

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Jean Morris

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: March 28th, 1993

Side 1 - 46:46

[00:00:06] AK: Today is Sunday, March the 28th and 1993. I'm Aubrey Kerr and I'm in the home of Jean Morris. And your address is Number 44, 1815 Varsity Estates Drive Northwest and it's a real pleasure to be with you Jean after, as you said, all these months and years and trying to get some of our story together, and I'd like to start off with asking you your birthplace and when you were born.

JM: I was born in Vancouver on March the 10th and 1920 and lived there all my life and met Rod going to ???

AK: Right in Vancouver?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Yeah before he could get away.

JM: Yes, you bet.

AK: All right, let's back up and get Rod's birthday, and also where he was born.

JM: He was born in Edmonton, Alberta and his birthday was March the 25th, 1918.

AK: Right, and just tell us a little bit of how he ended up in Vancouver.

JM: Well through his father's failing health, they had to go to California. I think was for about five years, and when his health, when he didn't get better, they decided to come back and live in Vancouver. And then his father, and I really don't know how he got involved in the oil business, and he was the Accountant for Maple Leaf Oils.

AK: Oh, yeah, that was a subsidiary of one of the larger oil companies.

JM: I think so and then I remember Rod telling me about his dad taking him to the Turner Valley Oilfields with him when they made trips down there.

AK: Oh, so it was necessary for Rod's father to go to Turner Valley, was it?

JM: On occasions, I think probably in connection with this accounting business he was in, in connection with Maple Leaf Oils.

AK: Yes, because that's probably where his father got gasoline products from. They probably shipped them.

JM: No, this was a just an oil company.

AK: Yeah.

JM: Maple Leaf.

AK: It wasn't marketing?

JM: No, no, no.

AK: Oh, I see.

JM: It was an exploration company.

AK: Oh, I see. Right, that's important.

JM: Yeah, and I think that's where Rod got his foot into the oil business. He fell in love with it immediately and he was always going to be a geologist from then on.

AK: Was that even before he went to university?

JM: Yes, yes, he knew what he was going to do.

AK: Isn't that wonderful, because so many people don't know what they're going to do.

JM: But he had his mind made up right then and there. And then he's got one brother who's a mining engineer, Gordon. Another brother was an electrical engineer, and then Rod was a geologist and Fred never went to university. And that was a sad thing, you know, he was in that automobile accident.

AK: Yes, right.

JM: And then Pete was very ambitious. He didn't have a degree, but he discovered, ah, developed the Sample Boy.

AK: Right.

JM: For the rigs, and it was very successful.

AK: Yes.

JM: But Pete's not enjoying very good health. He's about maybe ten years younger than I am and he, this past year, he had what they thought was a flu and he didn't bother looking into it because he had an appointment with the doctor. Am I given you too many details?

AK: Well, we can maybe shorten it out.

JM: Yeah. And he started to swell up, legs and everything.

AK: Edema.

JM: And they've had to put them on special drugs, ???, and they did a lot of research and things with it, but...

[00:04:34] AK: Well, let's get back to Rod's early days in Vancouver. His father must have had some, given some leadership to the all these boys to encourage them to go on and get degrees.

JM: He was a great father, a great dad and they had a great mother too. She was a wonderful woman and she supported them.

AK: She was a pusher was she in her own way?

JM: Oh yeah.

AK: So that, so the family stuck together, and...

JM: A real good family, good, good family.

AK: Right. And so when Rod was going to university what kind of summer work did he have? Do you know, like going out, did he work for the Geological Survey?

JM: No. No, he didn't do anything like that. In fact, he worked for one of my brothers who was head of one of the departments of the American Can Company, scrubbing tin plate. Lucky to have a job in those days.

AK: Right, in those days, it was thin.

JM: And then I think after that he began to get summer jobs with maybe Imperial or something, like I know he came down and was in Moose Jaw one summer.

AK: Oh was he?

JM: Yeah, and I think...

AK: As a summer student?

JM: Yeah, and I think he even worked part-time in a jam factory.

AK: This job in Moose Jaw, would that be with Cam Sproule?

JM: Yes, right.

AK: Okay, S-P-R-O-U-L-E.

JM: Yeah, right.

AK: And that must have been in the early '40s?

JM: Right.

AK: Did he talk very much about that about that? About that session note there in Moose Jaw?

JM: Yeah, I think he enjoyed it. I think he enjoyed it, was his first stepping stone.

AK: Right.

JM: And, if I remember correctly there was something about him and those ??? He kind of maybe started a little trend towards them with some of his fieldwork.

AK: Is that right?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Okay, now do you recall the circumstances under which Rod got his first job, the day after he graduated, the day after you got married. Had he been interviewed and accepted by Imperial or do you know?

JM: Well, he worked that summer before with Imperial and I think he was invited back for the next summer. And then he told me he'd be graduating, so I think that's how it all started.

AK: Yeah. Do you have any idea of what his starting salary was?

JM: I think it was a sum of about \$65 a month.

AK: Right. Plus, I think there was some expenses.

JM: Oh, yes, when we were out in the field, we got field amounts.

AK: Yeah, and you had to turn in your expense account.

JM: Oh right, everything.

AK: You remember anything about those expense accounts?

JM: I remember liver was 10 cents a pound because I had a cat and you had to pay for that. And I think a pint of milk was a nickel, and somewhere in this is at that time, and if I can find it all give it to you. Unreal.

AK: Yes. Did you ever, did either you or Rod smoke at that time?

JM: He smoked. I never did.

AK: No. Did he ever put cigarettes on the expense account?

JM: No, he was the most honorable man you could ever wish to meet.

AK: Is that right?

JM: He wouldn't, he said, no and that was it. In fact, I saw a company here, and I'm not going to mention any names, he sent his expense account in, and this girl that was looking after them, she won't send it back. She said to him, "Rod, put some more expenses on that, that's not enough. It's ridiculous, you make everybody else look as if they're cheating."

AK: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I had the other way around because this fellow that worked for Imperial, he was the, he was the accounts manager and he was pretty tough. His name was, oh it'll come to me. Anyways, let's, let's get into Maple Creek. What was going on in Maple Creek?

[00:09:14] JM: He was doing surface drilling.

AK: And who, who was his boss? Would it be Fred Keller?

JM: Yes, that's it.

AK: Fred.

JM: Yeah, and Glenn Fox was in the ???

AK: You know, Glenn with two "N's".

JM: Yeah.

AK: And they were they were both doing this auger work. Yeah, and Rod was introduced to the mysteries of...

JM: Oh yes. He really liked that, you know.

AK: And, and what were your living quarters?

JM: Tent!

AK: Your tent or an Imperial tent?

JM: Our own tent.

AK: Were you taking it with you?

JM: No, we bought it down there?

AK: Oh, you bought it down there?

JM: Because, we found... we bought a house once but we found that they were pretty hard to come onto and try and get some accommodations, we'd just get a tent and that's what we did, and we had a Winnipeg couch that you pulled out. My furniture was orange boxes.

AK: That's right and cut across the side.

JM: And I had a Coleman camp stool with chickens and he befriended a lot of the people in the area. A lot of them wanted him to drill water wells for them because water was a problem. And of course, if he did that, the whole bunch of us were invited to their place for Sunday dinner, and they always sent you home with a whole raft of stuff, you know.

AK: Isn't that wonderful? Hospitality, those people didn't have very much in money, but they had tremendous...

JM: Heart.

AK: Tremendous heart, yeah.

JM: Yeah, wonderful wonderful people.

AK: Yeah. Well, this, this job went on with the augers, but what happened when the snow started to fly?

JM: Well that first year we came back and he got his, part of his Master's Degree.

AK: Oh, you came back? Oh, I see.

JM: And then we went to...

AK: Where was that? At UBC also?

JM: Yeah.

AK: What was he going to write on? What was his thesis?

JM: Oh dear, I don't remember I don't know. He just went back for the one year and I think he got really fed up with school.

AK: Yeah, but then he, then you, you went right back to with Imperial.

JM: Yeah, and then he went out on the rigs, you see.

AK: Now was that the first year he... that'd be '44.

JM: '44, yeah.

AK: Now was that with Charlie Visser and uh...

JM: That was at Winfield, Charlie Visser.

AK: Oh, I thought he, didn't he, didn't he sit on any wells in Saskatchewan?

JM: Nope. No.

AK: In '44, I don't think that's right. Winfield didn't start till about '47.

JM: Now let me think. Maybe I am...

AK: I thought he was on the Prairies with, uh, he was, he was sitting on wells with Stan Harding and some of those other people.

JM: He was doing field work with Stan Harding.

AK: Right.

JM: Around ???, I'm trying to think of the name of the place, but that was field work he was doing with Stan Harding, but I don't think he sat on wells with Stan Harding, not to my knowledge.

AK: Well, you see there was a bunch of dry holes that were drilled by Imperial.

JM: Oh, yeah.

AK: In Saskatchewan, and I was sure that he was on some of those.

JM: Have you any...

AK: They were scattered all over the place. Davidson and down in Ceylon and, you know, different places in...

JM: Now there was a well he was on at, right near the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border. What's the name of that place? And we stayed in the hotel there.

AK: My understanding was that he was out there on a couple of those, those holes because there was a very, real comical story told about a trick that he played on one of the Roughnecks.

JM: What was the story?

AK: About planting of ...

JM: Oyster shells.

AK: Well, no, it was worse than that. It was a French safe.

JM: *(laughter)*

AK: With spoiled milk, and he put it in a sandwich. And this Roughneck bit, now whether it was Rod or not, it was somebody.

JM: Sounds like it could be him.

AK: Oh, I tell ya, but it was my impression that was... that Rod wasn't above pulling these kinds of ...

JM: Oh, heavens, no, no.

AK: No, he's always pulling...

JM: Yeah. See now you might be right about him being on wells because it's coming back to me now. When I was in Moose Jaw, I lost a baby, and I didn't go in the field for a while with him. And now that you mention it he was on a well when I, this happened and he came back in but I can't remember whereabouts he was.

AK: Well, he was, the way I... was living with you maybe in a granary out there somewhere

JM: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

AK: That that wouldn't be out of line, would it?

JM: Oh no, we just lived in anything you could find. We always got the worst place because we were the last ones to go in.

AK: The Roughnecks got there. They go over the ????

JM: Yeah, like at Redwater everything was gone. So we ended up at Opal.

[00:14:57] AK: Right. Well, let's go back. Let's go back a bit now. This is the interesting part, before he came to Alberta, who was his boss then?

JM: Cam Sproule I think.

AK: Yeah, Cam was running, he had an office in Moose Jaw.

JM: Yes, right.

AK: Did Rod ever get mixed up with the geophysical bunch with Clare Hurry?

JM: No.

AK: Or know any of those others?

JM: No, no, not to my knowledge. I mean I've heard of their names but I don't think he was.

AK: Okay, the, the Winfield Hole ??? (tape seems to have skipped ahead) a long time.

JM: I think we were there a year practically.

AK: Yeah, and, and where did you live when you were at Winfield?

JM: We lived out in the country, now just maybe a block from the well location.

AK: Just could walk eh?

JM: And the couple that owned the house, she was Scottish, and he was a farmer in some way or other, he'd gone to Scotland and brought her back and this house that we lived in, you had to get down to look out the windows and it was, hadn't been lived in for years. So before I came, Rod got building paper and lined the inside of it.

AK: Oh, there was no insulation or?

JM: Well, it was just a log cabin, you know?

AK: Oh, yeah.

JM: And you could hear the mice running between the logs in the paper.

AK: Well, were you the sole occupants of this?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Oh, by that time how many children did you have?

JM: One.

AK: And who was Rod reporting to when he was on Winfield? You remember?

JM: No.

AK: Might have been Keller. Keller moved over to Edmonton, you see.

JM: I thought he...

AK: Well, that's okay. Now the tool push was Finn Linem?

JM: Yes. Finn Linem, yeah.

AK: Well, this must have been, by this time this was after Leduc then wasn't it?

JM: When was the Leduc's discovered?

AK: '47.

JM: Or was it before Leduc?

AK: Millet, remember Kavanagh?

JM: Oh right. Yeah, had that, yes.

AK: That was before Redwater.

JM: Right, yeah.

AK: And by that time Leduc had been discovered. You know that for Eyot Lake.

JM: Yeah.

AK: That's E-Y-O-T. And that was a deep test.

JM: Right, yeah, they were there a long time too.

AK: You were there too. Yeah, I think Finn was pushing tools there.

JM: Yes, and we had our own trailer that Rod had built.

AK: Oh, that's where you lived in that case.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Where did you park it? Right at the rig?

JM: No, he was never in favor of the family close to a rig, he always kind of kept you away from it.

AK: That's a good idea.

JM: Yeah, I think there was sort of like a trailer court there, not far off the highway and I think that's where we had it.

AK: And that was probably at Kavanagh or Millet?

JM: It was in Millet.

AK: There were some of the other people like...

JM: Julian & Wynn Green.

AK: And the Gables.

JM: The Gables, yeah,

AK: Elmer and Evelyn.

JM: Evelyn, yeah.

AK: He was, he was a mechanic.

JM: Right.

AK: Yeah, did you know much about them?

JM: No, I have never heard anything about them for years and years.

AK: And what about Dale?? and Carrie? Did they have their own, they had their own shack?

JM: They had their own shack, yeah, and I don't think she was with them a lot. And I think sometimes she stayed behind at that time everybody was building these shacks that they put on the flatbeds of???

AK: What about Doug Gamble? You remember much about him?

JM: No, I didn't know too much about him.

AK: In other words you didn't get to know too many of the Roughnecks.

JM: No, he kind of kept his family away from that sort of...

AK: Right.

JM: He always said things got too complicated, so maybe he was right you know?

[00:19:35] AK: By that time, what kind of a salary was he making?

JM: Oh, probably around 400 and something a month.

AK: Yeah.

JM: You know it went up pretty quick like, once it started.

AK: Yeah, right.

JM: Yeah, but we always got field allowance as you know. And you were never really, you, you did really well. We, we always managed to save most of our salary, you know, because you're allowed to... and there was nowhere to go. The only things we did was go to these wedding dances.

AK: Did you have, did you have your own or a company car? What did you have, a car or a pickup?

JM: A pickup truck.

[00:20:16] AK: Yeah, right. Okay. Now when Eyot Lake was winding up and they were abandoning it. What was the first indication that you were going to this place called Redwater?

JM: Gee, I don't remember, Aubrey, too much. You know, he would just come home and say we're going to move and that would be it. He was really kind of a, he didn't talk business too much. He was quite, not secretive, but he just didn't think that maybe women should know about these sort of things. He never discussed very much, yeah.

AK: Okay, but you did hear that you were going to go to Redwater. Well then, when you and Rod arrived at Redwater all the places were gone.

JM: Yes.

AK: And do you remember the McAskills looking for a place?

JM: I knew of them, but I didn't know they were looking for a place.

AK: They got a place up in Radway.

JM: Oh did they? Oh, that's right. Yeah, that's right too, yeah.

AK: They couldn't get a place. So, you, how did you find, how did you find out about Opal?

JM: I think he just went snooping and found it. Somebody might have mentioned something to him, anyway, and we got this big old house that was there and had an upstairs was off the front room. Just one great big room.

AK: Upstairs?

JM: And, no, on the main floor, and then there was sort of... to the side there was stairs up where there was a bedroom, and then beyond this big room there was a doorway and then it was sort of like a shed at the back. And cold. You wouldn't believe it.

AK: What kind of heating did you have?

JM: Pot-bellied stove.

AK: It would be cherry red all the time?

JM: Oh yes,

AK: And get fire with wood?

JM: No, coal.

AK: Oh, you got coal?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Where would they get the coal?

JM: From the rig.

AK: Oh, I see.

JM: And it was that kind that, what you had to get up and poke it all the time because it will sort of gel, you know

AK: And yeah get into clinkers.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Yeah, that's the word, "clinkers".

JM: And then when we are at Redwater, it was the one of the worst winters I ever remember and he used to get out of bed at night every two hours and let that truck run for an hour. Then he'd get back into bed again for another two hours and then out again, and he did that for I don't know how long.

AK: Because there was no plug-in, no, no electricity.

JM: No, we had coal lamps.

AK: Now, at Opal you obviously had outdoor plumbing.

JM: Right.

AK: No bathroom.

JM: No, no.

AK: You take your bath in a tin tub?

JM: Bathtub? Yeah.

AK: Yeah, right. And what kind of rent did you pay for that place?

JM: I think \$25 a month or \$20 a month, something like that.

AK: And you remember who you rented it from?

JM: No, I don't remember who we rented it from, but eventually Imperial put a phone in when the oil came.

AK: Oh, is that right?

JM: Oh yes.

AK: Into your house?

JM: Into our house.

AK: Okay. So you stayed did you, did you stay the first winter in Opal?

JM: Yeah.

AK: And then it was the following winter that you moved to Redwater? Did you move into...

JM: No I never lived in Redwater, never lived in Redwater.

AK: Well, what, what about this getting up in the middle of the night and starting the truck?

JM: That was at Opal.

AK: Oh, that was always at Opal.

JM: Yeah.

AK: So, so Rod and you never lived in Redwater

JM: Never, never lived in Redwater.

[00:24:22] AK: And you, you kept renting this place in in Opal? Now when, when you were there, when oil was finally hit, what was Rod's reaction?

JM: Delight. I think he couldn't believe it. You know, they were just so excited and he never came home and never came home and never phoned, and I couldn't figure out what this was all about and then eventually word begin to drift that oil had been, I think probably maybe on the radio or something like that, and then eventually he came home and he was just exhausted.

AK: Yeah, right. Well, there was some pretty good parties that night.

JM: Yes, I think so.

AK: Yeah, I think that was part of it from what I hear from Doug. So this was Rod's first well really.

JM: Right.

AK: He never had any...

[00:25:15] AK: Okay I've forgotten about Crossfield. Now Crossfield occurred in 1945-46. So that maybe where Rod spent quite a bit of his time after he left Saskatchewan?

JM: Probably, yeah.

AK: Where you out there with him at Crossfield?

JM: Oh yeah. I had a trailer. I had a little old trailer that we had gotten in, oh I forget where he bought it, and it was parked in a garage. There used to be a garage with a row of cabins in Crossfield right off the highway.

AK: That was the old highway.

JM: Yeah, and that was where the trailer was.

AK: Now, okay, Rod didn't bring many things back with them. Did he ever talk to you about the fact that that could have been a well? That Crossfield could've been a well?

JM: I think he kind of questioned a lot of what went on there.

AK: Yeah, it wasn't properly tested. Maybe this is where he started to get tuned up about his thorough well sitting work.

JM: And it was thorough.

AK: Yeah right. Now another thing just did you ever hear him talk about George Cloakey?

JM: Yes, he lived up in Mount Royal, I remember that.

AK: Yeah, well now Cloakey had an interest in this.

JM: He was a promoter.

AK: Yeah. Did he say very much about Cloakey?

JM: Not too much, not too much.

AK: What about Art Mewburn?

JM: No don't remember that name.

AK: M-E-W-B-U-RN. Because Art and George were partners in some kind of a syndicate that had an interest in some of that acreage.

JM: Right. No, I don't remember that name at all. But I do remember the Cloakey name.

AK: Yeah, that's C-L-O-A-K-E-Y.

JM: And I can remember them pulling this stunt there on Rod by putting the oyster shells in the cuttings.

AK: Oh.

JM: Did you ever hear about that?

AK: No tell me about that...

JM: Oh, well, I don't remember too much, but he came home and he was just killin' himself and I said, "What's this all about?" And he said, "Well, they put oyster shells in my samples to get my goat."

AK: Oh, I think he was in some other kind of a formation.

JM: Yeah.

AK: You know, that that occurred in '45 or '46.

JM: Right.

AK: And then he must have, maybe that's when, Winfield started, I don't know, I'd have to dig up the time.

JM: Yeah.

AK: I have all the dates for those wells, when they used to, when they were spotted. Maybe I can correct some of this. Okay, let's get back to Redwater and so the following, well, the first winter wasn't too bad was it? Or was it pretty...

JM: Well it was always cold up there.

AK: Yeah, right.

JM: The house wasn't insulated you know, it was really nippy.

AK: And it was just logs?

JM: No, it was, it was built of wood, you know, slats but it wasn't insulated.

AK: And there was no plastering?

JM: Oh, no, no, no.

AK: Just bare.

JM: Yeah.

AK: And were there stores there that you could buy your groceries?

JM: Two stores. Two stores there.

AK: Yeah, and you'd, you'd, were your children old enough then to go to school?

JM: No, no, my son was only, in fact I left from there to go home and have my daughter.

AK: Oh.

JM: My son was four when she was born. So I left there.

AK: You went back to Vancouver?

JM: I went to Vancouver, yeah.

AK: Well that was a sensible move.

JM: Yeah.

[00:29:37] AK: Okay. Well, then you were away for a while and then...?

JM: I went to Tofield. I came back on the train with my baby to Tofield.

AK: Went to Tofield?

JM: Now this was my son. I'm getting mixed up. This was my son. He'll be 47 this year so that's...

AK: 47, so that's '46.

JM: '46 yeah.

AK: Yeah, so it was '46. That's still before Leduc. And they were looking for gas.

JM: Yeah.

AK: So he was on some of those smaller rigs then?

JM: Yeah. And I'm trying to think of some of the fellows that were on...

AK: Well there was Bill Blain?? was one of the pushes, and...

JM: Right.

AK: And what about George Kirkpatrick?

JM: George?

AK: Kirkpatrick.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Maybe.

JM: I'm trying to think of the name of the fellow that was the push on the Crossfield well.

AK: I couldn't help you on that.

JM: He was married to a Jewish girl. She never went with him. Her name was Dorothy and I'm trying to think what his name was.

AK: But he was Imperial Oil?

JM: Yeah, he was a push on the well.

[00:30:59] AK: Okay, so we're bouncing around here a little bit, but that's okay. Redwater. Did you also leave Opal to have your second child?

JM: Yes. No, no that, yeah, uh-huh.

AK: So you went to Vancouver twice?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Right. And the other thing, I don't know where the timing is on this, but we are trying to find out when Reg Shatford arrived in Redwater. Now, have you any idea when he came?

JM: He was there pretty soon after it started, I think. I think so.

AK: Well, you see the other thing about the timing of all this is that CB ??? approached Rod to have him come to work for Western ??? & Minerals.

JM: Yeah right.

AK: But that's another date that I haven't any idea when...

JM: Yeah.

AK: But it would be in '49? It wasn't long after the discovery.

JM: No. No, it could have been around that.

AK: Yeah. Do you remember much about Reg?

JM: Yes. I knew them quite well, and I knew his wife Thelma. He was in mining before he came up.

AK: I know, he came from Red Lake.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Do you have any idea where he graduated from?

JM: I haven't, I don't, I haven't any idea at all.

AK: We're completely, he's a mystery man to us.

JM: Well, they had a daughter, Donna, you know, and where's she, I don't know where she went after they both died and then...

AK: Yeah, he got killed in a car accident.

JM: Yeah, and she died.

AK: And then she died. Her health was pretty poor.

JM: Yeah, she had a problem too.

AK: Yeah, she had a problem. I remember her coming to see us. Actually I have quite good friends with...

JM: Reg.

AK: With Reg.

JM: Yeah, he was a nice fellow.

AK: Yeah, very quiet, unassuming. He was the academic type.

JM: Right.

AK: Yeah, I just wondered why they sent him up to Redwater? Did Rod ever say anything...

JM: I think just sort of maybe a process to give him an idea of the oil business more than anything.

AK: Because he come right straight from Hard Rock.

JM: Yeah, and then Heck joined at Redwater, and he was, had been in South America with mining.

AK: Right, and then there were others, there was Jack Nesbitt.

JM: Yeah. Gordie Copeland was their secretary.

AK: Well, he was, didn't he cook food and...

JM: He cooked food, then he was their secretary, did the typing and he just was jack-of-all-trades.

AK: Was he a degreed person?

JM: I think he was originally a school teacher.

AK: What about Rod, sorry, what about Bob Kay? You remember him?

JM: Oh, yeah Bob Kay. Yeah, that was a tragedy. He was killed in an automobile accident.

AK: He worked for me on Leduc.

JM: He was a little bit wild but he was a nice kid.

AK: I'll show you that in a little while. The other people there were, there were two other people, Steve Leakley.

JM: Yeah.

AK: And Doug Lavoie.

JM: Doug Lavoie, yeah.

AK: They've both been very helpful to me.

JM: Right, yeah.

AK: But did they all work in that chicken coop together?

JM: Steve Blakely I think was there, but I don't remember Doug Lavoie.

AK: He was about 1951. That was after Rod had left.

JM: Yeah. I don't remember. I know Doug Lavoy.

AK: Yeah.

JM: But I didn't, uh, Doug Lavoie and Rod's brother, Fred, the one that was injured in the automobile...were very good buddies.

AK: Oh were they? Okay, so you haven't got a handle on when Rod went over with Barlow?

JM: No, I don't. I can't...

AK: Did he talk much about the idea of going to Barlow with you?

JM: No, I don't think he was that, and that was with CB Bar was with...

AK: Western Minerals.

JM: Yeah, and which was by...

AK: Blake Harvey.

JM: Eric Harvey, yeah, and he found that that wasn't a very happy relationship.

AK: Who Rod?

JM: Yeah.

AK: But he came to Calgary to work for...

JM: Yeah. And I think CB Barlow was the one that influenced him and when he got into it he saw that he'd gotten into a bit of a mess because one of the Harvey boys was always telling him what to do.

AK: That was Don Harvey.

JM: Yeah, and he didn't have a clue, and of course that rubbed the wrong way.

[00:36:22] AK: Well, it always rubbed the wrong way with Rod, but you see, I'm trying to find out more about Reg and Reg only lasted until about '53 or so and then he went back and of course he got... shortly after he got killed. But when, when this job with CB came along, when did you move to Calgary? Any idea?

JM: After my daughter was born. I went home to have her, and then came back to Calgary to live.

AK: Oh, I see. Yeah, you got off the train at Calgary.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Right, so then you were living in Calgary.

JM: Yeah.

AK: And whereabouts did you live?

JM: 2020 Bowness Road.

AK: Right.

JM: In half a duplex.

AK: Right, now that's not far from Rod's office. Rod had an office there didn't he? Kensington?

JM: Yeah with...

AK: With Bud Koot.

JM: Bud Koot, yeah.

AK: Right. So when did Rod decide to pull the plug with Western?

JM: I think it started with a bit of friction and he just came home one day and said, "I've had it." and that was it, but I can't remember.

AK: Well, it seems to me that he went to work for us for *Osler, Hammond & Nanton* shortly after.

JM: Yeah.

AK: On 8th Avenue because I remember, I remember seeing him in the Western Mineral's office in the Michael Building?

JM: Yeah, that's right.

AK: That's where their office was, right in there with Eric.

JM: Yeah.

AK: And then I remember him in an office way at the back of the *Osler, Hammond & Nanton* office. At the front was the was the Bucket Shop, and

JM: My daughter was just about 6 or 8 months old at that time.

AK: Yeah, but he didn't stay long with OH & N, did he?

JM: No, not too long.

AK: What was what was the idea of going there, to provide advice on...?

JM: He was supposed to be their Oil Consultant? And of course, you know he is opinionated in lots of ways, you know.

AK: I know that.

JM: And if it wasn't being done right he didn't want any part of it.

AK: And he wouldn't mind telling them...

JM: Oh, you better believe it.

AK: Yeah, right. Now, Jean, let's talk a little bit about that company that he got mixed up with, a fella named Bud Russell.

JM: Right.

AK: And what was the purpose of this partnership? Bud Russell was a lawyer. What was the purpose of this company?

JM: Oh, I think just a little oil exploration company that was going to try and put deals together.

AK: I see, and the offices were in the Underwood Block, that's 1300 on First Street Southwest, and that's in where Keith Cullingham...

JM: Was, yeah. Rod got Keith the offices there.

AK: Oh is that right?

JM: Yeah.

AK: Cullingham is spelled C-U-L-L-I-N-G-H-A-M.

JM: Right.

AK: So how long did this partnership go on?

JM: Maybe a year?

AK: And when did Rod first start to get suspicious that this fellow was pulling...

JM: About 10 months after, and people were telling them before that, I knew that, but he, he wasn't convinced.

AK: He had to find out for himself

JM: The hard way as usual.

AK: Yeah. Had he, had he put some money into the company?

JM: Not really, no.

AK: Was it somebody else's money?

JM: I think so, yeah.

AK: But Bud was pulling these stunts on him, eh?

JM: His wife was coming after hours.

AK: Was she fixing the books up so that...

JM: And you know, I think doing a little reporting underhanded and peddling his stuff on the sides.

AK: Oh, so she was a partner in crime?

JM: Yeah, see he worked, this Bud Russel worked for Chevron, I think, and she worked for Chevron, that's where they met.

AK: Oh, I see, yeah. So Rod just dissolved the company...

JM: They dissolved it, yeah, and went their separate ways.

[00:41:32] AK: Yeah, and then do you remember where Rod went to then, after that? Was it Amurex? We have to get the name of Amurex there. Anyways, Amurex was a combination, there was there was some hard rock money in it from, do you remember that from, wasn't there a place in in Idaho where they...

JM: I don't think he ever went down south in connection with it.

AK: No, but I mean that's where some of the...

JM: Money come from.

AK: Money come from.

JM: No, I don't.

AK: Now when did he first try this stunt of giving well sitting courses. Do you remember?

JM: Well during those hard times, we were, we were discussing that...

AK: Yeah, we were yeah, and that was...

JM: Kind of pinned it...

AK: Was it around the late '50s?

JM: Probably, yeah.

AK: Did Rod ever go to work for people like Cam Sproule or those other consultants?

JM: Cam Sproule would send Rod out on sort of like a consulting basis, he said afterwards. Rod... I don't know if I should be saying this, but anyway after Rod found out that he was doing his dirty work for him.

AK: Yeah, yeah, well, that was the way Cam was.

JM: Yeah, if they were having trouble at a well, Rod went out and observed and come back and you know, he just said, if you can't, if you don't realize this what's going on, he says, I don't even need to go up the well.

AK: No, but Cam was a very opinionated person too, but of a different type, and what we're going to do now is we're going to turn the tape over so...

JM: Okay

Side 2 – 36:30

[00:16:56] AK: Okay. Well, there's been a tremendous variety of work that he did. Now maybe we should switch over and talk about Petra Craft, was he involved with...?

JM: No, that was Pete's, but I own it now, my son's running it.

AK: I see and Pete's out of it.

JM: Pete's out of it, yeah.

AK: So you acquired it from Pete.

JM: Yeah. Well, did Rod not have any input into it?

JM: No, and I never should have bought it. Rod wouldn't have... somebody wanted to buy it and Rod said, no don't do it. And then my son wanted it after Rod died, and I bought it for him and that was the biggest mistake I ever made.

AK: Somebody else owned it, did they?

JM: Pete owned it, I bought it off Pete.

AK: Yeah, but I meant before Rod died...

JM: Pete still owned it then.

JM: Yeah, and that's why Rod wouldn't buy it because he knew what was going on.

AK: Oh well, so you've got it. And then your son is running it?

JM: Yeah, and he's struggling.

AK: And your son's name is Harry Rodney Morris the Second. And my grandson is Harry Rodney Morris the Third.

AK: Is that right? Wonderful.

JM: He's 24.

AK: Is that right.

JM: He's 24.

AK: That's your son's son.

JM: Yeah. And he's an actor.

AK: Is he?

JM: Trying, struggling, you know.

[00:18:39] AK: Yeah, right. Okay, now, Rod's death, my understanding was that it was over the weekend, was it?

JM: It was on a Saturday, I got up, and we were going shopping, and he said to me, I don't think I feel very good, I'll stay here for a little while. So I was sitting on the bed talking to him and he went, Ohhhhh. And I said, what, and he said, I got the worst pain. So I said to him, well, we better call the doctor and talk to him and he said no, I'll be all right. That was one of Rod's favorite expressions.

AK: Yeah.

JM: So anyway, this went this went on until about three o'clock in the afternoon, and he said to me, Mom, he said I think you better take me to the hospital, and I said, I'll get an ambulance. No, he says I want you to. We got out to the garage and got in the car and I got sort of, wind down to 17th Avenue and he said to me, and this is 3:00 in the afternoon, he said to me, you better turn on the lights, it's getting dark. So I... and then all of a sudden he fell over on me and I drove into a 7-Eleven store and I sort of pushed him against the door and I get out and I said, we need to get an ambulance. And he died at ten o'clock.

AK: Was that an aneurysm?

JM: Yeah, an aneurysm, right in here.

AK: In the aorta.

JM: Yeah. and Heck died of the same thing. Only his was down here. And Heck and I were only married a month.

[00:20:07] AK: That's what I understand. Yeah. Okay, when Rod died, then where were you living at that time?

JM: In the old place on 26th Avenue, 1932 26th Avenue SW. Not near Nob Hill, you know.

AK: Yeah, yeah, of course you'd left the Bowness thing years ago.

JM: Oh, yes. We bought that house there and my... just shortly after my daughter was born we bought the house and were there 38 years.

AK: Is that right? Well, then you were a widow for how long?

JM: Five years, when I remarried.

AK: You married Heck in '88.

JM: '88, during the Olympics.

AK: Oh, is that right? And had you known Heck up at...?

JM: 45 years I knew Heck, Rod and Heck went to school together.

AK: Oh, did they?

JM: And we double-dated, his wife and I. His wife worked for Crown Life in Vancouver, and I worked for Ken?? Federation Life in Vancouver, we were both in the same building. And we'd come to work in the morning and I'd see this girl, same age as me, going up and down the elevator, you know, and when you see them every day you just sort of say hi. And then Rod come home one night, and phoned me and said we're going out on a double date, and here it was Helen, the one I went up and down the elevators with.

AK: And Rod and heck had known each other, now this was after the war because Heck served in the...

JM: Yeah. He was only, I think a year and he was discharged with flat feet.

AK: Well, he came up to Redwater to work...

JM: When Rod left. Rod was, in fact Heck was at Rod's farewell party and Heck had just come to Redwater.

AK: Do you remember that, can you fix a date for that farewell party, or have you got any idea when he left? '49 I guess.

JM: That sounds about pretty close to... that'd be how many years ago, 40 years ago? Yeah, that sounds about right.

AK: So then did you and Rod keep in touch...

JM: With heck and Helen? Yeah, we did. See, Rod got him the job at Redwater, because he'd come back from South America and didn't have any... Rod got him the job, he said, come, we can get you a job. So he did, and then we saw quite a bit of them. And then they went to Dawson Creek.

AK: Oh, yeah, there was a whole big bunch of Imperial people.

JM: Doug Lavoie, and a whole bunch of them up there. And they were up there, of course, we never seen much of them. They'd come back once in a while and we'd see them. And then Rod... Heck had to retire on account of emphysema, so Rod kind of took him around... had a party for him like he did for you, you know, and introduced him to ???

AK: He was with Imperial all this time.

JM: Yeah. So anyway, he was kind of lonely when he had to retire early, so Rod took him around and introduced him...

AK: I think he worked, I think there was Gary LaCourt??? that he was, he knew.

JM: Yeah.

AK: Did Heck work in Edmonton, or?

JM: Yeah. And he was more a log man.

AK: Yeah, right. I've got a report that he wrote.

JM: Oh, have you?

[00:23:44] AK: Yeah. Now I'm jumping around here. I've got to go back and jump back, and I'll give you this magazine, but can you tell me the circumstances under which Rod hired George Kiyooka. Do you remember?

JM: Well that family, we lived in this big old house as I told you, they lived back of us and...

AK: Oh, right in Opal.

JM: In Opal. And you know, they... sort of like, there was a road went right by their house and to get into ours you had to veer this way. So there was a, we were sort of like on the corner, and their house was here. And these people up there were just existing, and that was all they were doing, just barely existing. So they, George had a young sister named Irene and she became friendly, because on account of my son, she'd come over and play with him and that, she was a little bit older. And they just got talking and he didn't have any work or anything, so Rod had these, needed these sample catchers and that's how he did it, he give him a job. And then next door to us there was a Japanese woman by the name of Mrs. Takenaka, and she was living with a white fellow and his name was Bill Hartley and he got Bill a job there too.

AK: Oh, doing sample washing? And then there was two brothers, Ab and Ken...

JM: Oh, Lonsdale.

AK: Lonsdale. Do you remember them?

JM: Yeah, and they come from Millet didn't they?

AK: They could have, yeah, and one of them married to Royer, and he got killed in a car accident. And then there was one, Ab, who was very handy as a carpenter. Do you remember him? He used to make car boxes???

JM: Yeah.

AK: But George was recognized by Shatford, and Shatford put him to work drawing maps. Did you know that?

JM: No, I didn't, this would have happened...

AK: After Rod left, but Rod got him on his way. And he's retired, well, you'll read the story, because it hits Rod's doings, but I wanted to get your...he'd taken him in to introduce him. Now, do you remember much about ??? the personnel man?

JM: No, I never knew him, never even met him. I heard a lot of... them talking...

AK: What about Bannatyne?

JM: Bannatyne, yeah. Now Rod and Bannatyne were real good friends because he was up at Redwater.

AK: Yeah. He was the first superintendent.

JM: Yeah. I can remember him talking to Rod about being a prisoner of war.

AK: Yeah. He was in the Romanian... yeah, he was...

JM: Yeah, they had a great deal of respect for each other.

AK: Isn't that something.

JM: And they kept in touch when Rod left Redwater and then came back. They kept in touch.

AK: Perhaps you'd like to tell us about the house business, that you sold your house on 26th Avenue...

JM: 26th Avenue, and bought this place

AK: Heck proposed to you and...

JM: Well when Rod died, he and his wife were awfully good to me. They just took me under their wing and just everywhere they went they took me. And they had a pool out where they were, and I used to go out, she'd phone me and say come on out and have a swim. So they were really good friends. And she died very very suddenly, in fact, she didn't come down for breakfast and he always got up early and he went up to see why she wasn't there, on the floor dead.

AK: But what part of town did they live in?

JM: Willow Park.

AK: Oh, down in Willow Park. Yeah, that's what you said. So, that was a shock to him.

JM: Oh, yes. So then, they had been so good to me, I thought well, maybe it's my turn to help him out. So, you know, he said to me would you go for supper with me? And I said, sure, he says I need somebody to talk to. And I said, yeah, I leaned on you guys, my turn. So that was it.

AK: So then you yeah decided to get married.

JM: Yeah, and he said, we're together all the time and we're doing things together and we enjoy each other's company, why not?

AK: Yeah. And this was the time of the Olympics.

JM: Yeah.

AK: So you sold your house and he sold his...

JM: No, he gave his house to his daughter.

AK: And then Heck came up here and bought this.

JM: Yes.

AK: Then he died equally suddenly?

JM: Equally, yeah. We were out... it was April the 5th, and he came home, he'd been to the doctor and he came home and he said well everything's all right, but he said I've got this pain in my back that I can't stop. So the doctor gave me a prescription, he said, I didn't even take time to stop for it, would you go and get them? So I went to Co-op, got them, come back home and I came upstairs and he said, Jean, I don't think I can stand this pain, will you get the doctor? And he had the phone number on the phone down here. So I came down to phone and I said, he's on the line and I heard the phone drop, and then when I went up he was gone. Right up here, in the hallway.

AK: That was a hemorrhage.

JM: Yeah, it hit... yeah.

AK: In the large...

JM: Down in here, you know, this big groin artery down in there. And the back pain was starting up the leaking, you see, the hemorrhage.

AK: Oh yeah, sure.

JM: How he ever got home I'll never know, when I think about it, it's scary.

AK: Right. And that you've been in this...

JM: I've been in here five years. I moved in on February the 11th of '88, and we were married on March the 5th, and he died April 5th. However, you know, you survive, don't you?

AK: Yeah, you have to keep, like I said when I got in here. [00:30:17] I'm getting good stories together of the different people that worked there like Steve Blakely and Jack Nesbitt, now...

JM: Heck was real close to those two fellows.

AK: Yeah, right. There's some good pictures. I'm just trying to think what other... probably when I get this typed up, maybe you could go over it, and...

JM: Oh, certainly, sure.

AK: We'll leave space and then you can add...

JM: Yeah, you know because sometimes something all of a sudden comes to your mind and what I do... you know, what I do when I do this, I write it down because I won't forget it before you get back.

AK: Alzheimer's, yeah.

JM: Oh, I know.

AK: Now, I noticed some pictures up here, are those Heck?

JM: Yeah that's Heck and Rod.

AK: Now, this was pretty early on it at Govenlock???, and Rod was out on auger work and you were in a tent and the proprietor of the hotel needed some help for the hunters that were coming, not Vern Hunter but the hunters. And she made you a proposition.

JM: To... If I would help her out at the hotel, that we, Rod and I could come and live at the hotel and get our meals and our board, room for nothing, if I would help her during this busy season.

AK: That was a pretty good deal.

JM: Oh, certainly it was.

AK: Now, speaking of Hunters, do you remember Vernon ...

JM: Yeah.

AK: Did you have much to do with him?

JM: Oh, no, I did talk to him occasionally.

AK: Now the other thing is that all this time there was a fella named Aubrey Kerr over at Leduc, and I don't seem to remember Rod coming around, now he may have, just did he ever talk about me being at the Leduc?

JM: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I heard him talk about you at Leduc, in fact, I think that's maybe one of the first times I heard about you. And we lived in the AMA Auto Court in Edmonton in a trailer.

AK: Yeah, we lived there for a while too in one of those cabins. They were four square. Maybe that's where we... I don't remember but the point was that Rod never, you know, he was, he was against the Jesus Department, you know...

JM: That's what he called them!

AK: He called them the Jesus Department and therefore he would never have gotten in to a desk job.

JM: Oh no.

AK: He was not a desk job person.

JM: He would have gone mad.

AK: Yeah. Well, I guess that Osler Hammond in Nanton was a good test for him.

JM: Oh, absolutely, absolutely, and that other one, Amurex was another on too, he did oilman there too, and I think he got a fill of that. He had a couple of sessions like that, and he just realized it wasn't for him. But you know, Aubrey, he used to even get fed up in the oil, out in the oil fields, and he'd come back and he'd be away for maybe 3 or 4 months you know, and I went whenever I could to be with him. I'd pack my kids up and I went, and he'd come home and say, I'm never going back, I've had it. I don't want any more of it. Two weeks later. he was just chomping at the bit.

AK: Yeah, that's right. Yeah, well, that was his life. [00:34:05] So your philosophy looking back over the years, this is a question. I ask everybody. What is your philosophy having gone through all this career, his career, and then that very short one with Heck? What was your philosophy.

JM: I would never change anything. I've had a marvelous life. I really... with Rod I had a wonderful life, I couldn't have had a better man. When I married Heck I felt the same way about him too. I'm a fortunate woman to have had two men like...kind, considerate, take care of you.

AK: Right? So your philosophy is one that if you had to do it over again...

JM: Be no questions asked. I'd do it.

AK: Tent and all.

JM: Tent and all. And you know what? It makes me appreciate what I've got now, and I think how lucky I am to have the setup I've got.

AK: That's right and the orange boxes, that was your furniture.

JM: Oh, certainly.

AK: Did you have a measuring cup to drink your tea in, or did you even have a measuring cup?

JM: Oh, I think I probably brought a cup with me of some sort, maybe a tin cup.

AK: Yeah, right.

JM: But I can remember getting this tent and we had this... it wasn't a Winnipeg couch, it was a bed like this, and the back would fold down and it had a mattress come down like this. You could sit on it like a chesterfield.

AK: Yeah, but it would fold up like...

JM: No, no just the back come up, and the back would go down and make a double bed for you. It was just a little bit different and it had this sort of winey chintz mattress on it about this thick, you know?

AK: Oh, Jesus, yeah, about an inch thick.

JM: But it was off the ground at least, you know, you weren't lying on the...

AK: Well, look I want to thank you very much, Jean, for your time. And I think it's been a wonderful experience and for me to get kind of sorted out as to some of the things that Rod did that I'd forgotten about, so I'll say over and out and it's now 3:20 Sunday afternoon. Okay.

End of Interview