

## PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Victor Pasemko

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr, assisted by Jean McLaws

DATE: July 10, 1992

Side One - 44:55

AK: I'm Aubrey Kerr and today is Friday, July 10, 1992, and I am in the home of Victor and Beanie Pasemko, one mile west and one mile south of the hospital corner at Redwater. And I am very glad that you are able to give me some of your recollections. And I'd like to start with your parents. They came out from the old country at the turn of the century.

VP: I think it was 19...

AK: 1899 according to the book.

VP 1899 then, yeah. That's when they arrived.

AK: And they were both born in Ukraine.

VP: In Ukraine.

AK: And where did your parents meet each other?

VP: My dad's parents settled in an area called Star, close to the Lamont over there.

AK: Well, they had... so that was like your grandparents?

VP: That was my grandparents. And that's where the whole family settled.

AK: I see. And that was the Pasemkos.

VP: That was the Pasemkos. And in that area, I imagine that Star, there must have been quite a few Maloneys.

AK: Right.

VP: My mother was a Maloney, but they lived only two miles out of here. So, how they met I don't know. I imagine it was through the people that they lived with at Star, that they got to know about the Maloneys at this side of the river.

AK: Right. And while we're at it Beanie, what was your maiden name?

BP: My maiden name was Dowhaniuk, and my parents, my father comes from the Lamont?? area. My mother comes from the Chipman area and they were both born in Canada.

AK: Right. Now that's Dowhaniuk? DOHA...

BP: D-O-W-H-A-N-I-U-K.

AK: Oh good. Okay, I like to get the spelling of this because my typist you see has to know how they're spelled. Isn't that right Sophie? Her name is Ribkowski. So, we're all in... I'm the only one... we are the only ones with English names here.

VP: That means I can talk to you in Polish then.

AK: Well, yeah, you could talk to Sophie in Polish. She'd love that.

JM: He means his secretary.

AK: Yeah, you could talk to Sophie.

BP: No, I'm...

AK: Okay, so your roots are both in Canada and in the old country then?

VP: Right.

AK: So, you were born here on this property?

VP: On this property, 1923.

AK: Now, can you tell me the legal description of this quarter section?

VP: It's the southeast quarter of section 23, what comes first, 57-22, west of the 4th.

AK: Right. Okay. And had your father and mother, they had homesteaded on here?

VP: Yeah. Originally my father went to homestead at Myrnam.

AK: And had he...

VP: Was there about one year. He couldn't make a go of it over there, so he came back here.

AK: And was this land open here?

VP: No, this land wasn't open.

AK: Oh.

VP: He had to open the land here.

AK: No, but I meant was it, was this land available for homesteading?

VP: Yes. It was.

AK: Yeah, so that's what I meant. It was open.

VP: Yeah, it was open.

AK: But of course, it wasn't cleared.

VP: No, it wasn't cleared. So, Dad latched onto this land and he expanded to another 80 acres over there, and then another farm south of here. And that's what we farmed... we still own all that land.

AK: Right. And when he obtained it, was he married at that time?

VP: Yeah, he was married at that time.

AK: And do you remember what year it was that he filed on this?

VP: In 1918.

AK: Right.

VP: That's when he settled here, in 1918.

AK: Yeah, and had he become a British subject by then?

VP: Oh, I imagine so. Oh yes.

AK: Because that was one of the requirements.

VP: Yeah, I imagine he became... the whole family did immediately upon arrival.

AK: Well, they'd apply for British subject, you couldn't get it automatic. And you were saying that you were born in a small building nearby here on this property?

VP: Yes.

AK: Where is that building?

VP: It's just right over, sitting right there. The white building.

AK: Oh that white building. But you've had it repaired and refurbished.

VP: Like everything else, everything is being kept up.

AK: Well, that's wonderful.

VP: See I'm just painting the barn that was built, I don't know what year. Probably about 1922.

AK: Right.

VP: I took over the farm on my own in 1949, and I have farmed and worked since. I worked for Esso for 32 years.

AK: Right.

VP: Starting in 1949.

AK: Okay.

BP: And farming at the same time?

VP: Yeah.

AK: You kept two things going. And then when did your father and mother pass away? When did they decease?

VP: Beanie, when did Dad die? Or Mom? They died within a year of each other.

BP: Your dad died in 1985, and Mom in '86. No, Dad in '84, Mom in '85, and John in '86.

VP: Oh, yeah.

AK: John was your?

VP: John was my brother.

AK: The older.

VP: The oldest in the family.

AK: I see. So, he was... he would be, about what?

VP: John passed away when he was 72 years old.

BP: 71.

VP: 71.

AK: Right. And you have other brothers and sisters?

VP: Yeah. I have two brothers, Fred and Paul. And two sisters.

AK: Yeah. Are they resident here in the area? Or are they...?

VP: Yeah, in Edmonton.

AK: Oh they are in Edmonton.

VP: They are all in Edmonton.

AK: I see. And you're the only one that is living on the original homestead?

VP: Yeah, it's a bit of an obsession with me, you know, because it's my home. I don't know what it means to move and settle someplace else.

AK: Well, that's most interesting.

VP: I just pass it on to my son. I don't sell, I don't do anything, I just pass it on to my son.

AK: Right.

VP: Like Dad did to me.

[00:08:22] AK: Right. And you have some children then?

VP: Yeah, we have four. Two girls and two boys.

AK: Yeah, and the boys are, where are they?

VP: Well, one son is not quite a mile out south of my place, our place here. And the other son is at Spruce Grove. He's a dentist out at Stony Plain.

JM: Out my way.

VP: That's your way, yeah, sure.

AK: And your daughters are?

VP: Our daughter is, one daughter is married to a contractor by the name of Brian Meany??, and the other daughter is married to a Barry Cavaniaugh who is a lawyer.

AK: Is that K-A-V-A-N?

VP: No. C.

AK: C. Cavanaugh. Yeah. There's two different spellings, some with 'k' and some 'c'.

BP: Hers is quite different. C-A-V-A-N-I-A-U-G-H.

AK: Yeah, there's different spellings of it. And they are where?

VP: All in Edmonton.

AK: Oh, he practices in Edmonton.

VP: Yeah.

AK: Right. And they I guess have... there's a couple of grandchildren right there.

VP: We have nine grandchildren.

AK: Isn't that great? Well your statement about your knowing, if I can put it in my words, knowing really nothing else than this property, is very touching, very moving. And I relate it to the same situation as is in Calmar. You know Calmar, west of Leduc.

VP: Yes.

AK: There is a Swedish lad who was written up in that book. His name is Aangberg. And he lives in a house just like that, almost exactly, a hundred feet away from where he was born. And you know this, and you talk about all the vagabonds, and all the people that have moved and traveled around, I think of myself, thousands of miles I've traveled, and the number places I've lived, and it's really something to have this sort of thing, be in your home in this presence. It's really something. I appreciate that. So, you grew up here and you went to school where? Where'd you go to school?

[00:11:14] VP: Well, we had a school, two schools, just a mile directly east of here called the old Ufford School.

AK: Duffern?

VP: Ufford.

AK: Oh, is that U-F-F-O-R-D?

VP: Right. Ufford School. There's the elementary school and the high school, grade 1 to grade 5 for, I think in the elementary school, and high school was from grade 6 on to grade 11. We didn't have a grade 12. But teachers, we spent two years in grade 11.

AK: Right.

VP: And that gave us a part of grade 12.

AK: And you took those courses, and did you proceed from there on, or?

VP: Well, ran into, let's see, I graduated in 1941, but I didn't go anywhere because it was during the war. War broke out and I stayed home. Dad was left alone on farm, so I farmed with Dad.

AK: Right. And your mother was still alive too.

VP: Mom was still alive, yeah.

AK: So, you were assisting your dad in keeping the farm going?

VP: In keeping the farm going.

AK: Right.

VP: Dad wasn't too well in those days, I guess he just overworked himself.

AK: Right.

VP: His back was given him an awful lot of trouble.

AK: So, you didn't proceed any further with education?

VP: No, well after I no, I went to Calgary to tech school for one year.

AK: Oh, did you?

VP: Yes.

AK: SAIT eh?

VP: Yeah.

AK: What did you take there?

VP: Industrial electricity.

AK: Oh, is that right?

VP: Yeah.

AK: What year was that, that you went down there?

VP: This would have to be about 1941-42, I guess.

AK: Yeah, I was wondering because I understood the school was taken over for the wireless training.

VP: The school was taken over by the military.

AK: Yeah.

VP: That was some place on the hill, I don't know where it was. But we went to the stadium in...

AK: Oh, Mewata Stadium?

VP: Victoria Park.

AK: Oh Victoria Park?

VP: Yeah.

AK: Oh, yeah you mean the Stampede grounds?

VP: Stampede grounds.

AK: Oh, that's where you took your courses?

VP: Sorry, that's where the school was.

AK: Is that right?

VP: Yeah. That was quite a big building, it had lots of facilities in there.

AK: So, you took industrial electricity? Was it a one-year course?

VP: That was about a three-year course.

AK: Oh, but you just took the one year?

VP: I just took the one-year course.

AK: And then you returned?

VP: And then I had to stay at home.

[00:14:04] AK: Yeah, I see. Okay, at that time had you married?

VP: No.

AK: You were still single?

VP: That was '42. We got married in '49.

AK: '49, right. So, all this time during the war then, your job was right here? And you stayed here and, at what, what year did you take on the job of being an elevator operator?

VP: 1946.

AK: '46?



VP: Yeah.

AK: And this was...?

VP: That was about the time when Dad had decided he'd be selling out. He thought of moving on, you know, about getting himself into something else.

AK: Yeah. Well it says in the book there he went up to Clyde.

VP: Oh sure. But that was after I had the job, and I came back to the farm after I put the elevator job in the bulk station. I came back to the farm for one year. And then when they struck oil here, in 1948 was it?

AK: '48.

VP: Yeah. Imperial Oil or Imperial Pipeline came down to our place because they were trying to purchase some land for siding loading tracks, and for loading the rail...

AK: You mean here?

VP: Yeah.

AK: This land here?

VP: That 50 acres over there on the other side of the track.

AK: Oh.

VP: We had 50 acres over there...

AK: Well, that was like a fraction was it?

VP: That was just a fraction.

AK: Well, that was near your recreational place?

VP: Yeah, that's the place.

AK: Oh, and your dad owned that?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And they wanted to negotiate?

VP: They wanted land in the worst way, but they wanted land further down east of here, you see. But no one there was interested in selling land.

AK: Is that right?

VP: They were holding out for higher prices you see.

AK: So, they were hoping they could make a deal with your dad?

VP: That's right. So, they came here, we negotiated. I remember that very well. And we settled for two hundred dollars an acre, that's what we sold the land to Imperial for.

AK: Well, did they put the siding in?

VP: They put siding there, they built big tanks over here, a hundred thousand barrel tanks, about two or three of them, plus some smaller ones.

AK: And that's just north of here?

VP: Yeah, just across the tracks and to your...

AK: Of course, everything's gone.

VP: Yeah, everything's gone.

AK: And they pulled the siding up?

VP: Yes.

AK: So, that facility that was built there was to handle most of the crude shipments out of here?

VP: Yeah. Everything was piped into that terminal.

AK: Oh, you mean there was pipes laid to the...?

VP: Oh yes.

AK: They didn't have to truck it?

VP: Well, originally to begin with before the lines were laid, they had to truck it. Oh sure.

AK: Well then, why did they move away from there?

VP: From here?

AK: Yeah.

VP: Because they automated the field.

AK: And then there was a direct connection with Interprovincial then.

VP: What they did, is they built the fuel gauge in Redwater, the fuel gauge, you know what the fuel gauge is?

AK: Oh, yeah.

VP: They had great big huge vessels in there to bring the oil into, and immediately the oil went into booths, towers where they took the gas off the oil.

AK: Right.

VP: They treated oil right there, they took some more gas off the treaters, processed the gas, and shipped the crude directly from Redwater to Edmonton or wherever.

AK: Through Interprovincial.

VP: By-passed the terminal here.

AK: Yeah, I see.

VP: Because originally, everything was open, all the batteries were open, eh, tanks and...

AK: Yeah tanks.

VP: ??? atmosphere.

AK: And the fumes were lethal.

VP: That's right. But nobody seemed to care. Except those who were right in the vicinity of the tanks, or in the vicinity of where the ...

AK: Well, were they all forced to wear gas masks when they're working?

VP: Well, we were forced to wear gas masks to gauge the tanks.

AK: Yeah.

VP: Yeah, to climb. But then again if you were out in the field, there was an awful lot of gas within the battery site. We weren't required to put a mask on immediately the minute you pulled in to the battery site.

AK: No.

VP: But the minute you went up to the tanks, that's when you had to use it.

JM: Was it flared?

AK: Well, all this gas is flared you see???

JM: Like Turner Valley?

VP: Yeah, same thing.

AK: Yeah, the same thing, but the gas quantity per given valve well was very very tiny, because the oil was under saturated.

VP: Yeah, we didn't have any, I don't think we had any free-flowing wells. They all have to be pumped.

AK: Very soon, yeah. Very shortly, even the better ones, yeah.

VP: The pressure petered out.

[00:19:36] AK: But I was told that at the very beginning, if I have this right, that some of the earliest shipments of crude were out of Kerensky.

VP: Well, originally before this...

AK: Yeah. At the very beginning.

VP: ??? was built, they had, Kerensky had a siding there. That's why we had the loading cars, the loading platform.

AK: Yeah. Well, then why wasn't, you know, you'd think, you had the siding at, right in the town of Redwater.

VP: Well, we had the siding, but don't forget we had the elevators too. The grain elevators.

AK: Yeah.

VP: And if you had grain cars on the siding, you couldn't very well put up with both, loading the grain and loading oil. We just didn't have the facilities here in Redwater. Over at Kerensky, there was nothing there except the siding. They put up a few tanks there, they put on V8 motors to drive the pump, so there's no power there. That's how... I worked at Kerensky for...

AK: Did you?

VP: Yeah, up until this opened up.

[00:20:47] AK: Yeah, well let's just go back to this Imperial Oil agent's job, and this job with the elevator. Did they coincide, did they come together? And did you make them harmonious, the two jobs?

VP: Well, the fellow that ran the thing before me did a fairly good business of it.

AK: Yeah.

VP: But during my period, right after the war, there wasn't a great need for gas or oil.

AK: Right.

VP: So, if I sold, like I say, if I sold 10 barrels of oil a day, I'd be, I mean gasoline, I'd be very lucky.

AK: Yeah.

VP: Because the farmers weren't mechanized like they are now.

AK: And did you, the drums... they were in the drums in '45. You were saying that you had quite a time delivering some of these drums and that the mark-up was so small.

VP: Well, our profit on a barrel of oil was 90 cents, 2 cents a gallon.

AK: Two cents a gallon.

VP: Right.

AK: Delivered.

VP: Delivered.

AK: Well, now if he picked it up at your bulk station, your markup was one cent.

VP: Markup was one cent, t was 45 cents on the barrel.

AK: Just absolutely unbelievable.

VP: It was absolutely ridiculous. More gasoline evaporating into the air from the storage tank I had than I was selling.

AK: Oh, you had a storage tank.

VP: I had a storage tank.

AK: How many gallons would that hold?

VP: That I don't recall. Probably about a thousand.

AK: Yeah, but then you'd lose...

VP: No, it had to be... a thousand gallons isn't enough. Probably five thousand.

AK: And here you were, your profit was going up in evaporation, and your profit was going out...

VP: In shrinkage.

AK: In shrinkage, and in travelling out to the country with your dad's truck, was that what you said you used?

VP: Well, I used Dad's car and a trailer, two-wheeled trailer.

AK: You were really wrastling this...

VP: Yeah, wrestling these doggone barrels on all these dirt roads and muddy roads. There were no roads here to speak of in those days.

AK: No. Well then, what about, did you come back at night and help your dad with the farming?

VP: Yeah.

AK: Had that been pretty well all broken by that time?

VP: Yeah, we had the land, pretty well broken up. After, I broke some land when I was 45 years old.

AK: Oh did you?

VP: Yeah. I broke some 80 acres.

AK: Right.

[00:23:53] So, this... you were saying that you got \$60 a month from...?

VP: \$90.

AK: \$90 from the grain company.

VP: That's right. For buying grain, I had \$90 a month.

AK: Well then who was the grain company?

VP: Searle Grain Company.

AK: Now that's spelled, S-E-A-R-L-E. Now they were from Chicago weren't they?

VP: Oh I don't really know. In those days I didn't know that.

AK: Well Winnipeg anyways.

VP: Yeah, could be. Yeah, it was Winnipeg.

AK: They would have an office in Winnipeg.

VP: Yeah. Searle Grain.

AK: Right. And it didn't matter whether you bought one bushel or a thousand bushels, that was your pay?

VP: Well...

AK: Or did you get a commission?

VP: No, no, there was no commission. But the company did want you to get out there and make sure that you drummed up some business.

AK: Oh, yeah, volume.

VP: The farmer, I as an agent was required to go out into the country and write them up in permit books, you know, get the permit books for them. That means, that meant they filled out a permit book that he was my customer, but if he didn't fill out a permit book with me, that meant that he was somebody else's. I had, there were 3 grain buyers in Redwater at that time.

AK: So, there was competition.

VP: There was competition. There was Searle, UGG, and Alberta Wheat Pool elevators.

AK: Well now did they all have an agreed-upon price for the wheat?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And would you buy rye or oats or any of those others?

VP: We bought oats, rye, and barely and wheat.

AK: Yeah. But no, that was long before canola.

VP: Oh, that was long before canola.

AK: Yeah. Canola is something new.

VP: I think canola came in to being sometime in the '50s.

AK: Yeah, right. So, this went on and you were kind of, had about three or four balls in the air. You were looking after the farm, you were trying to get customers, and you were wrestling these the drums of gasoline.

VP: I was selling flour and coal.

AK: Oh did you mill some, did you do any milling there?

VP: No, but had a lead to the elevator office, which was originally living quarters, living quarters right attached to the elevator office. And that was converted to a bigger warehouse where I kept the flour.

AK: Oh. And where would you have gotten this flour from?

VP: Well this came in from Edmonton, I don't recall now.

AK: Was this something to do with Searle?

VP: Yes. Oh for sure.

AK: Oh, I see.

VP: This wasn't my private enterprise, this was Searle's.

AK: Oh and you were required to handle this.

VP: That's right. Twine also.

AK: Oh for heaven's sake.

VP: Twine, flour...

AK: And you had a, they set the price that you were to sell it for.

VP: That's right.

[00:27:13] AK: Getting back to the darn drums, Victor, how much deposit did you have to put on those drums?

VP: I don't really recall. But what I was required to do, was get out there, hire a truck, there was a local truck in town, and we'd go out there for a day or two, from farmer to farmer picking up these drums.

AK: Yeah. In other words...

VP: We had to cover all the farmers because we have an agent here that was BA, and he was always short on barrels, and then he managed to fill Imperial barrels, my barrels.

AK: In other words, he snitched some of your drums.

VP: Yeah. The competition, eh?

AK: Yeah, well that's right.

VP: I get upset even now when I talk about it. I wish, I don't want to dwell on things like that.

AK: No, but that was one of the facts of life that they were running around trying to short circuit you.

[00:28:26] So, when was it that you, and you still weren't married, because you weren't married until '49 you said.



VP: That's right.

AK: When was it that you first heard, through the whatever you want to call it, the perogy telegraph, or the pipeline or anything, that there was something going to happen here in the way of drilling a well out at the Cook property?

VP: It's interesting that you mentioned that because, I do not recall knowing that there was something brewing in Redwater, that there was going to be a well drilled. Because I gave up the agency in July of '47 I think it was, or '48. In August they struck oil.

AK: Yeah.

VP: You know I missed the thing by about a month. Had I known, I'd have held on to it you see. And this guy took over, he just well...

JM: Laughing to the bank.

VP: He had a gold mine.

AK: That's right. And of course all the... you see Imperial Oil insisted that all the rigs that worked for them had to buy the diesel fuel and all the grease and everything else. And then all the Imperial Oil cars and trucks, they had to buy at the Imperial Oil Station. There was one retail outlet there, wasn't there? Did you ever...?

VP: Well we had a, yeah, I think you're right. Just Boston's, the retail outlet, Boston's Store.

AK: Yeah, and he probably only pumped a few gallons a day before...

VP: Well that's about all.

AK: Yeah. With one of those...

VP: Yeah.

AK: With the tank.

VP: You would fill the sight glass up there... and fill it up.

AK: Yeah and fill it up. Well, that was the way the ball bounced for you. So, when you... you stayed with the elevator company for a little bit then did you?

VP: I stayed with the, yeah, an extra year.

[00:30:59] AK: And then you, what happened then?

VP: Then I gave it up. And I went farming.

AK: Oh, like full-time?

VP: Full-time for one year, and, full-time farming, and one day these guys came along and bought the land off him, I asked him for a job immediately. I wanted to know whether, if there was going to be, I didn't know what I was getting myself into really. But I thought I'd get myself some kind of a job.

AK: Well, then you still, it was during that time you got married?

VP: Yeah.

AK: You were, just in that year.

VP: That same year.

AK: And then you brought your bride here to this house?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And you lived with your parents here?

VP: No. When I got married my parents, my dad and mom had moved off this place, well maybe just for a few months prior. My dad went down to Wetaskiwin, he ran a billiard hall over there.

AK: Right.

VP: And a bowling alley.

AK: Is that right?

VP: Yeah. And he ran that business for about three or four years and decided to sell and he traded his business for four quarters of land at Clyde.

AK: Yeah, but not disturbing this land.

VP: Not disturbing this at all.

AK: No. And by that time had he deeded this land over to you?

VP: Mm, hmm. The home quarter.

AK: You were deeded this?

VP: Just the home quarter.

AK: Yeah, right.

VP: And after that as I came into a little money, I started buying the land off him.

AK: Yeah, right. Where did they continue to live then?

VP: After, they went to Clyde for one year, lived in Clyde on a farm, after one year. Then they moved on to Edmonton, sold the farm moved to Edmonton and that's where they stayed.

AK: And then they retired there, eh?

VP: Yeah.

AK: Were they in a nursing home or...?

VP: Oh no, no. Dad was a fairly young man. Dad came off the farm prior to the 60's, about '58, it was about '58 or so.

AK: So, he was still...

VP: He was, he had a good life after he left the farm, had a very good life, and good health too, you know ??? 90's.

AK: Oh he, well, that'd be right, because he was born in, he was, it says in the book here.

VP: Dad was 90 when he passed away. So was Mom, very close to 90.

AK: Yeah. And it was just a natural, they died naturally then you might say.

VP: Yeah. They were both in a nursing home the latter four years or so.

AK: Yeah, that's wonderful that they lived a good life.

[00:33:57] Okay, so I am looking at these tanks and I understand this is what you sold them.

VP: Yeah, this is it.

AK: Now you have these tanks. These are thousand, these are...?

VP: Hundred thousand.

AK: Hundred thousand barrels.

VP: Yeah.

AK: And what are those, little settling tanks?

VP: These are small gathering tanks also.

AK: Yeah. And the lines...

VP: Offices, there is the main office, this building is now a golf club house in Redwater.

AK: Moved in, eh?

VP: Yeah. This little building over there.

AK: And these are dismantled?

VP: These were moved up to, you know where the Gibbons Golf Course is.

AK: No.

VP: Yeah. Well this building was moved up there.

AK: Right.

VP: I don't know about this building here.

AK: Now the tracks are...

VP: Right here.

AK: Oh that's the tracks there?

VP: Yeah, there's Redwater.

AK: Oh, I see.

VP: And we are some place down here now.

AK: Oh I see. So, this picture is looking northeast.

VP: This picture is looking, you'd be looking at this picture, let's see, like this yeah, you'd be looking west, east.

AK: Oh looking, yeah east.

VP: That's east over there.

AK: Yeah, right. So, is that another picture there?

JM: Showing the farm and the... right there.

AK: Oh that's the whole panorama of the, your farm and the...

VP: See there's the house here.

AK: Yeah.

VP: It was a brick house.

AK: Oh.

VP: That's the house Dad built in 1926. We still live in this house.

BP: And the little white house here, you can see it.

VP: Little white house.

AK: Yeah, all right. And then your outbuildings, and then in the, these, now did you sell that to them outright for two hundred dollars an acre?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And there was no rental or anything?

VP: No. Cash settlement.

AK: Right. And...

VP: Isn't that a beautiful picture?

AK: Oh, it's a lovely picture, yeah.

BP: Isn't it a wonderful picture?

VP: You see, you notice that there are no trees here, this is all...

AK: You must have had somebody from an airplane take that.

VP: Yeah.

BP: They were doing that quite regularly.

AK: Yeah, right.

VP: There's the old straw pile, we didn't have combines in those days. Straw pile here.

AK: Yeah.

VP: We had a straw pile over here on that terminal site.

AK: Well, there must have been a...

VP: We sold a straw pile for \$15, and we thought we got a...

AK: Yeah. Well now there must have been...,

JM: What is that you sold?

VP: The straw pile. You know?

AK: Yeah, but there must have been...

VP: We thought we made good money on that.

AK: Now where did the tracks run, did they run along...?

VP: Well, the tracks are right here.

AK: Oh.

VP: Right here.

AK: Oh, I see. And they had what, one or two sidings there?

VP: Just the one siding. A main track and one siding.

AK: Yeah. And they would ship how many tank cars a day?

VP: We were loading, I think were loading 30 cars at one shot.

AK: Oh you had kind of batched them out, eh?

VP: Yeah. We'd set up 15 cars on each side of the...

AK: Of the racks, eh?

VP: Yup.

AK: Well they must have followed the pattern at Nisku.

VP: Same thing.

AK: Or did they use the racks? Did they bring those racks up?

VP: Oh no. Nisku used their own, and we had our own built.

AK: Right.

VP: We had our own racks here. At Kerensky, we were loading only four cars.

AK: Yeah.

VP: Down here, we're loading something like 30 cars at one shot.

AK: So you'll be shipping out, each car would hold how many barrels?

VP: Well that's interesting, I don't recall now.

AK: No, I can't remember. Well let's not worry about that. But Kerensky was an operation before this.

VP: ??? yes, of course.

AK: And then as soon as this was constructed, they abandoned Kerensky.

[00:38:25] But when did you start with Imperial pipeline?

VP: I started in February of 1949.

AK: And that was when they were at Kerensky?

VP: I went to Nisku for one week's training.

AK: Oh did you?

VP: One week's training.

AK: Right.

VP: Worked for a guy by the name of Jack, Alan McCrae. Did you know Allen?

AK: Oh Alan McCrae. Yeah, he lived in Devon.

VP: Did you know him?

AK: Yeah, and his wife's name was Mary I think.

VP: Yeah.

AK: And they had a son who was not, he was, what's the word, you know. You remember Alan, or do you? No you may not. Who was retarded I think. I think they had a retarded child.

VP: Oh I see.

AK: Because we lived in Devon you see, for about six years, six months. Were did I get six years? No, a little more than six months. But we met a lot of those people you see, and we knew them. So you worked for Alan McCrae over there, and then he sent you to Kerensky?

VP: That's right.

AK: And who were you working for on at Kerensky?

VP: Well there was Bill Campbell, he was my boss.

AK: Right.

VP: Roy Erickson. Does that ring a bell?

AK: No, there was Bill Erickson. Now when they, when they were, those fellows had come up from...?

VP: Turner Valley.

AK: From Turner Valley with the old what, Madison Natural Gas? Or Imperial? There was a line down there called Madison.

VP: Oh is that right?

AK: Yeah, and then there was a line called the Valley Pipeline.

VP: Oh, I see.

AK: Yeah. But you wouldn't have known about those.

VP: No, I don't know.

AK: And may I ask what your starting wage was?

VP: I think it was a dollar an hour.

AK: Okay, and you had to work how many hours a day?

VP: We were required to work 8 hours a day.

AK: What, a five-day week?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And you'd work shifts?

VP: We worked shifts. I worked shift work for about 5 years.

AK: And would they provide you with transportation out?

VP: Oh, no.



AK: You had to find your way out there and back?

VP: Yeah.

AK: Right.

VP: But we were, well it was very convenient for me. It was just walking distance for me to work, I just walked over the half a mile.

AK: Well, that's right. Yeah, you didn't need, no, I was thinking of Kerensky.

VP: Oh, at Kerensky I drove my own vehicle over there.

AK: Yeah, right. So when you started up here, what did they call this shipping point?

VP: Well, they called it Redwater Terminal. But originally when they were building it, they thought they would call it Redmont, in fact that name was circulating here that it was going to be called Redmont.

AK: Right.

VP: But it never came into being.

[00:42:05] AK: And, your job there, could you describe your job?

VP: Well...

AK: Just briefly.

VP: My job, I was a terminal gauger, they called us terminal gaugers. We were responsible for the incoming oil, for the gauging of the Imperial oil, for the transferring of that oil to Interprovincial. We were sitting there side by side, Interprovincial was on the west half of that 50 acres and Imperial was on the east half.

AK: And that's where the transfer took place?

VP: Yeah. So we had to transfer this oil on paper. And we were also in charge, as terminal gaugers, of the boiler at the terminal. The crew that, had a crew of about four men under you that were loading the cars, tankers.

AK: And no spills.

VP: Oh yeah, we had quite a responsibility, yeah. And then again, we looked after the incoming oil by truck.

AK: Yeah, and they would have to receive that.

VP: You had to receive that.

AK: And write out a slip for it.

VP: Yeah.

AK: You got oil from other producers too.

VP: Oh definitely.

AK: And you had to keep track of that from the different...?

VP: Yeah. Well we did it on a ticket.

AK: Yeah, you got a...

VP: And the office did the rest, they did the sorting.

AK: Yeah. Well you had some stenographic help there?

VP: Yeah. That was separate from our office.

AK: Yeah.

VP: We had a little shack there, and we had a crew of four or five men.

AK: Well, where was the stenographic help, were they on the lease there too?

VP: Yes, in one of those buildings.

AK: Oh, in another building? Separate.

VP: Yeah.

AK: Oh, okay.

[00:43:54] So all of this was before the main pipeline got in?

VP: Well, there was an awful lot of activity here because since they had this land and had a terminal here, they had to get the oil in here. So they had to have the oil coming in from all the different locations.

AK: Yeah.

VP: The main gathering lines came in here.

AK: Yeah. So this was going on, but there was still this awkward loading rack sort of thing until they got the pipeline laid. And that was in 1950. There was an official opening of the pipeline in 1950.

VP: 1950?

AK: Yes. Now just I'll just stop this. I think we'll just turn the tape over here and just check where we've been. I've just forgotten.

[00:44:55]

**Side Two - 36:22**

[00:00:09] AK: We are continuing on side two of the most interesting interview with Victor and Beanie. And I'd like you to tell me how long you stayed with Imperial Pipeline, and whether there was any chance that you'd ever worked for Interprovincial, and the rest of your, as you move along, your career there.

VP: Well, like I've said before I start working in 1949 for Imperial Pipeline, worked up until 1969.

AK: With Imperial Pipeline?

VP: With Imperial Pipeline. In '69, Imperial Pipe disbanded and we transferred to, we were asked to transfer either to Imperial Oil production or the fertilizer plant in Redwater here. Some of our boys went to the fertilizer plant, some of us transferred into Imperial Oil production department in Redwater here.

AK: Right.

VP: So, I worked for, in production, I was transferred to gas plant first, worked in the gas plant for about five years.

AK: Who was your boss then?

VP: At the gas plant? Well, we had so many bosses coming and going, I think there was just about a new one every year. They were transferred in and transferred out.

AK: Can I ask you if there was an overall field superintendent?

VP: Yes there was.

AK: Yeah, could you remember his name? That was long after...

VP: I can't recall his name, but I think he transferred down east, and I can't recall his name. If I had some names on hand, I'd probably come up with the right name.

AK: Well, that's all right. I just wondered if there's a name that kind of stuck with you, because...

VP: Do you recall any names?

AK: No, not that late. You see, I'm only taking this story, my book, I'm only taking this this story up to about '53 or '54. And I'm snapping it off there, but that doesn't mean to say I don't want to get your

reminiscences on through because I'd like a complete story on these. So, that's all right. And then you took the choice of going to the gas plant?

VP: That's right.

AK: And there was a job there for you?

VP: Yes.

AK: Well what happened to Imperial Pipeline? Who looked after all that? Was that because it was automated then?

VP: Imperial Pipeline just, was shut down and never heard of.

AK: Well what about the facilities and everything?

VP: Well Imperial Oil took over the whole works.

AK: Oh, it was taken over by Imperial.

VP: That's right, and it was just in 1970 that they were automating the whole works, and doing away with field batteries, and all the oil was coming into the gas plant over there.

AK: Well now there by that time had this siding been dismantled?

VP: Yes, it was being dismantled about that time. Because there was no need for a terminal over here.

AK: Yeah.

VP: Everything was processed at the gas plant, and the oil was transferred directly, bypassing the terminal.

AK: To these field gate facilities?

VP: Yes.

AK: Could you briefly describe the field gate facility for me, just to give me a kind of an idea. The oil runs through the gas plant...

VP: The oil came into first a great big surge vessel, two surge vessels.

AK: Right.

VP: This is where the oil was separated, water was separated, part of the water was separated from the oil, and the gas was taken off the surge vessels. Then the oil went on to the treaters, huge treaters where the oil was heated to about 95 degrees.

AK: Fahrenheit?

VP: Yeah, Fahrenheit. And gas was taken off, and the water was drained off automatically on to treaters and down to the???

AK: Those treaters, did they have chemical additives in them, knockout...

VP: No, not at the plant site. The oil was treated out in the field.

AK: And there was knockout treaters there?

VP: That's right.

AK: And they were supposed to have the oil fairly clean to be shipped, otherwise the plant wouldn't accept it.

VP: Exactly.

AK: But then this was the final refinement?

VP: Pretty well. Because we have the pentanes, butane coming off.

AK: Oh, yeah, and they were stripped off?

VP: Yeah. Propane was piped into tankers, and butane, I think, was transferred into a deep well south of here somewhere down there, to one of those...

AK: Salt storage.

VP: Salt storage.

AK: So then when it passed through the treaters, what happened next then?

VP: The oil went into boots, tall towers.

AK: How tall were these towers?

VP: They had to be 40-50 feet probably, not taller. The gas was taken off the top, water off the bottom if there was any water, and the oil was processed.

AK: So, this was kind of like the final processing?

VP: Final process before it went into...

AK: Well, now was this boot, was it made out of wood, or was it made out of metal?

VP: It was metal.

AK: Was it open to the atmosphere at the top?

VP: No, no.

AK: No.

VP: Definitely not.

AK: And was this height required to bubble the oil up, was it?

VP: Yeah.

AK: And the oil was introduced at the bottom?

VP: The oil was introduced in the bottom. The clean oil was transferred through a series of meters, that was, I don't know, there must have been about 8 meters or so, meters, you know. High-volume meters at metered oil, out of the plant, which was directed into turbine pumps and pressured up and shipped downstream.

AK: And that was the sales point, to Interprovincial at that point. And it was metered? Who had the meters, Interprovincial or Imperial?

VP: I think they were our meters.

AK: Well now did Interprovincial meter it too just to keep you honest? Or was there just one set of meters?

VP: I can't recall whether the oil was metered. Yes, the oil metered on the end of the line too, at the other end.

AK: Oh, you mean...

VP: It was metered here as well as over in Edmonton, where it was going.

AK: Oh, I see.

VP: I'm pretty sure it was metered.

AK: Right. Because you see, at one time Redwater was the official terminus of Interprovincial, and whether that still exists I don't know.

[00:08:29] Okay, so you went over to the gas plant, and may I ask what you were getting then in terms of money?

VP: Oh, I think somewhere, when I, at that time, I think it was around \$3.50 an hour.

AK: Oh, right. What have we got here? Oh, coffee break.

[00:08:55] Well, we just had a magnificent coffee break, but the real coffee break was the wiener bun and don't, I tell you that's a terrible statement for a magnificent whole wheat bun, just fresh out of the oven. Thanks to Beanie.

So let's get back to your job at the gas plant. You've described how the oil went through, and were you still on shift work there? At the gas plant?

VP: Yes, I worked shift work for I think about five years... no, about two years at the gas plant. When I first came off from Imperial Pipeline, I was working straight daylights, when I got into the gas plant I came as a junior man.

AK: You had to start at the bottom again.

VP: Lost seniority.

AK: Yeah but that didn't hurt your pension.

VP: No, no didn't affect anything. But the pay, I think I took a little drop in pay, and I worked in the gas plant for a couple of years as an operator, and then I took on instrumentation. Went back to NAIT and went to school.

AK: And what year was that, that you went to NAIT?

VP: About 1973 or so.

AK: Did they pay your tuition?

VP: Yeah. No, the tuition, yes, everything was paid for. Yeah, except my traveling expenses.

AK: Yeah, and you were still on salary.

VP: I took night classes. Just night classes.

AK: Oh, you worked...?

VP: When I came off the operator's job, I went into a straight daylight job in the instrumentation department.

AK: And how did you manage, did you drive in every night to the classes?

VP: Three times a week we drove in.

AK: And that would be, how long were the sessions?

VP: A session? About two-hour session.

AK: That'd be like seven to nine. And then they'd give you homework?

VP: Give us homework.

AK: And then that took you how long to get your ticket?

VP: It took a couple of years, I think, it was two years.

AK: This was long before Larry Chekerda was there?

VP: Oh yeah, that was before Larry Chekerda came in. Larry came in just about when I was leaving.

AK: Right. And then after you taking these courses, then what... were you elevated a little bit?

VP: Yeah.

AK: Still on an hourly wage?

VP: I was, I would have been happy to work for a lot less money as long as I could stay off shift work, because shift work was getting the best of me.

AK: Yeah.

VP: I was getting to be... I was just about coming down with a nervous breakdown, working shift work. I was up in my 50's already, I was about 52-54 years old.

AK: And you are running the farm here?

VP: Yeah.

[00:12:18] AK: So what, when did the crunch come? When did you make the big decision that you'd had enough and you were going to walk...

VP: To pack her in?

AK: Yeah.

VP: Yes. I just, one day I just came in and I said this is it, I'm retiring, without even saying anything at home.

AK: Yeah, you'd made your mind up.

VP: Oh, I was put off. I was cheesed off at a few things that were, the way things are going, I couldn't put up with it anymore. So, I said, why should I? My son had already started working, we were just about working side by side, and I figured that's long enough. At 32 1/2 years, that was a long, long grind.

AK: Well that was your pensionable service?



VP: Well, I retired one year before they came up with the incentive for us guys to retire. Just one year, you see how I missed the boat.

AK: Oh, your timing wasn't very good.

VP: No.

AK: But at least you got your pension.

VP: Oh I got my pension. Yeah, it wasn't...

JM: What year was it that you retired?

VP: Beg your pardon?

JM: What year was it?

VP: 1982.

AK: And then by that time they started to hand out the golden envelopes.

VP: That's right. That was 1981, I think I retired, '81. 1982 they came up with that incentive to retire. I probably lost about, who knows, maybe a couple hundred dollars a month.

AK: Well, then when you packed it in was there a severance pay or anything?

VP: No. There was no severance pay. All I did, all they gave me was my holiday pay.

AK: Right.

VP: Which I was entitled to, and then my pension money came in after that.

AK: And your pension started to flow.

VP: Yeah.

[00:14:16] AK: Well now were you a participant in the stock purchase plan?

VP: Oh sure. Right along, ever since I started.

AK: Have you retained Imperial Oil stock?

VP: I still have Imperial Oil stock.

AK: And it yields a dividend.

VP: It yields a very small dividend.

AK: Yeah.

VP: 45 cents I think, a share.

AK: Yeah. So, you wouldn't get rich on that.

VP: No, no no. Wasn't smart enough, should have cashed in when, even when the shares were \$55 or \$60 when the interest was up around 11-12%. Would have made out all right, but I sold most of my good shares for the price that's close to \$70.

AK: Oh, well, you didn't get hurt too bad.

VP: No, no. If a guy held on to them you'd be really hurt now.

AK: Oh, yeah...

VP: Because they are down to about \$44.

AK: Right.

VP: But money isn't everything, you know.

[00:15:23] AK: No, I'll say. So, when you walked away from it that day, do you remember the next morning? Do you remember, I'm getting up and I don't have to go anywhere?

VP: (chuckles) I remember that very well.

AK: What kind of a feeling was it? Because you see a lot of people...

VP: There is a feeling of emptiness, because I didn't miss my work so much as I missed the people I worked with.

AK: Right.

VP: My buddies, they'd been my buddies for years, and I missed that social life. Even though, you know, we didn't meet for any long period, but we were still as... we were getting together every day for lunch and coffee, and...

AK: Yeah. And exchanging stories and all that.

VP: Exactly. So this, that was the only thing I missed. But I retired in July, July 2nd, and that was a busy season, so, I had other things to do to keep my mind occupied. So, that was okay up until winter set in. When winter set in, there was nothing. There was a void in my life, there was nothing going for me. I wanted to go some place, I wanted to travel, and there was nothing to do, so I went ahead and I started restoring furniture just to keep busy. And I did some beautiful work. I'm surprised, and to look at some of the work that I had done restoring old furniture, how beautiful it is. Gave me a lot of satisfaction.

AK: This was real antique furniture?

VP: Yeah. Real antique furniture.

AK: And where would you pick that up?

VP: Well, we have some, we have some right here from you know, from right in our home. And Beanie's uncle had some furniture like that, that he'd given her. Restored that and passed it on to our daughter now.

AK: So, that was, did you set up a workshop in the basement here?

VP: Yeah. That's where I did it, and some in the garage.

AK: Right.

JM: Did you curl? You were curling before, and???

VP: Well, I don't think I curled after I retired. No, I gave it up.

BP: He gave up curling about 1975 because we had a car accident in '74, and that just (inaudible).

JM: Were you hurt?

BP: Yeah, I was hospitalized, Victor was alright.

AK: Well, that's fortunate that you... so, you've, since then and plus your hobby of furniture refinishing, did you carry that on?

VP: No, not really. I kind of gave it up for travel.

JM: You traveled a lot?

VP: When it's winter we always look forward to traveling.

AK: And you have a place picked out that you go?

VP: Well we go to Palm Springs, or we go to Phoenix. This last year we went on a cruise to South America. A ten-day cruise. Went to Alaska last year, a year ago now. So we've done a lot of, we do a lot of traveling.

AK: That's nice.

VP: At least we are compatible in that sort of thing, we like traveling. We just came back from Radium last week.

AK: Oh, were you? Well, did you ever think that you'd become a real snowbird and spend six months down in...?

VP: No. I like variety in my life. I like the snow, and I like the heat. I like family, you know, we have family get together and we'd miss out on that. And six months is too long to stay....

AK: A lot of people do it.

VP: Yeah.

[00:19:55] Okay, let's go on, do you have, in between these trips, you said you were experimenting with some types of grass?

VP: Grass seeds. Grasses, yes.

AK: And this grass, is it an innovation? Is it some kind of new grass that...?

VP: No, it's not really new, but it's something that's been around for many years. But nobody in this area is growing the birdsfoot trefoil, or cicer milkwitch.

AK: Now how do you spell that cicer milkwitch?

VP: C-I-C-E-R milkfitch.

AK: F-I-T-C-H?

VP: No. "W"

AK: Oh, W-I-T-C-H.

VP: Milkwitch.

AK: Yeah, right.

VP: Cicer milkwitch. *(Note: correct spelling is cicer milkvetch)*

AK: Is that a, has that got a patent on it?

VP: A what?

AK: Does it have a patent on it?

VP: Oh, I imagine so yes. I'd like to show it to you.

AK: Yes, I'd be very glad.

VP: You'd be interested in seeing the what a plot looks like on that, you see I put it in last year, in July of last year. It just grew and didn't produce anything. This year, second year, it's making seed now.

AK: It's making its own seed.

VP: It looks very promising.

AK: Voluntary?

VP: No, not voluntary, no.

[00:21:36] AK: So, what about the rest of your acreage then, is somebody farming that for you?

VP: That land there is the borderline, the land on the other side that's got the..., that belongs to the neighbor.

AK: That canola?

VP: Yeah. That's our fence line right there.

AK: The canola is the fence line.

VP: Yeah.

AK: And beyond that is somebody else's?

VP: Yeah.

AK: But I thought you said that you own, at one time you owned...

VP: Yeah, that's beyond that.

AK: Oh, there's a spot?

VP: Half a mile and a mile. Yeah.

AK: Right.

JM: How much is right here on the home?

VP: We've got 100 acres on the home place here, 80 acres over there. Randy's got 160 over there, and 160 over there, and Randy's got another 160 back at that Redwater corner.

AK: Was that your son-in-law?

VP: Yes, son, Randy.

AK: Son-in-law.

VP: No, son.

AK: Son.

VP: Yeah.

AK: Okay, I guess I missed out. I thought there was one that was a lawyer, one was a dentist?

VP: Yeah. My son-in-law is a lawyer.

AK: Oh, the son-in-law is a lawyer, I see. So, Randy is the one that living right near here?

VP: He's farming as well as working for Imperial Oil.

AK: I got that, but I guess I missed...

VP: He works for Imperial Oil as well.

AK: Is he still with Imperial?

VP: Yeah. He's got about 15 years in now.

AK: Where is he working?

VP: Right at the gas plant in the oil field. The office is at the gas plant.

AK: And he has what, shift work too?

VP: No. There's no shift work now.

AK: Oh.

VP: Except in the gas plant. I think the gas plant operators are doing shift work, which is cut down to the minimum now.

AK: Oh, yeah, they've trimmed their staff right down.

VP: When I was working over there. We were producing 100 barrels of oil a day, I mean a 100,000 per day 70,000-100,000. Now, it's whittled down to about 12,000?

AK: 15,000. And did your son Randy, did he go on to get a degree or certification?

VP: He attended university one year. I don't know what he was going after, I think it was education. But he gave that up for a job. You know how young people are, he wanted a new car, he wanted everything now.

AK: Well that's...

VP: We had to go through that. First there was a motorcycle and then it was a car.

JM: He had a motorcycle.

AK: Oh, god, motorcycles. No, I didn't have that.

[00:24:24] So, is this bit of experimenting with these legumes or grasses, is that, you might say the only part of agriculture that you're interested in, or do you have other...?

VP: Oh, no. We have, we crop a lot of land.

AK: Well does somebody crop that for you? Or do you go out and do it?

VP: No, we do it ourselves. Between my son and I.

AK: Oh, I see.

VP: Yeah, we do the crop, we don't rent the land.

AK: No, you don't rent any?

VP: No.

AK: Well, that's something. And then he looks after these, yeah.

[00:25:05] I'm just trying to think, is there anything else that you'd like to tell me about the oil patch? I think you mentioned that as soon as you started there was, did you ever get exposed to these rangatang, that these vagabonds that come in that were on the drilling crews, or any of that stuff?

VP: They were what?

AK: They were on the drilling, any of the roughnecks or that?

VP: No, not really no. No, because those were the years when I was confined to the terminal and home.

AK: Yeah, right. So, you were never...

VP: So, I had nothing else to do with Redwater or the people.

AK: No, you'd not go downtown much?

VP: No. Just get the mail and that was it.

AK: Yeah, and you were outside the town limits, so, you didn't have any part in the politics of voting, or...

VP: No, no. It's just that we had, in '49 and '50, when the accommodations were scarce and they were hard to come by, we had people living in our yard. We had people living in that house there.

JM: Oh really.

VP: And we had a garage over here, people living in the garage. We had people living in a grainery just alongside the track there next to the terminal. People came in from all the way up from??? Point to work here to subsidize their living, then to farm.

AK: Yeah, it was a boom for a lot of people, but also a lot of those people, that money burnt a hole in their pockets, and it was gone, easy come, easy go.

VP: There were those who knew how to handle a dollar, and there were those who didn't.

AK: No.

VP: They just didn't know what to do with the dollar.

AK: No. They had to spend it and drink it up or whatever.

VP: Yeah, exactly.

AK: So, there was a lot of sociological problems in the town.

VP: Oh, I... yes.

AK: But you weren't exposed to that?

VP: I wasn't part of that, no. I lead a fairly clean life.

AK: Well, that's good.

[00:27:08] Well, I think we've pretty well covered everything that you...

VP: I think so.

AK: Your interesting career. Maybe you could summarize it. You told me about your timing not being very good, and you probably could have got more than two hundred dollars an acre from Imperial Pipeline.

VP: In those days you mean.

AK: Yeah.

VP: Yeah. It's interesting that Imperial Oil, you know, or Imperial Pipeline, they needed the land, they couldn't get the land. My dad went along with them and said yes with some of the land but look how



the tables turned. When I went to... when they dismantled everything over here, I said I'd like to buy that land back.

AK: And what did they say?

VP: Well, they didn't even answer my letter. And they gave it to the town of Redwater for, I imagine for a dollar.

AK: Oh, for that recreational...

VP: Yeah. At that time, when they dismantled those tanks, acreages were selling very well, you know. And I thought, gee that'd be a nice place to sub-divide that area and put a few homes in there. My bid was \$37,000 on that piece of land, you know. and Imperial Oil turned it down.

AK: Just shows you. What you should have done, well, there's no use to talking about the old days, but what you probably should have done was leased it to them.

VP: Yeah. I don't think they were interested in leasing. They wanted land outright.

AK: Yeah, but they were desperate enough they'd have done anything.

VP: Maybe so, but in those days nobody could have predicted that 20 years down the road everything's going to be automated.

AK: No, no, no. No, and the limitations to production and the growth of production. And of course this business as a fertilizer plant. And I guess you wonder if you'd ever taken that fertilizer plant job, what it would have been like.

VP: I don't think I would have lasted there very long. I'm glad I didn't go there because that meant shift work, and I couldn't cut it at all.

AK: No, that was...

VP: It's just like jet-lag you know.

AK: Oh, I know. And you work...

VP: Constantly rotating the system.

AK: Yeah, your day is all mixed up, your day clock.

[00:29:53] Well Victor, I just wondered if you'd care to summarize in a philosophical way, what all this has meant to you. You've already expressed this marvelous attachment that you have here at the land, I mean, it's unique that you've only traveled a few feet you might say, in your life, literally. Literally. So, can you give me a few comments on how you feel about life?

VP: Well, I'd like to say that we traveled a road that is unpredictable. We don't know what lies ahead from one year to another, my, I lived, I didn't know what was going to transpire 20 years or 30 years down the road.

AK: No.

VP: But the path I took, even though there were a lot of painful days and years, trouble that I lived through like missing out on a lot of these things, the reward is that I'm here today. It's, when I look back at my life, it has been a good life.

AK: Right.

VP: You know, good Lord has been good to me, blessed me with a nice family, and a good home. It's not one of the newer homes, but it's...

AK: Oh yeah, it's beautiful. Just beautiful.

VP: It's all I want in life now is a few more years, you know.

AK: Oh, you have a lot more years.

VP: I'm not looking forward to anything bigger or better, I'm satisfied.

AK: Right.

VP: And I've got to be grateful to the oil companies, who (inaudible) that provided me with bread and butter for all those hard years.

AK: That's right.

VP: I'm grateful for that.

AK: Yeah, you wonder where you might have been.

VP: That's right.

AK: If you hadn't. Well it provided a kind of a level of, shall we say, a level of, I wouldn't use the word wealth, but a level of, a cushion, a cushion.

VP: Good security, yes.

AK: A good cushion under you, and you've probably taken your money and you've invested it in other forms.

VP: Exactly.

AK: Well, that's good.

[00:32:25] Beanie, you haven't said very much all this time, but I've just got some philosophical comments from Victor.

BP: Oh dear...

AK: Well, they're all right, they're pretty good.

VP: Maybe it's a good thing she didn't hear, she'd put her own words in.

AK: But you know, I'd like your, you know...

BP: My reaction to...?

AK: Well the life you've got here, and all those years since '49.

BP: Well, I don't know. Working for an oil... or living with an oil man was, to me it was my bread and butter, and I guess I accepted it. I felt that way, that it was my bread and butter. So I accepted it, and I think it exposed me to a lot of people that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise. And I think it was, I wish I'd heard what he said. I have no complaints, it was great.

AK: Well good.

BP: It was great, really.

AK: And you worked your way up from modest means to this lovely home.

BP: Yes, we did. We had to struggle from the beginning.

AK: And your father-in-law built this house.

BP: That's right.

AK: In 20...

BP: 1923, I guess they started, and they finished it in '26. In those days you didn't build a house in one month.

AK: No, but you would have added, you and Victor would have done a lot of changes like that beautiful fireplace.

BP: Yeah, we did, a lot of changes. This is an addition that was added about 20 years ago.

AK: Oh, this part of, this wasn't part of...,

BP: Just this part here.

AK: I see.

BP: And the rest is still old.

AK: Well what about this part here?

BP: Yeah, that's part of this. And the other part was the original brick structure, with the veranda and all. It's got the dining room, living room, the kitchen, the bedroom and upstairs.

AK: Right.

BP: And, yes, we keep changing this. And we changed the yard an awful lot.

AK: Oh, did you?

BP: Yeah, we did a lot of change here.

AK: Did you put this veranda out here?

BP: Yes.

AK: With the plastic cover on there.

BP: And the yard itself, we did a lot of tree planting and that needed a lot of care, and so we were busy doing things with that.

AK: Right.

BP: It was interesting. I think one of the comments my mother made, she said, when I was growing up, I said I would never marry a farmer. And I'm the only one out of four kids who married a farmer. And my mother after years of my being married, said, I'm surprised how well you've done as a farmer's wife. So, that kind of tells you how...

AK: Well, sure. Well I think it's a lot of your determination, and the fact that you have a lovely family that's all together.

BP: Yes.

AK: And your grandchildren here, couple of them here.

VP: Thank you.

BP: We enjoy them very much.

AK: So anyways, it was very kind of you to invite us into your home and I appreciate the interview. And I think it gave me a lot of good insights into, you know, the background of the pipeline side. Because I'm looking at all facets of this. So, it's now 10 after 4, and I want to thank you, and we will conclude our interview. Shall we Jean?

JM: Yes, I think we should run it back too, so she can hear what her husband said.

BP: Oh, I'd like that.

End of Interview