

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Gerry Reinson

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

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DF: Today is the 24th day of July in the year 2001 and we are with Mr. Gerry Reinson at Suite 1100, 603 - 7th Avenue S.W. in Calgary. My name is David Finch. Could you start Mr. Reinson by telling us, where and when you were born?

GR: First of all everybody makes that mistake about my last name, it's Reinson [pronounced Rainson]. It's Estonian, Swedish, not German, everybody thinks it's German. But that's okay, my mother was German.

DF: So Reinson. So where were you born?

GR: I was born in Calgary actually, during the war.

DF: Boy that's a rare person isn't it. What year was that?

GR: 1943.

DF: Now tell us about your parents and what they did and your education and so on.

GR: My parents were born and raised in Saskatchewan. Their parents came from, Estonia as I said and Austria I guess, Austria and Germany border respectively. So they grew up around Saskatchewan. My mother was basically a homemaker, my dad was a telephone lineman and electrician, or should I say, radio, TV technician. He was in Calgary because he was in the war, during the war and I was born here in Victoria Park and then I left here at 9 months to move to Moose Jaw. So I grew up in small towns in Saskatchewan and high school in Regina. My mother, my dad's dead and my mother is still living and she's in a home here in Calgary. But she's a wonderful person because my mother and father split up when I was about 10 or 11, my dad left but my mother went on to work at the RCMP barracks in Regina and rose from cleaning floors to being a pastry cook. So got her papers and everything so I'm quite proud of her.

DF: That's great. And your education?

GR: Well, I finished high school in Regina and then I went to work for a year or so and realized that I was too curious about geology and the earth and all this stuff, all these related things like archeology and the history of man and all this. So I went to the University of Saskatchewan in Regina and was in the first geology class that was offered at the University of Saskatchewan in Regina at that time. That tweaked my interest so I went up to Saskatoon where I took geology.

#027 DF: Hard rock?

GR: Everything. I was interested in everything. And I only intended to get a bachelor's degree but I got extremely interested in fossils and sediments, chemical sediments and how they formed, you know, how sand moves in rivers and coasts and things. So then I took a Masters with Norm Wardlaw, who was at Saskatoon still. He's retired from the

University of Calgary, he was at Saskatoon at that time, a wonderful man. And then I went to work with Amoco. While I was at the University of Saskatchewan I got married before I left for Saskatoon, to Barb, who I'd met in high school. We were off and on until we finally got married when I was about 24. But when I was in Saskatoon I just was asked by a couple of profs to apply for some of these Commonwealth scholarships to Australia. I just did it kind of frivolously and then I went to work at Amoco in Calgary here and I got a phone call that said they'd pay my way to Australia and give me a full 3 year scholarship and my wife and infant daughter at that time. So I took them up on that and that was the best experience of my life really.

DF: Why?

GR: I don't know, it was going to another country, seeing another culture and getting quite far, I'm an adventurous person and I got away from the rest of my family. I don't mean that negatively but that was. . I have a brother and a sister and I'm in the middle and when my dad left my mother relied on me quite a bit. So I was kind of maybe shackled a bit and when I went to Australia it was nice to go somewhere else, you know what I mean. I had a good childhood but I'm saying that everybody has a few little things that shape what you do and how you want to do it.

DF: So what did you study in Australia?

GR: I studied sedimentology, that branch of geology. I did work on, I did a PhD of course, research on recent estuary and drainage basin. That's what that is. As an analogue for ancient rocks and for environmental purposes, I got heavily involved in environmental stuff as well. I always preach, when I give talks to students I always preach that our science, geology, is not incompatible with environmental concerns. Even the oil industry isn't but we've done a poor job of selling that. I've got to digress, all the major industries in Canada, oil, lumber and mining, these would be resource industries, the least worst industry on the environment is the oil industry. But we haven't sold the public on that. Burning coal is bloody awful, denuding the land is awful and pulp mills are terrible. But everybody shits on, pardon my language, on the petroleum industry. And they don't have a good record so it's part and parcel, their fault of not promoting clean natural gas, things like that. I'm off on a tangent, also drilling in the foothills for sour gas, why don't they leave that alone, there's all kinds of sweet gas other places. But anyway, I digress.

#062 DF: What do you think about the west coast, offshore drilling?

GR: I was involved with that group, the Geological Survey of Canada, I worked there for a time as a petroleum resources head, assessing resource potential in other areas, so I'm familiar that there's a lot of resource there. But I probably would like to see that not be developed. I'd like to see that remain as a .well, a moratorium on that. I don't think it's inevitable that we'll need that gas, if we develop a Mackenzie pipeline and offshore Nova Scotia. So it would probably be nice not to develop that area. But having said that, I'm not adamant that it will never happen or that it never should happen. But there is a time when they have to start looking for alternate sources here and people are paying very little for their energy use. They'll have to pay 5-10 times more than what they're paying. And it's just ludicrous to think that people are complaining about the price of gasoline and the price of heating fuel, it's unbelievable, we're going to be paying a hell of a lot more.

DF: It's another reason to travel, if you go anywhere in the world you see how cheap our

resources are.

GR: Oh yes, that's right, yes.

DF: So what got you interested in the sciences, I mean, you say you got into them but . . . ?

GR: I don't know, I've always liked nature and as I say, I've always had an environmental bent. My father was a good man I think, I didn't know him that well when he left but when I was younger I think he taught me some things about the earth, and he used to talk about the stars and the planets and stuff. We didn't have much money at that time but he got me interested in it I think. It was interested basically, in everything really that was science. In fact, I thought of taking history. Once you get on a roll, you probably found this, you get to university and it wasn't really doing, I'm not being egotistical or anything, I really like university, once I got into it. And I didn't want to quit. Like I never thought that I'd just go straight through, I thought I'd get 4 years and go work. When I went back, I went back with 20 and then I just went right through. And you know, I went in debt to do it, I had to do it myself.

DF: Is it possible for you to explain what your PhD thesis was about, or dissertation, or is that too complicated?

GR: It was a study of a drainage basin, including an estuary. So a river that drains into an ocean, in this case the South Pacific, and so looking at the evolution of rocks to form sediments, muds and sands that it dumped into the sea and using that as a model to show how these similar environments could form in the ancient. And then tied to that too, studying this estuary, how it could become polluted given the wrong usage because there was an abalone fish packing plant inside the harbour there. That led to a lot of work I did for the Institute of Oceanography. So anyway I guess I can tell you, when I came back here, when I came back to Canada Amoco. . . when I went to Australia I wanted to stay there, my wife wanted to stay there, she wanted to take out citizenship. And I would have stayed there but I wanted to, most of the action in my field if you will, was in North America and I wanted to really teach it in university. But Amoco had given me a leave of absence, because I had been a summer student there and then I took off for Australia they gave me a leave of absence so I went back to them. Because they didn't supply the money but they were very good to me, in that regard. So I came back here and then I applied for several, 3 or 4 university positions. That was probably one of the. . . I've been told I'm an excellent teacher and really good with young people and that sort of thing. And I wanted to do that but every one of these contests, if you want to call them that, I was second. And every one of them, in all three cases, a person from the U.K. was hired. So this was the era of filling our universities with foreigners. I'm not bitter about that but I write references for people now, getting into universities, like a young fellow at the University of New Brunswick, he got to be a prof and he's from Alberta. That's what we need and he's a wonderful guy. So then I forgot about, not forgot but I left that part of my life behind. So when I worked at Amoco then, I had worked on modern sediments and the Geological Survey offered me a job, the Geological Survey of Canada here, the ISPG it's now called GSC Canada. So I went to them and worked up in the Arctic, on Borden Island. And they also, they have a division in Halifax at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, a renowned marine geologist named Bernie Pelletier, he was with the Survey, he inquired whether I wanted to transfer down to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and work in the environmental geology group. And it was basically coastal

studies. So I went down and worked on the north coast of Prince Edward Island, in the Mirimachi estuary in New Brunswick, in Acadia, New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy and so on. And that was basically related to maintenance of proper coastal management, related to ocean dumping and erosion of beaches and things like that. So that was extremely gratifying. Should I go on?

#131 DF: Well, has the research that you've done sort of in the intellectual world, like at the Bedford Institute and so on, has that had direct application to the oil and gas. .? Tell us some examples.

GR: I don't know if I can be specific but the whole premise of geology is use, especially sedimentology, use modern environments to interpret ancient environments. Like you use the modern reefs in the Caribbean or the Great Barrier Reef to interpret Leduc and Swan Hills and things like that. So to this day I still do a field trip to the Maritimes for reservoir models, clastic reservoir models, with examples from the Maritime provinces. So specific examples no, but if I went through my files I could show you how if you use a certain depositional model of a configuration of a coast line, it can explain the occurrence of oil and gas deposits in certain horizons in western Canada. And of course, now it's emerging that these recent models are applicable to the Scotian shelf and Hibernia and so on. So I can't specifically tell you that. .

DF: No, no, but that's the correlation.

GR: Exactly.

DF: So in addition to your university degrees, it sounds like you learned a lot on the job and at these institutes and so on.

GR: That was the best part. When you take your PhD, it's just a start. I learned so much about geology just doing it and talking to people. And I still like to do, I still say to my daughters, I'm still learning, they say, when are you going to slow up, I say, I'm not, there's something new every day. And it never, ever. . and I'm not being a smart ass saying this either, I really think that I can still learn things you know. Well, I take these people on field trips and if they ask me a question and I don't know, I say, I don't know and they say, you're running the field trip. I know I'm running the field trip but I don't know everything you know. But I speculate, what do you think, you know. So I learn something every time.

DF: So tell us about your career, did you work for Amoco for awhile then?

GR: I worked for Amoco a couple of years and I worked as a summer student for them. That's when I went up the Nahanni, this was prior. . .

DF: Tell us about that.

GR: That was the first time I'd ever done field work. Well, that's not right, I did some field work in Saskatchewan but the first time I'd done geological field work, it was quite interesting. The first time I'd been in a helicopter, at that time they were using helicopters already, 1968. But it was a bubble one, it was just a bubble on the frame. And so we barged up Fort Nelson, right up the Nahanni and then . . Liard River, that's right and then we cut a helicopter landing pad out of the bush, which was like a huge lot we had to cut out of this thick bush and the mosquitos were just so thick it was unbelievable. So that was a great experience actually. But I've done quite a bit of field work, like in the Arctic and that, where I've been chased by polar bears and things like that. So that was just the

first one that was relatively quiet. We had a Vietnamese pilot from the U.S., he was a bit of an asshole because he was a redneck type of guy. Other than that it was okay.

#172 DF: So he was from the Vietnam war?

GR: Yes, he'd been in the Vietnam war and he was kind of a . . . well, you know, I don't even know his name, that was a long time ago but he was a bit . . . there's a lot of natives around there, the Dene Nation and he was a bigot, that sort of thing.

DF: Any adventures on the river, like were you doing all this by helicopter or on foot and canoe?

GR: We did it by helicopter, well, we just about . . . he was showing off, me and this other guy were in the helicopter and he was trying to go close to the water at high speed, he clipped it with his skids and I could see he was just about dropping his drawers too. Because it went ahead like this and then he quit fooling around. But no, I can't recall anything. A bear came into the camp but that was nothing unusual. I did a lot of field work, like that was with Pan American and then the following year we were west of Edson, Alberta. I'm rambling on, you'll have to edit this probably.

DF: No, it's fine.

GR: Are you sure? Then I worked with Amoco, then I went with the Survey, GSC, so I did a lot of field work in PEI, New Brunswick and the coast of Labrador as well. And that was another. . . we were running a helicopter, I was running this field party in the east coast of Labrador, this was for oil spill planning. That had a lot to do with development of Northern Oil, they also were checking the coastline for oil spills. So that time we were camping on a spit, a bar like, at the mouth of Michael's River and there was a fishing camp there and we would go out every day with the helicopter and do mapping. And also we were doing beach profiling in Labrador, so it was quite interesting that it would be in the order of 25-30 degrees on land and you'd see these icebergs going by. And you'd be virtually in a bathing suit on the beach but we had to. . . we did some shallow snorkel diving for samples and we had to have wet suits and it was so cold it was unbelievable. But one of the things that I remember about that is that one of the, at this fishing camp, you see people would pay big dollars, like Americans and people from Ontario to fish for salmon and ocean trout at this guy's fishing camp. So he had a lot of guides from Newfoundland and this guy left for St. John's, the owner and these guides, they got into his liquor. And there would be 7 or 8 of them and they were just pissed, just drunk as hell and there were still clients there. We were detached from them, we were camped in a little area. But what happened is one of the guides went out to get a couple of fisherman up the river and he was so drunk he tipped his canoe and he fell in the water and he floated out to sea. So I kind of took over the camp because the 2 IC, the second-in-command was a little bit, he didn't know what to do. So I took over the camp and called the RCMP and they flew out, they commandeered a helicopter. So that was a sobering experience there because for 3 days I was up in the helicopter looking for this body along the coast, we never did find it. I recall the RCMP guy phoning this gentleman's wife in Newfoundland and that was quite sad over the two-way radio. She was breaking down. So that wasn't a great experience but it was one of those things. And then I did a lot of work in the Arctic as well.

#219 DF: You mentioned in passing some bear stories up there, what were those?

GR: There was another incident, we had to scare a couple of bears away with the helicopter and I wasn't into shooting them, we had rifles. And they stalked you, well there was one bear story. I was fly camping with my assistant in Somerset Island and we would have been about 30 miles from, this was when I was with the Geological Survey, we would have been about 30 miles from base camp. And it was in late July, so the helicopter would take us out there and drop us off and we'd set up a little fly tent and work in that area, measuring the rocks and stuff. But a big storm came in so we had to stay in the tent, it must have been about 8 days. We had a Lee Enfield rifle you know, these three shot things, and a Bunsen burner stove and a lamp and so on and so forth. You literally had to lay in the tent and read because you couldn't see outside. We were warm enough because we had those down filled blankets but we got down to eating porridge, brown sugar, Red River cereal, I'll never forget that, and melted snow. And they had a radio so they'd phone every day, are you okay, yes, we're fine, yes, we can't get in. I know a lot of these older guys they probably stayed 3 or 4 weeks, we were only about 7 or 8 days. But one night, I don't know, it was light out all the time, but we were in bed and I heard this noise around the tent. It was like a huge bellows, and there was. . Doug, my assistant he said, what's that, I said, that's a bear and you could see this silhouette around it and he was going around the tent and he was scratching at the tent and everything and you could hear him breathing. And Doug said, give me the gun, give me the gun, I said no, no. I was scared shitless too, but I had it all cocked and ready and I said, we're not going to do anything unless he comes through the tent. Because I didn't know what the hell was going to happen. So we just laid still and then he went, he left. That same summer, that storm broke and then they picked us up right away of course. But that same summer about 10 miles away there was a guy, Bob Taylor, from GSC, Ottawa, who was dragged out of camp by a polar bear. I don't know if you recall that, he was dragged by the back of the neck. He's a geologist and he works out of Halifax as a matter of fact, about my age as well. But he works on quaternary sediments, that's ???, glacial, that sort of thing. So he was dragged right back by the neck here and his assistant came running out and Bob had tried to shoot the bear but it jammed, this Lee Enfield and the bear grabbed him and was dragging him away and he was hollering and then he kind of passed out. And his summer student assistant picked up the Lee Enfield and just loaded it and shot the bear in the head from I don't know, about 30 yards or 50 yards, when he was being dragged. And they asked the kid how he did it, he said, I don't know, I just shot. And to this day, Bob's okay. But he's got scars and that on his neck. So we were right over there and this was just about a week after that incident in the tent you know. Because that year the ice broke up early and they couldn't get on the ice to hunt seals so there was a lot of bears crawling around.

#265 DF: Now you mentioned something about the polar bears stalking people?

GR: Yes, one was stalking us. One time we were out, because they like red blood, they have nothing against you, they're like sharks, they just eat. They have nothing against humans, they just eat things. Whereas a grizzly bear you can avoid because they generally will avoid you unless you surprise them. But polar bears, they know you're red blooded. We were doing a traverse and the helicopter was coming and he saw this polar bear tracking

us. In fact, he left, he dropped us off and he saw a polar bear in the distance so he thought he'd just wander around, he didn't have much to do, so he fooled around a little bit and he watched this polar bear from the distance. The polar bear came around and he was tracking us for about an hour, just sniffing away and that sort of thing. So he came and he picked us up. Because I'm not into shooting these things because, #1, I don't believe in that and #2, I might not kill him and I might get killed. So you know, I'd shoot him if I could.

DF: You might just make him mad.

GR: Yes, exactly.

DF: Now when did you settle down in Calgary. It sounds like for several years you were off in the frontier regions?

GR: I was in Calgary when I got back here. I should be brief I suppose. When I got back to Canada I worked for Amoco, then I worked the GSC in Calgary, so I was up in the Arctic then. Then I went to Halifax and stayed there for 4-5 years as well and that's when I did a lot of field work in the Arctic and the Maritimes and then I came back to Calgary in 1981. I came back to Calgary because they transferred me back with the Geological Survey and I found that I was looking at an 18% mortgage and I couldn't get paid enough, so I went into industry consulting.

DF: That's quite the year to choose to go into industry wasn't it?

GR: Yes. There was a bit of a downturn there, getting into it. Is that what you mean?

DF: Yes.

GR: Yes, starting. But Norm Fischbuch, he's a renowned carbonate geologist in the industry, he was taking his PhD when I was an undergraduate. He wanted me to join him, so I did, so I owe a lot to him as well. He would be, I don't know how old now, 70 years old. This is kind of off the record, he's one of these wonderful people that's done a lot for the CSPG but he's kind of an introvert and he opted out of doing societal things. He got the Medal of Merit for his best paper but I just saw him on the street here recently and I said, maybe you should get involved in this committee and he said, I quit. I said, Norm, you quit, you've been in the damn Society for 35-40 years, I said, you better join up again. So I think he might have. Like, he wasn't bitter but he just, oh, I'm not doing anything there you know. I'm digressing, one thing in our Society, we don't recognize long term members as well as we should. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists were recognizing some of our members for being 40 or 50 year members in their Society and we weren't doing it. So we started that up when I was President.

#311 DF: Good. Let's talk more about the specific things that were done when you were President or on the executive in a bit. But tell us about the difference between working as a consultant and working for a major, you've worked on both sides?

GR: Yes. Well, I guess the difference is that you have, how can I put this, the industry has changed quite a bit since I started and graduated. I think the industry is more investor driven now and bottom line type situations, so you don't do as much science as you used to do. Yet, in a consulting mode you get a chance to do it because you're doing more of specialized problems, looking at specialized problems that companies, or company geologists don't have a chance to look at. So in that respect, I get to do more detailed work, as a so-called expert. The other thing is there's a lot more freedom, I tend to be a

bit of a loner or maybe outspoken, more so than I should be. In a company milieu it's kind of not the thing to do. Like yourself, you probably enjoy what you're doing very much and if you worked for the Herald or something you might not, you know what I mean. And that isn't to belittle anybody like that. The roles that I've had in industry, other than when I was younger, or even working for somebody, have been managerial or supervisory or something and I find that I have to control the projects a little bit, you know what I mean. Like call the shots sort of thing. When you're consulting you get paid to do a certain thing. If you don't do it they tell you, you didn't do a good job, if you do it you get paid anyway. So I like it that way. I don't know if that's a good answer.

DF: That's good. Now, how did you find the industry in the early 80's when you came back into it?

GR: I got nothing but praise for the industry in my early years because they provided training for younger geologists. Well, this is when I came back in '81 I was already trained. The industry viewed the knowledge of detailed geology as very useful. When I first started I got good training, like Amoco, I can't say enough about what it was like. And then when I came back into the industry there was an appreciation for expertise. But the industry has evolved such that they don't have any more gurus or Chief Geologists as such. In the early 90's there was quite a downturn as you know, '89, '90. So that detailed geology was passe and a lot of the exploration industry was run by, as I say, investors and brokerage houses. Even young brokers under the age of 30 would have Acumap or Geographics on their computer and they'd be dictating what a lot of companies are doing by investment. What's changed now is there's not enough geologists, I'm speaking from a geological viewpoint, probably not enough geo-scientists, in the industry and yet they have so much money to spend. So the way that most companies are going is buying other companies. You can see, in a history of drilling and exploration, you can see in all the cores of the wells, you can pretty well, in my view anyway, look at where there was a lack of expertise in the late 70's, the APIP's and the PIPS grants and all that, there was a lot of wells drilled that were useless but they were drilled by people who didn't have experience. But they provided a great data base for us. So now, the industry is going back to, like, I'm swamped with work because they're going back, and not only me, my peers, because they're going back to a need for more experienced and knowledgeable people. Purely and simply I can draw pictures of the western Canada sedimentary basin, Devonian, Mississippian, Paleozoic, from my head. And so can several of the people you talk to or several of the senior consultants. But companies weren't accessing people like that in the late 80's and the early 90's, or through the 90's. Whereas when I started in the industry there was Ryan deWit and Perry Gloister, Bill Ayrton, people like that. Bill was another one of my mentors with Amoco, wonderful man, I don't know if you interviewed him yet.

#379 DF: No.

GR: He was President in 1976.

DF: Okay, yes.

GR: Have you got him lined up?

DF: His name again?

GR: Ayrton.

DF: Oh yes, I did interview him, sorry.

- GR: Yes. Very well spoken guy and as I say, he started me, he wanted me back with Amoco. When he was in Amoco there were those types of individuals in every medium to large company. And then it went back to not worrying about geology, now they can't get enough of it. But now they're looking for everybody that has experience and they're not looking for people just out of university. So it's going to be a bit of a crunch. I'm babbling on here, probably you ran in to somebody that talks too much.
- DF: No, no, I think you're identifying something very important here.
- GR: You see, the average age say, is 50, of geologists and this is 2000 and the average, 40 and 30, what's moving through here in 2010, there's going to be hardly anybody, this bubble is going to be moving in here and in 2004 or whatever, there's going to be hardly anybody with experience in the industry if the industry doesn't start hiring more young people. And I gave talks about that when I was President at a couple of universities and a couple of Society things. And that's been a concern of the Society since the mid 90's.
- DF: So why has industry at times hired senior geologists and at other times not had them on staff.
- GR: The main reason I think again, is that the industry is bottom line driven, it's run by accountants and lawyers and brokerage houses and satisfying your investor.
- DF: That makes sense though, in a downturn but right now we're in a boom and you say people like you are in high demand.
- GR: Yes, but they want to pay me \$10,000 or 15 to look at a specific problem rather than hire.
- DF: Right, than hire you on staff.
- GR: Yes. Or if they want to hire me on staff it's a big major company that just, well, they're just starting to get back into doing that, having Chief Geologists who are meaningful. You see, there used to be Chief Geologists like Bill Ayrton, he was meaningful and useful. Then the Chief Geologists role, they put him aside and he did the hiring and the HR and all this stuff. Now it's coming back to where the Chief Geologist is looking at technical problems within the company.
- DF: Is that related to the boom and bust cycle though, when the price of oil goes down then you geologists and geophysicists are just not as valuable anymore, like why can't they be looking for more?
- GR: Yes, it is, it's directly related. That impacts on the short term investment cycle. All these investment houses want to make money in the short term. In the 60's and 70's, Esso and Amoco drilled, like there was what, 72 wells drilled in the Peale Plane, that's an area of Northwest Territories, looking for oil or gas and they were all dry. And now, you can't get them to go up there. And in the 70's Amoco was looking, Pan American or Amoco, they changed their name, were looking at exploring in the Territories for the long term, like for the 80's and 90's. That's why the pipeline isn't built in the Mackenzie Delta because the return on investment is going to take a decade and none of these companies want to get involved in that.
- #437 DF: Even the big ones.
- GR: Even the big ones. And that's why J.C. Anderson, you have to give him credit, he'll probably never see the development of that. He's quite a guy, I met him. Our Society gave him the highest award last year and he's not even a geologist. But I thought that was great. So I'm ranting on but what I think is that now they need expertise in the industry

but they don't want to hire young people. So it's still lean and mean but they don't have enough technical expertise.

DF: So there's not depth?

GR: No.

DF: Yes, if you don't hire young people they can't grow up to be people with experience.

GR: Yes, exactly. And it's a vicious circle.

DF: So how did you come to associated with the CSPG?

GR: Norm Wardlaw said, why don't you join when I was a 4th year student in Saskatoon. I joined as a student and I'm a 34 year member. I'm probably one of the youngest 34 year member, although I'm not that young. But you know, not too many people have joined when they were in 3rd year or 4th year. And I stayed in and when I got back from Australia I got involved. As I say, I was always interested in science so I got involved in doing field trips, we do core workshops and all this sort of stuff. The Society does one every year, or conventions, technical luncheons, so I've always done something in the technical end. Like at conventions or written papers, I've written quite a few papers and things like that.

DF: When you were young how specifically did the Society help you?

GR: I think it did more kind of indirectly, well the Bulletin itself helped me. Because it was on western Canada geology and petroleum geology mostly. But it also gave you a kind of a felling that you have, there's a Society that you belong to that gives your profession credence if you will, you know what I mean. It's not like a law society but. . I was proud of being in it, I guess that sort of thing. And I got the best Master thesis award in 1970 from the Society and I was always grateful for that. I always wanted to do things in it. So I did that, even when I was consulting on my own for 10 years before I went back to the GSC, I kept doing things for the Society because I feel you have to give something back to them. It's the largest geological society in Canada, maybe not the oldest.

#488 DF: Probably the oldest too, yes. How did you come to be associated with it on the executive?

GR: Through my activities on the technical end of it, I chaired a couple of core workshops, I looked after a couple of minor committees and I guess I was just asked by one of the past Presidents, Rick Young, if I'd like to run for office. I debated that for awhile and I thought, yes, I would because there were some issues in the Society that I thought had to be addressed and also I thought it was an honour to be asked to do so.

DF: But you were consulting at this time were you?

GR: That's right, yes.

DF: Now for someone who's with a major oil company and the company can afford to underwrite you while you're on the executive and you become President, that's one thing but this is at some personal cost.

GR: Yes it was. But then when I was President I was associated with Petrel Robertson Consulting so I have to give them credit as well for allowing me to do that. But even at that, as a consultant, even with a company, you sacrifice personally and your company does. You may have interviewed Peter Putnam as well.

DF: I'm doing him this week.

GR: He's a wonderful guy too. That company always supported the CSPG. What we have in Calgary is a lot of the consultants, there's some that don't, like I mentioned Norm

Fischbuch don't put his name in but he didn't support them at all. But there's companies like me, Petrel Robertson, let's see who else, there must be a couple of others that really support this Society and they're consulting firms, so to their financial loss I think. You know what I mean, if that's the right way to put it and that's commendable because I think, a person like Peter and myself, I'm trying to think of other people, there are other people, Bill Ayrton, they value the Society. So I think that's good.

End of tape.

Side 2

DF: So you ran for the executive of the CSPG, so you ran for Vice-President, that's usually how it works. And you got in. Can you tell us about the years you were on the executive and some of the major topics?

GR: The first year I was on, I happened to be on the executive with a really dynamic person, George Eynon, I don't know if you interviewed George before me and Rick Sebastian was behind me. But the Society, I have to say, this was run a certain way when I came on there and as a Vice-President I had a learning experience and I started to question a lot why things were done that way. A lot of people said to me, on the executive, that's the way we do things. And then like, spend money here, put these on CD's, do this, put the Atlas on CD and everything and it's going to cost \$50 grand, you don't need to put this. . . And I'd say, well, why do you want to do this, oh we're in the computer age Gerry, ha, ha, ha, let's do this. But why. But anyway, it was basically a learning experience at that time. And I could also see that the Society had grown so huge, and so could George, that we needed a permanent full time business manager. So towards the end of my Vice-President year I took on the role of hiring a Business Manager so I basically hired, with a couple of people on the executive, hired Tim Howard and that was, as you've seen, and this is my President's report, I think that was probably one of . . . he's a wonderful man and it was great for the Society. So then when I got in I said that there was 3 or 4 issues that I wanted to address and always trying to say, this is not to belittle the people who went before me. I'm no better or no worse but I'm not going to worry about blue sky ideas, I'm going to worry about trying to make the Society more efficient. Along with Tim we recognized things like the financial structure of the Society was quite wasteful. Just because it had grown too big and it couldn't be run by volunteers. The bylaws of the Society were outdated, you needed a quorum of 25 to pass anything and our membership was 3,500. I mean, hello. So we started doing these things. And then we had a national liaison committee that came to, we flew in, at our expense and the national liaison committee had ended up being university profs, we flew in at our expense and we paid for them to come twice a year here and stay here and to the conference, we paid their way and I, as President, paid my own registration to the conference. And I still agree with that. And they came and we, as a Society, reported to them what we were doing. George was chairing this meeting, this was when I was Vice-President and I was kind of curious and the VP would go on the national liaison committee and so would the President. And

George, the national liaison committee chair would set the agenda and one of the agenda items would be the CSPG President reporting to the national liaison committee. So I remember the first meeting I was at, they were sitting around and they said, well, we'll get started here, are there any questions before we get started. I said, I've got a question, why does George, who's the President of our Society, report to you people on the activities of the Society when you're a sub committee of our committee. And they said, that's the way it's always done. So I said, it's going to change, and it did. But that sort of thing, we lost track of why we were there. It was a wonderful experience. When I was in it was a harrowing experience.

#042 DF: How so?

GR: Because I had to deal with a lot of hard questions about contracts that we were doing. We had a contract with Bill Ayrton, this is maybe a confidential thing, don't put it in the report. It's a volunteer society and somebody had dreamt up the idea of starting a continuing education advantage program and have Bill institute it. Sort of keep this. .

DF: I'll just keep his name out of it, but a continuing education program.

GR: Yes. And heretofore before that, the continuing education program was run by a volunteer within the Society and you got people to do it and you paid them an honorarium. Well, they had hired Bill at a consulting rate to do this and me and several others in the Society thought that wasn't right because it was based on volunteers. So it was a bit tough for me, I was charged with telling Bill that we were terminating that. And I'm not judging Bill or anything like this. So that was tough and it was tough telling the liaison committee they'd have to really, they're representing the rest of Canada and not just universities and we're not here to provide money for universities, we're here to provide money and assistance to geological societies and geologists throughout Canada. So that was tough. It was tough talking to volunteers, I got a general meeting together telling volunteers that they were going to have to be accountable for their budgets. I remember having that meeting, there was about 30-35 heads of these committees and I pointed out that, like, they weren't submitting budgets and if they submitted budgets we'd be minus \$280,000 here and you have to be more responsible. I said it diplomatically and I got roasted you know. A couple of guys quit and everything else like that. That was tough. But now, I think it's working a lot better. There was minor issues about the men's golf tournament, why women weren't in it. Kathy Lapointe took that up after she was President. So basically it was trying to make the Society run more like a business in a non-profit milieu. When you try to make it run for the members and make it more efficient. So we were able to make it more efficient such that we covered Tim's salary. And still made it more efficient.

DF: It is a fine line to walk though between. . I mean, when the Society was young, it was just a few people they could do everything with volunteers but when it gets to be a huge corporation and you've got all these subcommittees and so on, it becomes more awkward and cumbersome.

GR: Yes, exactly. So you have to sort of set guidelines, even like for, continuing ed and that. Are you going to pay these people, like I get an honorarium when I teach something for them. And you have to do that, after all the AAPG pays these guys \$1,200 and \$1,500 a

day when they do things. And all the legalities, insurance and all these sorts of things for our field trips, we didn't have that sort of stuff. When you get to be a bigger society you can't just throw a big cooler in the back with sandwiches and beer for after you're through and take 10 guys and go to the field. You're taking 40 or 50 people in buses and there's insurance problems and things like that. So that was one of the major things. Just in general, the Society, where we were going. And also our membership had started to go down. So we recognized the need to try and increase our membership, try and help young people get jobs and show the industry the importance of hiring young people. And also recognizing our older members, which we didn't do at all.

#083 DF: Sorry, let's get to that, older members in a minute but how did you encourage industry to hire young geologists?

GR: I think I wrote some letters and things like that. We had commissioned somebody to do demographics in the Reservoir regarding the age of geologists in the industry and things like that. It was a hard sell. And then we have a program called SIFT, Student Industry Field Trip, which was started in the 70's. Oh yes, we have an education trust fund too, that was, we had a big swatch of money which was being targeted by universities as not being used and they thought we were a very rich society. So we tried to streamline that educational trust fund. In fact, I just started that when I was there and it's still. . it's taken 4 or 5 years. In any type of a volunteer society, I want to emphasize when I'm saying this stuff, that George was there, and then me and then Rick Sebastian and then Terry McCoy and I tried to instill in the Society that one executive headed by me isn't going to make changes, and that the idea shouldn't stop with me and then go to the next executive we should try to make this ongoing. So that's why we changed our year end to correspond to our election. We had our year end in September, our financial year end, so we changed everything so programs would be ongoing. And don't mention this because there was no budget when I started, they weren't budgeting.

DF: Well, I'd like to mention that. Why was there no budget, it just wasn't the way things were organized?

GR: We got to be a rich society in the late 80's, late 80's, early 90's. So it was, what should the Society do for the members, not fiscal responsibility. I don't mean to be negative, I might have done the same thing, everything is going well, what other program can we institute. But we did not work to a budget, at least when I came there. And Jim will tell you, not for 2 or 3 years at least. I didn't research how far back. It didn't seem to matter what the bottom line was, like it was minus 140, minus 280, obviously there's going to be negative years but we never worked towards breaking even. In my year there was minus 70 as well, but that was . . things would come along, everything is going hunky dory and I'd keep getting the budget from Tim, what's the running total, you know, how are we doing. All of a sudden out of the blue something that cost \$80,000 would come. So what's this for, well that's for a special volume that so and so' executive committed to.

DF: Years ago.

GR: Yes, in this case it was 2 years ago. So now the bill comes in, it's holy cow. So you have to budget for things like that. So that was a good experience from my point of view, I'm

not that great a business man but I'm logical. So I thought those things really had to be corrected and I think they were under me. At least started to. So I want to give credit to George, who identified some of these things and Rick, who carried these things and then Terry McCoy came after Rick. He's. . . we have two groups in our Society, the technical science oriented people and the business people and as you can tell, I'm the technical science oriented person and then the business people, like Terry McCoy, who's the head of Burlington Resources. And now is VP Exploration with Murphy, you should talk to him because. . .

DF: I am, on Tuesday.

GR: Good. Because he's a good friend of mine but he's more business oriented. So he carried through a lot of the things that my executive started. Like he just straightened out the national liaison committee and some of these things. In fact, I got him to run I think, for the Society. Was it me or . . . well, I don't know how it works but. . . So it seems like every now and then there's a technical person gets in as President, then a business person, then a technical person, the a business person. It works well for the Society. Like Ian Hutcheon is a prof at the university and the new guy coming in is Bruce McIntyre and he's a total business man, geological business man. So that's the strength of the Society too. So you're talking to Terry, that's one person you should talk to, yes. Because you get the other spectrum and also he's very candid. And as I say, he started in the industry with me, at Amoco when I got back from Australia.

#132 DF: Oh really. Just take a minute here to review your President's report at the end of your term, see if there's anything else in there that you'd like to comment on.

GR: So I said about financial management and Tim Howard.

DF: In your last paragraph you say that serving as President was a totally enlightening experience, what do you mean by that?

GR: I'll say it this way, I'll give you a convoluted answer. When I ran and when you run from something like this, initially it's an ego thing, you know. Oh, they asked me, gee, nice to be President, then I always think about things hard before I make the decision, what happens if I win. Well, being the President and recognizing me as the President far outweighs the work I'll have to do. But every time I do something I do it full bore. So then I won the election so then I got scared, holy shit, as I say, I'm not a great business man, I'm not Robert's Rules of Parliamentary procedure and all this stuff but I'm very, very logical and know how things should be done and organized. So when I was in as President I couldn't wait for the year to be over, mostly the meetings, and then when it was over I thought it was just fantastic because we had accomplished something. I was the Chair of the Awards Committee for the Awards Banquet for the following year and it was just wonderful to do that. So when I was through the term, it wasn't, oh, now I'm a former President, I'm egotistically proud, it was more accomplishment and I was glad that I had served, thankful that I served. And it was quite an enlightening experience because you had to manage volunteers and managing volunteers isn't like managing people that are getting paid to do their job. And then managing geologists in an executive, we always used to say, there's 9 members on the executive so there was always 12 opinions. That's

true with geologists. You'd go around the table, what do you think, and then all of a sudden say you get to one gentleman, Barclay, a wonderful man, Jim Barclay, he could be President sometime, start with him, get around the table and then, okay, now I've got your views on it, Jim would say, oh maybe, maybe I've got another view. So I don't know if that answered your question but I would say that it was one of the best things that I've done in my professional career, I don't regret it at all.

#168 DF: What else do you think about the future of the CSPG, coming up on the 75th Anniversary and you're involved, what's your positions here?

GR: I'm the General Chair of the whole thing.

DF: General Chair of the 75th.

GR: They're big operations here. That's an additional brochure that we put out at the 2001 convention, now we've got the committee filled. My view about the future of the CSPG is we're going to have to more and more be accountable to individual members and justifying why they should be staying in the Society. It's unfortunate but because of this bottom line mentality and investors running the oil and gas industry, companies are even now, worrying less and less or supporting less and less the CSPG, in terms of volunteer activity. A lot of people can't volunteer their time because their company's don't want them to. There are certain companies that do like Pan Canadian and I don't want to get into. . . . But there are certain ones that do encourage their geologists to get involved but that's less and less then it was in the past. And I think that one of the reasons is that a lot of the senior management in the oil industry are not earth scientists, they're not geologists. Although Terry McCoy is, he's a senior manager. So the future of the Society is good but we have to made aware of the fact that is has to be relevant to the members and we have to make it Canada wide, we have to continue to try and make it a national Society.

DF: What can you do to affect that national feel?

GR: When I was President we started talking about that and what we wanted to do was get a regional structure, where they'd meet regionally, especially down in the Maritimes. But that didn't get off the ground either. But the idea is there to still do that, to become associated say, with the Atlantic Geological Society, provide them some funding and start a CSPG Atlantic branch, things like that. I can see one in the prairie provinces, like Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Maritimes. Not so much B.C. because they're kind of connected to us through the northeast B.C. oil patch. But that's probably one way to do it and also support a lot of national endeavours, like we've supported the Atlantic Geo-Science Society's publication of the last billion years. I don't have that book here. But the CSPG contributed to that, they contributed to the Burgess Shale Society thing, they contribute to geo-science education across Canada and those sorts of things. The industry is going to move from. . . not the business end of it but the activity is going to move in the next decade, to the frontiers and particularly Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. So we have to be relevant to what they're doing.

#211 DF: Care to tell us about the planning for next year and this convention, what dreams

do you have for that?

GR: What we want to do, this is our mission, we've said this, we want to make this the best conference ever held by the Society. We want to make it a testament to what the Society has been in the past and to set the stage for what we're going to do in the next millennium, basically. That's a lot of jargon but that's what we've talked about and I've got a lot of enthusiastic people and I'm really looking forward to it. So we're going to have, the specific programs are going to be, historical, what's happening now and where we're going in the future. Is that a good answer?

DF: Good. Great answer. Now do you attend the past President's dinners?

GR: Yes.

DF: What are they like?

GR: They're variable. I always enjoy them because you see guys there. They're good, they should continue to have them. Because it's a voice for past Presidents to say what they think's wrong with the Society. But I find that a lot of questions that come up aren't relevant, because a lot of the questions or a lot of the criticisms that come up are done by people who have been detached from what the Society is for 10-30 years. And they're no longer relevant. And that'll happen to me, I'll go there in 2010 or 2015 and I'll ask some stupid question and they'll all be very nice to me but they won't say that we can't do that anymore. Every year somebody asks, why aren't we putting out major publications and thick volumes. The answer is because it's the computer age, it's the disc age and these things cost \$150,000 and they sit on the shelf. But the people that are asking those questions haven't gone into that thought process you know. But it's still enjoyable, they still have to do that because you have to let people that have been members of the Society and Presidents have their say. Because they're wonderful people, like you mentioned Jim Kirker, I always talk to him when I'm there and I always talk to Bob Orr and Ed Klován. Did you talk to Ed Klován?

DF: Oh yes.

GR: So he's very opinionated so he's quite a lot of fun at these Society's because he's on this ragging on about the Reservoir is too glitzy and all this stuff. But he's thinking of the Society in the 60's and the 70's, when it was run out of the back of a house. And if you want to keep running a Society in this area you need to raise money, so his criticisms about the Reservoir aren't warranted.

DF: But the year you were President, at that past President's dinner you say, it's obvious, somebody who hasn't been doing it for 30 years won't be up to speed but did you find that you were able to run some of your ideas past them and it was. . . ?

GR: As I recall it was a really stormy November night and it was at the Petroleum Club. They hit on why we should have a Business Manager, they didn't like that idea that we were paying a Business Manager and they roasted me pretty good as I recall. Because we made quite a few changes. But I explained it and most of them came up to me after and told me that that was really good ideas. So it was very useful. But they roasted the Business Manager part of it, because they thought it was too much money and what was the other one, oh the national liaison committee, no, they all agreed with that one. When I pointed out some numbers that we were doing, like we were paying a bookkeeper something like

\$35,000 a year to look after all these books for all these committees. You take that out, bring it into the office, you've got \$35,000 right there, stuff like that. And then we were being audited to the tune of \$50 or 65 thousand. Cripe, I think we brought that down to about \$30,000 a year and we got somebody in-house. But it was good and when you're the President you get, like Ian Hutcheon got roasted a little bit too here last fall. It's not a roasting, it's done in a nice manner because the people that go are interested in the Society.

#269 DF: Or they wouldn't go.

GR: Or they wouldn't go.

DF: You identified a topic here a couple of minutes ago that's of interest to me, and that is, some of these old timers were asking about publications, as we come up to the 75th Anniversary of the history of the CSPG what do you think would be a good product and I'm saying product very purposefully here because in this day and age of videos and CDs and so on, a publication, a book about the CSPG might not be the best way to go. Have you got an opinion on that?

GR: I do. Now having said that about publications, the history of the Society. . I don't have a cold but I was up in the core storage, it's very dry there. See those green book there, Devonian of the World, those are Society publications, so that was our way of making money and also what we do as a major Society. But we don't do one every year now because it's costly. But having said that now, on the 75th, we should be doing some hard cover stuff and I think that a book on the history of the Society is long overdue and that would be one thing that I would support and I'm going to support. And one or two symposia on technical aspects of change in the petroleum industry or petroleum geology. The technical program people, there's Jim Barclay and Kirk Osadetz, we've already talked about doing those types of things. And with respect to the history of Society, we could, if you're interested and I'm going to talk to Clint about this, we could have a symposium on that and the outgrowth of that being a book. Obviously there's many celebrations in the 75th but this is one of the bigger ones because it's our annual convention. So my answer is yes, there should be some hard cover mementoes. And then we're definitely going to have a poster, like the Stampede every year does, we're going to have a poster that's going to be out in October. I want to keep it because I want to put it in my little condo in Fernie and say, that's what I did 20 years ago, you know what I mean. So yes, I think there should be something. So I think we might be able to, I shouldn't jump the gun, you'd talk to Clint about this but we've been talking to Clint as well. So yes, and with this convention here, very shortly I'm going to write to the federal government and the provincial government, Ralph Klein and Jean Chretien and invite them to attend and also ask them for money, obviously. And I think the Alberta government should really respond pretty well because this has been quite an industry in Alberta, and I think they probably will. And invite them to be a luncheon speaker. Jean Chretien may come as well because that will be one of his swan songs because he screwed up with that Mount Logan thing. And I'm not a Liberal hater or anything like that either. So I think it would be good for him to do that, we'll see what happens. So at

least one of them, I know Ralph Klein probably would come, possibly. I'm going to do that before August.

#315 DF: Now we're almost out of time here, I'd like to take a few minutes to just go over some overview questions. So what have you liked most about what you have done in your career, what really gets you excited?

GR: That's a tough one. Probably some of the technical work that I've done, how can I put it without being again. . .

DF: This is when you get to brag, just say it.

GR: Well, I've got a good reputation in my field, I've done some innovative work in sedimentology, coastal geology and I'm recognized for that. What I think I've done is that I continued to work at a high level and try to do better myself and what I do for other people. I guess that's hard to answer. But I really have enjoyed what I've done. Well, I didn't want to get into this but I will, and I don't want you to put this in there but I've had hairy cell leukemia. I just got treated in November, it's not life threatening, I had hairy cell leukemia in '93 and then it was in remission for 8 years and then I got it in November. Just to sum that question up, they didn't know what would happen in '93 because it was an experimental drug, I don't know if anybody mentioned this to you. Tim knows and that but I'd rather you not put this in there but I think it would sum it up, yes, don't put it in.

DF: No, not in the book but it's on the tape.

GR: Yes, but don't publish it. But when I first went in there in '93, they didn't know if this treatment would work. It was a new treatment, before they'd get interferon and bone marrow and take out your spleen and all this stuff. So I did a lot of soul searching and I came to the conclusion, I even broke down in the hospital, cause I was 48 then or something like that, I was thinking to myself, would I do anything different and you know, I wouldn't have done anything different so I said, bring it on. You know what I mean, I'm serious and I started crying. So I'm really pleased with what I've done. I sit down with my wife and I think, gee, I barely have time to do things like work around the house so my life's full, that's the way I look at it. So I don't know if that's the right answer but I can't think of any profession I'd much rather have done. The only regret I have is I would love to teach university, teach kids more. But I'm doing it through my courses now. But I can't say that I have any regrets, major regrets. So does that sound hokey?

#360 DF: No, that's great. That's very good.

GR: So I was in in November here again, in fact I just gave them a sample this morning. So I give them a sample and then I go Thursday and I'm looking forward to it being normal. It should be. It takes quite awhile because they blow everything out of your system and I'm lucky because Rory Henckel, I don't know if somebody mentioned him, he just died of non Hodgkins something. Hairy cell is nothing compared, obviously to what he had. So what we want to do for the 75th too, is dedicate something in his memory. He was a wonderful guy, did you know him?

DF: I did, yes, I did. He was a big proponent of doing something for the 75th.

GR: Yes, a great guy. But please don't mention that hairy cell leukemia thing. But to put it in context, that puts it, like a lot of the things I've done, I'm pleased they were done both for my science and for the Society. And so I can't pin point it. And what I've enjoyed most about my career is people and science, that's what I've enjoyed most.

DF: Now are there any parts of the world, any areas of geological interest that you would have liked to get a chance to study. You've been in Australia and throughout Canada, any other geological basins that have intrigued you?

GR: Oh yes, yes. Well, a lot of the north coast of Mexico and the coastal areas of Mexico, on the east coast there, Cancun south, I don't like Cancun but the area south into Belize and that. Not from a geological point of view, but from a process point of view. Geologically I would be extremely interested in that Tonga, Cook Islands area because it's an interesting environmental study and also there's some hydro carbon potential in there. Well, anywhere virtually. I've always been intrigued by the Amazon, Brazil basin, stuff like that. So I can't say that. . there's a lot of areas that I'd still love to work, and I hope to.

DF: Can you tell us what you're working on these days, you were telling me before we got on tape.

GR: Yes. Not in detail, not company wise, but I'm working on a project in northeast Alberta that relates to the bitumen mining or Sag-D production of hydro carbons through steam injection and how it affects the overlying natural gas in another formation. So I'm getting involved both in the geological aspects of that and will be involved in the hearings of that.

#410 DF: Can you encapsulate that for us, how does the one affect the other?

GR: Well it relates to if you produce a gas, apparently, it has some effect on pressures and when you steam inject then it kind of acts as a thief, overlying pressures reduce, the steam or the heat will be dissipated or lost from the bitumen saturated formation and then you don't produce that lowered viscous oil, you know, the viscosity is lowered by the steam. So there's not a controversy but it's a very major technical problem as to where they should produce the gas, where they should produce the oil.

DF: And what are these hearings about?

GR: The hearings are about individual companies proposing to produce their gas in a certain area and try to show whether or not it affects the underlying heavy oil. Don't put too much of that. But yes, that's a problem, so each company has their own idea that. . you know, it goes down to economics, if their gas is more valuable than their bitumen they want to produce their gas and they want to show that they can produce their gas.

DF: Without negatively affecting someone else's ability to produce their bitumen.

GR: Exactly. And the AEUB has the responsibility to try and determine where the gas should be produced and where the bitumen should be produced and where one won't harm the other, particularly the production of the gas won't harm that huge volume of bitumen resource. So that's one I'm doing. And then I'm doing some mapping in southern Alberta, around Cessford and northwestern Alberta in the deep basin gas area. And then I run three

field trips. I can probably give you that if you want.

DF: Maybe when we get off. And where do those field trips go?

GR: One goes to the Maritimes, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, one to the Oregon coast, from Astoria down to Tillamook estuary and then Montana. Then I've got a passing, not a passing interest, I've got a strong interest in the development of frontier gas, particularly the Territories and Scotian shelf. I'm trying to get a project going on the Scotian shelf. I can give you actually, a disc on that, if you're interested in that. I gave a talk on that and there was a lot of interest in it so I made a disc out of it. I did that with Sproule, I worked with Sproule too for a while and that was a good relationship, consulting. But I've just not been on my own for 3-4 months. It was an amicable parting, if that's the right word. But they're more an engineering reserves evaluation company so we decided we'd work together but I wanted to work on my own. This is off the record, when I got sick again I thought, I may as well go for it on my own, I enjoy it the best. And then I'm doing well.

DF: Great. Well, on behalf of the CSPG and the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, I'd like to thank you for letting us come into your office today and spend these minutes talking to you.

GR: Oh you're welcome.

DF: I really appreciate it and it's been a thrill for me. Thank you.

GR: Well, I appreciate it too, I hope I didn't carry on too much.

DF: It's been great.