

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Alice Payne

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

DATE: August 2001

DF: Today is the August 20th in the year 2001 and we are with Alice Payne at 32122 Township 250, Calgary, AB. My name is David Finch. Where would you like to start Alice?

AP: Let's just start at the top of the list here. As I say, you'll get some of the answers from all that stuff I gave you and some filler I expect because I never say the same thing twice, quite.

DF: You had to be born somewhere though.

AP: Well, I was born in Edmonton in 1940. My mother was called Olga but that wasn't her real name, it was Olive Amelia, Banks was her maiden name and she was born in Forestburg, Alberta, 1907. She used to get mad if we knew how old she was and she's still alive and lives in a home for seniors in Edmonton right now, in Canterbury. Which she does not like, she's really annoyed that she's old. She's in her 94th year and she's getting a little cranky, real mad she can't drive the car and play bridge because she can't remember anything anymore and beat the pants off people. My mother was an interesting person. My dad's name was Tom Payne and he was a prospector, which is really how come I'm a geologist.

DF: So what was his full name?

AP: Tom, Thomas. He was born in England and I'll sell you one of my books there, Quin Cola, you can read all about it. He came to Canada in 1912 and did a whole bunch of jobs and ended up a prospector because in those days, he couldn't go to the war because he had a hernia and they wouldn't take him. So he did odd jobs as it were, across the prairies and went up to northern Manitoba and eventually up to Bear Lake and Yellowknife. When he was in Yellowknife he staked 4 claims that he sold to Cominco, it was in the late 30's, '37 and it was the biggest mining deal there had ever been in Canada till then. He sold his 4 claims and he had some grub stakers called the Ryan brothers, who owned the Portage Trail and had a business. Anyway they grub staked him, grub staked meant buying him a pair of pants and sending him off you know, and committing to record the claims, which was \$5 each, big bucks if you didn't have it you see. The third throw was Ryan Gold and that was the name, he started out calling it Quin Cola Gold Mines Ltd., which is where I got the title for my book, Quin Cola. That was the Dogrib??? Indian name for, rock fat it means, because the quartz veins running through the dark volcanics reminded them of marbling in meat and there's Lac de Gras up there, Fat Lake, it was important, it reminded them of food which was in short supply. Anyway it was a private company and the Ryan's didn't want to foot the bill anymore so Dad rounded up all the friends and relatives, Englishman and everybody he could think of and they all bought

shares and he did a year's field work, which enabled them to get some samples, which were better than the ones Cominco had on their adjacent claims. And they were determined to have a mine so they got. . . '38 I guess was the best date out of our sort of running date, and he formed his company and got this mine going. So then, bingo, he could afford to get married. So he met my mom, she was a nurse in the hospital because he had scurvy and ended up in hospital with a blood clot and scurvy and practically everything wrong with him. They didn't know what the scurvy was till some old boy who was a ship doctor showed up and took a look at him and said, why that man's got scurvy. They'd pulled out all his teeth and he had a really good set of teeth and they'd pulled them all out because they were loose. He had fluid on all his joints and none of these great doctors in Edmonton knew what was the matter with him. Anyway he got better and he married mom in '38 and off they went. Let me see, the story of him staking his claims I won't tell you, you'll have to read it in my book.

#045 DF: Yes, we want to get to you and how you fit in here.

AP: So I was born in 1940.

DF: What are your earliest recollections of your dad and how did you get bit with the geology bug?

AP: I couldn't help it. He sort of took me over as I wasn't a son, I was supposed to be a son of course and since I wasn't, so what. He took me around to the bucket shops with him and to meet his mining cronies and up to Yellowknife. We had a house in a prospecting camp in Yellowknife. My sister was born in '42 and my brother in '49 but they both had hay fever so they couldn't go out in the bushes and do the stuff that Dad would have liked them all, he would have taken all of us but they got sick, they couldn't go out and run around like I could.

DF: What are bucket shops?

AP: Brokerage business. The slang, insulting name for a brokerage house. My dad never called anything what it was, it was always, a bucket shop was a brokerage house, and doctors were quacks and his theory was that the good ones wouldn't mind and the bad ones you'd find out right away because they'd get mad. Anyway, he just dragged me around and I grew up thinking I was going to be a prospector. So that was the end of that, it never, ever entered my mind to do anything else. So once I'd decided that of course, I'd haul around rocks in Yellowknife and I used to help him as I grew up, do his work on the mine. He had a glass model with all the drill holes and the winzes and drifts and all of the inner workings of the mine on this glass model. I'm sure you've seen them in oil company offices, where you put everything on it and you can walk round it and look at it. This was before you had computers to do things in 3-D and actually, it was better because you could actually walk around and look at it and figure out what was what. I did all the painting on the glass and we put this thing up so he could show people. Well, in 1949 of course, he got interested in oil. The gold price was nowhere and here he was in Edmonton, he got fired up and started doing oil business. So he put over 100,000 miles on our old Oldsmobile lease hounding and got a free hold lease and drilled a well. Why? Because the land was next to Imperial Oil. Well, it was half way between a couple of

Imperial wells and so that was good enough for him. It's like the mining business, you get the lane, you drill it, end of story. No seismic, no nothing. And in those days, Leduc had just been discovered, you could put the whole map of Alberta, about the size of that door and you could put all the wells in Alberta on it and it didn't make a spot anywhere, it just looked like a few measles spots around the province. Well he was real lucky, he drilled a little pinnacle reef to the D-2 and the other two locations were dusters. He had 3 LSD's and he drilled the one he figured was the best bet. Took the Imperial Oil geologist out to lunch and said, what would you do Joe, in the restaurant in Bon Accord, bought him a beer and the guy said, Tom if I were you I'd drill here or here and Dad drilled the 3rd location and it was good. He thought, this guy's not going to tell me the truth you know. So he just had a really good time doing this and then he had this big party for all the doctors and lawyers and family friends, we all went out and he tied champagne on the well bushes and they blew the well in. 250 barrels a day all over everything, he got oil all over everything. And all the people who bought shares in Ryan Gold came out to do it all over again with an oil well. Really, he had a most interesting life. So anyway, you can see how I got started. I grew up thinking this is the best thing since sliced bread and I was going to be a prospector. When I was in Grade 5 they tried to talk me out of it and all through school people kept saying this isn't suitable because it really wasn't suitable in those days to do this.

#085 DF: For a girl, right?

AP: That's it. Like, Viola McMillan was the only that I'd ever heard of and she'd been in business with my dad until they had a falling out. She ended up going to jail for Windfall, remember the stock scam, it was kind of like Bre-X only a Canadian version. But then when she got out of jail she invested in real estate and made lots of money and ended up with an Order of Canada and donated all her money, I don't know the museum in Ottawa to buy a rock collection. So she died well thought of, and rick, not from geology. So that's how I got started. I didn't have any other aim in going to university other than to take geology.

DF: Did you take any science related courses in high school?

AP: Oh yes. My parents sent me to Havergal in Toronto for 3 years because they thought the education here was rotten. So they packed me off to a private school in Toronto which was where all the people in the mining business that my dad knew sent their daughters. Mostly to get them out of the mining camps. So he sent me.

DF: How was that, did you like it there?

AP: It was a long way away you know. It was like going to jail compared to the freedom I'd had. I'd had a car and horse to ride and all this stuff and clomp. They'd said there were horses, I'd get to ride a horse at Havergal but it turned out that that was only if you were Miss Big Shot, the daughter of a Cabinet Minister or something, and belonged to the North York Hunt Club, it wasn't for ordinary bums like me going to Havergal. However in the end it's turned out well because all my friends, I still have my friends from Havergal that I see and go visit and keep up with, lifelong friends that were in school with me.

DF: What grades?

AP: Well, it was supposed to be 10, 11, 12 but when I got down there it turned out there was Grade 13. So I smushed 11 and 12 into one, took all the sciences, all the math, all the Latin, the whole thing, to get rid of it so I could just do Grade 13.

DF: And then where did you go to university?

AP: U. of A. I came back, I couldn't wait to come back home again. So then I started out in geology at U. of A. I stayed in honours and all that time, that's when reality sunk in because I found out that women weren't allowed. I could never get a summer job like the boys unless I worked at Imperial Oil's library, like come on. And my professor hired me once in a while, for a couple of weeks here and there, to pick fossils in the basement. Actually most of the women who'd taken geology before me all studied palaeontology. It was suitable for women. But I didn't like it on that account. And I wouldn't do machines. When I wrote a thesis in 1965, after my first job, I went to work for the Geological Survey in Ottawa, but they put me in the lab doing chemistry. Because I had a lot of chemistry courses and I was doing rock analysis, of rocks. And I like chemistry and I was good at it, but hey, I didn't want to do that either. So I invented a reason to quit, which was to take a Masters degree, because in those days you couldn't just say, I quit, nuts to you. You'd go on a black list I was afraid. Anyway, the Survey didn't let women go out and do field work. They had one employee who was a woman who looked at industrial mineral deposits around civilized places like southern Ontario but I didn't want to do that, I wanted to go up to Baffin Island and find a mine you know. Or do some mapping and stuff like that and when I found I couldn't I decided, hey, so after 6 or 8 months I quit and said I was going back to school. It was a good out. I came back to U. of A. and I did a Masters degree in age dating. And I did lots, I just went out and did my own field work. I ran into a guy in Yellowknife who said, you can come out with our camp for 2 weeks if you'd like. So I went up to the Tree River, which was near the Arctic coast, north of Contwoyto Lake, north of Yellowknife, way up there in the north. And Inco had a camp up there, they were looking for Nickle and that's where they found the diamonds up there, at Point Lake.

#134 DF: How did they bump into them?

AP: Well, they didn't find it then. And I didn't either, I'm ashamed to say. Just goes to show if you're not looking you don't find.

DF: You weren't looking for kimberlite pipes.

AP: Everybody insisted there weren't any.

DF: Without having looked?

AP: Well, they weren't sticking out you see. They were under the lake. And people had sort of looked but not really. But I didn't even know what kimberlite looked like. I was so excited when I found my first piece of kimberlite, it kind of looks like dog food, like it doesn't look like anything, you know. So they locked me up in the camp so I wouldn't get any bright ideas on anything and I stayed there overnight then I went up to the camp in Tree River. There were 14 men in camp and me, they were just tickled to death. I had a tent all to myself and the camp dog came to visit and I just had the best time. I spent 2

weeks running around collecting samples because I had instantly expanded my thesis from a rock formation in Yellowknife to include all the diabase dikes I could sample. And I sampled them from Ontario all the way up to the Arctic. And you know, none of this is on the electronic data base, they stopped in '72. But the dates that I published have not changed at all, they're still age dating these dikes and diabases and the age dates in millions of years haven't changed a bit. It's amazing. So I had a very good time and when I was finished doing all this and having fun. . . .and I did little jobs for people, I'd go up to Yellowknife and people would need you to look at their claims because their man geologist hadn't shown up. Well, then they're only too anxious to hire you. You'd get a little quick trip out to look at someone's ground, stuff like that. And I staked a few claims myself because my dad insisted I learn how to do the useful stuff, not the useless stuff you learned in university. And I just had a really good time. By this time I'd gotten married.

DF: Was this after the MA?

AP: Yes, after the MA. MA in '65. '64 I got married for the first time. I have a second husband now. But anyway, we went down to Ottawa and I did pick up jobs all the time I was married. I worked for Ken North in Ottawa and Dr. Follensbee at U. of A. and for the Survey on temporary assignments, wherever I could get work. And then of course, my dad died in what, '66 and I took over running the mining company, Ryan Gold Mines Ltd. So it always kept me busy and we moved around quite a bit, back and forth. And in the 70's I started doing research for my book because someone had written a history of Yellowknife and they'd written a whole chapter about my dad's vein that was all a bunch of hooey and about the sort of crooked deal he got his mining claim and it made me so mad. I thought, I'll write my own damn book, I can do as good as this guy. He'd got everything wrong you know, hadn't checked out things. I wasn't the only person who was upset about it, because the guy who'd actually discovered the gold in Yellowknife was upset, he hadn't got anything right. And I was in Ottawa then and with the National Library, all those old mining journals I could look things up.

#173 DF: Who were you working for?

AP: Me. Freelancing.

DF: But you said you were with that National Library, you mean you were at. . .

AP: At. I could go there and get all these old mining journals out. Because all my dad's stories would be, when I was in Fort Smith, well, when the heck would you have been in Fort Smith, what for, or the Pas, what was going on. And he always meant to sit down and tell me but he never did. So I had sort of notes and I just started looking people up. It took me a couple of years just to find them all, track them down. I took a tape around just like you do and interviewed everybody and that really was a good thing because they're all dead now. If I'd waited they'd all be toast.

DF: What did you do with all that research material?

AP: I used it to write my book.

DF: And where is it now?

AP: Sitting in a basement in a box of tapes.

DF: And what's your intention, what are you going to do with it?

AP: Well, I was thinking of putting it in an archive, sitting down with an archivist. Either the National Library or the archives in Yellowknife but they don't take very good care of them there you know. So I'm thinking of maybe the Glenbow, either the Glenbow or the National Library in Ottawa.

DF: Good for you.

AP: I don't know which. Like my dad's original notes and all the photographs I got from other people, I took them in there and gave them to them and all our photographs so they could copy them, way back when in the 70's. But I've got 6 boxes of stuff downstairs and I don't think I should keep all this stuff, I need to sit down with somebody who knows, who picks out or I pick out or somebody picks out or they just take the whole thing, I don't know what they do, I've never done it before. It's just like everything else with my book, it's all new.

DF: Yes. Well, that's fine, so long as you're thinking about that because it would be a shame to. . .

AP: Well, Tina told me that, she said, you've got to put this in an archive somewhere. And that would be fine because then it wouldn't get lost you know what I mean. These things sort of poodle, doodle away. So when I get a minute I'll do that. So anyway that gets me up to what, the early 70's, then what did I do. We moved back to Edmonton in '75 and at this point my first husband wanted to get divorce. We had two little kids and big whump-dee-do. So I shoved the book under the bed and I came down here and I got a job with Gulf in '79 to earn a living. I thought why not do the oil business you know, my dad did the oil business. I'd worked for a year in Edmonton for Dames and Moore, an engineering firm, sort of on an if, as and when basis. They had 75 offices in 65 countries, or vice versa, I don't know what. I had a friend who was working for them and he said, Alice, I've got this great big project and nobody to do the work, how would you like to do the work. He didn't like doing the actual work but this guy was a wonderful guy at getting the contract. So I said, sure I'd be happy to then I could sit in the office and boo-hoo all day and work it off. So that's what I did. I made up my mind after that, I found that the kind of jobs that they sent me on, would you like to be in Pinchy Lake at 9 am Monday morning or could you go to X, Y, Z and it was a thousand or two miles away and it was all on short notice. And I could never get a babysitter that would last for more than a day or two. One day I was down at Kipp, near Lethbridge, on a contract for them and it was a boiling hot day and I was out on this rig logging core. I thought, what the heck am I doing here. My babysitter phoned and said, my aunt's getting married in Spirit River, can you come home. Well, no I can't. So I had to get my poor old mom to look after my kids for a couple of day till I finished that job and fortunately it finished. Meanwhile there's this driller out there with all his girlfriends and a case of beer. Then one day a helicopter landed and it was a guy called Norbert Morgenstern, a very imminent professor from U. of A., who's an expert on float stability. One of the problems with this little project was they were worried about the coal mine tunnel collapsing. But I wasn't to look for the swelling plays mind you, I was just to log the core. So along comes the big expert and of course, he didn't know me from a hole in the wall but I knew who he was. He was a

member of APEGGA too and I'd heard of him all my life and some of my friends studied under him, you know, imminent. He arrives in a helicopter and goes home and I thought, what's wrong with this picture, what am I doing here. So I had a friend who worked in Calgary and I wrote to him and I said, look, I've got to get a job in Calgary so I can live a civilized life and stay home at night and make cookies and work all day and do exploration. So could you get me a list of people to interview and tell them I'm coming in a couple of weeks. I thought, I'll just take holidays from Dames and Moore and go and get another job. So these guys had a couple of weeks to think it over and in 2 weeks I went and got a list of all the people he'd given my name to. I don't know what he told them, I said, you tell them whatever you like, whatever they want to hear for the oil business, otherwise I don't know what to tell them. So he had this list for me of companies to go see and I started out with BP. BP wanted me to go to coal in B.C. and I said, no, no, I've done coal, I'm not doing coal anymore I want to learn the oil business. Well, we want you to do coal. That was the end of BP. Then what did I do, I went to Chevron. It's funny the guy at Chevron is a past President of CSPG, Dave Organ, have you interviewed him?

#241 DF: Yes.

AP: Well, he was the guy doing the interviews and he tried to explain to me that I was too old. Well, I instantly got so mad I said, I wouldn't work for Chevron if it was the last company on earth. But the thing was, he was showing me, you know these charts oil companies have with the age from graduation, years experience and they're supposed to pay you x dollars. He said, we can't pay you for your experience, it's not in the oil patch. I said, but it's geology, so what. Anyway, I could see that Chevron wasn't about to hire me so that was the end of that. The third company was Gulf. So late in the day I went over to Gulf. The fellow I was going to see was the Manager of Technology or whatever they called him then, I can't remember now. He got me and he said, are you a sedimentologist, I thought, what the heck is that you know, does he mean by that exactly. And I had this mental image of doing what we did in school for sedimentology a million years ago, where you went and crushed up rocks and put them in a milkshake maker and you measured the grain size and you did skewness and kurtosis and a whole bunch of statistics on grain size analysis. It was awful and I said, no, I'm not a sedimentologist, I'd be lying if I told you that. Oh he said, because he had in mind hiring me to work in a lab I think, Gulf used to have a lab. So he marched me off to see Bev Loney who was the Exploration Manager. Bev and I sort of hit it off, we got in a big argument about what the reserves in the Beaufort would have been if they had have been and all the configuration of this and that. When I was working in Ottawa I'd done a bunch of, I got really interested in resource estimations because I went to an NEB hearing just to see what they did. And it was lawyers arguing about procedure, not geologists and engineers arguing about the size of the pool and how it should be developed, the really important stuff, they didn't do.

DF: They didn't get it.

AP: No. And they had all these predictions about what was going to be discovered and what

wasn't and it was all baloney, they just kept moving the horse tails off. Anyway, I got all fired up, that's how come I worked with Ken North. And I did the same thing with the minerals. Anyway I was all fired up on resources, so I got in this big discussion with Bev and he told me, why haven't you come to the oil patch before and I said, you guys wouldn't hire me that's why. And I got really mad at him, I was tired and disgusted and I just had Chevron telling me I was too old and I thought, here's another guy. So he said, we've had a woman working here since the 50's, you could have done it. And I said, yes, and I bet you had her picking fossils or washing dishes in the lab. So good bye. I go home. Friday's the next day and I'm going to keep on going down my list, well, it was the days of Golden Friday's and nobody's home. So I packed up and went home to Edmonton. I thought, well, this is going to be tougher than I thought, things haven't changed much. The next morning there's a knock on the door at 10:30 and there's a messenger boy with a job offer from Gulf, written down on a piece of paper. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Years later I said to Bev, why did you hire me and he said, I thought you might wake things up around here, you had a mind of your own and I thought it would be fun, you and I could argue. He was in regional exploration which did big projects so he gave me a whole map area to go play in and the idea was in two years he planned to teach me all I needed to know. And he did, he was in the business for 30 years and those guys really got me going. I had this major project and after I'd gotten along in it awhile I found it was a complete dud, what I was doing, but it didn't matter, I learned how to do everything. I was so ignorant I treated everything like a mining project, where you looked at the regional picture and shrunk it down. Well, in oil, there is so much more data in oil than in mining. A quarter of million wells, not 3 outcrops 100 miles apart. It's a completely different. . the principals are the same but the methodology, there's a lot more data in oil which is good, it keeps this whole town busy, just munging over the data. So anyway, that's what got me started at Gulf. Then you can read my CV, I went through a whole bunch of different jobs at Gulf and so pretty soon I'd done everything. And I stayed there for 15 years, which was a long time. When I went there I figured 2 years and then they'll have a firing squad because there will be a depression. I could see, even without the NEP, because things were going off in the mining business and I knew that all these reefs would poop out, which they did in the 80's. So all these companies that were used to having one geologist and nobody there and not doing too much and having the money roll in would be suddenly without reserves. And that gave Calgary a real kick start you see, because they all had to start looking to find some more replacement oil. So when I started it was all oil then it was gas, then it was gas and oil, now it's gas. It just keeps rolling along. So each time the discoveries are smaller. Nobody is finding 500 million barrels in western Canada anymore, they're finding 50 and they think it's just wonderful. But it keeps things going and every time someone looks at this data they get a new idea. That's what astounded me. You know how you get an idea in your head, I'm sure it's the same when you get an idea in your head, like interviewing me you probably had an idea of what I was like, or not. Then you meet someone or you go look at the rock and you find it's not what you thought necessarily, that it's red instead of black or whatever. You really have to look at the rocks and that was one thing I did at

Gulf that made a difference to me. Because I was so ignorant, I'd go out and look at all the rocks, well nobody else had bothered. So I got lot of new ideas and different interpretations just from looking at the core, I could tell an unconformity when I saw it. It took 10 years for everybody to catch on to the importance of unconformities. Well, that's all I'd ever looked for in the mining business. You're always seeing outcrops, the real thing, the rocks.

#329 DF: So you were looking at cores, or were you out in the field?

AP: I went out and looked at cores, in the ERCB core storage facility. And all the time I was CSPG President I kept writing letters to people saying, don't get rid of this because everybody thinks, oh, building full of rocks, pitch it, collapse it, throw it away. Nobody wants rocks anymore but nobody is going to do this field work and nobody is going to drill those deep test holes over again. And every time another generation looks at those cores they get a new idea. So it keeps things rolling. That's the difference between doing exploration in western Canada and anywhere else in the world. Everywhere else in the world, Conoco drills a well, they have the core. You want to see it, you have to buy it. So then you have to go around to 30,000 companies and probably, if it's a duster some of them just throw it in the drink and go home, like they used to for mining, pitch the core into a lake and go home. So there's no permanent record. That's one of the most valuable things that ERCB has done is keep the rock, stupid as it sounds and expensive and all the rest of it you know.

DF: It's very important. That's the story right there isn't it.

AP: It sure saved my bacon because you see, when I came to Gulf I'd looked at logs but only very limited. I couldn't look at a whole thing and tell what it was. So that's what I learned when I first went to work there. Nowadays people look at that and they look at the photos, down hole photos and probes and they have all this stuff but there's no substitute for actually going and looking at the rock. Gulf had a permanent account set up so you'd go there, they had a little locker with their microscopes in it and stuff. You could go there and sit down all day, because I still can't tell unconformities on logs, you have to go, unless you know it's an unconformity and you know what it looks like, fine, but sometimes it's pretty complicated. You end up having to go look at the core. Then you can see right away what's doing, it's amazing. And Gulf sent me on all these field trips. The sent me to Denver, Colorado to go on a sandstone field trip to learn about sandstones and they sent me to Florida and the Bahamas to look at Carbonates, which are the two major classes of rocks, one or the other. So a lot of the field trips I didn't get to go on but this guy made sure I got in, and after that I didn't need to go on all the Junior Woodchuck courses because I knew most of the stuff. It was for people who were just out of school, like the ordinary oil company employee would get hired right out of school. And they had this whole line up of stuff. And one of my bosses said to me, Alice you can't do all this, you're only allowed 1 field trip a year and I'd go on 5. I said, well, I'm going to go and I'll pay my own way, I was really sore you know. He said, we don't allow other people to do it and I said, I haven't got that much time. By the time I went to work for Gulf I was 39 and ignorant, in spite of my association with Cominco and the mine, about how big

companies work. I only found out later, if I'd waited a year it would have been too late because I wouldn't have been eligible for the pension plan. Well now, no one has a pension plan but then, you had to qualify and to be healthy enough and young enough, under 40 or you couldn't get into the pension plan and they couldn't hire you, the end. So I was just lucky. And then of course, I survived all the firing squads and had 15 years at Gulf and I retired in '95. So I had a wonderful time.

#380 DF: What else did you learn in those 15 years about how a big corporation works?

AP: Well, it was quite interesting, a lot of stuff I learned from being President of the CSPG. Because I didn't get to run Gulf but I got to be President of the CSPG. The nice thing about working for a big company was the variety of work. When I went to work for Gulf they did oil, gas, coal, uranium mining, everything. And I'd read all about them in my stocks reports and things and I thought, what a great company, here's a company that does everything. I didn't realize how hard it was to move in a corporation that size. It's pretty tough when you're a junior woodchuck but in the end it didn't matter because as I went along with Gulf they started stripping off all these assets until, I remember one year, they got down to just oil. Then they started back up again, they got Mount Klappan, the anthracite coal deposit in B.C. And I never worked on that, that was coal. I was always interested in all of this stuff.

DF: How did you see geology change when you were at Gulf?

AP: For me it changed dramatically because it went from one hole, when times get tough, I'd say to all these guys, go out and work in the mining industry now, it's on the boom, go look for diamonds and they'd say, we can't. In '92 things, the year I was President things were very bad, generally speaking and I had all these things to buck people up and keep them going so that they could not lose heart and I'd say, go do diamonds, they just discovered diamonds in the north, go look for diamonds. They'd say to me, we can't do that, we don't know anything about mining. Get a book, go learn it, go do it. Because when there's a boom on like there was in diamonds they'll hire anybody to do anything, just like me in the oil patch in '79. I was just so terrified people would find out I didn't know too much.

DF: Everybody has to learn though.

AP: Well, this is it and what I found out is that you can practically do anything if you just set your mind to it and are prepared to work. Really, it's a question of doing the work to catch up to where other people already are and then you start off. I've always treated geology like that and that hasn't changed, that applies to mining or oil or anything. Even when you're, like consulting now, APEGGA has exams to make sure people stay current. Well, you don't stay current, you go get the job and then you learn the job and then you say to your client, I don't know anything about this but I'll find out. And if I need help, I'll get somebody. Like if I were doing a project that needed a geophysicist, I wouldn't dream of doing geophysics, that's too big a bite. But I would feel fine going to say to somebody, I can go do an environmental study because I know how mines work and how oil works and I could do it, I just have to brush up on the current rules and figure out what to do. And maybe get some expertise along the way, but you can do it. I had this scheme

when I was President for people to get jobs, I got CSPG to hire, you've heard about the SIFT, the field trips. I got companies to take the top SIFT people and I said CSPG would pay their salary for a month while they trained them and then they would pay their salary for the rest of the summer. I got 3 companies to do this.

#436 DF: How many students?

AP: 3. And I got a grant from the federal government. Well, they thought I was getting a grant for one person so when it turned out for 3 they were some upset and I said, come on you guys, what's the aim here. So then they phoned me back and wanted to know if I could do it for 8 more people and I said, it's too late now, everybody's in place for the summer. They'd sent the money and the CSPG had it in the bank so they couldn't withdraw the cash or they would have probably you know, typical government trick. Anyway, all these guys got jobs and they all stayed on with the companies in the fall. So they all got jobs. So it doesn't sound like much but it was really important to me to get a few people a job. Keep them going. What else did we do. That was a terrible year in '92.

DF: Let's get to '92 in a minute. How did you get to be on the executive to begin with? There's got to be a story there.

AP: There was. I'd been associated with the CSPG for a long time. When I first came to work for Gulf the lady that Bev had told me about that had worked, became my friend. She's still my friend and she'd come to Canada as a DP, Displaced Person I think they called them and worked in the mines in Manitoba. She finally got to Gulf and they hired her because she had a PhD in Jurassic and . . . I don't know whether Cretaceous, maybe it's just Jurassic, microfossils and they hired her to dope out an exploration program and identify fossils and work in their lab. Andy Baillie hired her, have you been to see Andy?

DF: Yes.

AP: She gave me a list of things to do and one of them was to join CSPG. So I did and during the 80's I was Treasurer and I ran for Business Manager and I was defeated. I just kept working for them steady and eventually someone came along and said, Alice, it was Ed Klován, have you done Ed yet. Ed came and he was the past President, it's the past President's job to dredge up somebody new. So he said, how about running for President. You're the only person I know who's got the experience and enough balls to do it. Everybody else had said to him, do you think the CSPG is ready for a lady President. So Ed thought I was, so I said, you know what Ed, if you want me to do this you have to write a letter to my boss at Gulf. Only I didn't get him to write to my boss because my boss at the time, I thought would have said no. So I got him to write to Bev, the guy who had hired me and to the Vice-President whom I got on with fairly well and ask officially for me to be allowed to run. Because in those days it was up to your company to sponsor you because CSPG had an executive that actually worked, not like now. When I was Treasurer every Friday night I spent till midnight doing the books. And you did it all, you input all the data, added and subtracted, did all the stuff and you did everything yourself. So when it was time to be President that's a big, time consuming thing, so you had to get your company to say okay and it's really to Gulf's credit they said yes. They thought it was a good idea. And the reason they said yes was because one of their Vice-President's

had been asked to go for President and when he got there he found he couldn't devote the time. He'd expected to make a few decisions here and there and go away, he didn't realize that he actually had to spend time and that 90,000 people phoned him and he had to phone them all back. One of my friends said, Alice, just have a great time if you get to be President because the day you're not President your phone will stop ringing.

#506 DF: Is that what happened?

AP: That's exactly it. So I went around and I just had the best time being President because I did get elected. Everybody was very surprised.

DF: About?

AP: Then I was the first woman President.

DF: So the Society was ready for you?

AP: And they insisted that I run against a man. That people should have a choice, so they found someone who was willing to run against me.

DF: I should talk to him.

AP: Well, I'll tell you, it was quite a deal. Anyway, very exciting. So then I spent a year as an apprentice, you know, you go on the. . .and they watch how it goes. But I already knew because I had been Treasurer for so long and I pretty well knew how it worked. And Jim Macdonald was the President ahead of me.

DF: Were you Treasurer for several years?

AP: 2 years, yes. One year you're the apprentice and the next year you're Treasurer. So you get to look at how the Society works. Really, you didn't get to be President unless you were very well known to everybody or you'd spent some time in harness doing something. And everybody understood it was a work job. Anyway I went to all the committee meetings I could. You know, there were 90 sub committees or something, or committees and I just did it all, I showed up at everything. That year the AAPG had their convention in town, so I got to do that. I had all these little projects on the side and I just spent my whole time. Gulf put me on a project that didn't require any work, so I could take all the time I wanted to do CSPG.

End of tape.

Side 2

AP: Okay, where was I?

DF: So we're back to the year you were President.

AP: I can't remember what I was talking about now, of course.

DF: You were put on a project at work so that you had time to go to all the committees.

AP: So I had time to be President. So that's what I did and the main thing I would say, out of my whole Presidency and the number one item on the agenda every time was to get this Atlas of western Canada printed. They'd done an Atlas in the 60's, '62 or 3 or 4, the one that Porter worked on. And it needed to be redone because it was before a lot of discoveries that were made in the late 60's. They had this idea to do it and Grant Moss

had made a proposal to the Society, I think in the mid 80's, '85 or something, to do this. They got a guy called Morley Brown to go out and raise money. Morley is a big talker and a great doer and a real promoter sort of guy. He raised half a million bucks from the oil companies to print this thing. And Grant's job was to get everybody in place to do it, to do every slice of the table and get it organized. So we did and everybody started working on it but none of them every finished. When I got there in '92, people were talking about, like Ed Klován said, you know Alice, we're going to have to give this money back. You can't collect half a million from people and 5 years later there's no results. 7 years after the initial proposal or something, it had sort of just withered. Jim and I sat down, he was the past President and what should we do. He said, well, Alice, let's offer to get him some help and finish it. If people are stuck or haven't got time or aren't going to finish or whatever. So we phoned up everybody on the Atlas committee and said, what is your problem and made a list of what they said. I talked to Grant and I said, you know what, we're going to finish this, like this year. He said, it can't be done and I said, it's got to be done and I'm not going to be the President who's going to give back half a million dollars to a bunch of companies and have egg on my face so just forget it. Anyway I made it #1, nobody got to discuss anything at my executive meetings at all, until we'd disposed of the Atlas. Everybody got completely sick of it and I'm sure Grant thought I was just a son-of-a-bitch and I was because I phoned up these people and said, what are you doing, shall I get you some help. Well then of course, their professional instincts took over and they got busy and finished their slice. I'd say things to Grant like, if so and so isn't finished, tie them to their desk, put it on their performance review, make them do it. And I had a meeting once a month with the research council people in Edmonton who were in charge of the production. They were going to put all this on an electronic disc so it could be updated instantly at any time, which I'm sure is never going to happen. But they did all this stuff. They were putting in man power money too you see, and I had my half million bucks so I wasn't going to let it fade. So by the time I was finished it was almost ready to go to press. If I hadn't done that it wouldn't have happened. To the Society that was, I would say, my biggest contribution. Although personally, I like getting those people jobs. Because nobody is ever going to do that again, the companies are never, ever again going to do things on that scale. The company support has withered away as the companies have shrunk. The amount of money they can put up has also shrunk. That's why I think now, the Society has a Business Manager and people in the office to do things because if they didn't have, nobody has the time to commit either anymore. Because the companies used to donate their time, you know. Or they would say to their employees, you can take an extra hour at lunch to do this, or something, nothing much but they did it. Well now, everybody is, go out and find a new well to drill and do it fast and make it perfect. The terrific pressure on people. So they don't have time to go putz around with stuff.

#040 DF: So in addition to the pressures of time and so on, is the industry just not appreciating the CSPG as much as it used to?

AP: Western Canada isn't in an exploration mode much anymore. Like, the companies doing the exploration are a lot, it's spread a lot thinner than it used to be. So now, the

discoveries are smaller, there's more and more small companies, although they merge and become big, they split up, it's kind of like an accordion pleat. But Imperial and Gulf and Shell, they've all got their fingers in international exploration now because they have to go and find something offshore, like Hibernia or Gulf started doing Amoligak. Everybody's looking for big finds. Well, if you want 500 million barrels it isn't going to be in western Canada anymore. It's going to be offshore or international. And the affect of that is, is that money goes there too. There's a lot of money going into Newfoundland now, it's not here, do you see what I mean. Plus, all of the stuff the CSPG did, now, a lot of it is the internal workings of pools, reservoir engineering oriented stuff and development geology. Close in details of such and such a play or such and such a pool. But not a lot of wild eyed exploration like they started out doing when CSPG was really. . . in the 50's, 60's, 70's, it was all exploration. Now it's more development and reservoir engineering, it's just the cycle, moving on. So the companies, I don't think they see the worth of it anymore because a lot of them are being run by lawyers or bookkeepers or business men who aren't geologists. In what I would call the good old days, they were all run by people who had their feet in . . .

DF: Field experience somewhere, yes.

AP: Field experience. They were the geologists, engineers, geophysicists, people who had a lot of technical knowledge under their belt and realized that to have that, you have to have somebody doing it at the grass roots level. Nowadays I think they kind of think it will just do it on its own somehow.

DF: You mentioned in passing these jobs you got these SIFT students, where did that idea come from?

AP: I thought it up.

DF: Yes. But what triggered it.

AP: The federal government had a job creation program, and my father-in-law had it for farm kids, you could hire people and get a grant from the federal government. They of course, were advertising it and I thought, hey, I'll get a grant and CSPG will match it, that was the first idea. I was going to get the people in the oil patch and CSPG to put these kids up so they wouldn't have to pay rent. Because there's lots of people in Calgary with big houses, they can do that for kids that need a boost. That was my idea. And everybody said, Alice, you can't have someone working at a company for free, the company has to pay them or no one will give them any respect and they won't feel good about it. I thought, well, that's true, so then it transposed into pay. Well then, how are you going to do that when they don't want to hire anybody anyway. Like, all these companies, none of them were hiring students. And I said to them, sooner or later, what are you going to do because I could remember having people say to me, we want someone with 5 or 10 years experience. Well, how do you get it if nobody will give you that first job. So that was what I was thinking. So I thought, the way to get them was to get a grant and divide it up among 3 and the CSPG matches it, puts in \$10,000, they can afford to do that and then we'd get these kids jobs. So in the end the federal grant paid the lion's share and the CSPG paid the rest to top it up to pay these kids, I think it was 3 of them, maybe it was 5, I'm not sure. But anyway, we divvied up the money so it worked and they all got jobs.

But it was just an idea you know, and then it got changed around a little bit from the original idea.

#081 DF: Reviewing your comments of reported activities, I see that the 1992 CSPG, AAPG convention was a success, can you tell us about that?

AP: We made lots of money, that's what that means. The way the CSPG works, which drives the bookkeepers nuts and all the time I was Treasurer it drove them nuts and I don't know whether, you'll have to find out from a recent President if they pay any attention now to their bookkeepers but I never did, I told them to go mind their own bookkeeping and let me run the Society. Because if you don't require money from companies to promote your convention, they don't have a vested interest in helping CSPG along. That was what I thought. Kind of like the men's golf tournament everybody objected to and I said, yes, but all these guys do their bit for CSPG because they like their golf tournament. So if you tell them to go fly a kite, they can't do it if they don't let women in then they're not going to help us along. So you have to be a little pragmatic about all this stuff. And it was the same with the way the convention worked, which the bookkeepers didn't like. I can remember bookkeeper wanting to go down the mines and I said, look here, Cominco knows all there is to know about reserves and so do I so you can take my word for it, you go do the books. You guys want to go to Yellowknife and go down the mine, I'll arrange it but you pay your own expenses. Well then they didn't want to do it anymore, they wanted me to pay for them to up there and look. Same with CSPG, I felt the bookkeepers should make sure nobody had embezzled any money and write up the books and go home. And it didn't impress me too much that accepted accounting practices were to make the membership pay for everything. Because if the membership pays for everything what's . . . if you don't make the companies pony up then they don't think it's important. Kind of like giving someone a house to live in, if you don't make them pay rent they think it's all free. This was my thinking, and Bill May too, ahead of me. We decided to heck with that, so we tried to make a big bin of money on conventions and then the extra money for conventions paid the cost of publishing the Bulletin and stuff like that, that's a complete money sump and doesn't ever make money. So that was sort of the trade off. The membership costs were miniscule. Now of course, the membership costs, having a Director in the office and a girl to run the conventions, then all of the money goes to pay them. But still, if you don't have the companies buying people tickets to come to the annual convention, forget it, it won't go.

DF: And what didn't the accountants like about this?

AP: They felt that you should be self sufficient, on your own hook. That the membership should pay fees to cover the administrative expenses. In those days, we didn't have too many administrative expenses because the executive worked, we worked. We did all the stuff we now pay people to do in the CSPG. So there's been, in the last 10 years it's gradually shifted to a staff doing work instead of the executive doing work. It used to be all executive and the committees. My view of the committees was, you can do anything you want as long as you raise the money. That's what I told them, don't talk to me, the Society isn't putting up any money per se, because all the money we make from

conventions is going to go into the publications and stuff like that, and the surplus or the SIFT fund to run SIFT. It's not going to go to promote whatever it is some goofy committee wants to do. So actually it worked exceedingly well. I didn't want the bookkeepers messing it up. Furthermore we had them do an audit of 3 committees every year. Well now they audit every single 90 committees. We only had them audit 3 big committees, like the convention committee, what else was big, the book business and the office expenses sort of thing. The ordinary nitty gritty, which kept the fees down. If they audit everything 90 sub committees and every dime and nickle it spent, come on. And they all had their own bank accounts too. So it was a very loose organization compared with the way it is now. I'm sure that nobody has their own private bank account anymore, they have to do a budget and the executive reviews the budget. Then they get what they said they got but they don't get to free wheel. We did a lot of free wheeling and that's the way they have historically run. I'm sure you know that, every little committee would have their own bank account and then at the end of the year, they would make a report and that was the end of it, nobody ever thought about it anymore. Same with the convention committees, they made deals, they got money, they did this, that and the other, they did everything and there was the convention and we'd make money and they'd turn the money over on a plate and then they'd get the President's award or whatever we called it at the time and thank you very much. It was all volunteer. And it worked very well.

#134 DF: Got into financial troubles too, though.

AP: Well. We had our share of financial troubles in that people would commit to do a memoir and they'd be 2 years downstream and the new executive had never heard of this memoir and they'd get a \$60,000 bill from McAra you know. That's what happened to Gordie Williams, have you talked to him yet?

DF: Yes.

AP: I think it was Gordie's year as President. But the person who preceded me, one of the people anyhow was Clay Riddell who runs Paramount.

DF: Right, I've interviewed him.

AP: And he got his bookkeeper in and we kept a close eye on the books the whole time. She'd come in one day a month and do what they have all these computers doing now, she did in a day. With us doing all the back up work she'd just add and subtract and make a statement every month. Clay is a good money manager and he had a 5 year plan. And when I was President I had a 5 year plan too, in that we had a spread sheet that went 5 years into the future and had all these publications and commitments that had been made that wouldn't have to be paid for, for 2 or 3 years, on it. So I don't know, somehow they got in financial difficulty after me but they stopped keeping the 5 year thing, so it's not a surprise. Plus they had a bunch of people on the executive who felt the sky's the limit, big spenders, they didn't realize how quickly things can go bad. And they thought 1 year's income is enough. Well, a good old conservative like me, I thought you should have at least 2. They had this huge surplus you see, it looked like a lot of money, well as you know money can go fast but replenishing it doesn't. Especially when everybody is getting fired out the door or the membership is dropping. But one thing about the CSPG, they're

really agile. If something goes wrong, we fix. They still have this mentality to go do, so the minute things look a little doubtful and they've never looked so doubtful that the Society was anywhere near going broke. It may have looked that way but no. I remember the first year I was Treasurer, I got an NSF cheque for the rent. That's because I had all of the money in the savings account and a bunch of the U.S. dollars account and I forgot that in June, no more money is coming in. So nobody said anything and I hadn't twigged on that. So I realized then, for June, July, August, you had to get some money out of the kitty to pay the office rent. But that's not going broke.

#163 DF: Why was membership in decline in '92, do you remember?

AP: Well, everybody got fired out the door all through the 80's from all the big companies and a lot of them didn't stay in geology, they either retired or they went and did computers or they went and did something else. And geologists are a tightwad bunch, they're not going to pay \$50 to the CSPG if the company isn't going to pay it. And the companies all stopped paying because they were all looking at going broke. So it took a big chunk out of the membership. But it's sort of stayed stable ever since, it hasn't dwindled away to nothing. Because people see the worth of it. That's what I tell all these young kids looking for jobs now, first thing you do is join the CSPG and go to the technical lunches. Because those technical lunches, they have 2 a month and there's 800 people there and if you want a job, this is where you go. You a) learn something, you take notes, you get a free lesson on the Cardium, you meet the 8 people at your table, yak, yak, yak, that's how you get a job. Or you go offer to work for a company for free for a month, take it or leave it. Or, or, or, but the people you meet at the CSPG lunches, or get on a committee, go work for the convention committee and you'll meet 20 other people who really care about geology, the industry and the lot and somebody might see your worth. So I think that people know that so all these young kids coming up do just what I did when I was new, join the CSPG. So the membership hasn't faded off the map.

DF: What other suggestions did you give to geologists that were being laid off?

AP: Go do diamonds, go do minerals, go do some more geology. Because you see, before I got to Gulf, I'd done copper, coal, gold, all these resource things, looked for uranium, done all this stuff. And I couldn't see why they couldn't do the same thing and at the time, mining was doing a lot better than it is now. They could have gone, nobody wants to leave town you see. The oil patch people are a spoiled lot. You fly up the mountain in a helicopter, you don't have to walk through swamps in the Northwest Territories, it's a different ball game. But a lot of them said, I'm too old for that Alice. A lot of people went into running little consulting companies, doing maps and they learned computers. And they worked as consultants and then they found, most of the people in the end found there was lots to do.

DF: Would that be your advice to people whenever the cycle goes into a downturn?

AP: Well yes, look around. And go where the boom is, go to Fort McMurray if that's where the action is. Be mobile and do what there is to do at the time, it keeps changing. And don't quit, keep knocking on doors, don't sit at home and get discouraged. People tend to wait for something to happen, they're much better off going out and barnstorming. And

never give up.

DF: What did you do the year you were past President?

AP: Then the CSPG has a whole bunch of jobs for you. You have to get a new executive, which I found very tough. Nobody wanted to do it because they were all worried about their jobs. What else, you went to the . . .

#200 DF: Who did you get?

AP: George Eynon to be President and I couldn't get anyone to run against him. I don't know who else now, I've forgotten all the people who got elected. Then you also were made a member of the Canadian Geo Science Council and when Peter Putnam was President I was still a member and we ended up cancelling their membership because we didn't think they were getting their money's worth. But it was a national body and CSPG wants to be seen as a national organization. I personally agree with that, I think that we should be looking out, not to get tunnel vision. But the way the Canadian Geo Science Council was set up was about 40 years out of date. It was set up when Mr. Big Shot had a quiet word with the Minister who agreed and things happened. Well, as you know, this is not on anymore. They give advice but nobody pays too much attention anymore, you know what I mean. They had this cumbersome operating method, where the people who put the money in didn't get the most say, or necessarily any say. A very cumbersome operation. Anyway they're trying to fix it so the CSPG is getting their feet back in the Canadian Geo Science Council but I don't know what the end result will be. Because the federal government paid for it all and as I saw it, it was kind of a private fund for people in the Geological Survey to do international work. And it was paid for mostly, by the federal government. CSPG made a huge financial contribution to it, compared to all the other Societies but they all had one vote. I think we had 2 votes but the people that had 1 vote would have 18 members. And they'd put up big arguments and raise hell and the meetings but you know, where's your cash. All that being said, I think there should be a national geological fraternity, and you can see that when the fuss about Mt. Logan came up. Remember, there was this huge eruption from the grass roots, from all the different societies, instantaneously. And I thought, this is a good thing, nobody ever knew who Logan was before. Now they all know, they'd never even heard about Logan. So I thought that was pretty funny. What else is on the list there, I can't remember?

DF: What was the Society's relationship with APEGGA?

AP: Separate, they go do their own thing, we do ours. Theirs, they have a completely different function. And I served on their council for 3 years after I was out of CSPG. I could see the difference. The main thing is they're the licensing body to make sure people have credentials and they have a big stick to beat you on the head with. Whereas the CSPG is all bottoms up, volunteer, technical society. It's a completely different thing. So they need to be aware of what each other is doing and they could do a lot more for each other than they do.

#238 DF: Do you think the day will come when APEGGA doesn't license geologists and geophysicists?

AP: They're trying, well, not trying, Gordie Williams, did he tell you about his Canadian Geo Science Registry.

DF: Yes. What do you think of that?

AP: I think they're better being with the engineers because they have more clout. But the engineers, I mean, geologists, what, geophysicists, they've always been. . .so I think it's too bad, they'll end up with 2 separate bodies in the end maybe. But I don't know, in Ontario they still haven't got their act together to do anything but I think Bre-X gave it a boost to get professional registration. But APEGGA is very cumbersome and out of date in a way. I see them kind of, they'd be mad if they heard this so don't print this, like the CRTC, where the world is barrelling past them and they're still trying to apply the rules. And for APEGGA it's very hard for them to control all these geologist who are going all over the world doing all kinds of stuff, changing jurisdictions. Well, the finally, after as long as I've been in APEGGA which is since 1969 I think, people have been saying, look you should make it portable and make it easy to work in different jurisdictions. I think only this year have they got this show on the road, so if you're registered in Saskatchewan you can work within Alberta without jumping through too many hoops. And they've agreements signed to allow this and geologists the same, because a lot of people come from Ontario to work in diamonds and somebody comes from a Toronto firm to do consulting work or I go to the Maritimes. When I was a kid and I went to B.C. I had to get a friend who was an engineer to sign my reports, which really burned me up. And of course, entirely unethical to get someone else and it's entirely unethical for them to sign your work but hey, you're not going to say no and not do it because of that, you do it. And I've always enjoyed APEGGA in a way because I found when I was just me, standing there in my sox, consulting, you need to say there's somebody bigger than you supporting you. It's kind of like being an author, if it's just you with your stupid little book, who cares. They don't want to know unless you've done something more than that or you have a great big publishing house behind you or you have a track record. When I started out, who has a track record, who has anything, nobody has anything, you don't have a reputation. I found my book sales went up after I made the short list for that MacEwan Award you see. Because you have something bigger than you backing you up and that's the way APEGGA is for people who are working on their own. And of course, engineering firms, if you aren't registered with APEGGA you can't work there. Now the geologists are different. A lot of the geologists in Alberta worked in the oil patch for years and years and years and they never got registered and they retired and that was the end of them. Because they felt it was their company they were working for. They're no impacting on the public, they're not anything, they're under the corporate umbrella. And APEGGA has these, what do they call it, I've forgotten of course, to register companies. If your company is registered you have to appoint someone to speak for the geologists and geophysicists or engineers, someone who's responsible and you designate somebody. So when I went to Gulf it didn't matter to them if I was a member of APEGGA or not, they had somebody who was a member of APEGGA and if anybody had to go to court or stamp an official document, which there weren't any of, hardly at all, unless you were an engineer, lots more work for engineering but they didn't require geologists to sign your

maps or do anything. Whereas when I was a consultant every map I made I put my seal and stamp on, that I'd done it, you're responsible. So that's different. Whereas the CSPG, their main aim in life was to have fun, keep in the know, contribute technical excellence. It was all technical, write papers, give talks, whether you were good or no good, fine. If you were no good your employer could fire you, the end. So what the heck with APEGGA. That's the difference as I see it anyway, between the two.

#293 DF: Would you care to comment on the men's golf tournament, the mens only golf tournament?

AP: They invited me to their annual dinner because I made them. I was the President but I didn't go golf, mainly because I'm not any good at it, I couldn't win. But I just felt that these were all people who, in their own way, were trying to make a contribution to CSPG. And I didn't like it much. All my life it's been this men only business. So in a way I'm used to it because it's been that way for a long time but it's really painful to be cut out all the time, do you know, personally. And all my life in geology I've had people saying, you know. . .

DF: You can't do that.

AP: You can't do that. It is so annoying. But all my life I've been beating this down. So it's not that different. And now I think in a way it's worse because people don't tell you straight up. I'd go to these job interviews and I had good marks and I'd sign up A. Payne and they'd just about fall off their chair when A. Payne was a girl. They'd say, we can't hire women, we can't send you out to a well and I'd say, oh sure, I'll bring my tent I'll go. I'm sorry, it's company policy. Nowadays they don't say that because they'd get sued. And women can work in this field, it's taken 30 years and I figure it's because of all those hippies in the late 60's that just raised hell and they turned over the social mores. All those people with love beads sleeping in sand piles in San Francisco, at the time I had 2 little kids, I thought they were nuts. But looking back, what they did was they'd get rid of the Dean of Women that would tell you, you can't go on field trips, they beat down the barriers so that you could go work in geology and if you wanted to sleep at the top of a tree with a man you could. Who cares. You know what I mean. My aim was always to get out in the field and it was always, you had to have a chaperone, you couldn't go. You can read in those talks I gave you, a couple of my stories about it. But you just can't imagine, people now, I say to them, never give up and hang in there. Because they don't realize how awful it was. So the men's golf tournament was just one more minor, awful thing. Now if it had been horse riding I would have made them have me.

#325 DF: I interviewed Kathy Scales and she was still pretty exercised about the men's golf tournament.

AP: Yes, but she's looking at it from a modern perspective. All the women in the oil patch now see it as a normal thing that they can get a job. What I see now is, where's the lady President of Petro Canada, nowhere. Do you know. You look at the Boards of Directors of the small companies in Calgary and I don't even look any more, it makes me so mad. And I sell companies when I get pissed off with them entirely. But even my friends, not

one of them, in spite of lots of things, have ever asked me to be a member of anything but a volunteer Board. Which is hurtful you know. Because somehow, I can remember this guy I did a project with who was a cement company executive, I've forgotten the name. Anyway on his desk he had a picture of his wife and kids in the garden and that's how he saw women. So I got the guy, this is the same guy I did the Syncrude contract for, I said, you've got to go in and explain what we've been doing here because I don't have any credibility with this guy. He cannot bring himself to do business with a woman. When I went to work with Gulf one of the male executives at Gulf said to me, Alice you want to be Vice-President, he'd read my career aspirations. Forget it, because you can't be anything in the executive ever, because you can't go to lunch at the Petroleum Club and that's where all the decisions are made. So then I had a bunch of friends whose husbands were Mr. Big Shot and I said, why don't you lean on your husbands to let women into the petroleum club. Well, it would put his job at risk they'd say to me, and these are women talking. You see, they don't see it as important because now, at that stage of life, these same women could work in the oil patch and they thought it was just great. They didn't want to be Vice-President, they didn't care particularly. But at the same time they couldn't be up there in the upper echelons. Finally now, the Petroleum Club had to recant because a lot of these girls grew up and they said to their dad, forget it, I'm not coming to the father, daughter dance, at your stupid old club that won't let women in, good-bye. And companies like Petrocan started saying, excuse me, we can't belong anymore if you won't let women in. And I can remember, as a Gulf shareholder, it made me really mad, I'm a Gulf shareholder, I'm paying my money, I'm buying shares to send the executive to the Petroleum Club where I'm not allowed. What's wrong with this picture. I figure in another 30 years maybe things will have gone along to the point where women can actually bank, run oil companies and really do the man thing at a senior level. But it will take another 30 years, it's not going to happen quick. I'm thankful to have broken the ice at CSPG. Because when Kathy came along to run for President they'd all found that their arms and legs wouldn't fall off having a lady President and I think I did a good job being President, I set a real good example of what women could do as President. I didn't fade out, I showed up, I did things, I got that Atlas published that they all thought was impossible, they'd all given up. I don't give up. Then there's a whole bunch of other people can't stand me because I put them off, I'm so pushy and horrible and bossy and talk too much and all this stuff. I'm an aggressive woman. And I think it's funny because I am. So what. I like being aggressive, I've never, ever been able to not go after something and get it and go do. I still think it's funny.

#382 DF: I think it's great. So since 1996 you've been doing something different. Why did you end your time at Gulf?

AP: Well, they retired me. They said, we want you to retire and I thought, great stuff. Because I wanted to write my book. J. P. was coming on then, he was the new guy and he hauled me in and said, why are you retiring, we don't have many women at a senior level here, what are you retiring for.

DF: J. P.?

AP: Bryan. And I really like J. P. and I got to beat him because I wanted an office to write my book. And I needed it to finish up a few volunteer projects I had for CSPG, I needed access to maps. I wanted an office for 2 weeks, I didn't want one for my book necessarily at that point, I just wanted one for 2 weeks. I was on the gas committee, the Canadian Potential Gas Committee and I was doing B.C. I took it on because I didn't know anything about B.C. and I thought, here's my chance to learn, I'll do B.C. And I wanted to make a whole bunch of maps and sit down and go through all of Gulf's files on B.C. and get an idea in my head about the gas potential of B.C. on my own. And I needed to do it without Gulf paying me. Anyway I couldn't get anyone to say yes to this scheme because people who are retired are supposed to go away. So I kept asking and finally one of my friends said, Alice if you really want this office you better go see J. P. And he was just new, sitting upstairs all by himself. And he said he was accessible so I wandered up there and he said, oh, I wanted to talk to you, sit down. So we had a big long discussion about everything and he said, hell Alice you can have a whole damn floor if you like. Because I said, you know, I don't want to work for Gulf anymore, I came here to be a Vice-President and I'm not, you have your own Vice-Presidents, I worked here 15 years, that's 5 years too long for anybody. It's been a wonderful slice but I don't want to watch while you fire half the company. Oh he said, how did you figure that out. I said, I've been around the block and I've been through all these firing squads and I'm looking at Gulf now and we have people here as if we were one of the 7 sisters but we don't have the production. I have shares in a lot of companies and they all have half as many people for twice as much production as Gulf. So you cannot make a success out of this place unless you fire half the company out the door. He said, you know you're the only person that's said this to me. All the rest are too afraid you see, I think they' thought they'd get fired. Anyway nobody had said this and I said, well, I'm just looking at what I see and I don't want to watch. So I'm going to retire and I'm going to go do something else. I came to see you because I've got this little project, I need an office for 2 weeks. So he said, sure to that and I took him out to lunch and he asked me what I was going to do next and I said, well, I've got to write a book and yak, yak, yak. Just as we were driving back to Gulf he said, you know, I think you better keep your office here, you and I can go to lunch once in awhile and we'll talk about things and you can write your book. So it was great because otherwise I would have come home and made pies and ridden my horse and I would have. . . because my big problem at that time was, how was I going to finish this book. How was I going to get it whacked into shape and in print. I'd read about 20 billion biographies and none of them seemed to suit. And then I met Tina by a freak chance, we both were sitting beside each other on a plane going to Montreal to the CIM and I'd volunteered to go there to see what the ladies program did. Because it was coming to Calgary and they wanted someone to run the ladies program and I said, I've never run a ladies program, never even been to one, I've always been to the men's programs you guys, come on. But if you send me to Montreal I'll get a group and I'll do it. And sitting beside me was Tina and we sort of hit it off. Later on she said, you know, I've nothing to do in Calgary, I don't know anybody. I know everybody I said, I'll get you a job if you want one. And she said, I'll read your manuscript for you, she couldn't believe I had actually some written

down. I had it all written down and then she came up with this idea of having it in the form it's in. So we started to work and finished the book. Perfect, absolutely perfect. Because I thought if I get run over by a bus I'll be real mad if I don't get this book done because I don't think anybody writes books about prospecting and people don't realize, the general public at all, what went into Canada's history as regards, you know, the resource business has such a black eye. And I thought, if I write down my dad's story, it's such an adventure, people will get sucked in and read the book.

#465 DF: What's this Arctic Enterprises Ltd.?

AP: That's my little company.

DF: That's your company. And what do you do?

AP: I like the name. It's an old company, it's been going since 1938 and a friend of mine owned it and wanted to sell it so I bought the whole company, lock, stock and barrel, name and everything. I've got some gas royalties in it and it's my little slush fund. So now it's what I'm going to, get some more stuff and get it going. Now that I've got my book done I can devote some time to my company.

DF: So what are you going to do with it?

AP: I'm going to go out and nab my friends in the biz and get some more properties and go do geology. Maybe what I'll do is a little consulting. Maybe I can do both, I don't know. But I thought, I'm taking this year off to have a holiday, visit friend, old friends I haven't seen for 20 years, my Havergal friends. Some of my other friends that I haven't seen for 20 years. When I get that done I figure I'll get bored so I'm going to go do consulting and get my feet back in the works and I'm going to start buying properties to put in my company. Make deals, have fun, do geology.

DF: Good for you.

AP: Yes. That's the plan. Because my mother's 94, I figure I have 30 years to swing it.

DF: Yes. We only have 5 minutes left on the tape. Any regrets?

AP: No. Except that I wasn't born when you went on horse trips in the Rockies.

DF: Did you do any prospecting in canoes?

AP: Oh yes.

DF: But not on horses?

AP: The only thing that would have changed my life that I didn't do, was one of my father's friends asked me if I'd like to work for his brother who was Vice-President of Inco in New York. And I was chicken.

DF: How old were you?

AP: And I said, oh, you know how you did when people brought you flowers, you said, oh you shouldn't have. And I thought, I don't know if I can do that. Well that was the end of it. I should have said sure, and gone to New York. So ever since then I've said yes to everything practically.

DF: Good for you.

AP: I've always regretted that. But then I might have stayed in mining and I never would have done oil so it's not all that bad.

DF: That's right.

- AP: And I met my second husband here in Calgary, Allen Follensbee. Now his dad was my professor at U. of A. so it's a very small world.
- DF: Isn't that wonderful
- AP: He does geophysics for Petro Canada. Anyway, I've just had such a swinging good time, I can't imagine being paid to do what you like as I have all my life. It's just all turned out fine and my kids are getting on with life. No geologists though, it's funny. I spent a lot of time giving young ladies talks saying, go for it, go do it and none of my kids do it.
- DF: That's fine, somebody else will.
- AP: I figure if just one does, out of all the people I ever talk to, just one person. And now there's those 3 kids in SIFT I got jobs for that are still doing it. So actually I feel very satisfied with what I've done. I'm a little frightened that I can't do anymore. I thought, who's going to hire me but you never know, I'm sure I'll get on doing something.
- DF: People hired you before.
- AP: Well, this is it. If you just go out and do something. I thought maybe I should go to school and do a little environment studies then I can go out and do that, apply my . . .
- DF: Well, Alice, on behalf of the CSPG and the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, I'd like to thank you so much for opening your house to me this afternoon and letting me come in and ask some of these questions. It's been a wonderful experience for me, I've just been thrilled, thank you very much.
- AP: Well, there you go.