

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Charlie Shipp

INTERVIEWER: Susan Birley

DATE: September 1984

SB: It's September 19th, 1984, this is Susan Birley interviewing Mr. Charlie Shipp at his home in Calgary. Mr. Shipp I wonder if first of all, you could just tell us a bit about where you were born and raised?

CS: I was born in Asher, Oklahoma in 1906, before it became a state, a year before it became a state.

SB: Was it a territory before then?

CS: No, it was old Oklahoma, it was on the south Canadian River.

SB: And did you live there for quite awhile?

CS: I was 5 years old when I left there. And I got into the oil business, my dad was in Wewoka, Oklahoma in a hardware store and Seminole field started, so I knew the fellow who was going to be store manager for Continental Supply Company and he gave me a job right then.

SB: Can you remember his name?

CS: Charlie Schnorr.

SB: So did you have much experience in what they needed?

CS: The only thing, I'd worked for Magnolia Petroleum in their yard as a flunky. And that's all the experience I had but it didn't take me long getting the gist of what the

oil business was all about.

SB: So what was your duty then, when you started with them, what were you. . . ?

CS: I was just working in the store as a, what do you call them, floor hand.

SB: Oh right. So all the people would come in from the rigs and order parts or. . . ?

CS: Order things, all the equipment they'd need. And we had to put it up and get it ready for them to pick up by truck.

SB: Would you hear about what was going on in the field everyday, I guess there was a lot of talk about that?

CS: Oh yes, the tool pushers would come in and the roustabouts and farm bosses and superintendents, they would come in and talk to you and try to tell you what's going on.

SB: I guess you'd have to keep ahead of what was going on in the field, would you have to bring in extra supplies at any time?

CS: No, we kept the supply business pretty well taken care of. Once in awhile we'd run short on things and we'd call one of the other stores to send it to us.

#033 SB: How was Continental Supply set up then, where was its major office?

CS: The district manager was in Tulsa, Oklahoma and the main office was in St. Louis, Missouri.

SB: So they'd send stuff from Missouri out to . . . ?

CS: No, they brought the stuff from all over the United States. And other places. And ship it in to us. I was in charge of the spotting and unloading of rail load cars of pipe and pumps and engines and so forth. And I handled 1,500 cars, getting them spotted, unloaded and shipped out empty.

SB: How often would they come in?

CS: They were coming in every day, 5 or 6 of them a day. When you handle 1,500 of them in a year, that's quite a few cars. One of them we had was over 35 or 40

days on the road and it was lost. It had a twin steam engine in it and we needed that, of course, the man had been waiting for it. And it took 3 weeks for me to trace that thing down and get it back. I had it put on behind a passenger train and had it brought in.

SB: So you had to be resourceful then?

CS: Sure.

SB: You must have known quite a few of the characters that were in the oilfield then did you?

CS: Yes, I did.

SB: You ran into Tip Maroney you were saying, down there.

CS: I knew Tip in 192 when he was engineer for the Carter Oil Company Gasoline Plant #9 and I got acquainted with him out there at the gasoline plant.

SB: Did you ever run into Ralph Will down there, was he in Oklahoma?

CS: He was from Oklahoma. The fact is we had a fellow working for us named Toughy Burner and he was a neighbour of Ralph Will when he was living on the farm out from, some little town in Oklahoma, I don't remember the name of it.

SB: But you didn't meet Ralph Will until later?

CS: I never met Ralph until I came here.

SB: So when did you start working for Continental Supply?

CS: About September of 1926.

SB: And you carried on working for them. . .

CS: I was sent up here in 1949 by Continental Supply.

SB: Did your job change very much during all that time, I imagine. . .?

CS: Oh yes. I was store manager of our Oklahoma City store and field salesman at ???, Oklahoma, city salesman in Tulsa and assistant to the managing director up here when I arrived in 1949.

SB: So you must have known the business pretty well then. What do you think were the

main considerations that you had to have in being a good supply company?

CS: Employee?

#072 SB: Well, say, to keep in touch with everything that was going on?

CS: Continental used to give us training sessions and every week we'd have to send in a report to St. Louis office in reply to what they had sent us. It was how to handle this project and how to handle that one.

SB: So were you one of the major supply companies or were there any other competitors?

CS: National Supply Company was a big competitor and Oilwell Supply, Frickweed???.

SB: I was wondering, down in the States, did you notice a slowdown during the Depression years?

CS: Ohhh.

SB: I guess so.

CS: It was really rough. We'd get a carload of sucker rods, that was a tremendous order. We had to lay off a lot of the boys and I was very fortunate, I had a \$55 a month cut but I still had a job. I had a wife and a baby and my mother and father and brother and my wife's mother and father and brother depending on me for money. I borrowed money from the teller at the bank to pay my insurance and in 6 months I'd pay it back and then borrow it again. It was funny but it taught me a lesson.

SB: I guess a lot of people didn't have it that easy though. . .?

CS: Didn't what.

SB: A lot of people would have had a lot of trouble getting through that period.

CS: Sure they did, it was terrible.

SB: What year did it start picking up again in the States?

CS: It was 1930 and '31 and '32 and '33 were the Depression years as I recall. About '34 why, it started picking up a little. And '41 it was pretty back to normal almost. At that time I transferred to Oklahoma City to store manager. That was the largest store in the Kansas-Oklahoma district and it stocked all types of rotary equipment for west Texas and Kansas and Oklahoma and north Texas.

SB: So those were all the major fields at that time?

CS: Yes.

SB: How did the Oklahoma fields, well, say, the Seminole field compare with the west Texas field in size?

CS: Well, you see, Seminole was discovered in 1926 and I think the production at that time, I really don't remember what the daily production was but it was 100,000 barrels over and above. And the Oklahoma City field was brought in in 1928 or '29 and they had 100,000 barrel wells up there. It was kind of a tough place to get things done.

#119 SB: Why would that be?

CS: I don't know why. But there were so many fly by night operators in Oklahoma City that you could lose your shirt.

SB: They came in to get a quick profit.

CS: Well, they were promoters really is what they were. You had to be on your toes all the time, knowing who's who and what's what.

SB: Was there a lot of wildcat exploration going on around there?

CS: All over Oklahoma, yes. I covered the area between Kansas and Oklahoma City and north Texas and Oklahoma City, I covered all that area myself. Wildcats and everything else.

SB: So would you go out to the individual rigs?

CS: Sure.

SB: Oh you would. And try to sell them products and supply them with whatever they'd need?

CS: Well, some of them were customers and they'd expect me to come out and see them.

SB: Who were some of the oil companies that were operating in Oklahoma say?

CS: There was lots of them. In Oklahoma City there was Indian Territory Illuminating Company, which was City Service. I guess they were about the biggest operator. And a lot of independent promoters that really were good operators.

SB: Did they look at oil and gas as a commercial fuel at that time?

CS: Sure.

SB: There were enough cars and trucks using it were there?

CS: Oh god yes, they had plenty of cars and trucks.

SB: How about in homes, was it used very much then as a fuel in homes?

CS: Yes, all over. They had gas in Oklahoma City and they had gas in Seminole, gas all over the state practically.

SB: So they felt they had enough to supply their own needs at that time?

CS: Sure. They sold a lot of oil to, I remember, in Seminole, Oklahoma of a train load of oil, of 35 train cars, would be shipped to Regina every morning.

SB: Is that right.

CS: That's true. I watched it go out every morning. That was Carter Oil Company and this was for Imperial in Regina.

SB: Had you heard much about Canada when you were working in Oklahoma?

CS: We sent a lot of boys to Calgary and to Turner Valley from Seminole and Oklahoma City and different store points. But they wouldn't send me.

SB: They wanted to keep you there I guess.

CS: It wasn't through my brains that I was kept. I did have a lot of friends there.

SB: Did they look at Turner Valley as a big discovery, like were they hopeful that there

would be a lot of production out of there?

CS: Well, there's a reason for them to. . . they finally left here and they sold their store building to Oilwell Supply in. . . what's the name of the little town down there?

#168 SB: South of Calgary? Turner Valley.

CS: Turner Valley, yes. But I didn't get up here till 1949 so I didn't know much about it.

SB: So when you came it was just after the Leduc boom, or in the middle of it I guess.

CS: That's right.

SB: What was your first impression on arriving in Canada?

CS: I knew a lot of people here already when I came here.

SB: So it wasn't like getting into a strange town where you didn't know anyone?

CS: No, not starting from scratch. I had some friends here and they came before me and I just went from there.

SB: Were any of your friends, are they still in the industry or in Calgary, of those first bunch that you knew?

CS: No, not to my knowledge. I don't remember any of them.

SB: What were their names?

CS: That I can't tell you, it's been 35 years you know. You finally forget about who you knew and what you did and everything.

SB: Was it a very different operation in Canada than it had been in the States, were there many differences?

CS: No. Except in the cold, snowy weather. There's a lot of difference in that.

SB: I guess you'd have to find ways of helping the rig operators deal with the cold too, would you?

CS: Well, the ones that came up here, the rig operators, they had to find out for themselves, I couldn't tell them. I had to find out for myself so why not let them find out for themselves.

SB: They didn't need any special equipment that they wouldn't be using in the States?

CS: Oh yes. You had to winterize everything here and you didn't do it down south.

SB: I guess lines would freeze and things like that would happen. Was there any trouble getting supplies up here when you came?

CS: No. The only trouble we had was casing and tubing. We were on allotments, we were given so many tons per quarter. We'd have to figure out what we were going to have in tubing and casing and line pipe and all the different . . . It was quite a deal. Especially in the cold weather. I've seen pipe break in two, when it would be frozen and they'd drop it on a rack or drop it on the ground or just do anything with it, just to get it off the ???.

#214 SB: So when you came to Calgary, where were you stationed?

CS: I've been in Calgary ever since I came here, 1949.

SB: So did they have office in Calgary and Edmonton or just in Calgary?

CS: Lloydminster, we didn't have any in Turner Valley.

SB: And you'd have warehouses around the province too? I guess each time a new field opened up. . .

CS: Redwater, everything, we had a store in Redwater and we had a store in Lloydminster, we had a store in . . . up north, I don't remember the name of the town.

SB: And would you follow the same techniques, where you'd go out to the rigs and try to interest people in buying things.

CS: Sure.

SB: Can you remember any of the new technology that came in that you'd have to try to convince people to try to change over, was there any problem there?

CS: No, they were pretty open minded about new technology as far as drilling was concerned and all the ramifications of drilling a well and casing it and cementing it

and everything. They were just as well off, just the same as they were in the States. Because Haliburton was there, everything worked out of Duncan, Oklahoma from Haliburton.

SB: So it was more or less just the same operation, you didn't have any problem passing things through customs or anything like that?

CS: No. The only time I'd have any trouble would be when we introduced some new article.

SB: And you'd have trouble with the people on the rigs or. . .? .?

CS: You'd have to tell them what it could do and how much it would help them. But other than that why, it was the same operation here as it was in Oklahoma. Fact is, a lot of the people came from Oklahoma here. Like Cody Spencer and Ralph Will . . I can't think. . .

SB: Ralph Binning?

CS: No, Ralph wasn't from Oklahoma. Ralph Binning was from Colorado I think.

SB: And then Tip Maroney you mentioned before.

CS: Well, Tip was from Oklahoma.

SB: Did you have any dealing with him when you came up here, did you ever have to sell equipment to him or anything?

CS: Never. I always called on him because he was my friend. I went out to his house and my wife, his wife's name was Helen at that time, she died later, but I knew him quite well.

SB: He was one of the better known people in the industry.

CS: Oh yes, he was known all over the world practically. He spent so many years in South America.

#268 SB: Oh right. He must have had a lot of experience and know-how to be so well known though?

CS: Oh yes. Well, take the well, Atlantic blow-out that they had up here at Leduc. He capped that thing, it took him quite a while but it finally happened.

SB: Your manufactured goods, were they all manufactured in the States?

CS: Most of them were. Of course, there's some things started being manufactured in Canada. Which we participated with them by purchasing from them.

SB: What were some of the. . .?

CS: Oh, I don't remember that, that's too far back.

SB: I guess there was enough of a demand that they could guarantee their survival?

CS: Yes, they made valves up here. They didn't make blow-out preventors or any big equipment like that but we could pick up high pressure valves that were finally made and tested here and sold here and used here.

SB: What about, with blow-out preventors, were they used very widely in the oilfield when you first came to Canada?

CS: Oh sure.

SB: Oh they were. Did everybody have one on every rig?

CS: Everybody had a blow-out preventor on. They had to, regulations said so.

SB: Oh right. I guess in the early days there wasn't so much of a regulation on it. In some cases they got away without using one?

CS: No, they didn't get away, they had to have them. But they were a lot different from the ones now.

SB: A lot simpler I guess.

CS: It wasn't such high pressure, that's right.

SB: So you stayed up with Continental for 5 years after came?

CS: 1954 I quit and started with Dominion Oilfield Supply and I was with Dominion Oilfield Supply only 13 months. Then Carl Dempsey got hold of the Robinson Nodwell machine from the machine shop so I started with them, making seismic bits and ice augers and things that people would come in and ask us to make, we'd

build them, make an effort to keep a supply of them on hand.

SB: I guess that was something that they wouldn't need in the States as much?

CS: Oh yes, they needed them, not ice augers but they needed seismic bits.

SB: And were they a very different operation from Continental?

CS: Oh yes. Manufacturing against just sales.

SB: Oh yes. Yes, I guess I was thinking of Dominion Oilfield Supply.

CS: No, it was the same way that we did with, any supply company has a set way of doing business.

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

SB: How about the field conditions when you first came to Alberta, did you have trouble getting around? I hear the roads were usually in fairly bad condition, did you find that?

CS: Only during the break-up. Almost all of them were dirt roads but we went on them. After they got the road fixed up to Edmonton, I'd drive to Edmonton and to Lloydminster. So I even went up to the. . . no, I didn't then go up to northern B.C. I did that after I got in the drilling business.

SB: So Robinson Machinery, were they a local company, were they owned locally?

CS: Yes, they were and it was bought by this group including myself. We made all the farm equipment as well as oilfield equipment. I even made one, just one, hydraulic pump.

SB: And it was the only one of its kind?

CS: It was different than the others that we had, this was made for . . . I don't even remember the name of the company but it worked just as well as the rest of them. We kept a man up there to see that it was working and testing it. We spent a lot of

money on getting the thing fixed up and making it but that's what we were trying to do and they paid for the shop.

SB: Were they thinking if it worked out really well they were going to manufacture a lot of them?

CS: Yes.

SB: So was there something that wasn't quite right, what was the reason for not going ahead?

CS: No. The reason was they all discontinued making hydraulic jacks for pumping wells. So they went back to standard pumping equipment and that was passe then. They've still got hydraulic pumps I guess, for sale.

SB: But they didn't go any farther with that model. And what happened with the company, did you all stay involved with it, with Robinson Machinery?

CS: I quit them after 2 years. [I made pig traps too. Those were, you take a pig]??? and put it in a pipeline and pump it through it.

SB: So you clean it out sort of.

CS: Yes. And these were for lead lines, lease lines, pipelines, we made several thousand of those.

#066 SB: I guess we should just cover how you finished with Robinson Machinery, you worked for them for about 2 years.

CS: Yes. And the President of the company died so I decided, I'll just get out. Because I didn't like the guy that was taking his place so I got out.

SB: Then you decided to go into the drilling business.

CS: I was invited into the drilling business. So I opened an office here for Rollin??? Drilling Company and was in the Bentall Building for 2 years.

SB: Who was the. . .?

CS: ??? Rollin.

SB: Oh really, was he a Calgarian?

CS: No, he lived in Edmonton, he was from Oklahoma City, he used to work for Easton Oil and Easton Drilling Company. When Easton moved up here they moved him and then he bought Easton's rig and started from there. It wasn't a very satisfactory operation so we decided we'd close the Calgary office up. Then I went with Cascade Drilling Company as their contact man.

SB: And what were your duties as contact man?

CS: Going around and introducing Cascade Drilling Company to the oil business.

SB: By that time you would have known everybody in most of the companies I guess?

CS: Yes, that's right. And I was with Cascade for 12 years. Then they sold rigs, let's see, at one time we had 21 rigs and we cannibalized 4, leaving 17 rigs and they were sold at auction in 1971. And I had retired that much because I was 65 years old then.

SB: How was the Cascade run, who was in charge of it?

CS: Previously Orville McPhee??? was President, Les Bullard was Vice-President. He finally bought the company, Les Bullard bought the company and he was President and he brought in Stu King as Vice-President and I was Vice-President of contracts. So for 12 years I was with them we did pretty good.

SB: Were you in most of the fields in Alberta?

CS: Well, we operated more rigs in northern B.C. than anybody else. And it was a seasonal thing.

SB: Who were some of the clients up in northern B.C. that you worked with?

CS: Mostly it was Pacific. But we did work for Sinclair, Pacific and Union Oil Company.

SB: Was Canada Southern, did you do any work for them?

CS: We drilled one big deep hole for them down there, it was awful.

SB: Was that one of the ones that turned out to be a dry hole?

CS: Practically a dry hole. But it was. . .well, they thought we'd drill it in about 2

months and we knew better than that because you don't drill those 10-12 thousand foot holes in northern B.C. within a few months. They even told us that they could drill it in 2 months. I said, well, good luck to you because you're going to pay for the rig on a day rate, not on a footage basis. And it took them over a year to do it, their supervision.

SB: Were most rigs paid on a footage basis then, or what was the contract usually?

CS: Well, it all depended on the hole you were drilling. Up there on the wells like that it was strictly day work basis. So much a day for it plus bits and everything else. Fuel, camps, everything, was furnished by Cascade but the company paid for.

#128 SB: I guess in areas where you knew the drilling would go faster would you get paid by the foot then?

CS: We drilled some by footage basis. Some of them we got stuck on too.

SB: So that would make it a lot longer and more expensive?

CS: That's right.

SB: You mentioned also that you worked for Cantex Drilling?

CS: No, no.

SB: Oh you didn't. I guess you would have known him but you didn't work for him at all.

CS: Sure I knew him. I knew him when I first came here. He was with Arrow Drilling Company. Cantex Drilling Company was Dick Harris and. . . what was Harry's last name, from Dallas. . .god, I can't think of his name.

SB: Somebody will remember.

CS: Well, everybody knew. . . Harry Bass, that's it. Harry Bass, he and Dick Harris started Cantex Drilling Company and Dick was here a long time. He finally went back to Texas, let's see, was it Jerry D'arcy took over Cantex then or later. I think

Jerry came up with Arrow Drilling Company. He quit Arrow and took over Cantex and finally bought it from Harry Bass, or Harry practically gave it to him through the bank. He backed Jerry on buying it through the Royal Bank of Canada.

SB: Did you ever finance any companies when you were with Continental Supply?

CS: Oh yes, we financed lots of companies.

SB: Do you remember any that started up that way and made a success of it?

CS: Most all of them, just one rig operators would be the ones we would finance. But they're no longer in existence. So they sold the rigs to somebody, I don't know who, because I haven't been in the business since what, '71.

SB: So usually one fellow would decide he wanted to start up a drilling business and he'd convince you that he could pay for the rig?

CS: He'd give us a pretty good down payment and we'd back him on it.

SB: Would he have to have a contract beforehand?

CS: You bet he did. He'd have to pay a pretty good amount of the bill to get a rig from anybody.

SB: I guess you saw a lot of companies starting up that didn't make it too?

CS: Oh yes. Fact is there was somebody in here yesterday, I was talking to a lady, her sister worked for Lonestar Drilling Company and I haven't thought of that thing for 15-20 years. Lonestar Drilling, they had 2 rigs I think.

SB: Who owned that, do you remember?

CS: I can picture him in my mind's eye but I don't know his name?

#178 SB: I guess you met Peter Bawden?

CS: I worked for Peter, with his business flights, airplane deal, introducing his Vice-President, Bob. .he was former a General of the Canadian Air Force. I would take Bob around and introduce him to the people in Calgary in the oil business. I didn't

want to do that but Peter insisted that I come with him. I said, I don't want this job and I only did it a month and I had a heart attack. Then he kept me on and I worked till November, from January to November taking the Vice-President around and getting him acquainted with the oil business.

SB: Had you worked for Peter, done any business with him before, with the drilling company?

CS: I knew him before he started in the business.

SB: Is that right?

CS: When he was up in Fort St. John and he had one truck. His father had had a group of people from Toronto had put up a million dollars and gave it to Peter to buy his rigs with. And incidentally, he bought them from National Supply Company. I wasn't in the business then. I also worked for Commonwealth Drilling Company too, for 14 months.

SB: What were you doing for them?

CS: Consultant.

SB: What would you consult on?

CS: I'd take their boys and consult with them and take them out and get them going in the business, they hadn't been doing it properly.

SB: By that time you'd been in the business I guess, 40 years?

CS: 40 years then. I'd been actually, in the oil business, 51 years, I started in 1926 and I retired in '77, permanently.

SB: So what do you think were some of the biggest changes that you saw in the industry during that time?

CS: Well, the technology changed quite a bit. I don't know how to phrase this. . . the drilling per se, is the same way, you have drill pipe and tool joints and rock bits and drill collars, the same thing. But you have a more refined way of doing it. Does

that answer any questions?

#226 SB: Yes. How about the people that are involved in it, do you think that they changed that much since the cable tool days?

CS: Oh god, yes. In the cable tool days. When I was a kid I was out on a cable tool rig just to see it work. An old tobacco chewing driller and what's the other man's name. . . the driller and. . .?

SB: The derrick man?

CS: No.

SB: The cat head.

CS: No.

SB: Tool dresser?

CS: Tool dresser, that's what.

SB: He had to be pretty hefty I guess, to be able to . . .

CS: Well, they all swung good sledges, they'd have to heat their bits and sharpen them themselves, out on the rig floor.

SB: Do you think they were a lot more ingenious then, than drillers, like they'd have to sort of deal with the problem themselves?

CS: Oh they did have to. The cable tool deal, I don't know too much about it, excepting that I saw it when I was a kid and was out on the cable tool rigs watching them work. But I don't know anything about doing the work myself, I had no idea excepting it was hard work.

SB: Had most of the rigs in the Seminole field been converted to rotary or when you were working for Continental Supply?

CS: When I started in 1926 they started rotary drilling companies. The rigs were steam rigs and we had a lot of fun, getting ???.

SB: Who were some of the people that you think really helped the industry along in Canada, the oil and gas industry?

CS: Tip Maroney for one, and what was the man's name with Imperial. . .I think he's dead now.

SB: How about Walt Dingle, would that be one of them?

CS: No, I know Walter, he's a personal friend of mine, we go out to the club together, he and his wife and Helen and I. He was the engineer for drilling for Imperial Oil, now what was his name. . .I think he's been instrumental in doing a lot of things too. And the suppliers do quite a bit too.

#275 SB: In bringing in new equipment or. . .?

CS: That's right. They make the things down in Houston and places like that and would take it and break it in, to see that it was working good. Then they'd bring it all over the country. That's what's happened, the technology is so much different and those wells in Louisiana that were 15,000' deep, they have diesel electric rigs. Which we had a diesel electric rig in Oklahoma City when I was there in 1941. And we had a Fairbanks Morris, opposed piston diesel engines, 6 cylinder. I think they developed 800 horsepower. That was a big rig. We had 600 horsepower to put on it and it drilled the deepest well in Oklahoma in 1940, ??? was 10,502'. They set 10,000' of 9 5/8 casing on one Sunday, because I was there.

SB: That would be a record I guess.

CS: It was, it was the deepest well in the world at one time. But now they're up to 30,000' you know. And they had rigs, derricks for instance that they use for deep wells are a million pound capacity.

SB: So they've come a long way

CS: Oh yes. And the ??? and the engines and the pumps, drill pipe, all has been

improved very much. I has to be because of the depth it goes.

SB: What were some of the more memorable events that you remember? You must have seen some things that really stand out in your mind, did you ever see any wells blowing in or anything like that?

CS: Oh, I've seen wells come in but they don't stand out in my mind because it's a natural procedure. They used to let them flow you know, wide open, in the air and then close them in, to get all the trash out.

SB: That must have been quite a sight.

CS: Yes. The wind blowing that oil mist all over kingdom come. You had to know which way the wind was blowing to get away from it.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

SB: Did you ever, while you were working in the industry, did the people ever notice very much government intervention in the 50's and the 60's say?

CS: Not like the Liberals did in the 70's.

SB: I guess before that the companies pretty much did what they wanted?

CS: Well, they had regulations to go by but they weren't stupid like the Liberals put in. And highjacking the government of Alberta.

SB: Did you ever notice say, a lot of American companies, as opposed to Canadian companies, did you ever feel like there were more Americans involved than Canadians in the industry?

CS: Up here?

SB: Yes, in Canada.

CS: They were when I came here. Because the Canadians wouldn't spend their money to develop this area. That's true. Toronto and money back east thought we were crazy. And the Americans went ahead and developed this thing and they got gypped out of it by NEP.

SB: Do you think the Canadian attitude has changed towards investing in the industry?

CS: I think they'd like to see some American investments now. But the U.S. is going to be real cagey about doing it. They've been burned once and they're not going to be burned twice in succession.

SB: What do you think held Canadians back from investing in it, did they just feel that there wasn't enough return or something?

CS: No, they were sceptical, they were leery. They were afraid they were going to lose a dollar or so. I know one company who came in up here and spent \$200 million before they ever got a barrel of oil production. \$200 million.

SB: I guess there aren't many Canadian companies that could afford to do that.

CS: That's right. That company's still in existence right here in Calgary.

SB: Would you care to name them?

CS: No, I don't want to tell, but this was given to me confidential.

SB: Do you think that the oil business is still a good area for entrepreneurs to invest in?

CS: If Canadians want to invest in it, it would be a good deal. Because I think with the new government we've got in there now, which was installed yesterday, they're going to forget about what Trudeau and all of that bunch of thieves did. I'm a personal friend of Peter Lougheed, he has an apartment in this building, in the penthouse and I attended his wedding in 1952 in Edmonton.

#038 SB: He's always had the interest of the oilmen at heart it seems, do you feel that way?

CS: I think that he had to protect himself by taking the money that he gets from the income from the oil companies. But I think it will be reversed and he will take it as taxes on the income that they make.

SB: Profits.

CS: In profits. They won't take it off the top of the thing. That's the reason, they take the money off the top of the investment. And what about the guys who are using this money to develop this, what are they going to use. They were stupid.

SB: Were there conservation guidelines in effect when you came here?

CS: Oh yes.

SB: Did they change that much do you think, did they get stricter?

CS: Well, you have to get stricter with production running out of your ears, and that's what it was doing here.

SB: It was just too much to keep up with, there weren't enough markets?

CS: No, you have to do little things about having conservation that is overall, not just one company or one group of wells, but it has to be the overall picture of everything. And gas as well as oil.

SB: Otherwise some people don't make as much as the others.

CS: Well, some of them don't have all the leases that the others do. And some of them drill a lot of wells. Some of these little companies have done pretty darn well, since I got out of the business. But the drilling contractors per se, I think they're living on a shoestring right now. That's the way we did for awhile with Cascade when the business was slow.

SB: Do you think that many small Canadian companies are going to survive this current recession?

CS: Oh sure, some of them are going to be pretty well known one of these days.

SB: I was also going to ask you about your memberships in any of the associations or

societies in the oil industry. I know that you got an award from the CAODC?

CS: Yes. But I don't belong to anything now, nothing. Except an ??? club I belong to.

SB: And the award was for, I guess for your contribution to the industry was it?

CS: That award was, they say. So I guess it was.

SB: What year was that given to you?

CS: 2 years ago. Well, it tells up there, 1952 I think. Here.

SB: Before we finish up are there any other things you'd like to add about your involvement in the industry for 50 years?

CS: Well, I've enjoyed it, the 35 years I've lived here. I'd like to see a lot warmer weather, not such long winters but it's not to be. Helen is a Canadian girl because my wife died in '71, with a heart attack, just like that. I took her out to the hospital, I brought her home from the Oilman's Golf Tournament in 1971 from Banff, at 4:00 in the morning, she wasn't feeling well and at 8:00 I called the doctor and he called the ambulance. Took her out to Rockyview and at 10:30 she was dead. And I married a Canadian girl from Lindsay, Ontario, in Calgary and that's Helen now.

#091 SB: That's great. I guess you've got a lot of people in the oil business that you still stay in contact with.

CS: Oh yes. I got out to the club and people flock around and say, how are you doing Charlie. But I am not able to get around very much anymore. I'd love to be able to work and go see people and talk with them about business. But no more, I'll be 78 years old in November.

SB: Do you feel you could give somebody who was starting out in the oil business on how to stay in it?

CS: You have to work at it to do that. That's all I can say. Hard work is the only thing

you can do that will make things go.

SB: It doesn't happen by itself.

CS: No, it doesn't. You have to put some effort into it yourself to make a go of it.

SB: That's great. Well, it's been interesting, I'd like to thank you for taking part.

CS: Well, I'm sorry that I'm not very well versed.