

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Dave Organ

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

DATE: July 2001

DF: Today is the 27th day of July, in the year 2001 and we are with Mr. Dave Organ at 128 Oakbrier Close S.W. in Calgary. My name is David Finch. Could you just start by telling us some biographical information, where were you born and when?

DO: I was born in Dauphin, Manitoba in 1926.

DF: What were your parents doing there?

DO: Farming or trying to farm.

DF: Was it pretty dry?

DO: I can't recall whether it was dry or not, I left there when I was 9 years old. It was the southwest corner of 24-33-18, west of prime meridian.

DF: What can you tell us about your education then?

DO: I was trying to find it. I went to a one room school at Paulson, Manitoba. I was the only boy in school, since I was 6 years old it didn't do much for me. My father worked on the CNR and was moved to Helston, Manitoba in 1934 as I recall. So I went to school there which was still a one room school but somewhat larger. The one at Paulson had 7 students as I recall, the one at Helston had about 10 or 12 and there were boys as well as girls. So I had to fight for awhile, make my way in Helston.

DF: And your high school?

DO: I took Grade 9 and 10 by correspondence, the Manitoba Department of Education, and then Grade 11 and 12, my father had moved to Russell, Manitoba. And I joined the Army in 1944 and was discharged in 1946.

DF: What did you do in the Army?

DO: I was a private. Once or twice I got to be corporal but my Army career was fairly short.

DF: Did you go overseas?

DO: No. I just finished training when the war ended. And we didn't look forward to going to Japan. It seems like a long time ago now.

DF: Why did you join up, did you feel it was your duty or. . .?

DO: I can't recall. It was something everybody did when they got to be 18 years old.

[voice in the background, probably wife] because his mother didn't want him to.

DO: Probably that's true.

DF: Because your mom didn't want you to, eh?

DO: I don't imagine most mothers wanted to lose their sons. Especially in the infantry.

DF: So tell us about your education then, after high school.

DO: When I left the Army I wanted to go to university but I couldn't. The entrance requirement was Grade 11 French, any language, German, French, which I didn't have. So I went to the Department of Veterans Affairs School for 20 days and took Grade 11

French. So at the end of August of 1946 I had the entrance requirements to university. The school was in Brandon, Manitoba and in early September when university started, I was going to take engineering but they told me it was such a crush in Manitoba that I decided to go to Brandon College, which was just down the road. So I was there 3 years, graduating in '49. Sorry about my voice, I've got Parkinson's disease, which affects my voice.

#044 DF: Oh, you're doing fine, you're doing just fine, no problem. So what did you take at Brandon College then?

DO: You could take Arts or Science. Music I suppose and since I couldn't play anything I wasn't too happy in Arts, I took Science and geology was one of the subjects. Dr. Evans was the President of Brandon College and also he taught geology. He was kind of an inspiration I think, to many of the people who took geology at Brandon. So I graduated in '49 and got a job as a mine geologist at Snow Lake, Manitoba working for Doug Rutan, who later found the mine at . . . not Lynn Lake, north of Lynn Lake, I've forgotten the name.

DF: Okay, so Doug Rutan had found a mine somewhere.

DO: This was later, after I'd left Snow Lake. I had applied for an extension of my DVA credits to go to Manitoba because a 3 year B.Sc. wasn't adequate training for a geologist. So this was granted and I left Snow Lake in the fall of '49 and went to the University of Manitoba to take a Masters in geology.

DF: So was this hard rock?

DO: I was enrolled in a hard rock course but I changed my mind and decided to take a hard rock thesis from Ed Leith at the University of Manitoba.

DF: So what was your thesis on?

DO: Around the ??? deposits on Bird's Hill in Manitoba. I didn't have anything to write about and Leith had thought this up. I felt it best to do what he desired because if I wanted my degree I'm sure that if you took something other than something your instructor was familiar with, you'd have trouble.

DF: So that was one year?

DO: That was two years. The first year was a pre Masters year which you took most of the honours geology courses in undergraduate courses. But the second year was writing the thesis and finishing off the four year B.Sc. So I graduated from there in '52, in '51 actually, I didn't get my Thesis done until '52. I went to work for Chevron in the spring of '51.

DF: How did you get hired on there?

DO: I'd worked there one summer, the summer of 1950, field work in eastern Manitoba, in the inter lake area and out through Saskatchewan, looking at the Silurian rocks in Manitoba.

DF: So where did Chevron send you?

DO: The field party was in northern Manitoba but then come the fall. . I forget.

DF: But where were you stationed, did you come to Calgary?

DO: No, I didn't go to Calgary for 2 years. I worked in Virden on well site work in the winter and field geology in the summer. But the field work I did in '51 was looking along the Qu'Appelle Valley for outcrop, of which there wasn't too much. I continued this in southern Saskatchewan in '52. I went to . . . I forget.

#093 DF: How did you do that geology along the Qu'Appelle Valley?

DO: You drove down the middle of the valley looking for outcrop, up every coulee and ravine in the Qu'Appelle. And there around Tantallon, Saskatchewan there was quite a bit of outcrop which we mapped. But mostly it was an exercise in getting stuck in the mud. That winter I spent on well site in Manitoba and in '53 was posted to Regina, Saskatchewan.

DF: Who taught you how to do well site?

DO: George MacAuley as I recall. I knew George from Manitoba.

DF: So just tell us what that training would have been like, you were catching samples or was the drilling crew doing that?

DO: Actually you had a day of training I think, which he told you what he knew, which wasn't much. You were on your own. You also looked for oil in samples and the section was well known in Manitoba. So it wasn't a very difficult job. The problem came, sometimes you were assigned to more than one well, to look after more than one well and I can recall driving in the winter around Virden, chasing three wells about 50 miles apart, all reaching the core point at the same time. I was up for 2 1/2 days without any sleep which was not good if you couldn't even remember where you were, let alone what was doing on the well. After chronologically, I was transferred 11 times in the first 10 years I was with Chevron. Fortunately I had no personal belongings to speak of so it didn't matter much. You just threw your bag in the back of a truck and moved to the next place. In 1953, I sat on a well near Frobisher, Saskatchewan and met my wife Doreen there, who was living in the residence across from the motel where I was staying.

DF: How did you meet?

DO: I saw her in the back yard. It was the best looking thing I'd seen for years.

DF: Do you remember what you got paid in those early days?

DO: Yes. I hired on at \$300 a month in '51. I was a field assistant in '50, I think I got paid \$200 a month.

DF: Did you learn a lot in the field, were those productive summers?

DO: They were interesting. And I think I enjoyed mostly being alone, sitting out on the prairie countryside. It was pleasant in the spring time. Even in Saskatchewan. The coulees of Saskatchewan are a different world than the flat plains and so you're more in the forested areas, in the valleys. Saskatchewan has an interesting history, which you don't find driving through, which most of us do on the #1 Highway, it's somewhere we don't stop. There's a side journey, sometime if you drive along near the American border, it's a different world.

DF: It certainly is. I've done some of that. I'm familiar with the Milk River area and down there too, it's quite different from the rest of Alberta.

DO: That's true. The main valley is a big muddy valley, which of course, has a small creek flowing in it now but it must be 400' in depth and it's a couple of miles across. One of the interesting features of post glacial time.

#147 DF: What were some of the highlights of your career, what did you enjoy doing?

DO: I don't know as I found one particular thing you like doing but being brought up in the 30's, during the Depression, you did what you were expected to do and didn't even think of complaining about it.

DF: Wouldn't do much good would it?

DO: Wouldn't do any good anyway. But in those days you were allowed a lot of freedom. On well site for instance, you usually called the test and whatnot, to be done and told people about it afterwards. But in the later years it got so you had to have directions to even turn around. I suppose with electronics as they are today, it's even more so.

DF: So where did your career take you then, as far as positions in the company?

DO: I should have written it down. All my service with Chevron was in Canada. So I moved, I seemed to move between Brandon, Virden. I should say I started with Chevron in the Winnipeg office and not many oil companies even had a Winnipeg office. I wasn't there very much but that's where I was based from. Then I worked in Virden where Jack Trowell, was the engineer in charge of the project, which was an interesting one because it first started on the water flood scheme in '53 I believe. Virden hadn't been discovered yet but Daly was an interesting field. It had about 120' or so called pay but it was very tight Mississippian crinoidal rocks. And they required a lot of engineering expertise to get them to produce anything. The sequence of events are kind of confused to me, I can't remember them specifically but I was based in Calgary in '54 for awhile and then an opening came up for what they called a staff stratigrapher or some such thing, in Brandon, Manitoba, where we had an exploration office, supposedly a producing office in Virden. I went there in '54 and stayed there until late '58, when I came to Calgary. I was in Calgary for 4 months as I recall and then I was shipped to Regina to the office there. We had a fair sized office in Regina and a fair program. Because most of it seemed to be designed not to find anything because of the . . . well, that's a political matter I better not get into. It's best in geology to stay out of politics.

#193 DF: True, as with most things in life. Okay, so I see here that you rose to Chief Geologist in Chevron.

DO: Eventually yes. It was an interesting job at that time because you were able to do a bit of geology. As time went on though, it became more or less a personnel job which has its trials and tribulations. Dealing with rocks is much preferable to dealing with people.

DF: That's quotable.

DO: Most of the people I found were more than reasonable.

DF: Did you go into the north in your exploration?

DO: Actually I've been in the north quite a bit but not doing anything of consequence. A Chief Geologist observes I think, and doesn't actually do the work.

DF: Well, this recent discovery of oil up on the Liard, when you were geologist, were you doing exploration up there?

DO: In a sense I was but not directly. The responsibility was divided on an area basis and each area had a district or division manager. And it varied from time to time as events dictated. But Chevron was a good company to work for, I certainly have no complaints over the years I worked for them. Liard of course, is a long story, I don't know the details of it but Chevron had been working there for years and did some of the field work with large field parties in the Rockies and in the north. People like Peter Vral and of course, Gerry Henderson, who was in charge of large field parties in the mountains, which I had nothing to do with. Gerry of course, became Vice-President and President of Chevron.

DF: So what were you doing in the mid 1970's when you became President of the CSPG?

DO: I was Chief Geologist in Calgary. I think how I got into the CSPG was through Jim Law, Jim Law was a neighbour and also had been a colleague for years at Chevron and he was President in '73 I believe and he talked me in to running for Vice-President. In my ignorance I didn't realize this probably meant you'd be nominated for President the next year. It seemed to be the thing to do but it also . . . I guess it was just interesting to know what people were doing. So I was elected if you call it that, you put your name up, the only one running was yourself. So there was 100% chance of winning the election. I was fortunate in following Jim Law, who was an active sort of person. The Vice-President was Bill Ayrton, who is a very active person too, so he kept things going. Even though I was President I think Bill had a lot to do with what went on. So I had a very fortunate time or was very fortunate to be in that time. I can't really recall many world shattering things we did in that year. But I think one of the things that I remember was, I think we laid the ground work for the convention that was held on the World Oil Principals, with Sheik Yamani as the guest speaker. This was mostly Ayrton and Law's doing. I don't know what the CSPG executive now does but then, work was parcelled out in a fairly routine manner. There was a large number of committees who actually did all the work. The big job was obtaining competent people to do it. There were people seemed available, like Jack Browning who had acquaintance with large number of people in management, was able to convince people to do work for the CSPG. It seemed it was part of your responsibility as a geologist to, I can't say advance science, I hope it advances a bit, I suppose it just seemed to be the thing to do at the time. I'm sure it still is among the people of the CSPG.

#269 DF: In 1975 there was a CSPG, CSEG joint convention on Advances in Exploration Technology, what do you remember about that?

DO: I think I remember that Bill Ayrton did most of the work for that. A very aggressive and an able individual, who seemed to like conventions. And he did the negotiations with AAPG to run this convention in Calgary, which turned out quite well as I recall.

DF: There was also a big field trip that year, the Foothills Field Trip, do you remember that?

DO: No, I don't. I'm not in any way an expert on the Rocky Mountains but we had people who were. Clay Riddell worked in one of the field trips in the north, field work in the north. One of the thing that happened in this period which was interesting was our discovery of an iron mine along the Yukon, Northwest Territories border. This was kind of a secret agent type of thing, with ??? Dahlstrom in charge of it, in which a large area was staked in the north. We found I don't know whether you call it a deposit or kind of sedimentary layer of haematite along the Yukon, Northwest Territory border, staked it out, I forget the year. But this was a cloak and dagger operation that turned out fine from a scientific standpoint but the ore grade is not able to compete with Australia. And of course, Australia is on tidewater as I recall, whereas Canada, there is no need for iron in this particular area. But it was an interesting opportunity to stake claims which I had never done before.

DF: And where was that?

DO: In the Yukon. I wouldn't miss it for the world, it's a lot of fun. Geology is great in that respect.

DF: Did you ever have any experience with Canoes?

DO: With the Geological Survey of Canada I did. I'd worked in the summer for the GSC in northern Manitoba and it was a canoe operation entirely, which we had 4 men and 3 canoes. And when we moved, which was about every week or so, we'd take everything with us, including the tent poles. We looked like a gypsy organization drifting from place to place. But the canoe is a dangerous thing, particularly we had a little 14' collapsable canoe which was particularly collapsable and we had people getting tipped over in it continually. But fortunately, the GSC seemed to get away with a lot of things, through luck or good management, I'm not sure which, but nobody got hurt.

#322 DF: Do you remember what kind of canoes you were using?

DO: The make I don't remember.

DF: Chestnuts maybe, Peterborough.

DO: I think they were Peterborough.

DF: And who made that collapsable.

DO: I've no idea, it went together with wing nuts but it was easiest to fly it on an aeroplane from place to place, tying it on the struts. And it was small enough and once you got it together it wouldn't come apart too easily. So it was carried a couple of times by air, by Central Northern Airways I recall moving us occasionally, from place to place. I'd never done that before, I'd also never operated an outboard motor before and forgot how you turned it off when I got it running once. And damned if it hadn't been a sandy beach we would have had trouble. Being a farm boy it never occurred to me to say I couldn't do anything.

DF: That's great. So how did you turn that motor off?

DO: I think I shut the gas off. I knew that would stop it eventually.

DF: Eventually eh. Any bear stories from your time in the field?

DO: Not with Chevron but with the iron exploration it was peopled by sheep and bears as I recall. We had 357 Magnum revolvers, which some carried and some carried flares. Having been in the Army I didn't particularly trust revolvers, you may as well carry a big stick. So I took flares but I don't know what I'd have done with it. Looking back, I should have taken the revolver because as a last minute thing you could put it up the bear's mouth and fire through the back of his head. Otherwise the chance of hitting anything, you'd just annoy them.

DF: Or injure them.

DO: Yes, injure them. Because no one that I can recall is a good shot with a revolver, at least I'd never met anyone.

DF: So did you have any encounters with bears?

DO: With Chevron no, I don't think I ever saw one in the field, except from the air. You could spot them quite easily from an aeroplane. But with the GSC in Manitoba a bear came into our cook tent while our Party Chief was sitting, writing up his notes. Fortunately it came in behind and who moved the fastest, the bear or the Party Chief. There were quite a few bear there, what kept the population of bear down was the trappers hate them and they shoot every one they find. Which was the biggest container of the population of bear, but these were black bears and for the most part, relatively harmless, unless you get between them and their cubs, in which case you better move fast. We saw cubs up a tree and that was a signal to move somewhere else as quickly as possible. Other than that, no, no bear

stories. I've heard a number of bear stories but haven't experienced any.

#373 DF: How about stories with aeroplanes, you've probably spent quite a bit of time in aeroplanes and helicopters?

DO: Yes, quite a bit. I think what impressed me most is the ability of these pilots. Mountain helicopter pilots are something to behold. I can recall at the iron mine, one perched on a little ledge on the side of a mountain and when I came back to the helicopter he said, I think we'll have to jump out of here. I didn't know what he meant but I belted myself in, I thought, if he can take it I guess I can. So he revved the motor up and edged towards the edge of the cliff and at the last moment, gave it power and it soared off the edge of the cliff, dropped about 5,500' in a few seconds, leaving my stomach up above. But I understand later, it was the only way to get off places like that, with the wind blowing up the side of the mountain and you didn't want to be thrown back against the rock above the cliff. But when you don't know these things are going to happen they come as a bit of a surprise. When you look back it was fun but at the time it didn't seem so funny.

DF: Any crashes?

DO: No. We were lucky. We had one crash that I recall in which people were burned but not too badly as I remember. But of course, an unfortunate thing. It's amazing there weren't more crashes with our helicopters. Basically I had nothing to do with it, I've rode in them once or twice but I didn't have experience like some of the other people. Dahlstrom and Henderson were among the chief users of helicopters. The helicopter of course, made field geology entirely different than it used to be, much more effective.

DF: How about fixed wing?

DO: There are lots of stories to be told about fixed wing pilots who were almost all, Gordie Cameron and Bill Simpson, the ones I can remember and Dick Cull of course, was Chief Pilot and I believe all the pilots, at least those three, had been with the RCAF during the war and were the ex-fighter plane pilots and never forgot it. We had one aeroplane, an old Boeing, pre-war aircraft that we flew down to the museum at Ottawa and left it there.

#422 DF: That old eh?

DO: It's still there if you want to see it, it's in the National Aircraft Museum in Ottawa. We had it painted with California Standard colours before it was placed there, which of course, was yellow so it could be found if it landed in the woods, and left it with the museum. Picked up a Twin Otter to replace it. I don't know what's become of the air force but I believe all of the pilots that were with it at that time are now deceased. And they all died with their boots on. It's amazing that all the time they had, and the danger, they died of natural causes. Dick Cull I think, was the only one who could be classified as an ace because he's recorded in the Air Force records as having shot down 5 planes. The others I don't really know. Mostly they don't talk much about the war. Especially since I was Army and they were Air Force.

DF: Any other exploration stories, were you involved in finding any new fields?

DO: I don't really think any ones that were significant. I think in any operation, there's no one person that ever finds oil, it's a happenstance sort of thing. Usually events dictate what is found and where and it usually goes back to any number of people who are involved. Occasionally you see credit being given to a well site geologist for having found oil in

such and such a place and really, all it says is, he was competent and didn't miss it. I'm trying to think of a good simile but certainly it's like. . . putting a play together is not a one man type of thing, it's a number of things and also coincidence in nature and in politics. I think from the start of the oil industry, if the government puts a favourable slant on exploration, you'll find oil, if it doesn't you'll go somewhere else.

DF: Did you ever go overseas with Chevron?

DO: No. I was going to say, other than the States but that's not overseas and I never worked in the States either, no. My entire career was with Chevron in Canada.

#479 DF: That's pretty rare isn't it?

DO: I don't think so, we had a number of people who were that way. If you wanted to go overseas, the opportunity arose, you could make it, create it and Chevron treated the people quite well that went overseas. At least, appeared to.

DF: Now there were a number of economic downturns during your career, do you remember the late 50's, early 1960's.

DO: Oh yes, it was always a state of the heights of ecstasy to the depths of despair. Chevron was probably one of the better companies in that respect because they didn't panic into firing people on the first occasion. But they weren't entirely immune to it, there was a tendency to follow the leader. If one company starts to pull in their horns then the others do the same thing, which is not a good idea if you can financially handle it. And most large companies can handle it if they want to, it's a personal tactic type of thing.

DF: Were you ever involved in laying off large groups of people?

DO: I don't think we ever laid off a large group of people but I of course, was involved in laying off some people. The only thing I remember about that is somewhere I read, in one of these personnel books that there is no way to make some interviews pleasant and I don't know how you go about letting people go in a pleasant sort of way. They're naturally resentful because there's an implication against their competency, which isn't true at all, it just happens that they were there at the time and they're often low man on the totem pole. Many of our alumni have done quite well on the outside industry. In fact, better than if they'd stayed and it was a good turn for them.

DF: Yes, I've heard that story before.

DO: Oh yes, I'm sure you have.

DF: Do you remember what was the cause of the lay offs in the late 50's and early 1960's?

DO: Usually the price of oil or government action. National Energy Program or Policy went through in the 70's.

DF: 1980, yes.

DO: 1980. If of course, was the reason for a lot of lay offs in the industry. But in some ways the government did achieve its objective with the National Energy Policy in that it encouraged drilling in the north and drilling in the offshore east coast, where in '79, we drilled Hibernia. Part of that, I'm sure, was an offshoot of government activity, or financial activity.

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Side 2

DF: Well, let's continue talking about the role of government. How specifically did the NEP affect your company and your career?

DO: I can't really say because in my place there with Chevron I was more or less isolated from the difficulties, I'm sure it would be, of management in the changing environment of oil prices and government regulations. Because I suppose, having worked for one of these nasty international companies, transnational I think they call them that they should be. . in my entire career with Chevron I never saw or never even heard of anyone doing anything against the laws or the ??? of the country involved. I think they were better corporate citizens than many national companies. Or the same thing, I'm sure they're all the same.

DF: As a Canadian, did you have any opinion about working for an American company?

DO: There is always the tendency to think that you're the underdog. But I don't think that's true. Many of the people from Chevron Canada went in to operations with Chevron overseas and did quite well. I think anybody who wants to do international work can, if they keep at it, and for the most part, most that went were quite successful. I know Ted Jones, was the manager of the Chevron Research Company in LeHavre for a number of years. I think you could go on to name quite a few people who did quite well in international work. But I think first of all you have to want to and then have the necessary ability that goes with it. Actually all the individuals that went into overseas work did fairly well. I just never had the care to go because I saw that for the most part, many wanted to get back. The best way to find out how good a country Canada is, is to work somewhere else. Even like to see an American flag for that matter because it may save your neck. I don't know how to put that but the travelling I've done since I retired let me know, or shows me that there's nothing more satisfying than to see a Canadian or an American or a British flag. At least people understand what you're saying then.

#036 DF: Do you attend any of the past President's dinners?

DO: I've attended pretty well them all. They're an interesting evening usually, although it's got so big that you don't have much to say. It's ceased to be a small group, as it gets bigger then it doesn't necessarily mean better.

DF: When you were President do you remember having one?

DO: No, I don't think we had them then.

DF: What do you think of the future of the CSPG, where do you think it can go?

DO: The same as the industry I suppose. We have more, increasingly all the time, dealing with fewer opportunities I suppose, as time goes on. Western Canada is pretty much in a mature stage right now. It's interesting in that an industry has gone from immature to mature in the lifetime of one person. It's a modern phenomenon I suppose, I imagine other industries are the same.

DF: Yes, you've seen a lot of change in your time, computers would be another one wouldn't it?

DO: Oh, the computer has made an enormous effect on the scientific world. Things you couldn't do or didn't have the facilities to do, even 20 years ago, you can now. The best example of that I suppose, is plate tectonics, where the ability of aeroplanes to fly large distances across oceans led to the detection of magnetic striping in the sea floor and brought about the concept of plate tectonics. Most people could see there was some arrangement, especially in the Atlantic but it wasn't until the ability of computers to

handle the masses of data that could be gotten from geophysical measurements that you were able to prove or to identify the nature of sea floor spreading. I guess it was Wagnner who first . . . he was the pioneer of continental drift, what was it, 150 years ago. But of course, there was no way you could prove or disprove or have any idea how it would happen. So he was looked down upon. So the technical world constantly changes how we do things and recognizing what can be done with what, is a constant trial. I don't suppose it will cease. You can't change it in the past of course.

DF: What have you enjoyed most about your career?

DO: I think doing subsurface geology. There are some basic patterns you follow in looking for oil, which is interesting and getting to be less and less opportunity as time goes on. I think we'll be directed to secondary tertiary recovery in fields that exist. And eventually of course, the price of oil and gas must go up as it's a finite resource. We may even come to a point of mining old oil fields. It seems God placed the most abundant oil reserves in places that are most unstable in the world and I'm sure it will cause a problem some time in the future.

#082 DF: As it has in the past.

DO: As it has in the past. The more things change the more they stay the same.

DF: Any regrets, any things you wish you could have done, didn't have time to do.

DO: No, I don't think so. I don't particularly have any regrets. I remember seeing George McMillan had a picture of an old fellow sitting up in his roll top desk doing nothing and he said, I regard each day as credos??? of golden opportunity. And I think that's true, that it's what you make out of it.

DF: Anything else you'd like to tell us about your career or the CSPG?

DO: I haven't done much in the CSPG in the last 10 years. It seems I'm never around for some things and others, there are other people who can do it much better than I. the CSPG, to me, has been a valuable sort of organization, in that it is scientific enough but social enough to fill the needs of most people. It's always been amazing to me how you can get so many competent people to work for nothing. The thing I hadn't mentioned, I was also President for a year of the Canadian Geo-Science Council which the CSPG has seen fit to get out of. It may be back now. But it of course, faces enormous problems in having such a diverse group of people in it and I think it's different and quite active for the most part. So it might be somewhat of the present Conservative party, there seems to be all those same attitudes of having different roads toward, and when you get a group of highly aggressive people together you're bound to have nothing but a cat fight. I hope the CSPG gets back into the Geo-Science Council because there is a need in Canada for such a thing. The more I think about it the more I see that TV advertisement I guess it is, about cowboys herding cats, and dealing with groups of people is somewhat like herding cats. You can only do it with a great deal of meowing and scratching and independent thought.

DF: It's coming up on the 75th Anniversary of the CSPG, what kind of a publication do you think could be done to celebrate that?

DO: I'd need to think about that. I can't think of what would be a good thing to have. I think looking into the future is one thing that a person should try to do, or an organization should try to do. Most people, if you give them time to sit and think about it they can think of what is going to happen in the future or what has to happen in the future. And

we're dealing with a non-replaceable resource. It's always seemed incredible to me that you have people fight tooth and nail to prevent us selling our water for instance, that to a great extent is a renewable resource. Yet we try just as hard to sell our oil and gas from this cold country with a non-renewable resource. It doesn't make sense. I don't know what should be done but certainly it would be good to give some thought to it.

#134 DF: Did you ever meet any of the real old timers like Ted Link?

DO: Oh yes, I met Ted Link.

DF: Did you ever work with him, what kind of a character he was?

DO: No, my only experience with Ted Link was in Regina where I hadn't a place to stay and he offered me his hotel room. He said, I'm not going to be in it anyway. I declined because I was told by some other people that if you value your sanity you won't stay with Link. I'm not sure that's true. But I just had that short experience with him.

DF: How about Bill Gallup?

DO: Bill Gallup I didn't know. I met him, I didn't know him at all.

DF: Any of the other old timers?

DO: I don't know whether you call Jack Browning an old timer but I've certainly been a good friend of his for years. Interesting individual.

DF: Very interesting, yes, I know him.

DO: If I were to put one person that I think has been a good friend I would say Browning is probably it. The only old timer I met in northern Manitoba was Tom Lamb, who was an interesting character. The last of a breed I think. He was the patriarch of the north. He had several sons who, I'm not sure followed in his footsteps, at least one daughter who I knew in Manitoba. He was one of the original interesting characters of the north. I can recall him sitting in his aeroplane with his gnarled hands that hadn't been washed for a week and he hadn't shaved for a week too and flying to Sheraton with him. He was going anyway but he charged us as much as he possibly could. I found him a character, they don't make them the same anymore.

DF: Anything else you'd like to say.

DO: No, I can't think of anything.

DF: Well, I'm sure as soon as we turn off the tape you'll think of lots more. Well, on behalf of the CSPG and the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, I'd like to thank you so much for letting me come into your home today and spending these few minutes with you and we'll end the formal part of the interview at this time, thank you ver much.

DO: Thank you.