throw it away and buy a new shank, and so I got the shanks and hard surface and with boreum, and they would outlast the new shanks two or three times and that was a big saving and they're all doing it yet today.

AK: Well I hope you got paid for all this.

ELG: I got paid for that until I had my heart attack and then my son-in-law took over from me and he still does it today. I used to do them as far as Calgary, Olds...

AK: Yeah. Of course now that the drilling business is gone all to hell so...

ELG: I wasn't worried about that.

AK: No. Well look, just a minute, Evelyn. I want that story from you about Finn Lynam, trying to line up a place to celebrate New Years. Can you tell me?

EVG: Oh, in Redwater, yeah. Well, they didn't celebrate because the Ukrainians have theirs later than we do, in January. So Finn said, well you've got to have something, they've got to have a hall here. So they all got going and they got a dance going for us, and they gave us a real good deal but...

AK: Did they put it on?

EVG: No, the boys put it on, like from the camp.

AK: Yeah, well were they hesitant about letting you have the hall?

EVG: Yeah, because it was against their religion at the time.

AK: Well, maybe this was consecrated hall was it, it was a hall that was...

EVG: Well not really, it was just a hall, it wasn't...

AK: Because they only had those little churches there.

EVG: Yeah, but this hall was...

AK: Was that hall in town or was it out?

EVG: No, it was in town.

ELG: Because the big church was over on the edge of town.

AK: Right. So did they join in? For the New Year?

EVG: Yeah, a lot of them.

AK: Yeah. Well what about this fellow that was the noted Bootlegger. Did he bring any of that... he made moonshine out ... uh, Peter... no, no, I'm talking... well, I know there was moonshine there, but there was moonshine at Redwater. Pete, Pete Yarmola.

ELG: He came from Turner Valley. Pete Croke.

AK: Oh, he ran the gambling. Yeah, well that was different but there was a Ukrainian that made booze out in his farm, did you know about him?

ELG: No, but I had some of the moonshine, that's good stuff.

[00:42:57] AK: Knock you over, wouldn't it? Well, look we're getting near the end of the tape here and taken up a lot of your time. But I just wanted to get from both you, you've had your buffets and banging around but what's your philosophy of life, Elmer, I want to get that.

ELG: Oh, I don't know just live and let live. That's the size of it. I don't want to do anybody, I don't want anybody to do me. I've been done and I've been done by.

AK: Yeah. Okay. And what about you Evelyn? Can you give me a wrap-up of your... I mean the life that you led, moving around a lot and settling here. Incidentally, why did you come to Wetaskiwin?

EVG: [inaudible]

AK: Oh, I see. New geography then eh?

ELG: [inaudible]

EVG: My mom and dad lived in ??? and his mom and dad lived here ??? and we'd start out someplace and the girls would say, are we going to Grandma and Grandpa's? Yeah. Not stopping at any rigs? Then he'd turn off a road and they'd say, Dad! Well, just a few minutes, I just got to go over to this one, I just seen a rig over here, so they didn't want to go with us. But, no, life's been good. Had our ups and downs. Still enjoying ??? got my grandchildren, seven I guess now with out two granddaughters.

AK: How many children have you got?

EVG: Two girls.

AK: Two girls. Oh, I see, and five grandchildren. Right. And they're living where?

EVG: One daughter is just out of town here, about 10 miles, on a farm, and the other one, she's in Edmonton.

AK: Well, I really want to thank you very much for letting us into your home and we've enjoyed it very much, I have because you've given me insights that are very important for this book and I do thank you

very much. So it's now... oh, no, it won't, it'll be all right. It's now just about 3:45 and we'll say over and out.

End of Interview