

## PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Ed Lambert

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: November 12, 1992

### Side 1 only – 45:36

AK: And today is Thursday, November the 12th 1992, and I'm in the home of Ed and Barbara Lambert. And the address is 4611 48th Street in the town of Redwater, and I'm very pleased to be here and get some of your reminiscences Ed, and I'd like to start off by asking you where you were born and what year.

EL: I was born in Radway in ??? house, in May 26, 1930.

AK: Whose house?

EL: ??? house, in Radway. That's where the doctor delivered me. I was born on the road.

AK: You were born where, on the road ? You didn't get to the hospital?

EL: ??? I was born about a half a mile from the hospital but Mom couldn't take anymore.

AK: Oh, I see. Well that was.. you entered the world then, eh?

EL: ???

AK: Is that right? Okay. And, you grew up in Radway?

EL: No, here, in Redwater.

AK: But your home was...

EL: In Redwater all the time.

AK: Oh, I see. So your parents...

EL: They lived here.

AK: Now your parent's name, it was Scott, was it, your father?

EL: Scott and Bertha.

AK: Bertha, right. and their origins, what were their origins?

EL: My mother was a Soucy, and she was born, she was raised at Val Soucy, on my granddad's homestead.

AK: And your father was born?

EL: Fort Vermillion.

AK: Fort Vermilion, that's up north...

EL: ???

AK: Is that right. And what was his origin up there?

EL: Dad came from Winnipeg, ??? and when he was young, he came himself, and he worked ??? and he met Mom. That's it.

AK: Oh. He met her here.

EL: He met her here.

AK: Oh. And he was born up in Fort Vermillion?

EL: Yeah. And then when he got maybe 18 he moved out, ???

AR: Right. So when he came to Redwater, I understood that there was a couple of things he did here. All right, well I'll just lead into it, if I may. First of all you had, the had the mail route and he used to deliver mail out to the different small post offices. Is that right?

EL: He did, yeah. But that came on later.

AK: Yeah. Well now before that did he have a milk route that he...

EL: Yeah. For the dairy here. He delivered milk.

AK: And where was the dairy?

EL: Right where ??? farm is.

AK: Oh is that right. Well, that's right across from Sawka's house.

EL: Yes, Sawka's, we lived... that's where I lived my young life, right there.

AK: And that is Sawka's house.

EL: Right across ???

AK: Oh, there was a house there?

EL: A house and barn, yeah.

AK: Is that right? That's where you grew up. And that's right on... 40, Main Street, right. And that's just north of the Royer's egg grading place.

EL: Right next to us. ???right here. That's where the ??? was.

AK: So that's where your father and mother lived and you...

EL: That's where we grew up.

AK: And then did you go to school at Ufford?

EL: Ufford School, yeah. Well things went with my dad, he was a carpenter, made a skating rink, the ??? Coal freight mail all ??? and we had to add the, for 6,000, that's where we grew up and went to school. For school I walked a mile and a half until Grade 4, walked to Ufford School...

AK: That's U-F-F-O-R-D, right.

EL: ??? Until Grade 4, '41, school was in the town. ??? My teachers were ??? and Anne Walker. Nick Kraychy worked over here.

AK: Nick Kraychy?

EL: Anne Walker taught me music. I walked to school with John ??? the judge, Mike Sanich, remember him?

AK: Yes, I saw him yesterday.

EL: Yeah, and I walked to school... they lived a mile and a half out of town, yet they walked to Ufford.

AK: That's right, because they lived up on Section 31.

EL: And John ??? lived up near the hospital, about a mile north. We all walked, this whole damn town walked. And then my dad had a contract to haul mail to Val Soucy?? in Eastgate, cost \$16 a month. Val Soucy was where my mother's parents, she was young when the trees were planted, location, my grandma's homestead. Future owners were Nadeaus...

AK: Nadeau?

EL: And Yachmec,

AK: Yeah, well there was two different Yachmecs, there was the one with ??? and there was the Yachmecs that lived on Section 15 where the Royalite... wasn't that...

EL: Yeah. There was Steve at the post office, and John Myroon.

AK: Myroon, yeah. What was he doing then?

EL: John was a farmer.

AK: Yeah, right.

EL: I'll get back to the mail now. So I hauled the mail for my dad with 2 horses, One ??? and one to Val Soucy. And I would teach horses, I was about 14 to 15 years old, yeah. And then sometimes my dad would take the mail, want one trip, I would take the other one ???

AK: Yeah, I ...

EL: In the winter we used the coal cutter with a heater, ??? at quite a long time...

AK: Cutter.

EL: A cutter, pulled with one horse, and it was covered and we had a heater...

AK: Oh, you had a heater? What was that, a little coal heater or...

EL: A little coal heater, yeah. i

AK: Is that right, a little stove, eh?

EL: ??? I remember a time myself ??? I remember a time when my dad had his horse run away to town, ??? the cart out with my dad inside covered in ashes and unable to get out. ??? the cutter had a small window in front and it turned over, the horses broke away, the shaft broke off, and my dad was trapped inside of it.

AK: And he didn't get burnt?

EL: He did! His eyes couldn't see for a week.

AK: So the ashes spilled all around.

EL: Yes, because inside, and I never forget. The post office used to be where Alberta Treasury Branch is.

AK: Yeah, that's what I was told. Jimmy...

EL: ??? the horse, she turned and she upset the cart, the cutter.

AK: Well the horse knew where it wanted to go.

EL: And myself, I had an experience, as I hauled mail to Val Soucy in a blizzard, a mile from the post office, the horse couldn't pull the cart, so I unhitched her and continued on behind her.

AK: You unhitched her? What did you go on foot then?

EL: ??? Mrs. Maroon wanted me to stay over but I could be on my, Horse was jumping and getting restless, my dad met me by Browns. There was no keys ???

AK: Oh, yeah the house, that old busted house. Yeah.

EL: That's where my dad met me, he went to Eastgate first then he ??? about nine o'clock at night. One... I'll never forget that bugger. And 8 p.m. we made it home, later we hauled mail [inaudible]

AK: Yeah, so that was something that went on during your...

AL: And I took different routes, we went to ???, took about an hour to get to ??? and back [inaudible]

AK: Well that would keep you going...

EL: Well, I did other things.

AK: All right, what was your what the what grade level did you go to?

EL: I didn't quite finish level, I got on with Heiland just before school quit.

AK: Oh you went with Heiland. Yeah, right, But that was... at what age were you then?

EL: I was about 19, 17. '47-'48.

AK: Right.

EL: I was about 18. [inaudible]

AK: Now beside those other jobs you had Ed, just tell us some of those other things that you did.

EL: When I was young I went stooking when I was 14 years old fishing, ???

AK: Where was that?

EL: That was ??? I went threshing, when I was younger, I ??? gardened with my brothers, split and corded wood, that kind of stuff, just to keep me ??? my money.

AK How much would you get for that?

EL: I got a dollar a load for wood, I hired a helper, and I'd finish splitting it and cording it, he got six bucks and I got bugger all. I see him once in a while. I got a dollar a cord and split ??? [inaudible]

AK: Right. So then this other job you were ???

EL: [inaudible] I bought gardens and I corded wood and I [inaudible]

AK: Right. So this is odd jobs. Did your dad pay you for this? Did your dad pay you for that?

EL: Oh yes. And I got money from the mail run and money for the wood I did myself ???

AK: Yeah. I see. Direct.

EL: Direct, that was cash income.

AK: Well now let me just lead into Heiland here. Do you remember the first time that there was some indication that there was something going to happen here that is going to be... some activity. Do you remember your memory about that?

EL: ??? was around in the area and then he moved to Redwater. And got hired on I think at Maloney's Garage. Me and John ???

AK: John Salyzyn? S-A-L-Y-Z-Y-N.

EL: He's in Kelowna now.

AK: And is that you with him?

EL: Yah, I got ???

AK: Yeah you got lots of pictures.

EL: [inaudible]

AK: Oh boy. Well, we'll look at them after, they're probably be some questions come up as a result. So Maloney's Garage. Is that where the truck was?

EL: That's where the crew stayed.

AK: Oh, they stayed there.

EL: Well the trucks stayed there ???

AK: Now was this before the well was built?

EL: Yes, I got hired in Redwater, and we moved to ????. Moved in, in Redwater. Us guys got... working for Esso, so they moved us to Bethesda??? came back and got ??? work in Redwater, moved to Bethesda??? and Imperial Oil were , they moved in, eh.

AK: I see. You did seismic work before Redwater was drilled.

EL: Yes. We did we work with the well, yeah. That's how we... worked for Esso.

AK: Yeah. Now that was... and your Party Chief's name was?

EL: George. George... Warren Gunn.

AK: Warren Gunn. G-U-N-N?

EL: Yeah. And there was Metzger...

AK: Yeah, Harold Metzger. And did you see much of Metzger?

EL: We seen him, saw him, not in Redwater, saw him [inaudible] didn't see that much of him.

AK: Is that right, one of those big ??? ones?

EL: ??? like Al Capone.

AK: Like Al Capone, eh? Now was fellow, Gunn, was he a Canadian, or...

EL: American. He was an American.

AK: U.S. citizen.

EL: [inaudible]

AK: And he had an accent, suit?

EL: Yeah, tall and skinny, I can see his face.

AK: He was tall and skinny.

EL: Yeah. ??? There was another goddam guy and I can't think of his name.

AK: And he was working... well who was doing the instrument work, like who was...

EL: [inaudible] It was Bill McFee. I got the pictures here yeah.

AK: Bill McFee. Was he a Canadian?

EL: Canadian.

AK: Yeah. Were there other Americans on the crew?

EL: No. Just the Party Chief.

AK: So where did they stay when they were...

EL: They stayed in the houses, like homes and... Party Chief had a trailer.

AK: Oh, he had a trailer.

EL: Yeah. And a couple of the drillers had trailers.

AK: Those were the shot hole drillers.

EL: Yeah, shot hole drillers.

AK: Now who were the... did they hire those out from... they were there...

EL: They... I guess at one time they were hired and worked from ??? to driller, that kind of thing.

AK: Yeah.

EL: Some of them, they were there for a long time.

AK: So, they were working... do you remember whether they were doing continuous profile or whether they were doing just shot point?

EL: We did shot points. We did hot shot [inaudible].

AK: Well now what about Redwater here.

EL: WE were doing, like, 50-foot holes, and we did...

AK: 50-foot holes.

EL: We were drilling 50 feet here.

AK: Yeah, how much dynamite did you...

EL: About 5 pounds. I... [inaudible]. Let's see, gotta take a minute here... from Bethesda, we moved to Long Lake Camp, Hubert??? Athabasca, Smith, Debolt, before I ??? to Valleyview, Edmonton, Hardesty, Wainwright, moved to Wainwright because the first crew??? in Wainwright were removed because they were fighting with the army all the time, and they threw them out. And we came in from Hardesty to take their place, and people in town wouldn't give us a room. We worked for ??? and they wouldn't give us a room. We finally got in but... we were a tamer crew than ??? they were bad guys. Fighting with the army all the time. We went to Tofield, Wetaskiwin, ???, Manning, ???, Melthorpe, and George ??? was our Party Chief...

AK: George ???

EL: Yeah.

AK: He was a Canadian.

EL: Canadian, yeah. Came from...

AK: Hamilton.

EL: Hamilton, yeah. He went to McMaster University, wasn't it?



AK: Yeah.

EL: Damn rights, yeah, I remember that.

AK: George Hobson. Well that was kind of a new job for him, wasn't it?

EL: Yeah, he was a new Party Chief. I remember him, yeah.

AK: How would you assess him?

EL: He was a good guy. He was a???.. in fact he was involved in the politics of the town ???

AK: Isn't that something. George and I were very good friends in Ottawa.

EL: Oh, come on. I [inaudible]

AK: Didn't you?

EL: I [inaudible] Hobson, I knew him, but darn, we had [inaudible] McMaster University...

AK: That's right. I'll just turn this off...

[00:19:56] EL: \$110 a month.

AK: \$110 a month plus travelling expenses?

EL: Well, we always... we boarded ourselves, paid our own. We paid for our board, yeah.

AK: How heavy were those jugs?

EL: The jugs were maybe about 3 pounds, we had different types. Started with big ones, and then we went a little smaller...

AK: Well those big ones, how heavy were they?

EL: I would say, 5 pounds, 5 pounds [inaudible]

AK: And how many would you carry at a time?

EL: I think what 24...

AK: Well that's ??? 24, ??? trace?

EL: Yeah.

AK: And then you have all the traces...

EL: But you'd put them in a pile and that truck would come and get them, and you'd grab about 8 or 10, 11, a guy would pick them up, eh. You wouldn't pick the whole damn bunch up, you'd leave them...

AK: No, but you'd... once you laid them out, you had to lay them out...

EL: Yeah, lay them out, yeah.

AK: Now, were the wires running, were the cables running between them?

EL: Oh yeah.

AK: And they were plugged in?

EL: Yeah.

AK: Right. And that was your job to...

EL: To start, and then I got... I did that for about a year, and then I got to be a real truck driver, and then I got to be general operator.

AK: Yeah, reel truck means R-E-E-L . Yeah. Reel truck. And then you... what kind of a buck were you making then?

EL: Maybe 150 bucks a month. ???

AK: Were there any bonuses paid for production?

EL: One time they threw a party for us at the camp when we beat another crew, and [inaudible] about 50 miles we did, and they threw a party at the camp for us. That's about it, no bonuses.

AK: No bonuses, eh. Okay.

[00:22:09] EL: I'll go back to the... shot holes, you got water at 50 feet, in Hardesty they were 50 feet and 50-pound reels, in Tofield was 2 pounds and 50 feet, Hardesty hit sand, Hardesty we would drill 300 feet and you set a pound charge and wouldn't eve get a ??? so much sand. In fact, around Hardesty we had a lot of pipes that left the ground with a drill stem, you couldn't pull them out. We had to ??? left them and cut them off, they're still there. And...

AK: You couldn't get it out of the hole.

EL: No, left them there. And another time, at Wincourt, we had Artisan wells, drilled holes, and the goddam water would shoot up that alley, in fact the government made us go back and plug every damn one.

AK: ???

EL: Yeah, that was it.

AK: Well now did you did you remember drilling any out west of town here?

EL: Well we went to what we went to ??? we did the whole work back here.

AK: Yeah, right. Well then did you notice any gas escaping from any of the...

EL: No. Too shallow. We never... no, 50 feet, that's all we had.

AK: Yeah, well one of the fellows said that some of these wells out west of here would shoot out and produce gas.

EL: Not at 50 feet, no. Somebody's wrong, ??? me, no.

AK: No. Okay

[00:23:39] So I'll continue on here, okay. I remember when we moved to Hardesty, in Hardesty there was train wreck in the Green Hill, two men were killed. ??? sleeper and in Hardesty we stayed in the Mayor's cabin which was four men ??? because it's 12 bucks a month. I got pictures of that. It would cost us three bucks a month for 4 guys and coming back from Osedna?? I was in a home when the train about killed my horse and ??? Val Soucy, and I was coming home one weekend and I was in the coach, and I came home. I told my dad a horse was killed, eh. I was coming back and having dinner, I was having lunch and a second man came in and ???, and I did not know he was killed on the same train she was killed.

I ??? put the pool room in the hotel and had a fire here, ???

AK: How far away is Waskatenau?

EL: 17... about 20, 22 miles.

AK: Well, is that farther north from Radway?

EL: [inaudible]

AK: It's beyond Radway. Yeah, I see. Okay, maybe we can just look at some of these photos and comment.

[00:25:07] Okay, now we've got you... what year did you leave Heiland?

EL: '52.

AK: '52, and you had advanced to Junior Computer... Junior Observer. And that meant working in the truck.

EL: The recording truck. I took care of all the film, that ??? before they were sent out, I developed them, that was my job.

AK: All right, now what did you do about it in the winter time when they were all wet?

EL: No, it's like, we were in the cab, in the truck.

AK: I know but they were all wet. You used a wet process, didn't you?

EL: Yeah, we had an office, and I worked in the office.

AK: Where, here?

EL: No, any place.

AK: Oh, I see. You didn't hang them up in the...

EL: No...

AK: No, but they would get, wouldn't they get frozen, and...

EL: No. Didn't... kept them warm in the truck then you come in bring them in at night. They were in a ??? kind of container?

AK: Bath, were they in a...

EL: They were in a bath, yeah.

AK: They were wet all the time. ???

EL: Yeah.

AK: Now that was in the old... that was before the digital...

EL: Oh, yes.

AK: All right. So that was your job and you had to have the chemicals mixed up and...

EL: Yeah, that was my job. ??? up there would take a shot, and I took the second, something about 50 shots and [inaudible]. and fish. I got a monster.

AK: You got, something like a ??? You never know what's gonna reach out and attack us, it's not a piranha is it? Okay, so, where did you sign up with CNR then?

EL: CPR.

AK: Oh, you went with CPR.

EL: First time ??? left school, I went to CNR ??? in Edmonton, went to ??? went back to Edmonton, the guy said, you guys are too young, too smart better go in the shop, see. So I went to ??? signed on to ???. I came back in October and I went back to school ???

AK: Now was this, oh, I thought you were with the CNR after you left...

EL: No, that was during school, CNR.

AK: Oh, I missed out on that then, because if it happened before Heiland. It's not in chronological sequence.

EL: That's right... before... after I went to CPR for, just for a while.

AK: Oh, yeah, but this job, this was over and above your helping with the mail and everything.

EL: Yeah, that was ??? and I went to Blue River, and I came back on October,

AK: That was a division of ??? of CNR>

EL: Yes. in fact we went back...

[tape jumps]

AK: You saw your old digs?

EL: [inaudible] 1947 I was there...

AK: Okay, well let's jump ahead then, let's get this in sequence, about the... when you left Heiland, well you left, you said in '52...

EL: '52, yeah.

AK: And you went, was there a job waiting there for you?

EL: No, I went, I just ??? I went to the CPR office and I applied and I got on. [inaudible]

AK: Well now, where did you work out of, South Edmonton?

EL: Strathcona shops, right by the CPR station, that's where we had a roundhouse there.

AK: There was a roundhouse.

EL: Yes, they'd take care of all the engines, I was night shift, I took care of the engines.

AK: So how long did you work there?

EL: That was about 6 months, and I came back home here, I came home on the weekend, I got on with... Tartan. I came out of there...

AK: Oh, you didn't, oh I see.

EL: That's ??? Heiland, CPR...

AK: Oh, I thought you were with the CNR after you left Heiland.

EL: No.

AK: Oh, CPR.

EL: CPR, Heiland, CNR...

AK: Why did you leave the CPR?

EL: More money here too, oil patch. So I got on.

AK: So who hired you here at Tartan?

EL: Burt MacDonald. Well, I started...

AK: With Burt. Now he was the boss, was he? And how many trucks did he have going?

EL: Oh, he had about 8. Some of them were his trucks and some of them were... he had some trucks and some trucks were his friends', I don't know.

AK: So what was your main job?

EL: Oil patch, ??? like moving rigs, and I was a battery operator, and we... it was construction, on pipes and ...

AK: And did Tartan at that time have any Athey wagons?

EL: No, no, no. No, I ??? they moved the trucks...

AK: They moved the... yeah. But they used them here.

EL: I never used them...

AK: Oh yeah, but some of the contractors used Athey wagons. You don't know about that.

EL: I can't remember.

AK: Right. So then, who were you a battery operator for?

EL: Oh, I did it for BA, for Shell, plus I worked at the Tartan ??? I never had a day off for 15 years, never had a day off, I never had a holiday.

AK: You mean, were you working on an hourly basis?

EL: Yeah, because you have all these, and every place was... and I worked in the field here, and ??? and cleaned tanks [inaudible].

AK: What about dewaxing?

EL: I did, I cleaned tanks. I took all the oil out of the tanks... we did it in the spring, summer and fall. We did the whole oilfield, every ??? tank here.

[00:32:10] AK: Well when you were with BA, did you have much to do with Ted Court?

EL: Yes, I know Ted Court 100 percent! When he worked over here, yes. Ted Court, Tom Walker, ??? Heffner, right after there was a push...

AK: No what, where did you work? I mean, where did you live when you were...

EL: I lived at, that's when I lived out of [inaudible]

AK: Right, yeah.

EL: I knew all the guys, Heffner, ???, yeah, he died after, one of his kids was a Mountie...

AK: Well, Heffner kind of ran that Skunk Hollow, didn't he?

EL: Yes, right over there where the tennis court is, in fact he was on the east side.

AK: Yeah, well now was Skunk Hollow, was it near...?

EL: You know where the trailer court is?

AK: Oh, where the Pioneer Hall is?

EL: No.

AK: Farther east?

[tape jumps]

[00:33:28] AK: Why did you have to burn that well?

EL: Because we couldn't pump it.

AK: You mean, what was...

EL: Because of the wax, not the oil.

AK: Oh, there was sludge and...

EL: Sludge, and everything.

AK: And you couldn't sell it, no sale for it.

EL: No. We burned a well, we burned [inaudible]

AK: Was there any restrictions placed on the burning by the Board?

EL: All the fires... every batch would have a fire, and we just used the same pit, put the fire out and put oil in there at night before we'd go home, we'd burn the pit in the morning, and come, and start again. It would be all burned out.

AK: Well if there was no market for it that's the only thing you could do. You had to get rid of it. Would you report every morning on the amount of oil you produced?

EL: No. I just ????. Sometimes we'd have some tough tanks, we'd pull a tank a day. Sometimes we'd do two or three, wouldn't ???contractors...

AK: Well, would you would you put steam in those tanks to melt the wax, or how did you...?

EL: Okay, when the oil patch got ???, what, 5 years, 10 years working here, we'd put sprayers inside the tanks, and you'd put a four-inch pipe and a hub, and ??? to keep it suspended, and you kept the oil suspended...

AK: And what would spray out of those...

EL: Oil, like, and your production came, you open your valve into the tank and keep it circulating, keep it ??? and ended up with the tanks, the big tanks here had 15 feet of oil, when they went to 15 feet of oil, all the wax in the field went into big pipeline tanks.

AK: You mean the ??? The Pasemkos.

EL: Yeah, yeah we had one closer to here, one was BA and one was Pasemko's.

AK: Well, what did they do about that then?

EL: ??? they spend months here. They had big ??? and they took the walls out...

AK: Did they have to take the tanks apart?

EL: Apart, yeah. Before they took them down they had to clean them out. They were huge tanks, 80,000 barrels, great big tanks. They were terrible. We never, we had to have big trucks in.



AK: Okay.

EL: Okay, we'll talk about the oil patch, ??? worked with ???Smiley...

AK: Smiley.

EL: Yeah in Saskatchewan.

AK: Oh, I see you.

EL: Yeah, and I hauled oil for first ??? up in Canada, Haliburton had 6 pumpers there.

AK: And where was that?

EL: In Saskatchewan. ??? And used 6 pumpers and... yeah.

AK: Did you work for Haliburton?

EL: No. Haliburton hauled. I was driving a tanker for Tartan, I drove a winch truck for Tartan...

AK: Oh, oh I see.

EL: Hauled oil for Imperial, so Haliburton did the well???. Six pumpers came there, and when the winch started the well, one of the pumps got plugged up and they broke, up by Nipissing, and had to wait, and then we did the sand track, I'll never forget that, Haliburton trucks. Yeah. [inaudible] I was working for Tartan as a backup truck. I was driving that ???, went to pull it out, and they put this North Saskatchewan River and we put two more in. We had 3 trucks in the river and I, in fact was hung up on the front wheels. I jumped out and then...

AK: What, were you trying to drive across the ice?

EL: Yeah, but you know why, we were told to go across the ice because they were putting the pipeline in, and water came across the river and it flowed over, because [inaudible] Other guys stayed at the store, I took off ??? I came down the river, I put the truck in third gear and I was going full speed, and I was in the middle of the river and ??? black ice, and I felt myself going ??? that was it. Then we came at night and we pulled it out, our trucks tied together...

AK: And the water, was it beyond your depth?

EL: Oh, yes, well not really. Water wasn't that deep. Maybe 8 feet, that's all.

AK: Oh. And you got out all right.

EL: I got out okay. Came back at night with ??? pole trucks, came too close, put the damn truck in gear, back wheel went in, other guy was tied in the front, I came back, I went under the ice, water came in, truck went in and 3 of our trucks were in... it was 3 in the morning, completely frozen in...we had to get...

AK: Must have been cold. It was freezing...

EL: I ??? and I came back in the morning, they came to get me, and I thought, this is it, eh. That damn Herman, he said, go across the river. Herman, the foreman. Go across the river, he said, and somehow I'll take the blame. And that bugger, he sent me across the river, come back home and he says, Eddie put the truck in the river. [inaudible]

AK: So you had to explain the ???

EL: [inaudible]

AK: Right. Okay, is there anything else?

EL: Came back to Redwater, ??? put the truck in ??? and all the equipment, all the equipment from Swan Hills, before it was, Swan Hills was just being developed, and we hauled ???

AK: Is that right?

EL: [inaudible]

AK: Well what, did you come back to work in Redwater?

EL: I was here then.

AK: Yeah, it was just working out of here. Because your jobs... you lived in Redwater.

EL: I went to Saskatchewan, ??? and came back.

AK: Well I'm just trying to keep the story in Redwater. So how long did you stay with Tartan?

EL: 15 years.

AK: 15. And then you retired?

EL: No. And then I went to Esso. See, Burt got a contract when the town was built, and ??? phasing out. Burt got a contract for ???

AK: For which?

EL: He got the maintenance contract...

AK: Oh, maintenance contract, right.

EL: Got a contract with the plant. So all of a sudden there was 160 people working for Tartan. And then it ended up there were only 2 people left, myself and another guy, and [inaudible]

AK: You stayed with Tartan right through...

EL: No, I...

AK: And then you went with the plant.

EL: Esso.

AK: Oh, I see.

EL: I worked one year for Tartan and then I... was with Esso for... 15 with Tartan here... I was with Esso for 20 years, 15 as maintenance foreman, [inaudible]

AK: Right. And then you...

EL: [inaudible]

AK: And then you retired what year? From the plant.

EL: 1990.

AK: Right. Okay. Well just a minute now. Audrey, you said you were born and brought up in Mayerthorpe?

AL: That's right.

AK: And did you go to school there?

AL: Yeah.

AK: And that's, Ed must have been with the Highland crew.

AL: He was, yeah.

AK: And that's how you two got acquainted.

EL: That's right.

AK: And then you got married in '53, right. I wanted to get your philosophy of what you think about the oil patch.

EK: I got it right here. I seen Imperial Number One being set up, watched it being built, ??? directly around the townsite as it was being built, was 7??? when oil was discovered, came back here, seen the boom, town ??? rigs setting up, ??? hotel, Bill's Steakhouse, Bill's Cafe, in fact, with Bill's Cafe, the house right across the street was Frank ??? house.

AK: Oh, is that right.

EL: Yeah. I enjoyed working for oil companies, ??? Redwater, oil good for 5 or 10 years, Esso plant, ??? plant was supposed to be built east of town here, and Oslo is low-key right now but in the future they might start it up again. [inaudible]

AK: Well, Oslo, ??? the oil sands...

EL: Yeah [inaudible]

AK: What were they going to do, bring the oil down here?

EL: Yeah, pump it down here and refine it here. [inaudible]

AK: Yeah ??? Well that's a sad ??? thing, everybody was counting on... well there are other things maybe, and... I heard the plant was sold. Has Imperial sold...

EL: No. [inaudible] They've cut back a bit.

AK: They're still producing.

EL: Yeah.

AK: Do they use gas from the plants here?

EL: Yeah. ???

AK: Oh, from some other areas? Well, I wanted to thank you both very much for telling me your stories and those excellent photos, and I think we will sign off here. I've got a full tape here. So once again, thanks very much

EL: You're very welcome Mr. Kerr.

**End of Interview**