

PETROLEUM HISTORY SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: William F. Mugler

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: April 28th, 1993

Side 1 – 45:08

[00:00:04] WM: Well, why don't you... You want to ask questions, or?

AK: Yeah. Well I start it off by saying I'm Aubrey Kerr. Today is Wednesday, April the 28th, 1993. And I'm out here at the Canyon Meadows Golf Club, in the card room, with my old friend Bill Mugler. And I'm very pleased that we're able to get together, Bill. And I wanted to ask you some basic questions first. It's, your full name is William?

WM: William F.

AK: William F Mugler.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Okay. And...

WM: M-U-G-L-E-R.

AK: That's good. I'm glad you spelled it out because it's not a common name.

WM: No.

AK: And where were you born? And in what year?

WM: I was born in Orlando, Oklahoma on April the 20th, 1909.

AK: Right.

WM: The same birthdate as Hitler.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Yeah.

AK: You mean the very day?

WM: April the 20th, yeah.

AK: 19....And he was born...

WM: No, no.

AK: No.

WM: Not '09, just the day.

AK: Gee, what a day to remember, eh?

WM: Yes.

AK: My brothers were born on the, I never thought of that. Now the name Orlando's interesting. Is that a name that was brought up from Florida?

WM: No. No, I don't know where it originated but it's just about, oh, 50 miles north of Oklahoma City, very small town. I actually was born on a farm.

AK: Right.

WM: And my parents were immigrants from Germany.

AK: Right.

WM: And they came over as teenagers in Kansas and then moved down, and my father finally homesteaded in Oklahoma, just outside of the little village of Orlando in the land rush in the ???.

AK: I was going to ask you about that.

WM: Yeah. He homesteaded in that area.

AK: Well, let's just back up a bit. Were both your parents, were they married when they came down to the US?

WM: No.

AK: No, they were, did they meet...?

WM: They met in Kansas.

AK: In the U.S., In Kansas.

WM: Yeah.

AK: And they were...

WM: Then the families moved down then after they (???)

AK: So, they were fairly young when they immigrated to the U.S.

WM: Yeah, they were teenagers. Late, I mean, 9 or 20 something.

AK: Did your father ever say why he wanted to come to the U.S.?

WM: Not really. He was not too talkative, he had higher ambitions, of course than he could achieve in Germany. And in reading some of the old letters that some of my uncles and cousins and everything, still live in Kansas. They were very religious people and they came over just to try to better themselves because the farming... of course, they'd had little small tracts of land, 10 acres would be a big farm, you see.

AK: Right.

WM: And they might have 10 acres here and then 10 acres five miles away.

AK: Yeah, it was all fragmented.

WM: Yes, so they came over here and they were amazed at the amount of land, just...

AK: So, they didn't make any attempt to acquire any land in Kansas.

WM: Oh... Oh, yeah.

AK: They had land.

WM: Oh, yes. They're still living on farms.

AK: No, but I meant your parents. Did your parents acquire...?

WM: Well, my father. My mother, of course, she didn't enter into that.

AK: No.

WM: She was, had sisters and brothers.

AK: Yeah.

WM: But, no my father... see it was all, it was Indian Territory. It wasn't Oklahoma at that time. Indian Territory.

AK: Well I meant Kansas though. Was Kansas Indian Territory?

WM: No, no.

AK: No.

WM: No, Kansas was a state. I mean, it was named. But it, all of the, south of there was Indian Territory, where Oklahoma is now.

[00:05:30] AK: Now just to back up on the history of Oklahoma. Prior to 1909, was there, it was all Indian Territory, was it?

WM: Mm-hmm. I forget when they, when it was made, it was a state. I'll have to give you that later.

AK: Yeah. But were you born when your dad...

WM: I was born on the farm.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And then about two years after that, he moved into Perry, Oklahoma.

AK: I see. So, your father must have acquired this farm as a result of being in the rush.

WM: Oh, yes. Yeah. 160 Acres.

AK: Yeah, well now...

WM: That's what they could homestead.

AK: Yeah, was this the occasion when everybody lined up?

WM: Yeah.

AK: And a gun was fired.

WM: Yep.

AK: And everybody raced off...

WM: Raced off in every sort of vehicle, animal...

AK: Yeah. Now that was a day that was set and publicly announced and...

WM: Yes.

AK: Do you know the date there?

WM: Oh, I got it at home. And I was going to look it up. I thought maybe you'd ask me.

AK: So, your father...

WM: I'll get that and give it to you.

AK: Alright. Your father must have been fleet of foot or did he have a horse?

WM: No, he rode a horse.

AK: Now, did he know where he wanted to go?

WM: He must have, I never did ask him that.

AK: He must have had a kind of an idea.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well, then the idea was when you got to where you wanted, you'd drive stakes in?

WM: You drove a stake in and then went in and registered it.

AK: Registered it, yeah. And hopefully that stake was evidence that you had...

WM: Oh, yes. There were no problems that way, the only problems they had, you know, the name of the Oklahoma University football team or any team...

AK: Sooners?

WM: Sooners.

AK: Yeah.

WM: That name Sooners came from people that sneaked in...

AK: Oh.

WM: And staked a claim before the race. And then when they shot the gun, they just ran over there and registered that one, you see. That's where the name Sooner came from.

AK: That's spelled S-O-O-N-E-R.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Isn't that interesting? But at that time, was Oklahoma surveyed out so that your father would know that he got 160 acres?

WM: Oh yeah. It was...

AK: There was witness posts or monuments?

WM: Yeah. There were, I don't know how many.

AK: No. They must have done some surveying.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well this, all this land had been, as we said Indian Territory.

WM: Mm-hmm.

AK: So, what did you do with the Indians? Did they move over to reservations or...?

WM: Yeah, there were, I don't know how many reservations that were set up for the Indians. But yeah, they were taken care of. How good at that time, I don't know.

AK: No.

WM: Well, I do know that most of them came out good because in Eastern Oklahoma around Seminole and Wewoka, Oklahoma and in through there and the Osage country up in the northeast, all of that was oil country.

AK: Mm-hmm.

WM: And they got all the oil rights.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And even the Seminoles that were sent out, driven out actually from...

AK: Florida.

WM: Florida and North Carolina. There were Indian tribes there that were sent, that was called the Trail of Tears.

AK: Yeah.

WM: Coming out.

AK: Coming up from...

WM: And they were put on this barren country that the government thought, hell, there's nothing there, we'll give that to them. Every bit of that land produced oil.

AK: That was in the Seminole field?

WM: Oh, yeah.

AK: Right. But that that would come later wouldn't it? Or would that...

WM: Oh yeah quite a bit, yeah.

[00:10:08] AK: Okay, the, these reservations, were the oil and gas rights available to non-Indians by some kind of a deal? If you went in there, you couldn't...

WM: No, we had to make deals with the agent in charge of that reservation.

AK: But it was possible to acquire oil and gas rights on Indian land?

WM: Oh yeah.

AK: If you went through the agent.

WM: And drill.

AK: Were there requirements to drill, or did they know enough?

WM: No, they didn't as far as I know.

AK: There were no regulations.

WM: I've never seen any of those old, old documents. I don't know how they were handled.

AK: And then it was 1/8 to the Indian, the...

WM: Yeah. I assume that's what it was. That's where it probably started.

[00:11:08] AK: Right. So, you grew up on this farm. Did your father have any production on his...?

WM: No, we had the oil rights. But no, no production.

AK: Well everybody...

WM: When he moved into the city, he got rid of the land in about a year. Never did like farming.

AK: Oh. That was a means to an end?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Right. And you, had you started your schooling when... no, you would not be ready for school until you moved into town.

WM: No, I wasn't two or three years old then.

AK: Yeah, right.

WM: I couldn't speak, actually I couldn't speak English when we moved into town.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Could only speak German.

AK: Because your family spoke among yourselves in German.

WM: Yeah. And when we moved in, of course, my father went to work in the courthouse, Court clerk assistant. And then he ran for the office and he was, ran that for a long time. Then he later moved in as a cashier of a bank and that's where he retired years and years after that.

AK: Is that right? So, he was a member of the society of the community.

WM: Yes. And as I say, I couldn't speak English yet. The rest of the kids, see there were four girls and three boys.

AK: Yeah.

WM: Large family. I was the next to the youngest. And in the first World War I was, what, 10 or 11, something like that. And we had to give up German all entirely.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And, weren't allowed to speak it.

AK: Was that an order?

WM: Sort of, yeah.

AK: Yeah. Understood you better not.

WM: Understood. Yeah. There was a German newspaper then, that's how many Germans there were.

AK: Oh yeah.

WM: And they even had to stop publishing in German.

AK: So there were restrictions.

WM: By that time, but nobody ever would have guessed it either.

AK: No.

WM: They were too happy to be over here.

AK: Well, that's right. And by that time your father would have got his citizenship.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Yeah. He would be a full citizen. Of course...

WM: But that didn't make any difference...

AK: Then you were a US citizen because you were born...

WM: Oh yeah. All the kids were.

AK: So. Yeah, well there were areas all over North America where there were, right here in Alberta there were a couple of big plots.

WM: Yeah.

[00:14:12] AK: Okay. So, as you went through your school years, what level did you attain in your schooling?

WM: In my schooling? I went through high school and four years of college. I didn't get my degree. I didn't graduate. That was in '31, I guess when I...

AK: What college was that?

WM: Oklahoma University. I went there on an athletic scholarship.

AK: Right.

WM: See at that time, I weighed 225 pounds.

AK: You did?

WM: Yes. I was quite big and always muscular.

AK: And what was your sport?

WM: Football, mostly. I played all of them. Football, baseball, basketball, even wrestled some.

AK: Is that right?

WM: And I graduated from high school in '29 and then went to Oklahoma University and they gave me what they called a scholarship. They were just building the stadium there at Oklahoma University of Norman, Oklahoma.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And I had a job on that for the summer, building that stadium. And it's still in existence.

AK: Was that concrete?

WM: Yes.

AK: Reinforced.

WM: One of the first concrete jobs.

AK: Yeah, because most of them were wooden.

WM: Yeah.

[00:15:54] AK: Well prior to this job, the summer job on this stadium, what were your jobs during the summertime when you were at high school?

WM: Carrying ice. Remember Red Grange?

AK: Yeah.

WM: The Wheaton Iceman?

AK: The Wheat and Ice Men?

WM: Wheaton. W-E-A-T-O... W-H-E-A-T-O-N. Illinois.

AK: Oh, Wheaton, Illinois. Yeah.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Wheaton Iceman.

WM: Yeah. And he carried ice, and he was the star of Illinois University. My God, he was a halfback that you wouldn't believe.

AK: Red Grange, that's right. Yeah.

WM: Yeah, so because he was carrying ice every football player in North America started carrying ice and that's what I did.

AK: And you would put it on your shoulder?

WM: Oh yeah.

AK: What'd that be, a 50-pound...?

WM: Oh, 50, 150 pounds was nothing. I have carried 200 pounds quite often.

AK: Is that right?

WM: It came in 300-pound cakes. And a 300-pound cake was just too much because you had to get too much of it, it's all balance, of course.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And too much of it was over your head, you see, you had to be careful.

AK: Yeah right.

WM: But 200 pounds you could...

AK: You'd do that on your back?

WM: Yeah, carry it.

AK: With a burlap bag holding it?

WM: No, we had leather, thick leather pads that we put on.

AK: Put on the back, right.

WM: Yeah.

AK: And what kind of what kind of money did you get for this?

WM: Oh gosh. Four dollars a... no, yeah. I forget, about two dollars a day.

AK: Right.

WM: And, we, it was all horse-drawn, we had two, in in that little town of Perry. We had two ice wagons.

AK: Well now is this ice artificially made?

WM: Artificial, yeah.

AK: You had an ice plant there.

WM: Yeah.

AK: One of those brine plants probably, yeah.

WM: Yeah. 300-pound cakes and...

AK: And they were out and then you'd lift them up.

WM: Pull them up, yeah.

AK: And did you have those hooks that you...?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well, then you take a fairly large cake. You must have been servicing large refrigerators?

WM: Oh, yeah. We'd start out in the morning and make the business district. The town was built on a square and the one wagon would take the north side and the east side say, and the other wagon would take the west and the south.

AK: Right.

WM: And we'd service the businesses first.

AK: How much would you keep from melting down at the end of the day?

WM: Oh, there was very little shrinkage. Very little.

AK: That's good, eh? Isn't that interesting. And then of course, for smaller fridges you'd have the ice picks...

WM: We had ice picks. We could, we'd score it with our tongs.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And then just...

AK: Then it would split.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Down there. Yeah, and you'd know how much...

WM: We did pretty good. We had scales, but we never used them.

AK: No. Okay. Well, then you spent this summer afterwards building the stadium. And then during your university summers, what kind of jobs did you have then?

WM: Same thing. Carrying ice.

AK: Oh, you went back to the ice again.

WM: Oh yes. Oh sure. I was playing football.

AK: On the Sooners, eh?

WM: Well, I was on the squad. I wasn't a first stringer.

AK: Oh.

WM: I was on the squad...

AK: Well, at least you were...

WM: Oh yeah.

[00:19:53] AK: And when was the first time that you'd heard about the oil and gas business?

WM: Right there at Oklahoma University when they discovered the Oklahoma City Field, which was just 18 miles north of Norman. And we were out, see, I was in ROTC. We all had to take it.

AK: Yeah, right.

WM: ROTC and ours was horse-drawn artillery.

AK: Right.

WM: And we had to do some surveying or, in our classes. That was...

AK: One of the courses, eh?

WM: Yeah. And I remember having a plane table and the wind was blowing and one of the wells in the Oklahoma City Field had gone wild. Something...

AK: Yeah.

WM: Blowout preventer or something, I forget what happened. But the oil was blowing that far down that it got on our plane table. And I remember that.

AK: Right.

WM: That's all I remember about it. But, no I never did, after I got out of school, or quit school after the fourth year, that was the beginning of the depression.

AK: Mm-hmm.

WM: My father had promised me that I would have a job in the bank when I got out of school, but he had to relent on that. He said, we just can't take you.

AK: No, and I guess also a lot of those banks were collapsing.

WM: Yeah.

AK: They were failing.

WM: They were. Not at that particular time. But in a few years.

AK: No, but there was that element of failure.

WM: Oh yes. They were all private banks, you see.

AK: Oh, I know. Local.

WM: Yeah, local. Yeah. And then, you want me to go on from what I did after I got out of school?

AK: Yeah, I'm leading up to when you actually did get in the oil business.

WM: Okay. As I say, I didn't have a job, summer was coming. And even the flour mill, that's the one that, they owned the ice plant too.

AK: Oh yeah.

WM: And at that time there were a few of electric refrigerators coming in.

AK: Ah yeah. They were starting to.

WM: So, there was not that much, I couldn't get a job there, but I didn't care whether I got the job there. But a friend of mine that I had gone to school with, he didn't belong to my fraternity, but we had been friends, he was two years ahead of me in school. He was working for Amerada Petroleum on a seismic crew.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Doing permitting. And he said, do you want to go to work with me, with Amerada? And I said, hell yes. And I said, doing what? And he said, well, probably on the labour gang. I said, what the hell is that? So he told me. It was the auger and dig shot holes, you see. So I went down to Shawnee, Oklahoma, I'll never forget it. And I went out the next morning, went down and a labor truck was there and the men. And he had already made the arrangements for me to go to work, you see. So, we all climbed on this big, fairly big truck, side boards and everything, seats.

AK: What year was this again? '33 was it?

WM: '31.

AK: Oh '31. Right, okay.

WM: Yep. And we went out and finally stopped. And the labour foreman, he was our boss. These were all guys that hadn't gone past the sixth grade.

AK: Yeah, right.

WM: And they looked at me, they thought, oh goddamn, who in the hell is this?

AK: Yeah.

WM: Somebody that... I forget the labour foreman's name now, but somebody that he hadn't hired you see. And he was a little miffed too, you see. So, he came over and he said, your name is Mugler, huh? And I said, yeah. What's your first name? Bill. Bill? Here's, and he handed me the handle of the auger, you know. And I said, okay. He said, now you take this and screw it on this piece of pipe here, 3-foot length of pipe. And I did. And it had an auger on it. And he said, now, you set that at, he said, now here is your partner here. And he introduced him. He said, you put your hand here on this side and here and he will put his here and here on his side. And I said, all right, and then what? He said, get your head down and your ass up and turn to the right.

AK: Yeah.

WM: That's what it was. And that's the only instructions he gave me and we, he said, you're on your own.

AK: Well now how deep did you have to auger?

WM: Some of those we dug 40 feet deep. We had to go try as much as we could to get to water, so, it would tamp the dynamite, you see.

AK: Oh, I see.

WM: And some of those things, digging through gravel, with rocks that big around, you know. Those six-inch augers.

AK: So what size? Six-inch hole?

WM: Six inch.

AK: Oh boy. That's a big hole.

WM: Oh, you're damn right.

AK: That's a lot of dirt.

WM: And 40 feet deep. I'll tell you.

AK: All that muscle that you'd developed put you in good stead.

WM: If it hadn't been for that, I'd have never made it.

AK: No. What about your partner? Did he...

WM: They were all trying their damndest to make me quit, you know.

AK: Oh sure.

WM: They were nice about it. They were just working on it you see.

AK: To see when you...

WM: And I stayed with them and never said one word, you know. But they were the nicest bunch of guys, within a week, hell, no problem.

AK: Everybody's buddies.

WM: Everybody was a buddy.

AK: Right. What kind of money were you getting?

WM: Dour dollars a day.

AK: And what, eight hours or nine hours?

WM: Seven o'clock in the morning 'till sometimes nine o'clock at night. We never said a word.

AK: And none of this was overtime?

WM: No bitching, no overtime. But we had Saturdays and Sundays off.

AK: Right now, this must have been...

WM: But we didn't get paid of course.

AK: This must have been in the days before the shot hole trucks were...

WM: It was. The shot hole... Jerry Young was, he had some rigs for core hole. And they were good sized, you know. And they were doing coring at that time you see. And he got the idea, he thought, my God, why don't I make a small rig and dig these shot holes for these guys.

AK: Sure.

WM: So, he got some machinists there in Enid, Oklahoma to build him some under his instructions. And by God, he was the first one to have the shot hole rigs.

AK: Well, this would be like the forerunner of the failing rigs, then.

WM: Yeah. Failing was all core hole.

AK: Yeah, they were all...

WM: Yeah, but they never did go to the shot hole rigs.

AK: Do you remember how far apart these augured holes were?

WM: Every half mile in those days.

AK: Right.

WM: On the section corner, he half mile and the section corner and the centre of the section.

AK: Right.

WM: And that was it.

AK: And did you ever remember them, you could see them shooting?

WM: Oh, yes.

AK: How many, do you know anything about the amount of explosive they used, the amount of dynamite?

WM: Oh, yes. Well, in the early days, of course, down in Louisiana when they were doing the wide angle and we did the same thing out in West Texas. But the initiation of geophysics was in Louisiana.

AK: Right.

WM: Amerada was the primary...

AK: This was reflection or refraction.

WM: Refraction at that time.

AK: Yeah.

WM: Yeah.

AK: So that would be, you'd get these long shots and lay out...

WM: Oh yeah. And there were several people blown up from it. See, they would put two and, two thousand pounds in these...

AK: 2,000 pounds?

WM: Yeah. What they would do, they'd dig a hole, and not necessarily an auger hole, but in the marsh. And then they'd put say, 200 pounds in there and blow it out, you see. And have a cavity like this room. And then they'd dump two thousand pounds in there. Well the shots were almost six miles away, you see.

AK: Oh.

WM: I mean the recording.

AK: The recording, yeah. Because you wanted to get the refraction.

WM: Yeah. And the same thing out in West Texas and New Mexico. And where they'd go wrong, they were, it was all by radio, you see.

AK: Yeah.

WM: And these guys would string their, they'd put the thing in there and then they'd put the line, start out, had a reel on their back. And they'd start off walking. And a lot of those guys, one, they'd have a couple of lines, and I don't know how in the world why they ever blew it up. Well, the guy thought he was close to the recording truck. In fact, he was probably not any farther than from here to that halfway, well out to the parking lot there. Because he'd gone in a circle you see, and just blew the hell out of it.

AK: Terrible, drastic measures to try to get energy.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Yeah. I suppose the recording trucks were very primitive too.

WM: Oh yes.

[00:31:50] AK: Yeah. But that was the beginning, you saw the beginning of geophysical...

WM: Oh yeah. Well, not the actual beginning, I didn't do any of that refraction. But I did out in West Texas. But there, I was surveying, out there.

AK: So this, how long were you with Amerada?

WM: I was with Amerada for, oh gosh, over, about 15 years.

AK: Oh. And you had advanced to more...

WM: Yeah, everything. I had gone from... every time there was an opening on the recording truck or anywhere else, these guys would pick me because I did have an education, you see. And they'd shove me up every opening there was. And I did everything, from that, I did working on the recording truck. I never did work on the shooting, but I was around it, and I've seen some scary things happen there.

AK: Well this recording truck, was it on this sensitized paper?

WM: Yeah.

AK: And the galvanometers would record it on that. And then you'd develop the paper right there with the chemicals?

WM: Yeah, the recorder would look at it and then call his next shot if he needed one.

AK: Yeah, right. And so they were getting some type of records?

WM: Oh yes. Good records too. And we even from there, we had our own little Schlumberger on core holes. And I did, I ran all of those for about two years.

AK: Were they actually Schlumberger equipment?

WM: No. It was built in Amerada's lab, in Tulsa.

AK: Well, they must have had a lot of research going, Amerada.

WM: Amerada? Oh, yes.

AK: They were very...

WM: Well actually all of the Tulsa organization there, and they had a heck of a big lab there. That was Geophysical Research Corporation. See Amerada was owned, I forget the percentage, I think it was about a third owned by English money.

AK: Right. And then they had a...

WM: And they could not... see with all of this stuff being done by radio, they couldn't operate radios in the name of Amerada because of the England license you see.

AK: Licensing. Yeah licensing.

WM: So they had to change the name to Geophysical Research Corporation. And that's the way they got around that.

[00:34:51] AK: Right. So, when did you get married? Were you married then?

WM: No. No, I didn't get married until just about, what was it? '47 I guess it was.

AK: Oh, you were a late bloomer, eh?

WM: Yeah. I was having too good a time, I guess. Well, I wasn't in one place long enough. See I, being single, they would send me out on all the experimental stuff. I took out the first... shit, what is it? Gravity meter. I went down to the University of Texas to the...

AK: Austin?

WM: Austin. The guys that built the first gravity meter were instructors there. What the hell... can't think of it now. But they sent me down there and I was down there for two weeks with this guy. And in his basement, in his home, was his lab and that's where he built all these. And I spent, it was dark and everything else down there. And that's where I learned to run those things and that, took a gravity meter out by myself for two weeks, just experimenting on the thing.

AK: Right. Did, during your entire Amerada career, the career of your Amerada work, did you switch over to other jobs, other than in geophysics?

WM: When I was with Amerada?

AK: Yeah.

WM: No, I was, I went out on another experimental, it was an electrical deal. And you'd string out electrodes and then put a charge of electricity in it. And I was on that for a long time.

AK: You were trying to pick up the currents.

WM: Yeah. And then I did chemical analysis. I would go out, we were running experimental stuff over old fields to see how this chemical analysis worked. And I'd go into a, where an old field was, you see, almost depleted. And I'd hire about six kids, young teenagers. And we had four-inch augers and we'd go out and take samples, you see, and dig down...

AK: You'd show them how to use an auger.

WM: Yeah. And then I'd put them in jars and send them to a lab in Dallas, Texas. And they were all in code, you know, they didn't know where they were coming from.

AK: No, so there would be no chance of...

WM: They couldn't fudge on it.

AK: They couldn't fiddle it.

WM: No, and I never did find out how those things came out, but...yeah, they just used me as an experiment too.

AK: Well then, when you finished at Amerada, what kind of money were you getting then?

WM: Oh, about... let's see. About 125 to 150 dollars a month.

[00:38:56] WM: What impelled you to leave Amerada?

WM: I, well, again it was the guy that got me the job with Amerada that was with BA. And he said, Bill would you be interested in scouting? And I thought, I'd been thinking about, you know, maybe doing something. But I was scared to death because Amerada was a wonderful company to work for. Just a... they treated you so nice.

AK: Did they have pretty good pension plans and things?

WM: Oh, I guess it was.

AK: Yeah.

WM: They didn't have them to begin with. But they didn't...

AK: Now what year was this that you...

WM: Left?

AK: Packed it in, yeah.

WM: It was in about '44, something like that.

AK: And did you realize that BA had its headquarters in Toronto and Montreal?

WM: Oh, yeah. Well after I asked about it of course.

AK: And the oil was shipped from Oklahoma to furnish the refineries in Toronto.

WM: Yeah and their head office was in Tulsa, of course. So, he asked me, he said, I can get you a job scouting if you want it. We need a scout in Shreveport. He was a (???) man there.

AK: And this was during the war?

WM: Yeah. Amerada had, see I had enlisted, I knew I was going to be drafted. So I had enlisted in, of all things, the Seabees, because I'd had so much experience surveying and everything else, you see. And so I had enlisted in the Seabees, and they said, we'll call you. And in the meantime, I was drafted. And I went on a trip to Tulsa to take my physical and everything. And all of those army men were just trying their damndest to get me to enlist. They said, my God we need officers and you're officer material. And I said, I'm sorry. I've already enlisted in the Seabees because I'd been promised the same thing there. And they said, oh God, we need you. Well, when I got back, the draft board said, we can't take you. Amerada had talked them into keeping me and letting me stay. So I went to the Seabees and they said, no, we can't take you.

[00:42:15] AK: So anyways, this BA job came up and...

WM: I was a scout.

AK: Had you any idea what scouting entailed?

WM: Vaguely, yeah. But I learned, I had a lot to learn.

AK: Mm-hmm. And what were you scouting, rigs? Scouting...

WM: Everything.

AK: Scouting seismic crews?

WM: Yeah, everything.

AK: And did you get a chance to get to talk to other landmen and try to find out what their play was?

WM: Oh sure, all the time. We never believed each other.

AK: No. There'd be some stories that maybe put you off.

WM: Oh sure.

AK: That was part of the deal in those days.

WM: Yeah, as long as... we had guidelines of course, and nobody overstepped those guidelines. If they did, you just wouldn't get any information ... we had scout check every week, you see.

AK: Where would you hold that?

WM: Well, we had a big room in a hotel. This was in Shreveport, and we'd all congregate there.

AK: Right. So then you'd...

WM: Exchange dope, that's what we would do.

AK: Well now, there was no compulsion to give dope on a well?

WM: What do you mean, compulsion?

AK: There was no rules about, hey, you've got to give us the markers on this well.

WM: Whoever was drilling it?

AK: Yeah.

WM: Oh hell no.

AK: No. And there was no... at that time was there...

WM: If the information, if they were giving out information, it was supposed to be available to the scout check, see. But they couldn't give it out to individuals without giving it out to the scouts.

AK: Well, I was just wondering if there was information that had to be filed with the conservation authorities in Louisiana?

WM: Oh, we had no right to that, unless the company gave us that right.

AK: Oh. So even though information was submitted to the State, that information never became available?

WM: Not unless the company released it. Released the state or the city or whatever it might be.

AK: I think I'm going to turn the tape over here.

WM: Okay. [00:45:02]

Side 2- 44:33

[00:00:05] AK: ...Of Bill Mugler's interview. And the Louisiana authorities would have certain rights, certain jurisdiction?

WM: Oh yes. Just like Oklahoma or Texas or anybody else. All of the oil producing states had things like that.

AK: Well now were there allowables in those days? Especially because of the war time?

WM: Yeah. They were, I don't know what they were. And spacing.

AK: Yeah, spacing, and directional. Did you have to run surveys to...

WM: No. Very little directional drilling in those days.

AK: So, you were doing this in Shreveport. Well then what was your next move?

WM: From Shreveport?

AK: Yeah.

WM: Was here.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Now what year was it that you got the word to come up here?

WM: On July... Well, when I came in to Calgary, was July the 11th, 1949.

AK: Right. Now had you, up to that point had you heard anything about Canada and the oil boom up here?

WM: Well, only when they made the discovery, of course. And that's when, I didn't pay that much attention. We didn't in Shreveport, of course. But they were... people were going up. We didn't pay too much attention to it there. But then Tulsa decided we'd better have some, an office up here, exploration office. See, there was nothing. Although BA operated up here, and the head office was in Toronto, here was nothing but marketing and refining, is all. They had no idea what exploration was about up here.

AK: Well, they had offices. They'd had an office there on Sixth Avenue.

WM: I know, but that was the first office they had, exploration office in Canada.

AK: There was Norm Wilson, do you remember him?

WM: Yeah sure. He was there, right there by that old filling station. That's when I came up. Yeah, and I set up the land, I was only to be up here for two months to set up the land department.

AK: Right. Records and...

WM: Yeah, everything. Just set up the land department and hire help in the land department and then I was to go back in to the Tulsa office. I wasn't going back to Shreveport, I was going into Tulsa. So that's where my Redwater days started.

AK: Yeah. Well now, when you hit Calgary, would you have had any information at all as to land tenure and how the Crown lands...

WM: No. When I came up? No.

AK: You had to start right from scratch.

WM: Oh sure. Oh, yes. Like everybody else. There were very few people that knew the regulations. There weren't any regulations as a matter of fact.

AK: Well, they were...

WM: Well, there were regulations. But nothing that would cover what people wanted to do at that time.

AK: No. So, who is the person you reported to here?

WM: Jim Stettler. He was the landman in Shreveport. That's the reason he knew me. And he got me...

AK: He fingered you...

WM: He fingered me to come up there and set up the land department.

AK: Right. But he'd been up here for a while, hadn't he?

WM: Well not too long. Not too long. Maybe two or three months, couple of months. Not over two months. No.

AK: Okay. So then you had, there was Torkelson in there somewhere, isn't there?

WM: Oh, yeah. Well, he was after my time, after I left.

AK: Yeah, I see. So then Stettler and Wilson and who else was there up here? Was there a geophysical?

WM: No.

AK: Norm Christie?

WM: No, he wasn't. No, Norm Wilson was the exploration department. Gubby Gore was there. Did you remember him?

AK: Oh, gosh. Gore, yeah.

WM: He was the landman when I came up. And of course, he was a lawyer. Jim had him doing everything, writing his letters and everything.

AK: Well Gore, his initials, W.H. or?

WM: Yeah. Always called him Gubby.

AK: Gubby. G-U-B-B-Y. So then, you and he would work together then?

WM: Oh, yes. Yeah. He was working under me at that time. I don't think, well, he really wanted to be in the legal department, you see. And there was a little...

AK: Yeah, but didn't you have R.H.C. Harrison?

WM: Well, he was the legal department and McDonald, wasn't it? The other guy?

AK: I don't know. But Harrison went on to become the head of the Petroleum Association.

WM: Yeah.

AK: But Harrison was quite a flamboyant type. Do you remember his cars? The ones, he always had a convertible?

WM: Oh, yes. Drove around. He was quite a lady's man. He'd get them by that. Yeah. I was trying to think of the other guy. He did all the work, Harrison didn't do anything. He was the front man.

AK: Yeah, he lived off the, well it was like that when he went up and made the deal with Sugar Schultz on the Woodbend acreage to get the oil signed up.

WM: Yeah, he was quite a character.

AK: Yeah. So, the first thing you had to do was, was there a specific job you had to do when you got here?

WM: Well, set up the land department. Set up records.

AK: And did you hire...

WM: Personnel, yeah. And then I was, as I say, I was only supposed to be here two months, and get everything done in two months, so they could take over. And then they had a guy from Tulsa. His name

was Harmon, I can't think of his last, first name. And he was a lawyer, out of their legal department down there. And I don't know why they sent him up to Edmonton. He wasn't in Calgary. And he was doing all of the work in Redwater, and he really got it screwed up. He was, being a lawyer, he was arrogant anyway. But he had an affliction that when he smiled, this corner of his mouth would turn into a sneer. You've seen people like that, you know. God, I can't think of the first guy that was in charge of the Arbitration Board.

AK: Meldrum?

WM: Meldrum.

AK: N.G. Meldrum.

WM: Yeah. And he, this Harmon just couldn't get along with those Ukrainians. A lot of them couldn't speak English, and as I said, told you before, these Ukrainians had never owned an acre of land in their life, and land was sacred to them. It was a sacred commodity, that was just...they would not turn loose of it. And anybody stuck anything in the ground, it just was like piercing their body, you see.

AK: So Harman riled them up, did he?

WM: He just riled them up. And actually, it's a wonder he didn't get shot. I'm not, I've been in a lot of places in my life, and I almost got shot down in Houston. And that was dangerous up there. But anyway, just as they were, they'd formed the Arbitration Board, it hadn't gone through whatever it had to go to pass and everything and they finally got it. And what does Harmon do but go out there and call all these landowners that he had had all these problems with, and said, now I'm going to give you one more chance to sign these documents, or whatever it was, and get it over with. And none of them would sign because of him. And he said, all right, you won't sign. But you're going to get screwed anyway. And they said, what do you mean? He says, we've got you and we're going to screw you good. And he told them about the Arbitration Board, he said, now you can't do anything about it, we can go on there. all we have to do is make application and we can go on. Well brother, they got him out of there in a hurry. And that's when Jim Stettler said, Bill, you've got to go up there and do something about this. So I went up there, and the first thing I did was find out who the member of the Legislature was out of Redwater. And thank God he lived in Redwater. Peter Chaba.

AK: Chaba, that's right. C-H-A-B-A. That's right. Peter.

WM: He ran the elevators there in in Redwater. And I went to him and I explained who I was and what I was going to do. And he said, thank God we've got somebody that will understand them. And I told him, and he was the nicest fellow. He was a friend of mine from there on, and of course, I was just... I couldn't ask for anything better.

AK: Now did Peter convey your message?

WM: Yes.

AK: To the other farmers?

WM: He and I called...

AK: He formed a link.

WM: He and I called a meeting and he told me, and he went out by himself and talked to the people. That these were regulations that didn't mean anything like ... that they would get paid and everything, you see. And if it hadn't been for him, everybody would've raised...

AK: It's interesting that Peter was doing a lot of this arbitration with these, some of these farmers that could not be calmed down.

WM: And he didn't have to.

AK: No, but he did.

WM: Yeah.

AK: And then unfortunately in the later election, he got defeated.

WM: Did he?

AK: Yeah.

WM: I forget now, but...

AK: I got the story on Peter. I'll have to recite that for you.

WM: Who else told you about Peter?

AK: Well, I dug it out of a book.

WM: Oh, did you? Oh, so it's all out, what I'm saying. Well he was, if it hadn't been for him, the whole cause, I don't know what would have happened. Because there was people up there, I can remember only one or two, one woman. Mary Pich, I'll never forget her.

AK: P-I-C-H?

WM: Yeah. I'll never forget her as long as I...

AK: Well now tell me about her.

WM: Oh God. She weighed about 200 pounds. Her husband was about 130 pounds. And she was the meanest person, she would do everything in her... oh, she'd just try her damndest to get me riled up and thank God, I never lost my temper.

AK: Well you had some wells on the Pich property?

WM: No, it wasn't wells. Most of this was...

AK: Pipelines?

WM: Pipelines.

AK: Oh yes, because you had to run that...

WM: Flow lines, you see. Yeah. That's what it was.

AK: That's it, yeah. And you had to cross their land.

WM: Yeah.

[00:15:18] [pause]

[00:15:29] WM: What's the matter?

AK: Oh, it's all right. Nothing. I just thought I'd close the...

WM: Yeah, that's what that was. And that's...

AK: Well now, there was a fellow that came up from Coutts to run the pipelines and the production.

WM: I forget who that was.

AK: I've got his, I should have dug that name up.

WM: Orville Wall (???) was the production man. Bob Turner was in the pipelines. But he didn't do any of the...

AK: Out getting the easements.

WM: No, no. They had nothing to do with that.

AK: Now when you got permission to go across a parcel of land...

WM: Well I didn't actually... well, I did for a while, all of these tough ones. I'd go out there because I, at that time, I had several friends that would help me out. That is the farmers themselves, you see.

AK: Well, did you require the Dower Act to be invoked when you had to have those easements?

WM: Oh yeah.

AK: Maybe that was one of the things that Mary didn't like, was it?

WM: Oh, no. I forget now just what it was. No, she was just a bitchy woman, you know. She'd sit across the table from me and she'd say, Bill Mugler, you're a son of a bitch.

AK: Is that right? Right to your face.

WM: Yeah, just terrible. And she was the sloppiest thing. I remember going up there one day and it was in the summertime and she had a screen door. There were so many flies on that screen door that I couldn't even see in. And that's how her whole house was inside, just awful.

AK: And they had a little farm there, did they?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Of course, a lot of that land wasn't too good for cultivation. A lot of them was very marginal. So did you take that into account when you were making, getting easements and rights-of-way?

WM: Oh, yeah. We all, I mean the industry as a whole, you know, would try to keep right straight across the lines, you know, on the...

AK: No, that's all right. That's okay.

WM: Is that somebody, well, maybe they're wanting to play cards.

AK: Oh, well. No, eating lunch.

WM: Yeah, but some of them come in and play cards.

AK: Well, let him do it.

WM: Yeah.

[00:18:21] AK: Okay, so you had, you would work then with the production crews and production foremen.

WM: Oh, yeah.

AK: Did you know that they had a little settlement on the east edge of Redwater? the BA? There was a little BA camp there.

WM: Oh, probably. That was probably when I didn't go up there anymore. See I didn't, it didn't take me long to get over, to get through with that.

AK: When you when you were working on Redwater, did you move up there?

WM: No.

AK: You worked out of Edmonton?

WM: No. Well, yeah. Yeah, I was up, Edmonton at that time.

[00:19:06] AK: Okay. Now, what about Hubert Somerville Did you have much to do with him?

WM: Oh, that's the most wonderful guy in the world. Yes, sir, I had a lot to do with him. Especially, well, in the early days. And then when I was with Richfield, we had, I took, God, a million acres up there in those tar sands, you know, under reservation. And Hubert and I redrafted the present tar sands regulations. We, just the two of us did most of that, and I have all the respect in the world for that man. He was the most honest person in the world.

AK: Fair?

WM: Fair.

AK: But if you started to try to cut across, you were finished.

WM: Don't do it.

AK: No. So, this episode at Redwater, you were saying, didn't last that long?

WM: Well, because...

AK: You got your lines laid and...

WM: We only, I forget, we had two, maybe, I don't know. At that time, two quarter sections that ...

AK: There was a whole section, you had the whole section where the town of Redwater was. You had that.

WM: Well, maybe after I left.

AK: No, they bought that in February of '49, before you came.

WM: I don't remember.

WM: But that was brought before you got up here.

WM: Perhaps yeah. I guess. Well, I guess I do, I'd forgotten about it. But what I did, the reason it was all solved, what I did was convinced our people to buy that land, and then give it back to the people to farm, rent-free. And I had a hell of a time selling that, because...

AK: To the company.

WM: To the company. And I just sat down and figured out, you know, what we were paying in rentals on well sites and everything. And over a 25-year period, I gave it that length of time, life of the well.

AK: Well you could show the...

WM: And we were paying, they said, what do you want to pay for that land? I said, oh I'd go up to \$100 an acre. Oh my God! Land up there isn't worth 10. And I said, yeah, but this is over a long period of time. And I finally sold them on it. And I think we bought two sections, and then other companies started doing it, you see.

AK: Right, yeah. Imperial were into it.

WM: Yeah. But that was the cheapest way to do it. The only stipulation, they said, well, what can we do? I said, you can do anything you want. The only, only one thing you have to do is keep the weeds down around the well site. And that was the only, really the only stipulation.

[00:22:56] AK: Well, now how long did you stay with BA then?

WM: Oh. When was that? Oh, gosh. There was a promoter out of Los Angeles came up, and, I forget when I left them.

AK: Did you go direct to Richfield?

WM: No, there's two years that I worked with this promoter out of Los Angeles, and that's as long as I could stand him. And then I went with Richfield.

AK: He was working up deals?

WM: Oh, yeah, he was, all he wanted was the, he didn't give a damn whether we found any oil or not. If it was dark and looked black, he'd put out some reports on his stock, you see.

AK: He was running stock.

WM: Oh sure.

AK: So that only lasted a couple of years, eh?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well then how did you find out about Richfield then?

WM: They, oh, through Ian, what was the geologist's name?

AK: Ian Cooke.

WM: Ian Cooke.

AK: Well, he was with BA.

WM: Yeah. He was the one that got me into, with this promoter. And then, from there, I found out about Richfield coming up. And Sam Stewart came up and I talked to him, and then he called the head of

the land apartment, Mike McPhillips up. And they, we had an interview. and he said, well, if you want the job you've got it. And I said, I want the job, I'll take it.

AK: By that time, you were getting a little better salary then.

WM: Oh, yeah. I forget what I was making.

AK: And that was when Sam come up and he, let's see, who else was there with Richfield, was there...?

WM: From here?

AK: Yeah.

WM: Oh.

AK: I'm trying to remember now. I didn't...

WM: Oh gosh. I can't remember who the geologists were. We're all still around.

AK: Where were your offices?

WM: The first offices were, oh down on, I think it was 11th Avenue and about 2nd Street West.

AK: Down near where the Conservation Board was, they were down there.

WM: Yeah, and then we moved into the, oh what the hell, that hotel on 8th Avenue and 7th Street. Just across the street. What was the name of that building?

AK: Yeah. It was right near, well, it's right near my office.

WM: Yeah, I guess.

AK: It used to be the Holiday Inn.

WM: Yeah.

AK: It changed names a couple of times.

WM: What was the office building across the street? It was a man's name. Bamlett Building was...

AK: Oh, Bamlett Building.

WM: No, not the Bamlett. But this was right across the street from the Holiday Inn. And then we moved into the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas.

AK: Was Hilden Ran with you then?

WM: No. No, he was Atlantic. He came in when the merger took place. That's when I left.

AK: Oh, I see. When Atlantic and Richfield merged...

WM: Yeah, I took early retirement.

AK: What year was that, do you remember? It was in the '50's wasn't it?

WM: No. Yeah.

AK: Because I remember this fellow coming up with Atlantic, and they were quite an aggressive bunch.

WM: Yeah, for a while. They never were an exploration company in the States, they more marketing than anything...

AK: Yeah, because they were marketing in eastern...

WM: Yeah.

AK: So they merged, and I think there was a fellow named Calverley with them, a geologist.

WM: I don't know.

AK: So, what year was that, that you left, do you remember?

WM: Around fifty...

AK: It was in the '50s, eh?

WM: Well, I got it at home...

AK: Well, then, was this when you went over to CP O&G?

WM: No. Central Del Rio.

AK: Oh, you went with Central Del Rio, right. With Neil McQueen and...

WM: Neil wasn't active. John Hardy.

AK: John Hardy was the fellow. And John and Don Redman.

WM: Don Redman was there.

AK: Yeah. And they were operating out of 9th Avenue, weren't they? They were on, the offices were on 9th Avenue? Central Del Rio?

WM: No. 8th Avenue in the old, damn, what the hell was the name of that building? It's an oil company's name too, later on.

AK: Well John Hardy had been with, what Bonita and Trees?

WM: Benedum.

AK: Benedum and Trees.

WM: Yeah, he was up here years and years ago. Came back and forth from Pittsburgh.

AK: And then Neil hired him, eh?

WM: Yeah.

AK: And then Neil was taking a less active...

WM: Yeah, he was living, actually living in Arizona.

AK: Yeah, well his breathing was, well, what about Ken Doze?? Was Ken in there too?

WM: No. He wasn't there at that time. He'd already left.

AK: Oh. But he had been?

WM: Yeah.

AK: Ken had been mixed up with Neil.

WM: Yeah, early on, yeah, he's the one started this golf course too.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Yeah. Ken Doze. Yeah, he was one of the founders.

[00:29:58] AK: So, this, so your job over with Hardy was land manager?

WM: Yeah. Then he made me Vice President. And then the exploration, yeah. Gosh, I can't think of his name. He was with Union and then went over to Central Del Rio and died of an aneurysm.

AK: Oh, Russ Burns?

WM: Russ Burns.

AK: Yeah, right. And then there was Ed Chetton in there somewhere.

WM: Yeah, Ed was there. He wasn't there when I was, but he was, yeah, I knew him, a very, very nice guy.

AK: Yeah. So this operation went on, and then when did you first hear that at CP O&G were going to...

WM: Oh, ever since I went over, ever since I'd been over there.

AK: Oh, it was hanging over your head?

WM: Yeah, it was dangling there, and then it finally took place. But nobody was really hurt. See, all of the Executive from Central Del Rio went over to Pan-Canadian. And CP O&G was a weak company, they didn't have anything. I mean, they were strong in land.

AK: Well, that was when Johnny Tedder was running in.

WM: Yes, and he was, it was a very loose ship.

AK: Yeah. So when you people moved over, who was the Stud Duck with...

WM: John Hardy.

AK: With Pan-Canadian?

WM: Oh sure.

AK: Is that right?

WM: It was surprising, sure.

AK: Is that right?

WM: Yeah and Chairman of the Board. See, they didn't have any Executive in CP O&G. John Taylor wasn't the Vice President, he was just the manager. And he was made president when the merger took place. And John was made president and John Hardy was Chairman of the Board. And then Bob Campbell came over and took over, and John retired.

AK: So, John Hardy, how long did he stay in that position?

WM: Not very long. He was getting old. No, he would, when Bob Campbell came over, he was only there, oh, a year, year and a bit.

AK: And then Campbell in turn brought his friends over from Home Oil.

WM: Yeah, well, he made that company.

AK: He made Pan-Canadian.

WM: Oh yes. No doubt about it.

AK: He must have been a brilliant operator.

WM: He is. He is a very, very good man. I have a lot of respect for him.

[00:33:09] AK: Well, when you were there, with Pan-Canadian, were you running the land department?

WM: Yes. I was Vice President of Land.

AK: Now, what about Gordon Hawkins, had he arrived yet?

WM: No, he came later, but I was still there when he came. But I didn't, I wasn't there too, much maybe a couple of years. Bill Webb was there too.

AK: Oh yeah, CT. He was a holdover from Leslie Monroe.

WM: Oh yes.

AK: You see, he'd worked way back before there was any...

WM: I knew Les. I knew Les.

AK: Did you?

WM: Oh, yes. We had...

AK: What type of person was he?

WM: Les? Oh, just a wonderful guy. He'd sit there, and chat with you, you know, and you wouldn't know that he had anything....

AK: What about Burt Corey? Burt had left by then.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well, did you get in and start to get the Minerals, the old CPR Minerals more active? Try to stir them up?

WM: Well, we did, yeah, but...

AK: And force ...

WM: But with John Taylor and, oh god, what the hell was his name? Englishman, they couldn't find oil with both hands, you know. And that's the reason they were farming all of this stuff out, you see. And, made a hell of a lot of oil companies, mostly gas companies but they were getting action on the land, because, this guy that was Exploration Manager, he never found a barrel of oil ???

AK: That wasn't Mike Rogers?

WM: Mike Rogers.

AK: Was he from England?

WM: Yeah. You see what happened was, the reason they were all English was John Taylor went over and hired a bunch of those people through CPR...

AK: Oh, through the English...

WM: Through the English, and brought them over and put them in there. And they didn't have, they didn't know what the hell they were supposed to do, John couldn't tell them.

AK: But Mike Rogers created a lot of problems too.

WM: Well, he was a problem himself.

AK: Yeah. Because you see Don Redman told me, he says, I can't stand this any longer, and he pulled out.

WM: I know.

AK: That wasn't too far on.

WM: No. Maybe I shouldn't say this, but after I left there, after I retired, Bob called me and asked me to have lunch with him. So, I went to the Petroleum Club, and at that time, Mike had gotten hooked up with a gal that was an engineer and consulting, engineering consulting firm out of Dallas. And so he was going to England and he'd just leave a note on his desk on the weekend and take off for Dallas, you know, and tell whoever was in charge at the time there, that something came up and he had to go to Dallas or Houston.

AK: Yeah, something came up all right.

WM: So, I couldn't figure out why Bob wanted to have lunch with me. But we talked, and he said, Bill, I've got a problem. And I thought, uh-oh, it's coming now, and bet you I know what it is. And it was Mike. He said, I've got a problem. I said, with Mike? He said, yeah. So, then he told me what was going on. And he said, what the hell can I do? Now, the problem was that Ian Sinclair liked Mike, you see, and Bob was afraid to fire him because of Ian. And he said, I don't know what the hell to do. He said, what would you do? And I said, I'd fire the son of a bitch and you'd be smart to fire him. He said, I can't do that. And I said, all right, transfer him them. And he said, by God, I never thought about that. But I'm sure he had. But, before you knew it, he was down in Houston.

AK: Well that'd be a lot handier to his hussy.

WM: Well, that's fine. But then he finally divorced his wife and he married her. So that's it.

[00:39:07] AK: So what year did you retire from...?

WM: '74.

AK: '74. And have you done anything since? That's it, eh? Shut her down?

WM: Shut her down. I had some people, you know, after I retired, wanting me to do some consulting. And I said no. I said, I've worked since I was nine years old, when I started working in the grocery store on Saturdays when I was 9 years old. And I said, I've been working all my life and I've enjoyed the work and everything, but I'm just going to quit.

AK: Who took the job of land manager when you left?

WM: Well, they put it under Rolf...

AK: Rolf Johnson?

WM: It's not Rolf Johnson, is it?

AK: No, Rolf...

WM: But anyway, he was the Vice-President of Exploration. Mike Rogers never did like me because they took the land away from him, and he was always fighting me. But when I left, they wouldn't give it to Bill Webb, and Bill's responsible because he, after I went over there as Vice-President of Land, he'd still go to Mike. And I told him, I called him in and told him, I said, look, I don't want to get rough, but I'm your boss, and I said, you don't have to be afraid of me or anything. But I want you to report to me, not to Mike Rogers. And I want you to break your ties with him. And I put it on the line, and he did. But they wouldn't give it to him. So, he's... Rolf. Not Hudson.

AK: I think I know who you mean.

WM: Oh. It was right on the tip of my tongue. But anyway, that's what happened.

AK: And then somewhat later Gordon took over.

WM: No, he never did get the Vice Presidency. He's the manager.

AK: Yeah, land manager.

WM: Yeah, under Rolf. He was under Rolf.

AK: Oh, I see. So the land switched back under exploration.

WM: Under exploration.

AK: Right. Yeah, but he certainly had a lot of experience, Gordon.

WM: Oh, yeah. Sure. He was a hell of a good man. Yeah.

AK: Now he's retired.

WM: Yeah.

AK: Well, Bill, I wind up these interviews with trying to get some philosophical comments from my informants, and I just wondered what, if you could capsule in a few words as to what the life, what your life has been and where you've been...

WM: I don't have much to say. I don't have any excuses for anything that I might have done. I've enjoyed every minute that I spent in the oil business. I've never, if I had it to do it all over again, I would enjoy doing it. And that's what I said when I retired. I enjoyed every minute that I was in the oil business, but I want to break my ties. And I did.

AK: And that's right back from the very first day that you turned the auger.

WM: Absolutely. I never have regretted one minute of it. And it's a shame that ...I don't think it's near the industry that it used to be., because you can't make a deal on a handshake anymore, I don't think.

AK: No, you've got to have a hand, you've got to have lawyers all over...

WM: Yes, yes. Although Allen McKimmie were a good law firm, I never did have much use for lawyers nor accountants. The accountants, all they wanted were dry holes, so they could write them off.

AK: Yeah, did you have much to do with Mark Rumble?

WM: No. No, I never did.

AK: He went on to take over...

WM: Well he's a nice fellow.

AK: Yeah, he's retired now. Well, I want to thank you very much, Bill, for this informative interview, and it's brought, you know, a lot of this, this part that's important is the, is how you handled the Redwater situation, which is very important.

WM: Well...

AK: Well it was all part of it, you know.

WM: Yeah.

AK: So, I'll just say, oh, look at that. It's 12:25 and we'll sign off. Over and out and thanks.

End of Interview