

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Carl Moore

INTERVIEWER: W. J. Wood

DATE: November 1984

JW: . . . 1984, my name is Jim Wood. I'm at the home of Mr. Carl Moore in High River, Alberta. This is interview #1, tape #1, side 1. Okay, Carl I wonder if we could start this morning and just find out a little bit about your personal background, and when and where you were born?

CM: I was born in Virginia, moved with the family to Montana in the early days and that's where I was raised, down in the Yellowstone Valley there, west of Billings.

JW: What were your folks doing there?

CM: Rancher. Hay and cattle ranch. I went to high school in Big Timber, Montana, that's where I finished high school. Then after high school I joined the Army. Then the fall of '19 I guess it was, I went to work in the railroad in the signal department, installing automatic block signals.

JW: What year were you born Carl?

CM: 1899.

JW: Do you have brothers and sisters?

CM: I've got 7, 3 sisters and 3 brothers, besides myself. A younger sister passed away in '76, my younger brother passed away in '82. The rest of us all are living.

JW: So did you go through school there in Wyoming?

CM: I went to Wyoming in '22. I worked in Wyoming till '26, came back up to. . .well, I came to Calgary in '26, in the spring of the year and everything was slow. Keavan??? Sunburst down here was on the boom so this chap and I that was with me, we went back to Sunburst. I stayed in Sunburst until '29 and I came back.

JW: Let's go back still a little bit, when did you go into the Army?

CM: 1918.

JW: That was pretty well after World War I then.

CM: Yes.

JW: What were you doing there?

CM: I had just finished high school then you see, and a friend of mine, another school chum, he and I joined the Army. So we spent the rest of that year in the Army. After the Armistice was signed, then naturally I came home and that's when I went to work with the railroad.

JW: What kind of things were you doing for the railroad?

CM: We were installing automatic block signals on the railroad then. So I went to work then, it was the signal department. I still have an old railroad pass, issued from Mandan, North Dakota to Paradise, over on the west division. They issued these yearly passes and we could ride any of the trains you see, that we wanted to.

#035 JW: Did you have any career goals or any career in mind at that time?

CM: No. This friend of mine had been down in Wyoming the year previous so he was telling me about it and he said there was lots of work and we could always get a job you know. Jobs in those days weren't like they are today, anything that you could work at, that you could make a living at, that's what you did. Anyway, we went to work for, I forget the name of this company now, anyway, a branch of the Standard. And they had a camp, all those companies had camps in those days. There were about 1,200 men in this camp.

JW: Would that have been Midwest?

CM: Yes, Midwest, it was a branch of the standard. There was 3 crews more or less, there was a crew coming and one working and one going. They didn't stay very long.

JW: How come?

CM: It was hard work. A lot of young fellows, never been away from home, you know. There were no laundry facilities you had to do your own washing. This friend of mine, he had a hair clipper and a scissors, more or less a barber outfit. We had Sunday's off, well, every Sunday they'd keep us busy cutting other boys hair that we knew. So one Sunday he got up and he said, let's clip our hair. So he got up on a chair and I clipped his hair and I got up on a chair and he clipped my hair. Then just out across the fence from this big old bunkhouse, there was a water supply for the camp. So he walked over to this fence and threw these clippers and everything over in that water pond. He said, we'll shut this barber shop down. But so many things happened. You think back about those things and they're comical but it was kind of serious at the time you know.

JW: What kind of things were you doing at the gas plant, Carl?

CM: I went to work on the pipeline. Then they were building booster stations, gathering the gas and pumping it into a gas plant. Then that fall, the first fall, I got on to one of these booster stations, was an operator. Then I worked on that for that year. The next year, A. T. Williams had an oil company south of us, had a gas plant, and they'd shut down. So another chap and I went down and went to work for that company. In the gas plant. They had these gas plants set up, they had vacuum pumps that would draw this gas in, compress it and then pump it on into the main plant you see.

JW: What was pipelining like, did you work on actual pipeline construction then?

CM: Yes. They had to run pipelines to all these gas wells you see, a gathering system is what it amounted to.

JW: Were they all hand dug?

CM: Oh yes. All that work was hand done. There would be probably 30-40 men working on a crew. We had to carry all this pipe in and line it up you know, and then bucked??? it together by hand.

JW: They weren't welded were they?

CM: Oh no. It was all screw stuff in those days. It was manual labour, is what it amounts to. There's been so many improvements in everything, drilling and everything else. Even right today, there's no manual labour attached to anything. It's all. . . we have a brother-in-law down at Picture Butte that's a farmer. He cuts his own hay and bales it and he's got a fork on the front of his tractor, they pick these bales up and lay them on the wagon, haul them in and stack them all. He never touches a thing by hand, it's all mechanical.

#082 JW: Did they coat that pipeline, was it tarred?

CM: Oh yes, a lot of that stuff was 8 and 10 inch lines you see. And it was heavy stuff, they had big tongs that they would catch it and there would be maybe a dozen guys, 6 on each side, packing a joint of pipe, getting it in where they could line it up to screw it together. Then they'd have these big tongs that they'd plant around that pipe to buck it up. Then they'd move up to the next one and that's the way it went all day long. You got time to eat your lunch and that was about all. Thinking back, the way these unions and everything is demanding more all the time nowadays, we just didn't get anything compared. We got our board and room, a little spending money but we worked so hard we didn't have time to spend it.

JW: You worked down there for awhile and then you what, heard about the boom in Turner Valley, how did you hear about that?

CM: We read about it.

JW: It was in the paper there?

CM: Yes. So this chap and I, Slim Oddsboggly???, we decided we'd come up. I don't know, young fellows like to move around you know. That's what brought us to Calgary.

JW: Any immigration problems at the border?

CM: Oh no. In those days, sure, they had a record of you and everything like that, but there was no problem. Even when I came up here to work I had some money but I left it in Shelby. I think I only had about \$35-\$40 but I had a job to come to and I didn't need it. So I had a letter from this chap that had hired me, I presented that at the border and that's all there was to it.

JW: No problem. What did Calgary look like in 1926?

CM: Calgary was about, I don't know, I don't think it was over 150,000. There was about 8 blocks downtown there, took in the Hudson Bay and Eaton and that was the size of town. The ??? Hotel and across on the corner west, there was a restaurant there and then you went up the street, there was the old Dominion Hotel and then the Carlton. And the Palliser was across the street from the Carlton. There was enough shows in Calgary, you could go to matinees in the afternoon for two bits and then go to a show in the evening. There was enough shows to keep you going day in and day out. So the weekend maybe half a dozen of your friends would get together, we'd have a bottle and have a few drinks you know, and kind of celebrate on the weekends. But it's altogether different now.

JW: You came up in '26, you didn't stay though did you?

CM: I went back, yes. I came up the spring of '26, the weather was bad, it was the spring of the year, there were no roads out to Turner Valley. They were building that road out from Okotoks out to Turner Valley. All the supplies in Turner Valley in those days were hauled with teams. We couldn't get out there so we got tired of waiting. In fact, I think we probably used up most of our funds. As we came up we stopped in Keavan and there seemed to be quite a bit going on there but we had our mind set on Turner Valley. Well then, we went back to Keavan. Texaco was building that refinery there at Sunburst so we went to work there.

#125 JW: You were building the refinery then?

CM: They built a refinery there and they built a lot of tanks up there on the side hills. There was a lot going on there. There was only one restaurant in town, you had to wait in line to eat. Another chap and I slept in a garage all summer. This fellow owned a house and a garage behind and he put an old carpet in this garage and a bed and we slept in that garage the whole summer.

JW: So how long were you down there, about 2 or 3 years?

CM: I stayed in Sunburst till the spring of '29, that's where I came back to Calgary.

JW: How come you came back up here?

CM: Mr. Duffield???, he was down there buying tools to drill a well out at Morley Reserve. So I got acquainted with him, he stopped at this same hotel that I was staying in and I got acquainted with him and he asked me if I'd like to come up. He said I had a job if I wanted to come up. So he gave me this letter to present at the border you see. So I came back in '29. I worked all that summer out at Morley, I think it was pretty close to Christmas when we came into town. Then that spring I went to work for Hudson Bay and we went down to Nobleford.

JW: That well at Morley, who promoted that well?

CM: Bill Wilson. He was a hatter in Calgary in those days. On 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., he was west of 1<sup>st</sup> St. W. there someplace, I can't just remember, but he had a hat shop in there. He promoted that well.

JW: So how many guys were out there on that rig?

CM: There would be only 2 men on a crew, the driller and the tool dresser you see, and then Mr. Duffield himself. Then we had a camp, a cook and her husband ran this camp.

JW: That was a cable tool rig, nobody on the boiler then?

CM: The tool dresser had to fire the boiler. That was his job.

JW: Oh yes, that was your job?

CM: That's right.

JW: Where did you learn that, you hadn't done that before had you?

CM: I learned that in Wyoming, I think I mentioned that before, when I was working for this gas plant. There was a well drilled just outside of our camp and I used to go over there in the evening. I started helping this tool dresser you know, he was in a bind, had a lot of work to do and these were little things I could help him do and that's the way I learned what was going on around a drilling well. But then I also worked, the first year I worked in Sunburst, I worked for a trucker there, Roy Kauffman. Then next year I went and worked with Sunburst Oil and Gas Co. and they were developing. So that's when I went to work on tools again you see, drilling wells. Then when I came to Canada I knew what it was all about.

JW: So how long were you out on that Morley rig?

CM: All summer. I think we came in close to Christmas, the middle of December or something like that.

JW: Was there a name for that well?

CM: The Gold Coin. I don't know who named it but that was the name of it. But we didn't get anything there, it was a dry hole.

#168 JW: Why were they drilling there I wonder?

CM: In those days they were drilling wells all over, wildcats you know. It was just like these Hudson Bay wells I worked on in '30. They were all wildcat wells. Before the burst in '29, there was lots of money around and these promoters were promoting wells anyplace they could get acreage. It's surprising. Hudson Bay drilled a well south of Longview, out there about 3 or 4 miles. Then later on, they came up a few miles and they found production but Hudson Bay got no production in their well. The history of this oil company follows the mountains. You can go either northwest or southeast and sure, there's ??? spots but if you keep going in the same direction, you'll pick it up again. But those guys. . .now, this well that we drilled at Nobleford, in about 4 miles from where we drilled they drilled wells up north of there, and they've got production in there. There's wells producing in there now. So it's just a matter of locating it.

JW: How did you get on then, with Hudson Bay, that was actually now Hudson Bay Oil and Gas at that time was it, it was Hudson Bay Co., Continental Oils?

CM: The driller that I worked with at Morley found out, or he knew some of the guys that was going to work for Hudson Bay. That way, he got on. Well, naturally I'd worked with him at Morley and that's how I got on with the Hudson Bay. Well, then I worked in Nobleford, we went down there in '30. I worked all of '30, '31 and they shut the well down in '32.

JW: That was some of Hudson Bay's first drilling wasn't it?

CM: That's where Hudson Bay first started operating here in Canada. Then they quit, in '34 they left the country and then they came back later and started buying farm out leases.

#201 JW: What was the impact of the Depression then, in October of '29? You were still out at Morley and . . .

CM: In fact, I didn't realize what was going on. It didn't bother me, I'd been working all summer, I'd saved my money and I had money to live on and pay my expenses and it didn't bother me any. But I know a lot of fellows, well, a lot of fellows around Calgary that I knew was in the same position that I was. They'd been working all the time and when they came in to town they had money to live on. And it didn't really come to where it hurt anyone till about '30. I knew one chap in Calgary there, he started playing the market the winter of '29 and '30 and he could have cashed in \$80,000. But he was heading for \$100,000. Well, the boom, everything went bust and he left here with an old Nash car, that's all he had left, they just cleaned him out. But people get greedy you know. But I never did. The only stock that I ever. . . oh sure, I've got stock, worked on wells, we used to get so much cash and so much stock. I worked on a well at Cardston that way. And I worked on a well at Moose Dome. And they gave me, I've got a 100 share certificate, it's not worth the paper it's written on. But I don't know, it didn't appeal to me, the stock market didn't. I was up at Sundre, and I'd been working for General Petroleums for years and years and I was buying their stock. I think we were paying about \$4, a payroll deduction. At the end of the year that stock had dropped on the market so they said, we'll give you your money back and you can buy it on the market if you want it. So they gave me my money back. My wife Mary, had been to Lethbridge,

that's where she was born and raised and she knew a bus driver that was driving on the bus as we came up. He told her that Greyhound was going to sell some stock. He said, if you've got a little extra money you should buy some Greyhound stock. So she told me about it and I gave her enough money to buy 100 shares of stock, at \$10 a share. Then after GP gave me this money back I bought another 100 shares, mine cost me \$12. We kept that stock and it started paying a dividend right away. Then in a few years they split it, they gave us 2 shares for 1. In a few years they split it again and we've wound up with 1,600 shares of Greyhound and it pays us \$1,900 a year dividends and we've still got the stock. If I had lots of money I wouldn't buy anything that didn't pay a dividend. This speculating stock, that will ruin you. And you take, in those days, these oil companies, most of these smaller companies, they were promoters is what they were. Old Jack Dallas, you've never heard of him . . .

#252 JW: Yes.

CM: He was one of the greatest promoters that ever hit the country at that time. I don't know how many wells Jack promoted but he never did get any production. He made a living out of it, sure he lived good and everything. But as far as making anything out of it, he never did. I think Jack died over in British Columbia someplace. He was an awful nice fellow, good company but he was just an out and out promoter, is what he was. And there was a lot of them around in those days. I suppose they didn't do any harm. A lot of people are gamblers and they'll gamble almost anything.

JW: Was it common for the oilfield workers to invest?

CM: Oh yes.

JW: So they played the market a bit.

CM: Yes.

JW: Where were living when you went down on that Nobleford, with Hudson Bay?

CM: We had camps. They used to furnish camps on all these jobs in those day. We had an exceptionally good camp there, it was furnished with all the bedding, we had the Hudson Bay blankets on the cots. They'd send a pick-up into Calgary and buy their supplies, groceries and things like that. The local markets, they'd buy their meats from them. All these, particularly these wildcat wells, they all had camps. And they were furnished good you know. Well, you take a working man, if you feed him and give him a comfortable place to stay, he'll stay. If you don't feed him and the place isn't comfortable, he won't stick there very long. That's the history of the working people. But all these camps used to have. . .we had a camp out here south of Longview. All these companies had good camps in those days.

JW: What happened to that Hudson Bay well, did you get production out there?

CM: No, it was a dry hole. In fact all 4 wells that they drilled there, they drilled one over at ??? and that was a dry hole, and Castor was the same thing. And this one out here, there was a showing of gas in this one out here but it was a dry hole, so was Nobleford. They had a little showing of oil there but not enough to pay to produce it, so it was all cemented and capped, casing and everything was pulled out of those wells and salvaged. Anything that they could salvage. In those days it took a lot of casing to drill a hole, when they were

drilling them with cable tool. They started a big hole, maybe 18". Then you could run 15" inside of 18" and they would run 12 ½ inside of that, 10 in that, 8 and on down to 6. It was more or less caveings???) to contend with and they had to case it all. But all that pipe was salvaged when those holes were abandoned. They'd cement them off, if there was water or anything like that, that was all cemented off and then the pipe was all pulled off and you'd never know there'd ever been a well there after it was cleaned up and the lease cleaned up.

#315 JW: Maybe you could talk a little bit about cable tool drilling. You talked the other day about using tallow and things like that. What other things did you . . . ?

CM: Well, a cable tool rig was altogether different to a rotary rig. You had your engine that set back about 60' from the rig and a belt house that run back. Well, there was a belt that ran on a big band wheel and that was what operated the whole business you see. You had a walking beam off to one side of that band wheel that had a crank on it you see, and every time that would turn over that would give you a stroke of about from 1-4 feet. That's where you'd get your motion and rolling you see. Then on the back side of the rig you had what they call the bow wheels. You had to pull out of the hole and your drilling line was wound on those bow wheels to pull out of that. Then behind this band wheel there was a sand reel set in there. That's what your bailer, you baled your mud out of the hole with that sand reel. It wasn't complicated, it was just a matter of common sense. By working on a cable tool rig and then going over on a rotary, there was so much difference, there's just no comparison. Now I saw men make drillers in a year's time on a rotary rig. Okay, they had an indicator that hung on their drilling line. Well, if you took that indicator away from them they didn't know what they were doing. How much weight they were putting on the bit or anything else. A cable tool knew by the feel of things. Then if you went to handling pipe or pulling on pipe, a lot of times it would get stuck you know, they'd hang this bailer maybe 16 or 18" from the floor. When they went pulling on that rig that old rig would squat and when that bailer touched the floor they knew they'd pulled about all they could stand you see.

JW: I've got to change the tape here.

#### Tape 1 Side 2

CM: Another thing that you learned on a drilling rig that a rotary guy never learned, you learned to splice wire lines. You'd get a kink in a wire line or something like that, you'd cut it in two and cut that out and you'd splice it together again. There isn't a rotary guy in the world who can splice a drilling line. If a line went haywire they just cut her off and drug her out behind the rig and piled it up and put on a new one. But on a cable tool rig you could splice that thing and keep on using it you see. Well, a rotary guy never got a chance to learn that. I've got a set of splicing needles out in the garage right now. I just have them, I used to use them.

JW: Do you think rotary rigs were safer to work on, or the cable tool rigs rather, were safer?

CM: I won't say that, they're safer now but when the rotary rigs first come in they killed an

awful lot of men. They're safer now sure. But there wasn't too many men killed on a cable tool rig. There would be the odd guy, the odd guy pulled a rig in on himself or something like that. But there wasn't too many of those guys injured on cable tool rigs. And if they were operating today, I suppose they'd have the same precautions that rotary rigs have. They're still killing men on rotary rigs.

JW: When did rotary rigs come in really, here in . . . ?

CM: In fact, I would say about '24, '25.

JW: Fairly early then.

CM: Yes. In fact I think the southern states, they had rotary rigs way before and it was just like everything else, they kept working north. In the early days there were no rotary rigs in Turner Valley. The first rotary rigs that I can remember was about, I don't know, '34, '35, something like that, along in the early 30's when they first came in.

JW: You were in Turner Valley by that time weren't you?

CM: Oh yes.

JW: When did you end up in Turner Valley?

CM: '34. I worked on Turner Valley Royalties.

JW: '32 or '34?

CM: '34. That well was started on a cable tool rig in '34. We drilled down, drilled to the Cardium sandstone and then we went ahead and drilled through that and it repeated. They figured it was no good so they quit it. Then they went back in, in '36, in that same hole with a rotary and drilled it in and that's what started the east side boom in Turner Valley in '36. But that Turner Valley well was started in '34.

#031 JW: What was Turner Valley like when you arrived in 1934, I wonder if you could just describe that area?

CM: It wasn't too much different to other booms that I'd been in. There was you know, living was pretty crude. There was a lot of hard labour, there was no roads. Then after the boom started they started getting wells out there, well, they started those gas flares and shoot you could drive around Turner Valley pretty near anytime during the night without lights on your car, there would be so many gas flares burning. It just lighted up the whole country. It kind of amuses me when you hear about, like this little blow out down here at Claresholm, everybody is up in arms about that. We lived in Turner Valley there in Hartel, you could smell that sulphur gas anytime. It was just a matter of getting along is what it amounts to, I don't think we suffered any ill effects from it. A lot of times you'd wake up at night and you could smell that stuff. We had some wells just north of us there at Hartel, the Lowry wells and they were just as putrid as they could be. We had another well right across the road from us, I forget what the name, Royalite something, and that was putting out sulphur gas all the time. But we just, you know, we lived with it and didn't pay any attention to it. I think this is just a lot of hooey myself. Sure it's not very nice but just the same, at one time right here, when they built this plant up here at Okotoks, they let out a lot of sulphur gas out of that gas plant there, that sulphur plant. The company repainted a lot of houses right here in High River, that sulphur would discolour the houses, the paint would turn yellowish you see, and they repainted a lot of

houses right here in High River. So I think that these people are just. . . well, anything that comes up now there's protests against it, is what it amounts to. You take those farmers down there east of Claresholm, they were glad to have these oil companies come in and pay them a rental on a well lease on their land. And they've probably been paying that for 10 years or longer. But the minute that something like this happens they're all up in arms. I can take you right around in High River here and take you to half a dozen gas wells that's been tapped for 10 years or longer. Now they want to build a gas plant out here at Mazepha??? and everybody is up in arms, they don't want a gas plant built. You can't blame these oil companies if. . . of course, they can't do it because there's so many stock holders in the company, but what they should do is go out there and tap all those wells, clean up the leases and say, there you are.

JW: See you later.

CM: They've been paying these farmers rentals, they've paid them thousands of dollars. Mary's got a brother up at Rocky Mountain House, he's got a bush farm up there. When he bought it, it wasn't worth \$2,000. But still, they came in and they drilled 2 wells on it and they've paid him close to \$20,000 leases, rentals for those 2 wells and roads in to them. And the place wasn't worth \$2,000 to start with.

JW: In Turner Valley, do you remember when H2S was first encountered?

CM: East Quest?

JW: Sour gas?

CM: East Quest, they had drilled a well or two there previously, to the time that we went in there. In fact, there was an old well right across the road, east of Hartel, I forget the name of it. We had a neighbour, Lou Stephenson lived next door to us and they had 2 little boys, Louis and Douglas. One day Louis came running home to tell his mother, and these kids had been playing around this old well that had been drilled, they'd never cleaned up the lease. They had an old cellar, they used to dig cellars underneath these rigs and that was full of water and there was gas leaking in there. This little chap had fell in that and he drowned in that East Quest well there. I don't know where I was but I found out about it pretty soon and a bunch of us went over there with the garden rakes and we fished this little fellow out of that. He was dead naturally. We took him in to the doctor but there was nothing that could be done about it. He'd probably been in there about half an hour. But those wells had been drilled previous to this last boom. There were 2 or 3 of those wells there.

#089 JW: What I was wondering though is, do you remember when H2S, sour gas, was first encountered in Turner Valley?

CM: Pretty near all those wells around that district was sour gas. But a lot of them had been drilled previous, in the early 30's, I don't know just when they were drilled. But those East Quest wells, we went to Hartel in '37 and those wells were there then, so I don't know just when they were drilled.

JW: Okay. When you went in to Turner Valley in '34 where were you living, where did you live?

CM: We had a camp. In fact, Vern Tillison??? and his wife lived in Turner Valley and I

boarded and roomed with them. I had about a mile to walk, they lived over on the old road that run through Turner Valley. I boarded and roomed with them when Turner Valley Royalties was drilled. I know Vern is dead, I think maybe his wife is gone too.

JW: You got married then, pretty soon after you arrived didn't you?

CM: I was married in '36. I met Mary when I was working at Nobleford. She was born and raised in Lethbridge.

JW: So did you get married in Turner Valley?

CM: No, we got married in Calgary. We lived in Calgary the first year, and then in '37 we rented a little suite up over a little store in Hartel and we lived there till the spring of '38. I was working that winter of '37, '38 and so I told her we'd live there and if I worked that winter I'd build a little place. So we did, we built a place there in Hartel in '38. Then we stayed there, we made that headquarters. I worked there until, well, '40 we went up to Vermillion and spent the year up there, the summer. Came back to Turner Valley in the fall and I worked, there was a well down west of Longview. Scotty's Feet??? they called it, I worked on that that winter. Then I worked for the Union Drilling Co. They used to start those holes out in Turner Valley with cable tools and then set the surface pipe, cement all the surface water off of the surface pipe then put rotaries in them.

JW: Would that be diamond drilling or just regular rotary?

CM: No, no, cable tool drilling. We had a hard life out there but we didn't mind it. I didn't particularly. It was kind of rough on Mary but in those days you know, she'd come from a big family and sure, they had the necessary things, plenty of food and clothing but not any money to throw away. Everybody was pretty much the same way in those days. You just made the best of what you had, is what it amounted to. There's times out there when we didn't have any money to do anything but we never did go hungry. It seemed like when we'd get right down to the last something would show up and I'd go to work again. And that's the way it was all those years with me. I've got no. . . even in those hungry 30's I never did, I could always go out and work someplace in the summer time. It just happened that way, I was lucky I guess, I'd be in the right place at the right time.

#136 JW: That's right. Were you drilling at that time?

CM: Yes.

JW: You were an American still, or had you become a Canadian?

CM: Yes.

JW: Were you treated any differently, being an American?

CM: I went in to see all the authorities and I talked to them and I'm a landed immigrant. As long as I don't run afoul of the law or anything like that, I have just as many privileges as if I were Canadian. The reason I didn't become a Canadian is because all my family was across in the States you see, and I never knew when I might want to go back. But I'm happy to live here and I've never run afoul of the law, I've abided by all the rules and laws. Sure, I've paid a couple of fines for, I parked in Lethbridge one night, came in there and I parked across the park and I went across the street to this little hotel. I got up the next morning and I went over and there was a sticker on my car. You weren't allowed there certain hours of the morning, they cleaned the streets you see. But I didn't know

that. But little things like that, that was the only thing.

JW: There was a big influx of Americans in the 30's, into Turner Valley wasn't there?

CM: Oh yes, there was I don't know how many, I wouldn't be surprised there wasn't 40,000 around Calgary at that time. There was an awful lot.

JW: Who were the real innovative people. People talked about Ralph Will and some others, who were the real people that were looked up to in Turner Valley in the 30's?

CM: There was Ralph Will, there was Cody Spencer, Cody's gone now. Cody was one of the finest fellows I was ever around. I worked for he and Clarence Matthews, engineered and started General Petroleums. Cody was one of the finest guys I was ever around. Now if you are working on a job, you know pretty well what's going on and what should be done. A fellow that comes in there, just drives out of town there and he's got a suggestion that you do this, or you do that, Cody was that way. But if it didn't turn out right he would take the blame, he wouldn't blame you for it. If you did what he told you to do that was it. For that reason I always admired Cody. It hurt me awfully when he killed himself. It was just pure and simple. . .well, it's unavoidable but just the same, he shouldn't have been doing what he was doing. I have a watch in there that Cody gave me, he paid about \$300 for it and it wouldn't run on him. So I was going up to Rocky Mountain House as a field man up there for them. I was in Calgary gathering up some records and things that I had to do up there and he said, have you got a watch. I said sure, I've got an old pocket watch. So I said, I've got a watch, well he said, I've got a watch here and it won't run on me. He said, I'm going to give it to you and if it don't run for you, you give it to Clarence here, Clarence Matthews was in there. Clarence had about a \$15 watch and every time I'd see Clarence he'd say, how is that watch running. Well, it's only been in the shop one time and I just keep it wound all the time. I don't wear it always. But Cody gave me that watch.

#184 JW: It's a beautiful watch.

CM: It is, and it's a good watch too. But I always admired Cody. We were on that wild well up there at Leduc. . .

JW: Atlantic 3?

CM: Atlantic. So they turned the operation over to Charlie Visser and Tip Maroney, that was Imperial Oil. So Cody came out there and he told us, I was working, drilling on the west flank, drilled a directional hole into that. He said, now you boys are taking orders from Tip and Charlie, do what they say. The guy was on this south well, Tom Wark was pushing our well and I forget the name of this other chap. We had a new set of drill collars and drill pipe on our well. This other guy was using stuff that had been used before.

JW: Was that Ben Quarteye???

CM: Yes. So he came over one morning, we were out of the hole making a trip and he said, I need some drill collars. I said, I can't help that. He said, I want you to give me a couple of your drill collars. Well, I wouldn't do it, I run this bit right back in the hole and started drilling. Cody came out that morning and he said, didn't Ben. . . I forget his name, come over and ask you for some drill collars and I said, yes, he did. Well he said, you didn't

give them to him and I said, no, I didn't, you told me that I was taking orders from Charlie Visser. That guy's got no business giving me order. So Cody just walked away. He was that kind you see. We drilled Atlantic 1 and then moved east and drilled Atlantic 2. So we were rigging up there, I was on day tower and we was busy, we was getting everything ready to sput in. In dragging the drilling blocks in we'd broke the walk, there was old wooden walks in those days. We broke a board in this walk, they were about 12" wide. So one of the boys went out and just pushed it down, didn't break it off and then just pushed it back up level you see, but it was still broken. So Cody came out there this evening, we were getting ready to sput in, to drill the rat hole and stuff. So he drove up and I was afraid that he was going to come in on this walk. It just struck me, if he walks on to that board, it will go through with him. Sure enough, he parked out there and here he came up and stepped on that board and he fell down just like that. He kind of laughed about it and he came in on the rig and he said, anything you need and I said, no, we've got everything we need. Well he said, when you get everything kind of lined up and get around to it I wish you'd put another board in that walk out there. He was just that way you know. And he'd come out to the rig, he'd have on a pair of clean gabardine pants and clean shirt and everything like that. He wouldn't be out there 20 minutes and he'd be mud all over. He just wanted to get in and help do something. It just delighted him to get on the break, if you was eating lunch or something like that he'd take over right now. He was just that kind of a man you see. I admired Cody, it was just too bad he had to go the way he did. It was just unnecessary, he didn't have to do what he was doing. But I worked for General Petroleums, I went to work for him in '43 and I worked for him till '60.

#237 JW: I want to talk a little bit about Atlantic 3 in a few minutes but you were in Saskatchewan for a little while weren't you?

CM: In '34. I went down there for the gas company.

JW: Which gas company was that?

CM: That was Alberta Gas at that time. It's the same company I think, it's probably been sold but it's the same company that's furnishing gas right here and now.

JW: Okay, so Canadian Western today.

CM: That's right. We'd been plugging these Hudson Bay wells, I was working at Nobleford. I got acquainted with a guy with the gas company and they were going to drill this well up in Saskatchewan. One of the drillers that was there at Nobleford, he was going up on this well and he asked me if I'd like to go up there. So I did, I went up there and we worked the summer up there.

JW: Had there been much drilling in Saskatchewan prior to that?

CM: No. There's been some drilling around Lloydminster. Charlie Mills, I think Charlie drilled the first well that was drilled there at Lloydminster. But there hadn't been much drilling up in that country at that time.

JW: Whereabouts was that?

CM: That I was. Lashburn, east of Lloydminster I think, about 15-16 miles. We had a camp out there. I had a good summer up there, we stayed up there, well, I told you, I showed you

those pictures, I was driving the old cows on that. . .

JW: That's right. Maybe just talk about that a little bit for a minute, what you saw.

CM: They were moving out of Saskatchewan, going to Peace River country. They were just starved out was what it amounted to, they had their families and everything, all their belongings, right on those wagons. They were driving the old cows, that was the way they were. . .

JW: Cattle were pulling.

CM: That was their transportation. I never saw anyone, anywhere, as hard up as those people were. We had a good camp there at Lashburn, and as I remember, the cook, Bob Orrin??? was our cook there at camp, he fed all these people and we gathered up a lot of clothing, jackets and pants and stuff like that, and gave them to these people. They were actually hard up and winter was coming on. When we left there they were camped, there was trees on each side of the road going in to Lashburn, and they were camped there. They'd been harvesting as they were moving along. If they could get a job harvesting someplace they stopped for a few days and that's the way they were travelling.

JW: This Lashburn in Saskatchewan, who built the rigs there? Was it built when you got there?

CM: I don't remember that rig, it was all up when I went up there. The rig, it had been built when we went, this chap and I that I was going to work for, we went from Calgary, we took a bus out of Calgary and went up there. They met us, I think Bert Slipper, he was a brother to Stan Slipper the geologist. He was looking after this job and this rig had all been built when we got up there, it was ready to go when we landed there.

#291 JW: Could you move one of those cable tool rigs?

CM: Could you move them? Yes. They've been moved. In fact, I was working down in Sunburst, of course, that was dry, this was during Prohibition. So we used to come up to Coutts to the beer parlour. So I'd been up to Coutts, I was alone and I was going back down to Sunburst and I saw this old rig off in the field. It seemed to me like it was moving. I stopped and by golly, sure enough, it was moving. They used to jack those things up and put dollies under them, under each corner of it and they'd put a cable on each corner of the rig, run out to a V like this and they'd tie a cat on to that and they'd haul her across. Oh yes, they moved those rigs. I don't know who moved the first one or anything like that. Then they started building steel derricks you know, like the old wooden derricks. They'd always tear those down and rebuild them.

JW: Reassemble them, yes. When rotary came in in a big way, was it a difficult transition for a lot of people, to go from cable tool drilling to rotary?

CM: I don't think so, no. Most of those old cable tool guys went to work on rotaries. Because they had a knowledge of handling pipe. You know, you had to handle a lot of pipe on those cable tool rigs, more so than on a rotary rig, you run more pipe. Well, those old cable tool guys had a knowledge of handling that pipe. It was the same thing on a rotary rig, you had to handle that pipe to get her out of the hole to put a new bit on it. Most of those guys, Lloyd McCallum, Lloyd Stafford, and all those guys were old cable tool guys. But then they switched over to rotary you see. You had a pretty good idea what was going

on, you knew how to handle pipe and things like that. In fact, they had an advantage over a guy that had started in on a rotary. He knew more things, he could do more things, like splicing cable and things like that, that a rotary guy never learned. There was no object in it. For that reason, in fact, a lot of those cable tool guys, in fact all of them that I knew, switched over to rotaries. Sure, they maybe went out and roughnecked for a while on a rotary rig but just the same, they knew what was going on.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

JW: One of the other people I guess you knew fairly well down in Turner Valley was Charlie Stalnacher.

CM: He was a shooter.

JW: That's right.

CM: A glycerine shooter.

JW: I wonder if you could talk a little bit about him and glycerine shooting?

CM: Charlie, I think Charlie started in the oil business in West Virginia, back in that country and then he drifted west, like everybody else. He come into Wyoming and I don't know when he started shooting but that's when I first met Charlie Stalnacher, was in Wyoming. Then when I came up to Shelby, up to Keevan Sunburst, there was a shooter up there, Danny Walters. They had this glycerine stored down in a dugout, out in a coulee, out of Shelby. Danny went out there one morning for some reason or other and that thing blew up and killed him, blew him all to pieces. In fact, they only found small pieces of him. That's one of the worst explosives there is, is glycerine. That's when Charlie came up to Shelby. Of course, I'd known him in Wyoming and he came up to take this Danny Walters job in Shelby there. Charlie used to make his own glycerine. Glycerine is safe if it's handled properly, and clean. They have a big vat that they'd dump this crude glycerine into and they wash it you see, and wash all the impurities out of it. Charlie made his own glycerine. He even flew glycerine up into this country with a plane. But when we lived in Turner Valley, Charlie used to come out to our place and he'd drive in, you know, Mary would always feed him. But he just couldn't stop in any place he came to, particularly if he had glycerine. He had to get that off the road, he couldn't just park any place he wanted to. So he would come up and he would stop in at our place because we knew him. Mary would feed him. If I wasn't busy, if he was going to shoot a well out someplace, I'd go out with him. But Charlie was one of the best mixers I ever saw. He'd get ??? and he could walk into any crowd you know, and it wouldn't be long till he was just right at home. Everybody thought that Charlie was hitting the booze but Charlie never took a drink, he couldn't afford to.

JW: No, not in that job.

CM: He would just go along with the crowd, if they were getting tight, Charlie would act like he was getting tight too. That's the way he was. But he just passed away, I told you about him passing away in Shelby. We came in there about 2 weeks after he'd been buried. I inquired about him and this chap told me that he had passed away. He was an old man

when he passed away, I think he was in his 80's. But he'd had a good life and he enjoyed it too.

#034 JW: You mentioned he was a bit of a practical joker.

CM: Yes. He had more gadgets to ??? somebody. I went with him on a job out here on Turner Valley and a Royalite, I forget his name, came along and we'd out and he'd run this shot in this well and he used to run a time bong with it you see and he could set this. Say he was going to run it at 9:00, he could set that to go off at 11:00. He'd run this bong and run this shot in the hole and we were sitting there in the car waiting for it to go off. There was a gopher showed up a short ways off. Charlie went up and he took a piece of string and went around this hole and drug it back and this gopher showed his head up and he. . . Anyway, this clock that he run with this shot was just about 2 or 3 inches square. So he put that gopher in that clock. I can't think of this guy's name, he drove up, Imperial Oil, and Charlie said, we're waiting for the shot to go off, I've got this clock box here, I'll give it to you. So he gave it to this guy and this guy held it in his hand 2 or 3 minutes and he kept fooling around with it, he finally opened it and that gopher jumped out. But he was just that type of guy. In fact, he married a girl from down here at Nobleford. So he was going to take her back east to visit his folks. He came from, I think Pennsylvania or West Virginia. He told this girl, now my mother and sister and all of them, they go barefooted. I'm afraid you're going to have to go barefooted too, he said, they'll feel that you're trying to high tone them or something. So they went and made this trip back east by train. So they were crossing the Ohio River and he said, we'll be home pretty soon, you better take your shoes off. She didn't know whether to hit him in the mouth or take her shoes off you know. But he was just that type, you might get mad at him but it wouldn't last. He lived a full life, Charlie did, he had a lot of fun. It's too bad that he had. . . of course, that's something all of us have got to face you know. But Charlie, I think Charlie was in his 80's when he passed away.

JW: Mary says he was about 88.

CM: In fact, 2 or 3 years ago, he was at the Old-timers Banquet here in Calgary, that's the last time I saw Charlie. And he looked good, there was Charlie, Bill Herron was there, there was quite a few there that I knew. In fact, I always like to go to that where you see people that you won't see any other place you know. I missed this last year, it wasn't because I didn't want to go, I didn't know about it in time, I didn't know about it at all until after it was over.

JW: You mentioned Stalnacher as a nitro man, what other kinds of specialty occupations, were there specialty companies fishing, or down in Turner Valley in the 30's at that time?

CM: Most of these wells, they used to shoot them. That would break up the formation you see. Well, instead of that, they use a sand frac, they've got away from that, that's another improvement I suppose over the glycerine or the shooting of it. They used to shoot all these wells when they were drilled in. If they figured they were producers they'd go in there and they'd put a shot in there and they'd break up the formation you see. That way they would produce better. Instead of doing that nowadays, they're using sand fracs on them.

#078 JW: That's right. Were there specialty fishing companies in the 30's?

CM: I don't think so.

JW: So you would do your own fishing jobs and that sort of thing?

CM: We used to always have fishing tools on the rig you know, and if something happened we'd go right ahead with it. No, there was no special service guys in those days.

JW: Maybe you could talk a little bit about some of the companies that were operating in Turner Valley when you were there in the mid to late 1930's.

CM: There wasn't too many companies in there then. There was Mercury out here, they had a plant out there. And Royalite, they were I guess, the bigger operations. Turner Valley Royalties was promoted by R. A. Brown, he was head of the street railroad in Calgary. And a lawyer from Vulcan over here and Peterson, Billy Peterson was a farmer out Gladys Ridge way out there, they promoted that Turner Valley well. There was a lot of small companies started out there, they'd promote something like that. 2/3 of them didn't make it. Turner Valley was one that did. But even at that, Royalite and Mercury were the 2 bigger companies out there. You take all those wells around what was known as Little Chicago out there, all those wells in there, there's a tall pump jack in there, have you seen that?

JW: Yes.

CM: Those are all Royalite wells in there. But there wasn't. . . there was the odd. . . in fact, up until there 30's there was a lot of small companies promoting wells in there. But they just didn't make it you see.

JW: Would there be some of these companies that, say, you wouldn't want to work for, as opposed to some others? Maybe their equipment wasn't that good and that sort of thing?

CM: Oh no. Pretty near all those companies, at that time it was all good equipment. The only thing is, some of those little companies, you didn't know whether you were going to get paid or not, that was the main thing. And some of them, they'd work on a cash and royalty basis. They'd give you so much cash and so much royalty or so much stock in the outfit. And you didn't know whether you were going to get the cash or not. So it was, you know, kind of pick and choose that way.

JW: Were there ever any attempts that you were aware of to unionize the oil field in Turner Valley?

CM: No. They tried it up at Leduc but they couldn't make it. I remember Tom Wark was with me at the time, and I don't know who else, we were in the beer parlour in Leduc, in that old hotel that blew up. There was a union guy there and he was pumping off a round there and finally Tom Wark said to him, he said, why don't you go on outside and talk to somebody out on the street. This guy kind of got huffy and Tom got up and kind of stretched himself. Of course, Tom's a big man you know. So this guy shut up right away. But no, there was never. . . well, there was no object. They always paid a little bit better than anybody else. And they gave us a cost of living twice a year. So there was no beef coming. In fact, everybody was more or less happy with the way things were operating. In fact, I don't think they're unionized right today are they?

#126 JW: No.

CM: I didn't think so. I never heard anything about it. Of course, that's the reason, they've always been paid a little bit more than others were getting. Sure, maybe they worked harder for it, but just the same, the class of guys that worked all around those drilling rigs, and a lot of them were college men. I've had guys out of college come out and roughneck on a rig. When Leduc first started I even had one chap there, he came out of a tailor shop in Edmonton and started roughnecking. I remember this day very well, he'd only been on his job a day or two and it was raining. We had to make a trip, we had to have a new bit in. So when we got this trip made the water was running out of the seat of that boy's pants and he didn't show up the next day. They would just come and go that fast you see. They just didn't realize what they were getting into. But that kind of money was, you know. . .

JW: Pretty attractive.

CM: Fascinating.

JW: What kind of medical services were available in Turner Valley when you were down there?

CM: Turner Valley hospital was operating over there. There was 2 doctors in Black Diamond. Landers that everybody thought a lot of and I think they deserve a lot of credit for staying out in a place like that and doing the things they did do. Now we had some friends, they had a couple of youngsters born in that hospital in Turner Valley and I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't probably get as good attention and service as you would in Calgary at that time. Oh no, there was no kick about the medical service out there. I was working up Flat Creek one winter and it was cold up there and I froze my feet. I come in, my toes got sore and I come in and I went down to see Landers and they were turning black. Landers said, I'm sorry, You should have come in a week ago, I could have done something for You but you're going to have to suffer it out now. I had to sleep on my stomach and leave my toes down over the mattress like that and all my toenails come off.

JW: You didn't lose your toes though.

CM: It's a wonder I didn't get blood poisonings though. But I didn't, I was healthy and everything. Landers, they deserve a lot, they gave a lot of service. You know, they were accessible any time you wanted them. They did a lot for Turner Valley. When you look back, sure we had hardships out there but we didn't know any different and we just put up with it is what it amounted to.

JW: So they're only hardships in retrospect, in hindsight?

CM: A lot of them, yes. But people were used to it you know, and they were a different breed of cats. They weren't used to any different, they were used to just doing the best they could where they were and with what they had is what it amounted to.

#170 JW: You worked for Drilling Contractors for awhile didn't you?

CM: I went to work for them in '43 and worked for them until '55. Then New Superior was their production end of Drilling Contractors, New Superior belonged to Drilling Contractors. Then I switched over to New Superior as a field man on production you see. They sent me up to Rocky Mountain House, they were developing stuff up there.

JW: Did you know Ralph Will?

CM: Oh yes, I worked for old Ralph. I worked for Drilling Contractors in the valley.

JW: That's right. What kind of a fellow was he to work for?

CM: Ralph was, we didn't see too much of Ralph. He'd come in now and then but he was field superintendent and then he had pushers underneath him. That's when I first got acquainted with Cody. He was working for Drilling Contractors. Ralph would come around now and then and he'd probably pinch you with that old crippled finger of his you know, when you wasn't looking or something like that. But he was their field superintendent and then he had pushers underneath him. There was Red McLaren, Big Red and Little Red they called them and Cody was one of their pushers. I don't know, they had different ones. But they'd have maybe one or two wells to look after but Ralph was over all. Oh no, Ralph was a good man but we didn't see too much of him, we didn't come in contact too much with Ralph.

JW: The Conservation Board came in in about '38 I guess, did that have an impact on your job?

CM: The Conservation Board came in before that. Jack Spratt used to work for the Conservation Board. I was at Coutts in '33 and we drilled some ??? wells out west of Coutts, Red Coulee, they called it. We'd drill a well down to production, then we had to let it sit so long. That's where I first saw this Jack Spratt. He would come down there and test those wells. He'd come out to the rig and they'd leave that well sit for so many hours and then run a bailer and see how much fluid was in the hole. That was in '33. So I don't know just when the Conservation Board . . . But I know that they were operating then and Jack was with the Conservation Board.

JW: All right.

CM: He's gone now isn't he?

JW: Yes. There was a bit of a downturn in the business around 1940 or so, wasn't there, in the 40's, things slowed down a little bit again?

CM: There was slow periods at different times you know. That's when I went up to Vermillion, in '40. I'd been working for Anglo-Canadian out in, we was working on those Home wells up in the north end. It kind of slowed up and I had a chance to go up to Vermillion. So I spent the summer up at Vermillion. They drilled a lot of wells out there east of Vermillion. They drilled them with rotaries and set the production pipe. Then we went in there with sputters and drilled those wells in for them. We'd drill them in and put them on production. I spent the summer up there.

#222 JW: Was that much of an oilfield up there, like Turner Valley?

CM: No. It's a small field and it's heavy oil. It's just like soap. It will come out, it's just so thick it won't hardly run. It's heavy oil. But it's a small field. I forget what they called it out there, a few miles east of Vermillion.

JW: When did you get on with GP then?

CM: I went to work for GP in '43, when I come down from Vermillion. They had a cable tool rig and they'd drilled a well up Flat Creek. So when I came down from Vermillion in '43 I went up for them on that Flat Creek job. Then we drilled a well up at Savannah Creek.

JW: Was Gene Denton with them, and Al Wright and some of those?

CM: GP, their first rotary I think, was up at Vermillion. Then they bought a little steam rig that, I don't know where it had been operating, down Foremost or someplace, and that was the rig that went in the ground up there at Atlantic 3. That little steam rig. But they had these 2 rigs operating and that's when I came down and went to work for. . . well, I went to work for GP in '43.

JW: Were you aware of War Time Oils?

CM: No. No, I went to work for GP in '43, that's when they first started and I worked for them, the first well I worked on was out at Roxanna. They took over and they put a rotary in that job out there. I worked there that winter and then in the spring, they drilled a well down east of Vulcan. That's when I started drilling for GP. Then we came from there, back to Leduc.

JW: So Leduc had come in by that time. Do you remember when Imperial hit oil at Leduc, what your reaction was?

CM: '36, I don't remember it, I didn't work there till '37 but they hit oil the winter of '35, '36.

#265 JW: '46.

CM: Yes, '46, instead of '36.

JW: Do you remember when that Leduc well came in. I mean, was it in the news or a big event?

CM: No, I wasn't there at that time, no. But that Atlantic well, McMahon's promoted that Atlantic well. We drilled that first Atlantic 1 and it was a good producer. I remember we drilled that and when we first opened it a line run out in the flare pit and Frank McMahon was up there. He was wearing an old slouch hat that was probably worse than any hat I had. When that well started flowing out in the pit he pulled that old hat off and sailed it out in that pit. He said, I guess I can afford to buy a new hat. Then we drilled over, moved over on that second well, Atlantic 2. Then Mary and I went east that winter. We left in December and when we got back Atlantic 3 had blown out. Cody didn't tell me that when I went back up. He said, you go back up and go to work on that same rig. When I got up there and run into that mess, I wouldn't have gone if I'd have known the mess that they were in up there. But I was up there so I stayed. Oh, that was a regular ???, it was the worst mess I ever. . .in fact, it's just lucky that there wasn't a lot of men burned up there, is what it amounts to. That thing geysered, and there was little geysers out, 5, 6 hundred feet, would pop up in the ground you know, just little fellows. All the rigs around was shut down. Everything was shut down because it was so dangerous. All the trucks in the country was hauling oil out of there, it was producing so much oil that they had to get rid of it. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if some of it didn't go into the river anyway. No, it was a regular powder keg. It's just lucky that somebody didn't get killed there.

#308 JW: What did they have you doing, when did you show up at Atlantic 3, when did you arrive?

CM: March. We came back. . .well, the weather was pretty good, we got home here, about the

1<sup>st</sup> of March wasn't it Mary. And the weather was pretty so I decided I should go to work so I went into Calgary, to the office. Cody told me, he said, you go back up there on that same rig. That's the rig I had been working on, that's the little steam rig. And that's the rig, they lost it in the ground up there when that thing blew out, cratered.

JW: It's still in there probably. So you went out, what did they have you doing then, what did you do out there?

CM: Well, I went back as a driller on that rig you see.

JW: But it was blowing out.

CM: Well, we still run tower??? on it. We was doing everything they could to stop it. We worked on that old rig till it got so bad they decided to drill these directional wells. Well, then we moved in on the west there and on the south. Drilled 2 directional holes in to that old well.

End of tape.

## Tape 2 Side 2

JW: Who was working on the Atlantic 3 then, when you came back from your holiday?

CM: A lot of them are gone now. Bill Murray was there, Blackie Macdonald, they're both dead. Turkey Knight. That's funny, they built a dyke around that well. The toilet, the little house was put on the outside of this dyke. Of course, we were supposed to discard all of our matches and everything before we went in there to work on that well. So Turkey Knight, I forget what his name is. . .

JW: Harry.

CM: Harry. Had to go to the toilet. So he crossed this dyke and went out and sat down in this toilet and I guess he decided he'd have a smoke. Well, there was gas all underneath there and it blew Turkey out of there. He came out of there with his pants down around his legs, singed his back end. But there were so many little things like that happened you know. It kind of broke the monotony.

JW: Were you involved when Turkey got his nickname?

CM: No. The next time Turkey was at Drayton Valley. He was over there.

JW: He had a garage there, a gas station.

CM: I don't know, I think he was putting in foundations for pump jacks and things over there. I don't know what, he was kind of subcontractor for somebody.

JW: Anyway, on Atlantic 3 then, had Tip Maroney and Charlie Visser come out yet, were they there at that time.

CM: They were operating up there, they had a lease just opposite there. I suppose, I don't know, they figured that they were more capable of handling the job than anyone else so they turned everything over to them.

JW: What did you think about that. Lloyd Stafford was there wasn't he, and he was pretty good, and Cody, what did they think of the Board giving that work to Imperial?

CM: There was no animosity or anything amongst anyone. Everybody was just doing the best they could. Sure, they did things there that we all knew wouldn't work but still, we had to go along with it you know. We pumped everything into that well, from chicken feathers

to oats and things like that, figuring they would swell up you see. And these feathers, we would mix them up in a big tank you know, in with mud and pump those in. There was thousands and thousands of barrels of different things pumped into that well. So finally, after it caught fire, they just had to start. . .well, they killed it with water is what happened. They rigged up these pumps and they pumped, I forget how many thousands of gallons of water an hour into that well. Well, I imagine that would soften up the formation and cause it to cave in you see.

JW: Was it water or acid they pumped down?

CM: Water. They put pumps down on the Saskatchewan River. Then they compounded pumps up on top and they pumped thousands and thousands of gallons of water into that hole. It was just straight water.

JW: Were you there when Myron Kinley was there?

CM: Yes.

JW: Did you meet Myron Kinley at all?

CM: Yes.

#038 JW: He didn't have much of a role with that did he?

CM: He was, I don't know, they did the best they could I guess. But it broke out in so many places you know, it was just hard to handle is what it amounts to. Oh yes, he was up there, I don't know, Boots. . .I think there's an outfit, they call themselves Boots and Coots now. Red Adair, he was up there, he was just a young fellow then. Red Adair was Kinley's son-in-law. I guess that's how he got into the thing. But he was up on that you know. But I think it was just, they hadn't run into anything like that before. And there was nothing there. . .you see, it cratered around that pipe and it was so big, it was different from this little job down here at Claresholm you see. That's just a rupture of a well head there and all they had to do was get another one on top of that to shut that off. But this up there was a different deal.

JW: Why do you think it blew? What caused it and why did it happen, Atlantic 3?

CM: I was told, I wasn't there when it happened, I was told that they lost circulation. They decided the driller would just go ahead and drill dry in there you see, and for that reason they drilled into that gas cap and there was nothing on top to hold it in. I was told that's the way it happened, I don't know. But that sounds reasonable.

JW: What kind of fellow was Tip Maroney when he was out there?

CM: Very nice guy. I think he's still around, he's a very nice guy. And Charlie Visser, there wasn't none better than Charlie was. I knew Charlie, I first got acquainted with Charlie out in Turner Valley. They were drilling a well right across, the next location, from Turner Valley Royalties at the same time we were drilling on Turner Valley Royalties. They had a nice water well over at their well. It was rotary rig. So one morning I went over there to get a jug of water, drinking water from them and I went in to the rig, I don't know, sometime after midnight. Charlie was the driller, he was wide awake but all these roughnecks were strung out, they were all asleep on the floor there, in the doghouse. That's the first time I run into Charlie Visser. Then I run into him different times, different wells I was on. But then, up there, we were directly under Charlie you see, and

Tip. They were both very good, there was no animosity or anything like that. Everybody was trying to do the best they could and naturally, we were doing what they told us to do. Which very seldom worked out until we drilled these directional wells.

JW: Did you know Ben Quartey, the Australian driller?

CM: No.

#074 JW: After Atlantic 3, did that change drilling techniques or the way people thought about drilling in reefs and that sort of thing?

CM: I don't think so, no. I think that was just a man-made boner is what I think about it. Sure, you can always profit by those things but I don't think that changed anything. I was back in Leduc, I drilled on another well up there. I went up there, after that deal up there at Atlantic, then GP drilled a well up here at Aldersyde, I forget who it was for. I come down on that job because we had a home and my wife was here in High River. Then I went back to Atlantic and then that summer, we went out west, out Stony Plains way for Texaco. I spent the summer out there. That fall we came back to west of Leduc there and we worked there a couple of wells and that winter we went out to Redwater. Then GP had bought another rig and they were going up the Peace River for Shell. There was a young fellow by the name of Alf Addison, he was slated to go up Peace River on that well and he came to me and he said, I'm going to get married this summer and I hate to go up there. Would you go up in my stead so that's how I come to go to Peace River. So I spent the summer in Peace River.

End of tape.

### Tape 3 Side 1

JW: My name is Jim Wood and this is my second interview with Mr. Carl Moore in High River, Alberta. This is tape 3 side 1. Okay, Carl, as I was leaving last time, Mary mentioned that when you heard of a wildcat well you were ready to head out with your bedroll and go follow it. Is that the way it was?

CM: Yes. A person forgets so many things that goes on over the years. I was just thinking, I was out in Saskatchewan in '34, well, that's been 50 years ago. So that is pretty hard to believe that time gets away the way it does.

JW: Maybe you could talk about the pace of activity at Leduc during the late 1940's.

CM: The 40's. Well, in the 40's we were in Turner Valley. I had been working for Anglo-Canadian. Things were kind of quiet so I went to Vermillion. Those little wells out around Vermillion there had been drilled with rotary and they wanted to drill them in with sputters. So I spent the summer up there. We came back to the valley in '44. Then we went up to Flat Creek for Anglo-Canadian, I drilled a well up at Flat Creek. We went, the spring of '45, we went to Pincher Creek, out on Mill Creek, west of Pincher. We stayed down there that summer, '44 to the spring of '45. Then I went out Keystone Valley, north of Cochrane, in '45 and I was out there from '45 to '47. Then I went to work for GP, General Petroleum took that well over there and put a rotary in it. We drilled originally with cable tools. Then the spring of '47 we went down to Patricia and drilled a well down

there, a gas well. That's when I first met Spi Langston.

JW: Oh really, what was he doing down there?

CM: He came down, he was supervising this and building tanks and getting ready to put this well on production. Then when that was finished up, I went for GP, from there to Foremost. There had been a lot of wells, I think Montana Power drilled a lot of gas wells down there. Some of them hadn't proved successful so they decided they'd use a sputter to finish these wells off with. So they brought a sputter up from Cutbank, Montana, I think it belonged to Bob Lee. I was down there 2 or 3 months I guess and then I came back. That was when Leduc first started. So I went back, you know, it was GP out at Leduc. Then I stayed up there, well doing that Atlantic. We drilled Atlantic 1. We drilled a well across the coulee for Birch and it was a dry hole then we moved on to the Atlantic lease. We drilled Atlantic 1 and finished that and moved on to Atlantic 2. Then my wife and I went east for the Christmas time and we stayed till the next spring. When I came home, that's when Atlantic 3 had blown in. So I went back up on that job and stayed there until it was controlled. Then we came from there to Aldersyde up here, drilled a well at Aldersyde.

#048 JW: So you didn't stay at Leduc then, did you, after Atlantic 3?

CM: No, I left there. The reason I did, GP was drilling this well at Aldersyde and we had this home here in High River. So I thought I'd be at home, which we were. That winter we stayed here in High River and drove to Aldersyde. When that well was finished, that was a dry hole, we went from there to Stony Plains.

JW: Back up by Edmonton then.

CM: Yes. We spent the summer there, that fall we came down to Calmar. I drilled a couple of wells at Calmar and that winter we went to Redwater.

JW: During that time was it difficult to get supplies and equipment for drilling operations?

CM: No.

JW: Casing problems or anything like that?

CM: No, no problems.

JW: Because there were shortages at Leduc. They had been described.

CM: Well, I don't know. You didn't depend on too much, you did with what you had. Nowadays, something comes up, they order in special equipment and things like that but otherwise, on those rigs, we had our own fishing tools out there. If we had a fishing job we went after it, we didn't have to wait till some service company come in to do the fishing for us. Things have improved, no doubt, but we depended on what we had and we did ourselves. Now mind you, I won't say that it was a better idea. There's experts to do those things nowadays, but in those days you looked at the cost of it. I don't know, I think it's going to come back to those days too.

JW: I think it already has, or they're starting to. Were there, with the boom in the drilling business in the late 1940's did the quality of people change with lots of new hiring and new roughnecks?

CM: There were a lot of green hands that had to be broken in. A lot of them would stick it out and others wouldn't. So many of them, they thought, there's big money to be made and

they didn't realize the labour that was attached to that. Some of them, they'd make good. In fact, the best labourers we got in those days come from the farms. They were used to working and they would work and they would stick it out. They needed a job and they needed the money. But that was the best help we could get, was boys off the farms.

JW: Did it create any problems for you?

CM: Oh no. You got along, everybody cooperated you know. If we got a green hand we'd help him out, help him to do things, show him how to do things. And it wouldn't be long till he would catch on and he could do just as much as the experienced man would. Maybe in a month or two time he had to do the same thing with someone else, help them along.

JW: What was the activity at Redwater?

CM: There was a lot of activity out there when I went out there that winter and there was a lot of drilling going on. Living conditions weren't too good.

#088 JW: Where were you living there?

CM: The company furnished us bunkhouses to stay in and we had to eat in the restaurants and whatnot. Of course, road conditions weren't too good, getting back and forth to work. So it was a problem but we put up with it, we were used to it you know. I stayed out there that winter and then I went from there, GP was sending a rig up to Peace River country for Shell, so I went up on that job and spent the summer up in Peace River. It was a very nice summer, I enjoyed it up there.

JW: What was your position by this time, with General Petroleum?

CM: I was drilling.

JW: At Peace River, was that the Tangent well that you were drilling up there, what they called the Tangent well?

CM: No, that was. . . it was about 12 miles out of Fairview. The first well we got quite a little oil in it and then we moved on the second well, it was getting on into October. So GP was buying a new rig and I was transferred back to Leduc that fall. We came back to Leduc and rigged this new rig up out east of Leduc.

JW: How had Leduc changed, this was the fall of 1950, did you notice many changes at Leduc from 1947, '48?

CM: Oh yes, there were a lot of changes. Leduc was a small place and there wasn't too much accommodations around it you know. It don't take very long to build up a little town. From the looks of those pictures I showed you there out around Turner Valley you know, you'd be surprised how many little homes were built around a settlement. Take up there at Hartel. When we lived in Calgary I was staying at the Mercury plant. We decided we'd try to find a place to stay and we lived over a store in Hartel, a little store. We lived there the winter of '37. The spring of '38 we built a little place of our own. There was possibly, I would say there were 20 little cottages around there at Hartel at that time. There was 2 stores, there was a boarding house, garage, pool hall and post office. It was quite a village, you had pretty near anything you needed. Sure, on a long change everybody would head for Calgary. Naturally, they liked to get away for a change. These little gas blow-outs, like they had down here at Claresholm this summer, we had gas wells

surrounding us out there at Hartel. There was never a time that you couldn't smell that sulphur gas. I just won't buy that idea how dangerous it is. And I don't think it ever hurt any of us down there so I just can't go for that. You know, it's like everything else, anything that comes up there's always a protest. Which is people's privilege I guess. A lot of it is kind of far-fetched.

#136 JW: Through the late 1940's and into 1950, I guess General Petroleums was really growing wasn't it?

CM: General Petroleums was formed with Spencer, there was a lawyer in Calgary, I forget his name. They formed General Petroleums. That's when I went to work for them, was in '43. In fact, I went up to Vermillion and we finished a well or two up there. Then I came back that fall and I was still working for General Petroleums. I continued working for General Petroleums right on through.

JW: How many rigs did they have in 1943, do you recall?

CM: They had a little sputter and 2 drilling rigs. They weren't very big at that time. But they knew what was going on, they knew how to do things and they could see that there was a chance for them. So they went from there. General Petroleums was a very good operating company. Naturally when times started. . .they started out with steam rigs. Then when the power rigs come in they started switching over to power rigs you see. I don't know how many rigs they wound up with.

[Mary speaking in the background]

CM: GP was a growing company, a young company, they were mostly younger men in the company. They were a good company to work for, they treated their men right.

JW: I understand they were a fairly innovative company, they were the first to get a good First Aid program and that sort of thing.

CM: I don't know, we all took First Aid, I have First Aid certificates around here some place. Once a year we had our First Aid classes. In fact, if we took First Aid we got, I think it was 15% on our wages, which was an incentive you know. Sure we had accidents but who doesn't have accidents, even nowadays. There's more accidents on farms than there are around the oil industry.

[Mary in the background]

JW: That's what I understood, they were a real. . .

CM: No, GP was a good company to work for. They used to give us a bonus at Christmas time. Well, that only amounted to a big blow-out or a lot of guys would go out and get tight on that kind of money and it didn't do them any good. Well, they changed that into a pension fund, which was a very good idea. A lot of guys, they built up quite a good pension by the time of retirement. I didn't go in on it right to begin with. To begin with you could put in 5% of your wages or you could put in 15%. Then after I switched over to production for New Superior which was a branch, General Petroleums owned New Superior, then I started putting 15% in this pension fund. Which amounts to quite a bit.

#188 JW: A lot of guys, around 1950, Tom Wark for example, and many, many others, when there was so much work, went out on their own. Did you ever have that inclination?

CM: That's right. At Leduc Tom Wark went in to partnership with a chap by the name of Patterson. Then when Drayton Valley opened up, they were operating out in Drayton Valley. I was sent over there with New Superior, they bought leases over there. We had to clean leases, build roads and one thing and another. So I contacted Tom because I'd known him, I'd worked with him before you see. They did a lot of work for us over in Drayton Valley.

JW: Did you ever yourself, get the urge to start up your own business?

CM: No, no. I don't know why, I never did. Different ones would try it and some of them would make it, some of them wouldn't make it. You get in a routine, I was making a good living, we were getting along all right so I don't know, I just never had that urge.

JW: You mentioned General Petroleums started out with steam rigs and then went over to power rigs. What was the difference from your point of view, was steam better or power rigs better?

CM: Power rigs were, I suppose, more economical. A steam rig you had 3 boilers on it and you had to have a fireman to look after those boilers. And you had to rustle fuel for the boilers. If you were where you could get gas, fine, if not you maybe had to burn oil, maybe you had to burn diesel fuel. So the power rigs were an advantage over the steam rigs. Another thing, on a power rig, when you got ready to move you could move faster. You didn't have as much tear down as you would on a steam rig. You lay your jackknife derrick down and move it altogether over to a new location. And you could raise it up again you see. The old steam rigs, there was a lot more work attached to it.

JW: You mentioned jackknife rigs, I wonder if you could just talk about the changes in drilling technology through that time period.

CM: A jackknife rig is one where you lay the derrick down. In fact, I have some pictures someplace, I'll look them up but I don't know where they are. But shoot, you could move probably in 24 hrs. Where otherwise you had to tear everything apart, you had to move the boilers, you had to set them up again. You had to make all your connections and run steam lines here and there. Otherwise, with your power rig you had all that in one unit that you moved altogether. So you could set her back up and be drilling again before you could even get moved with the other rig. Oh no, they had very much advantage over the old steam rigs. And they were easier to operate. You didn't have so much equipment around is what it amounted to, and what you had was compact.

#237 JW: Any other major kind of changes like that?

CM: I don't know. No doubt, they've made a lot of changes in the last years, since I've been around a rig. I wouldn't know. But I've lost all interest in them. I used to, if there was one around the country anyplace that I heard of, I'd go out and visit with them but I don't do that anymore. Sure, I think about those things and I see different ones. I see pick-up trucks with different names on them that I recognize. Occasionally I'll run into somebody that I knew before. Otherwise I don't think about it at all.

JW: Did you ever encounter attempts to unionize the oil industry, do you remember anybody coming in to try to organize?

CM: They did, they tried to organize when Leduc was going up there. But there was no

incentive for a person to join a union at that time. We were all making better than average wage and they gave us a cost of living, every 6 months on top of our wages. If the living went up they gave us a cost of living that covered that you see. So there was no object in a union. In fact, I don't think today that there's a union in the oil field.

JW: Who was trying to start that up, do you remember?

CM: No, I don't.

JW: You got promoted to field supervisor in charge of production, when did that take place?

CM: That took place in '55.

JW: So that was after Drayton Valley a little bit?

CM: Oh yes.

JW: I wonder if you could just talk about the activities in Drayton Valley, I hear that was a real madhouse?

CM: That was the worst madhouse I'd ever seen. I said before, there was more going on out there than anyplace I'd ever been and you could get less done. There were so many companies in there and they was all trying to, well, I suppose they had a date set that they had to get this done or that done. The supply companies and different companies that was operating out there would be working for one company and another company would go over and try to hire them away from them. And that's the way it went. We started a battery up there. Got it levelled off, got the tanks seal out and got the bottoms laid. The next day I went out there and there were no tank builders there. They were working for St. Clair. So that's the way it went, you just, you know, it was a regular rat race is what it amounted to. And the roads were poor, they hadn't built any roads you know. Well, I went up there in January. They in March the frost went out of the ground and the road bans came on. We were more or less stymied there you see. But you had to clear the leases, build the roads, move in. These 3 leases we had, we drilled 4 wells on each lease. We drilled 12 wells up there that summer. We had our own rig up there, we had a little rig of our own and then we had 2 other rigs drilling for us. But we drilled those 12 wells that summer up there and put them on production.

#298 JW: Who were you working for, who were you drilling for?

CM: That was for General Petroleum, it was New Superior Oils. They developed these leases and then after they got them going good, they sold them. I don't know who bought them. But New Superior developed those leases. They'd had a lease over there before, I forget the number or section but they'd had a lease up there that had 4 wells already drilled on it. Then we drilled 12 more wells, that gave them 16 wells in there. Then later, after I left there, they sold the whole works. I don't even know who bought it.

JW: You did some directional drilling up there too, didn't you, along the river?

CM: Yes. We drilled 3 holes in 100' there. We drilled a well to the southwest and we moved 50' and drilled a straight hole on this lease that we were sitting on. We moved another 50' and we drilled a well off to the southeast again. We drilled 3 wells right there from that one location.

JW: Was that fairly innovative, or had directional drilling been going on for awhile?

CM: Well, that's the first, the first directional drilling I'd worked on was in Leduc, when that

Atlantic went, we drilled 2 directional wells into that well. That was the first directional well I worked on. Then Drayton Valley over there, that was. . . it was all on the same system you know. We had a supervisor that supervised this directional drilling, he was on the job night and day. He was the supervisor, he engineered the whole deal.

JW: Okay, I'm going to turn the tape over here.

Tape 3 Side 2

JW: Was directional drilling at that time, still fairly a new concept?

CM: I don't think so. It might have been new up in this part of the country but I don't think so. I don't know just. . . but as I said, there at Leduc, on that Atlantic was the first directional drilling that I'd ever come in contact with.

JW: Do you remember who was drilling those directional wells there at Drayton Valley?

CM: Dominion Drilling, I don't know, I think that was Cody Spencer's brother. I think they drilled those 3 directional wells there.

JW: What was your job in Drayton Valley then, as field supervisor of production, what kinds of things were you. . .?

CM: I had to rustle all the material for these wells. To begin with, we had to build roads for the leases, then we had pipes shipped in, I had to rustle all that stuff. I never spent such a summer in my life as I did up there. It was just run here, run there, and get this and get that. Sure, we got along and we did a lot of work up there but everything kind of came in bunches. I think I mentioned once before all the pipe was shipped in at one time and it landed up there when the road bans were on. Well, we had to unload that stuff to get away from ???, on the railroad, so we just piled her all up along the tracks you see. Then when the road bans was lifted we trucked that pipe and tubing out to the different locations where we were going to use it. It took a lot of work and a lot of running around to do those things. Then we'd drill a well, we'd drill 4 of these wells on a lease, then we'd build a central battery. Then we'd have to run flow lines into this battery from all 4 of these wells. We drilled one well up there right in the muskeg, just as swampy as it could be. So a few hundred yards up there was a high spot so we got cats and a bucket and we hauled clay down and dumped on the muskeg. We dumped about 2, 3 feet of clay on top of that and then we set a rig in on top of that clay and that would hold it up out of that muskeg. But you could go out a hundred feet from that rig and you could feel the vibration. But those things, it just, you know, it was a new country and there was a lot of swampy country up in there to get over. I saw roads built up there, particularly one road that Imperial Oil built into a lease, they built it in the winter time when the frost was on the ground. It was a beautiful road, they built it straight into this lease. Then when the frost went out that thing just flattened out. They had to do it all over again. You just did the best you could.

#035 JW: Where were you living there at that time?

CM: We had a trailer up there. I mentioned we moved a trailer up there from Rocky Mountains House. My wife was up there that summer and we lived in this trailer.

JW: You had a little problem didn't you, coming down from Rocky and you just ended up . . .

CM: Oh yes, they was supposed to come and get this trailer to move it over there and we loaded up and took off. It was in January and we got over to Drayton Valley and we couldn't get into the hotel. Well, the trailer didn't show up till the next day. We moved it out to the lease, I mentioned GP had one lease out there, they had a guy living out there that looked after these wells. So we moved out to that lease and set up our trailer there and then I could commute from there out to these other leases.

JW: Did you ever encounter oil well scouts, did you have problems with them at Drayton Valley or other places?

CM: No. I've known about scouts for years, before the booms ever started up in this country. But we had no problem with them. In fact, you take in Drayton Valley and most of those wells, they were open holes, no one cared whether they got information or not. There were so many different companies drilling, there were so many wells drilling. They didn't have tight holes in those days. Most of these scouts were on wildcat wells. I never did, in fact, I knew some fellows, I knew they were scouts but they were nice kind of fellows to visit with you know. But I was never anyplace where there were any problems with them.

JW: You mentioned that in those days, they didn't have tight holes, when did that come in, that kind of security?

CM: I don't know really, when it did come in. It didn't until. . .you know, there was never any tight holes, only on wildcat wells. I never even heard of a scout around Turner Valley. No doubt they were out there but I don't know. The companies were keeping track but to my knowledge, I wouldn't say, but I think anyone could go in and search the records and find out what a certain well was doing or what they had done. Now that's my opinion, I don't know. I imagine the Conservation Board have all those records and I think you could go in there and view those if you wanted to. That's my opinion, I don't know.

JW: So General Petroleum didn't have a policy about anything like that?

CM: No. Beside those wells, that's the first wells that I'd worked on up there, was at Rocky Mountain House for General Petroleums, then we went over to Drayton Valley. Then I came back to Rocky Mountain House, then I came from there down to Sundre, from which I quit, where I retired. But I'd worked previous on wells for General Petroleums on contract jobs. But to my knowledge there was never any scouts around them, as far as I know.

#072 JW: When you got moved up to field supervisor and so forth, did you have occasion to encounter equipment salesmen and did you have to deal with equipment salesmen?

CM: Oh yes, they visited us regular.

JW: Maybe you could just talk about the different selling techniques that you encountered?

CM: We mostly dealt with Oilwell Supply. I knew some of those boys, I can't recall their names, but they would call around periodically or else if we needed something, if it wasn't too big, we'd call in and they'd deliver it to us. Then we had Haliburton's did most of our cement work. They usually, like in Rocky Mountain House they had a man stationed in Rocky Mountain House that did the cementing you see. Well, naturally we were going to get the closest guy to us. Up in Peace River country, Tom Wark has a

brother Bob and Bob was working for Haliburton up there. He was doing the drill stem testing and he was doing all the cement work up there. I've seen Bob come out and sleep, he had a little car and he'd drive out to the lease if a job was coming up and he'd be there maybe, 6 or 8 or 10 hours ahead of when you expected to do this job and Bob would sleep in that little old car there. Maybe all night long. He'd get up in the morning when the sun came up and stretch himself and he was ready for the day. But all those fellows, they were cooperative and they were nice guys to get along with. I think Bob lives in Edmonton now, I haven't seen him in quite awhile. I see Tom occasionally. In fact, Tom has a brother lives here in High River, he comes down here quite often. No, those Oilwell Supply guys, they were all nice kind of guys. Well, it stood them in hand to be. But pretty near anything we needed, as I said, if it was a small object they'd bring it out to us. Otherwise we'd go in and get it. We had no problems that way.

JW: You never got trips to Hawaii or free dinners or that sort of thing, you weren't courted that way by those guys?

CM: Oh no.

JW: That went on though, didn't it?

CM: Yes. No, most of those fellows, they'd remember you at Christmas time or something like that you know, but otherwise. . .well, you did the same thing with other people that you knew, come in contact with you know. But there was never anything big.

JW: You went on up to Sundre then, didn't you, or on down to Sundre after Drayton Valley?

CM: GP had these leases in Sundre. In fact, they had 2 wells that they'd drilled there. They were, I think, sub-leases from Hudson Bay. So when I came to Sundre in '58, the fall of '58, we came down to Sundre and we lived in a trailer in Sundre the winter of '58 and 9 and I drove north up to Garrington. We drilled 7 wells around Sundre there, around Garrington. Then in '59 GP, not General Petroleum's but their company, sold out to Hudson Bay. Hudson Bay had some leases in there that they'd begun drilling. So New Superior sold out to Hudson Bay. But these leases originally, were Hudson Bay leases. They were farm outs is what it amounted to.

#124 JW: Those were sour gas wells up there, weren't they, at Sundre?

CM: No, that's sweet gas up there. Same way at Rocky Mountain House, that was sweet gas up there. In fact, we used the gas in the camp and I forget what the name of the stuff is we had to put in that gas so we could smell it. We had a little lubricator that we put on the gas line you see, and crack that and it would just drip so much in there all the time. We had to put that in that gas, that was all sweet gas up in that country. There's no sour gas.

JW: What happened to you then, when New Superior was sold to Hudson Bay?

CM: We had left here in '58 and we rented our house. Then in '59 we sold out, well, we came back here in the spring of '60. There was a porch on the back end there, we tore that off and built that kitchen on back there, put a basement underneath it. Well, we spent that summer getting things kind of shaped up around here you know. Then I decided that maybe I should go to work. So I went in to Calgary and different companies that I knew, men I knew and they convinced me that I was too old to work. I'm not sorry that they did. We've got along pretty good since then, we haven't had any illness, we've had a lot of

nice trips. We went to 2 World's Fair, we went to the World Series in Baltimore one year. So our retirement has been good, until the last year or so. Naturally, things creep up on you the older you get.

JW: I wonder if you could just talk about some of the outstanding people that you had the opportunity to work with. Maybe people like Vern Tillison or Lloyd Stafford, Jim Irwin, Cody Spencer, ??? some of these people.

CM: Well, when Spencer, they organized General Petroleums, and up at Leduc there, well, Stafford worked for General Petroleums during that spring when they had that blow-out on Atlantic there. Naturally, Cody was up there all the time. Not all the time but he was there periodically. Al Wright was field superintendent then. But Tom Wark worked on that job, well, later, when it got kind of out of hand they turned the operation over to Charlie Visser and Tip Maroney. They supervised that job then. When we were drilling these directional wells, you know, before that we'd pumped everything imaginable into that well trying to kill it. Then eventually, I think they acidized it and it caught fire. That's when we started pumping water into it. In fact, why they acidized it, this directional well that we drilled was a little off, we didn't exactly hit the old hole and they figured they'd acidize and break into it. That's when it caught fire. Then they set up this battery of pumps and pumped, I forget how many thousand gallons of water an hour into that well. My opinion is that this water softened the formation, it caved it in. I worked with a lot of mighty fine guys. In fact, the majority of them are good guys. There was a different type of. . . in fact, I've seen a lot of college men out roughnecking on wells. You know, they wanted to do something, they wanted to earn a living. And in the early days there wasn't too many opportunities, like there are today. But most of them were all fine guy. You'd run across the odd guy that was hard to get along with but there were very few of them. I don't know, it just seemed like it was that way from the first year that I worked in the oil fields. Most all the guys you came in contact were nice kind of guys. You often wondered, or I did, whether those guys, they came from good families, maybe eastern Canada or the States, and I often wondered what happened to them, what became of them. You know, in a few years time you lose track of people and you just wonder what's happened to them.

#195 JW: Who were the most influential in your career?

CM: I think Cody Spencer was about the. . . That's my opinion. I met a lot of guys, I met different guys, superintendents of different companies, you know, managers or general superintendents but I think Cody Spencer was one of the best. I made a lot of friends in the oil patch and I still have a lot of friends. I had a friend visit me this summer from Montana. He and I worked together in the early 20's.

JW: Who was that Carl?

CM: A guy by the name of Peckinpah, he's a rancher down out of Levista, Montana. He's retired now and he's done very well. I knew he and his wife before they were ever married. They only had one son and then he grew up and married and he had 2 sons. Then about 5 years ago this chap's wife passed away. They had a nice home in Livingstone, so he'd started buying some property out north of Livingstone about 20 miles and stocking it

with good cattle and he's done very well down there. He's a man now, 80 yrs. old and he's retired but he's still quite active. He goes where he wants to, when he wants to. He has one grandson there in Livingstone in the garage business and another that's in the U.S. Navy. I think he's stationed in San Diego, CA. Then his son lives about 20 miles from where his father lives. But we had quite a visit this summer. You know, we reminisced about things, like when we went to work you know, there was lots of work but there was lots of men. They weren't very, there was no big pay in those days. You got your board and room, and you did your own laundry. But you were used to those kind of things you know.

#236 JW: What do you think might have been the highlight of your career, looking back on it?

CM: I really don't know. I think when I first started drilling. I'd worked hard you know, and I'd dressed tools and run myself to death and one thing and another and I think the first drilling job I had was a highlight. Really, the highlight is, I guess, when I got married. A lot of times my wife don't think that but I think that was it. We've seen a lot of bad times and we've seen some good times. I think the good times overshadows the bad times. We've done just about as we please. We never was in debt so we've had a pretty good life considering. We had no family.

JW: Can you recall that first experience of when you went drilling?

CM: I went drilling out at Moose Dome, west of Calgary, Moose Oils.

JW: Right, can you recall how that felt at that time when you got that job?

CM: There was no radical change or anything like that. I knew what was going on and a lot of times you would, if you'd be working on a job, well, you ate your lunch, you didn't shut down for lunch. Okay, maybe you'd eat your lunch and the driller, he'd go sit down to eat his lunch, well something had to be done, you did it. Sure, he was there all the time and he could see you wasn't going to do the wrong thing but that way you knew what was coming up. When I went drilling I knew all about it you see. It was nothing new to me, instead I just switched jobs with the driller, that was the only difference there was.

JW: Maybe we're about ready to finish up here then Carl, is there anything you'd like to add?

CM: I don't think so. Only that, like I said, I've worked with a lot of fine people. In fact, there are very little bad characters I ever ran into in the oil field. The majority of them are all nice kind of fellows and they would help each other any way they could. Someone had hard luck, well, you helped him out. I don't know how many hard luck fellows that I've helped bury. Someone like, I had a friend in Calgary and he walked down the street and he went into the old Dominion bar I guess you'd call it. You went in the door and here was an offsetting area, a big round table in there. He walked in there and set down in this chair and the fellow that was the bartender or the waiter, noticed him there and he went over to him and by golly, he died right there in that chair. The poor old fellow had no family or anything like that so everybody chipped in and buried him, you know, paid his burying expenses. Well, he was one and another one, Red Yeager, I chipped in on his burial. There were so many that way you know, and there was no trouble. Anyone that was in hard luck hit them or anything like that, you'd help them out. There were so

many people that you would run into. Maybe if you were working some other guy wasn't working. Well, you'd run into him, he was down on his luck, well, you'd give him a few dollars. The majority of them, in fact, pretty near all of them, the minute they got a job someplace they'd always return it, they'd pay you back. There was that kind of a fraternity around the oil patch. And I wouldn't be surprised if it isn't just about as good as any class of people there are. Now that's my opinion. But they were all good fellows and as I say, there were very few bad people around the oilfields, to my knowledge. I never run into them.

#310 JW: They probably got weeded out pretty quick anyway.

CM: Yes, they wouldn't stick. There's a lot of fine guys, awfully nice guys around the oilfield. In fact, you've probably run into a lot of them around Calgary there. Tom Wark is one of them, there was no better guy in the world than Tom Wark is. Tom would do anything he could for you. There's just any number of them, there's Lloyd Stafford, there's Spi Langston and all those fellows. There's Hughey Leeper in there. Did you ever run into Cal Boehme?

JW: No, I haven't.

CM: Well, he's in there, I forget who he's with. He and his brother came from up at Vermillion, that's where we first ran into them. I went up there to work and Mary came up there and she decided she'd stay. So Mr. Boehme had a second hand store. She went over and got a couple of knives and forks and a skillet and I think she spent about 3 ½ dollars and we set up housekeeping. Rented a place you know, people made do with what they had or what they had to do. But we spent a good summer up there. I was working all the time. We'd carry a gun with us in the car and we'd shoot, in the fall of the year we'd shoot ducks and partridge along the road going and coming from work. But we spent a good summer up there that year. Those Boehme boys, they were sons of this old fellow up there. Well then, the younger boy had worked on a rig someplace. Well then, Atlantic they come down there and went to work on that well. Then when I came to Aldersyde up here, those 2 boys came down with me, they were working for me. I had a crew of 4 guys and only 1 of them was 21 yrs. old. Christmas come along, the company used to give us a turkey for Christmas. I got my turkey and those boys, they got a turkey apiece. They was all batching, they weren't batching, they had a motel down here and were eating in the restaurant. So they brought their turkeys up her to Mary. Mary cooked 2 turkeys for Christmas and those boys come up here at Christmas time and we had a drink or two. They were all polished up, white shirts and ties you know, they were nice looking boys all of them. And they cleaned up those 2 turkeys. So Mary said, I'll cook 2 more turkey for New Year's. So they had gone out on New Year's Eve on a party or something and when they showed up for New Year's they weren't very hungry. But that's the way we spent Christmas and New Year's.

JW: I'm going to run out of tape here.

