

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Ray Tull

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: December 9, 1992

Side 1 – 45:30

AK: This is Aubrey Kerr and today is Wednesday, December the 9th, and I am in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tull at 816 Riverdale Avenue, and I am very pleased to be here, Ray, with you, to get the history of your involvement in the Redwater Field, because that's the... what I'm working on. I'd like to start off by having me give me your birthplace and when you were born and a little bit on your parents.

RT: Aubrey, I was born on a farm in Prague, Oklahoma, about 7 miles out of town. You've heard of Prague, Czechoslovakia, this was a Czech settlement, Prague was. And raised on a farm and... 27th day of January 1924 I was born.

AK: Right. What was... your father and your mother, were they farmers?

RT: Yes, my father was from Arkansas, and my mother was born and raised right there in Oklahoma on the same home place that we lived on, as a kid. Her father homesteaded the place that we lived on.

AK: And it was Indian territory?

RT: Yes, the Oklahoma Run???

AK: And they were in the run were they?

RT: Grandfather Heinzig was yes,

AK: What was his name?

RT: Fred Heinzig. He was a German, he came over from Germany, he had 2 children, born in Germany. And they moved their homestead...after he homesteaded the place he brought his wife and 2 children over. And my mother was born and raised on the same place I was born and raised on.

AK: Right. And how large a farm did you have?

RT: One quarter section. He had half a section... we had a quarter section to start with when I was very young, and then we got these quarter sections, we farmed the whole half section plus we had 80 acres down on creek bottom.

AK: Did you have any oil and gas on your property?

RT: No, there was not any on the property, there was a hole drilled there after I left home, on the east property. But it was dry. They drilled one on the west quarter also, and they got a little gas, it produced gas I think for 3 or 4 years before they abandoned it. But that's after I left the farm.

AK: And how far along did you get with your education?

RT: I went to country school every morning, I went through the eighth grade, graduated up to eighth, when I finished the eighth grade, I was just 13 years old. And Dad says, we were raising mules at that time, we had quarter horses and mules, and we were raising young mules, and Dad says, well, I haven't got any money to send you to high school, but somehow we'll scratch around if you want to go, we'll make a way to go. Or I'll give you a team of mules. I said, I'll take the team of mules and start farming. And that was as far as I went in education.

AK: That was your limit.

RT: That was it, yup.

AK: Then when you were doing this farming, when did you first get an idea that you'd like to get into the oil business?

RT: Well, actually how that came about Aubrey, when you got your draft call to go to the army, I was 18 years old and got my draft call. And they... well I had to register to get the call, you had to register, and they'd take the boys from out of town, and so forth first, and leave the farm boys to the last ones that they draft. So, I didn't think anything about oil field at that time, and then close to... well, I got my draft call and said to Dad, well, if I'm going to go to the army, turn the cattle in the crop and let them have it, I'm going to go to Oklahoma City and have a little fun, and live for a month before I go to the army. And I started to drive a truck, freight truck in Oklahoma City, drove about a week, then somebody said Southwest Brewery up there, about 5 blocks away, you go up there, you can get all the beer you want to drink while you're working. And I said, well that sounds like a great deal to me. So I went up there and started working at the brewery, and I worked there for I think, a month and a half. Got my call to go to the army, took my examination, they turned me down, rejected me. REJ Class 4, rejected.

When I was 16 years old, a wagon rode over my right leg and bruised it, and I hopped around for a week, but got over it and went on, and 6 months later it started bothering me. And what the doctor in town, he said to Dad, oh that boy's just sprained it, put a hot water bottle on it and it will be okay. Went on for 3 or 4 days, didn't get better, and the man that ran the grocery store said to Dad, take that boy up to Oklahoma City, there's something else wrong with that leg. They took me to Okla City to a specialist and did an x-ray on it and the doctor said, we'll operate on you in the morning at 8 o'clock. What happens when you're young, you can bruise your bone, and it causes osteomyelitis, inflammation of the bone. So the next morning they operated on it and ??? it, and I walked on crutches for 2 months, and they left a little spot open for it to drain, it drained for about a week, and then it kind of healed over. I bumped it against the wall and it busted open again, so actually it bothered me for several months. It finally healed up, I can't remember the exact time, I think about 5 or 6 months, it healed over. Then a couple months later, a knot came up on the side of it, went to the doctor and he lanced it. It ran again for, I would say a couple years off and on. The doctor said, you put nothing on it, but change the gauze every morning and every night. No medicine at all. I ??? my leg was always raw, pulling the tape off every morning and every night.

AK: Yeah, it would be.

RT: Then it healed over again, I'd been drilling on one rig, we shut the rig down, went up to Garber, Oklahoma, to work derrick on one of the rigs, and the strain on the leg I guess, it got sore again, a knot came up there and I took a darning needle and got it red hot and lanced it myself, just stuck it in. It ran again, and then on the 18th day of July, 1948 I guess it was, I was in the shower washing, and the washrag hung on... and said whoa... pulled, I got a sliver of bone out of the leg, as long as a match, with 2 little jagged pieces on it. The bone decays all the time, a little all those years, it would run, and little pieces, when you pull the gauze off every morning and every night, it was like sandpaper on it. Your bone keeps decaying, that piece came out, it healed up, it hasn't bothered me since that day in 1948.

[00:08:05] AK: Let's just go back a little bit here to when you first got your first job and with whom on your drilling. You mentioned you were on a rig, and who had hired you and who were you working for, and what was your starting salary?

RT: Yes, Aubrey, I decided that after they turned me down from the army, working there at the brewery and so forth, I think I was getting 75 cents an hour, I think, I can't remember exactly. And someone said, if you go and work on a drilling rig, you can get 99 cents an hour, time and a half and double time. And that sounded like a good deal to me. I said, I think I'll try that. So I went down to work on a rig ??? about 5 or 6 miles from the home place, got there and they hired me, there was a well, we just finished the hole. It run 2 tours, I think, it was a dry hole and they plugged it, tore it down and that was with Johnny ??? in Shawnee, Oklahoma, I can't remember what I got for a salary. So when that was gone, there was a couple rigs working up north from home, about 5, 7, 6-7 miles from home. I went up there looking for around, said I'll try to get on one of them. I was out there doing the catwalk, looking around and the pusher drove up and he says, a big husky guy like you should be working on this rig here. I said, that's what I'm looking for. He says, give me your... how to get a hold of you and we'll be in touch with you. Three days later, the old phone rang at home, the country line there, and it was the boys called me up to go to work. That was for Falcon Seaboard Drilling Company from Tulsa Oklahoma. And I roughnecked for them at 99 cents an hour.

AK: And who was the person that hired you?

RT: Raymond Knapp, was the tool pusher.

AK: K-N-A-P-P? Okay, so he was the push, and so you started off in the dump corner?

RT: In the dump corner, I worked for a driller by the name of Harry... last name's left my mind. We finished that hole, moved over and drilled another one, we drilled 2 holes there. Then they took the rigs and moved them out to West Texas, north of Dumas, Texas which is about 50 miles north of Amarillo. And I was still working evening tour, but back then of course crews were hard to find in those days, the army... weren't many men around. And Burt Bird was drilling daylight, and his derrick man, Lefty, he had 2 guys been with him quite a while but they wouldn't work derricks. And Burt and the driller I worked for got talking, and Burt asked him if one of his boys would work derricks, Harry came to me and I said, well sure, I'll try anything if that's what they need. So I went to work on derricks, on daylight for Burt Bird.

AK: Now in those days, did you rotate your shifts?

RT: No...

AK: Did you always work days, or did you always work afternoons?

RT: Yup. As long as I...

AK: So you'd never rotate around...

RT: They did not, no.

AK: No long changes and short changes?

RT: Nope. We worked straight seven days a week. Crews were hard to get, we worked seven days a week, and...

AK: You never...

RT: Rotated.

AK: You just stayed the same?

RT: Yup.

AK: So once you were on daylights, you were on daylights.

RT: Right. Working for Burt, I was single at that time, and we had the 2 rigs out there, Falcon Seaboard did, and working daylight and Ben Wortham drilled evening tour on the other rig. And he was having trouble getting men, I doubled over anywhere from 3, sometimes 5 days a week, double shift.

AK: Is that right.

RT: Crews were hard to get.

AK: Daylight and afternoon.

RT: Yes. And if our rig was short, I was double over there. Ben Wortham, on the other rig, said, now, if you're short when you go to work this afternoon, as soon as I get in, leave a note on my door and I'll be at the rig and double over for you. So that's how I got so many doubled over, 4 or 5 times a week.

AK: Well that would put a few bucks in your pocket...

RT: I enjoyed it. I was young and strong and enjoyed the work. Farm kid, work didn't bother me.

[00:12:48] AK: Can you tell me, before we go any farther, what was the origin of the name, Falcon Seaboard, did you ever find out?

RT: I really can't tell you exactly, but it was the old Barnsville Oil Company, Ted Lowe was the president of Falcon Seaboard Drilling Company and I think his wife had something to do with the Barnsville Oil Company. Now how the Falcon Seaboard got, I don't know, I really can't tell you.

AK: Right, so with this willingness to work doubles, it must have caught the eye of the push, when did you get set up as driller then?

RT: Aubrey, as a matter of fact, I was working evening tour on the other rig when I drilled a surface hole. And the pusher comes over and says, Ray, go out there and dig a hole in that ditch and tell me when we hit the rig bed on this surface hole. I said, okay, and I dug ??? that's how I got it, and I says, okay Raymond, we've got rig bed, ??? about got 5 feet ??? showing up as samples now. He said, fine, what I want to know, we're going to buy another rig sometime this year. He said, we're going to need some more hands, try to train you boys to learn more. He said, I want you to look after pump, check everything, samples, and tell me what we're drilling through and so forth but down the hole later on. So that's when I started working and I said well, if I get a chance here I might as well go all the way.

AK: Yeah. So you were set up as driller on the new rig?

RT: No, they bought the new rig and they set me up as a driller on evening tour on the rig I was working on.

AK: What kind of a rig was this?

RT: That was an old Houston portable, well works with a Dewey Moore derrick. ??? the old Dewey Moore derrick with the round pipe...

AK: Dewey Moore. And what, did you pull doubles, or?

RT: We pulled doubles. Those holes we were drilling in Texas there, some were between 3200 and the odd one, 3600. Shallow stuff.

AK: And, you'd be running with, what, 3 1/2, 4 1/2-inch pipe?

RT: We had 4 1/2 drill pipe. In those days, we'd only run one and two drill cutters, the bits, the bearings didn't last very long and if you had any weight on them you'd wear them out anyway. However, we learned a lot of things to do on the rig, being out there in the, in Dumas, that was way out there in the wild prairie, there was nothing around really. And in those days, in those shallow holes, we didn't even use a blowout preventer, it was shallow gas wells we were drilling, there wasn't enough pressure to worry about it. Set surface casing, cut the pipe off, weld on a flow nipple and start drilling.

AK: Is that right, eh? That was it. So you just had a flow nipple on it.

RT: That's all, yeah.

AK: So no BOP?

RT: No, no BOP.

AK: Those were a requirement in those days.

RT: No, I don't think there... there must not have been a law for it, I don't think there was, I know all the big rigs had them on, and we got, later in the years we moved to Louisiana, we had to put blowout preventers on our rigs, I had never seen a blowout preventer on the rig before that. Actually, how I got started drilling, we had moved one rig over close to the border of Texas and one rig was down, so Ben Wortham was drilling evening tour, I was on daylights, and I guess the night going home, Ben threw a rod through the block of his car, we were on tour, the pusher comes up, I think it was around 10:30 or 11:00 and he says, Ray, would you mind if Ben Wortham got your car, his boys come to work on your car tonight, this afternoon. I said, no, that's fine. He said, well what I want to do, Ben threw a rod through his, I'm going to start the other rig up next week anyway, I want to set you up for drilling. I said, well fine, if that's what you want. But before that, Burt had let me make a few connections, and I made one shallow trip on the rig, and learned how to handle a draw-works and so forth. And that evening, Ben's crew got my car out, and Burt's crew left, and I stayed over drilling, and the pusher comes by, I guess it was around quarter to five or quarter after five, little after 5 anyway, said, well, see you tomorrow. So he went off and left us, so there I was. I think we were about 1800-1900 feet, on the surface ??? We made the tour, came home that night, and that's my opening to drilling.

[00:17:44] AK: And then you... when did you get word that you might be coming to Canada?

RT: Yup, I got that drilling job that was in January of 1945, I guess it was, we went to Louisiana with 2 rigs, matter of fact we took 3 rigs to Louisiana, shallow rigs, and that's when I first saw a blowout preventer, we put preventers on all of them down there, pressure, they were oil wells, and we moved from Louisiana back to Oklahoma, into Kansas, back to Oklahoma. Then I was pushing a rig, I got a pusher job, as a tool pusher in Kansas. We moved back to Oklahoma, went back to Kansas, back and forth there 3 or 4 times. And the pusher said one day, well Ray, I was looking after two rigs, one deep rig and one shallow rig, out there east of Duncan, Oklahoma by county line, Velma. He said, the office tells me we're going to send two rigs to Canada, we're thinking about it. They're going up there look around and do some bidding on it. Would you consider going to Canada? I said, well, whatever you think. Jerry Stalls was Vice President and he's the one I talked to.

AK: How do you spell Stalls?

RT: Jerry Stauss. S-T-A-U-S-S. And he said would you consider going? I said, I've always said before, wherever you can use me, if I can make you more money I'll try anything. He said well Ted Law and Chip ??? and so forth say it's an older man's job, place to go, more experience. But he says, I think it's a young man's, and I want you to go. That was, I can't remember the exact time that was, that was probably around August, sometime in August I think, early September. That was the last I heard of it. Nothing was said then for I don't know, till I would guess it would be about the very middle of April of '49 that I called to report in and Jerry said, have you got your red flannel drawers? I says no, why? He said you're going to need them. You're going to Canada if you're still willing. I says, really? He said, yup. I says well if that's what you want. I want to go home for a week anyway and visit folks and so forth and talk about it.

AK: Now at that time had you married yet?

RT: Yes. I got married in November of '44.

AK: Oh, I see. So you had to talk it over with your wife.

RT: Yup.

AK: Yeah, right. What did she think?

RT: Well, she didn't say a whole lot. We'd moved around so much, over Oklahoma, Kansas to Texas, Louisiana, that she was used to it. She said, well if that's what we're going to do that's what we'll do. She had no objection, she says, because we felt like, that I would eventually... Jerry said I would push the rigs until they got going good. They'd probably wind up buying another one and I'd be moved up to superintendent, run the whole operations in Canada.

LT: We also had two kids by that time.

AK: Oh, did you?

RT: Yup. Two daughters. We got married in November of '44 and our daughters, one was born in January of '46 I guess it was. Yeah, it was, and one was born in December '48.

AK: Right. So you decided, you talked it over and you said okay, we're going?

RT: Yes.

AK: And how did you... what was the mechanics of you moving up here. Did you drive up?

RT: Yes. I had a new company car, it only had 6000 miles on it, 1949 Chevrolet, and they called me and says, okay, well it started before I came up. They said we want you to come over to Anadarko and tell these guys what you want to send with this rig, load up, ??? you want to go. The truck pusher, and what stuff I wanted to go with it and so forth. You couldn't bring a water tank, dog houses and a few other things. It would be duty... the rest of the rig was duty-free, but you couldn't bring that. What you could build here was available, make them, build them or buy there here.

AK: Right. And did you have to get Customs papers ready?

RT: Yes. Well that, of course Tulsa, the head office, did that. I just went out and wrote down, marked down the truck push and all of what that I didn't want to go, some of this junky stuff, and this and that. Just the blank rigs up as was.

AK: What about blowout preventers?

RT: No, we brought no blowout preventers, whatever. We decided we were going to buy them new when we got there with the rigs.

AK: Right. [tape cuts]

AK: [00:23:07] So, you left and you took your family in the car with you?

RT: No, they sent me up, well, when they loaded the rigs out, I said call me the day the trucks leave.

AK: And everything was on trucks, it wasn't...?

RT: All trucks, it all came on trucks, and I let the trucks get a one day start on me, and I started after him. I knew I'd catch them at the border before they got across the border, and we'd get on up to Edmonton and find a place to unload the rigs and so forth. I came by myself, and they promised me, like after I got up there and got things unloaded, I'd come back and pick up the wife and drive my own personal car up with her and the kids. But the way things developed a lot quicker than they wanted to, I got up there and got everything organized and found a place to live in Edmonton. And then, by the time I got my dog houses and water tanks built and everything and got ready to go to the rigs and so forth, didn't have time to get back and get the wife and family because they started the rigs up. So my father drove my wife and two daughters up in my personal car. I sent him back on the train then.

AK: Yeah right. Okay, where did you live in Edmonton? Did you rent or buy?

RT: We rented a house on 115th Avenue and 94th Street I guess it was. 92nd Street I think it was.

AK: Right. [inaudible] So this was a whole new ball game for you.

RT: Yes it was. I crossed the border on the sixth day of May, '49.

AK: Well, you see you didn't take long to get going there.

RT: No.

AK: Yeah. Now did you know for whom you were going to be drilling when you came up?

RT: No, as a matter of fact, I was supposed to contact Frank Bridges into Calgary here when I went through, head of the rigs, but two of the rigs, two of the trucks were ahead of me, and I knew I had to be in Edmonton, but I stopped them and told them what to stop at Oilwell Supply in Edmonton. And I couldn't get hold of Frank, it was on a Saturday, couldn't find him, no phone, nothing else. So I tried till ten o'clock then took off. I got to Edmonton, the two trucks were there at Oilwell Supply. And the Oilwell Supply salesman went with me, went across north of town looking for a place to unload the rigs. We found a place at, way at the north end of town, Norhammer Manufacturing, had a big yard and unloaded them there. And of course like I said, I had to build the tanks and the dog houses and a few other things before I started the rigs up.

AK: Were the masts broken down into segments?

RT: Yes, they were both portable masts, they were sections... the Frank's rig was a two-piece mast, and the other one was, crown end, and the other, it's got four legs, there's a ???

AK: What was the name of the other type of rig?

RT: It was a Houston portable draw works but with a Dewey Moore derrick.

AK: Oh, you were still at that old style, eh?

RT: Yup.

AK: It followed you around.

RT: Yup.

AK: Right. So you started to assemble there in this yard, eh?

RT: Yup. We got all the stuff ready and then they told me they had the contract to move it into Redwater for Gulf, Canadian Gulf Oil Corporation. Rigged up just on the edge of town there, about a quarter mile from town, in Redwater.

AK: So you moved everything, but you knew the location?

RT: Well, they told me where it was at and to go up there and look, find it, location, and get prepared to drill it. The CAT was there preparing a location and I went up to [inaudible] and so forth.

AK: Was there a stake there?

RT: Yes there was.

AK: It was all staked out and surveyed, eh.

RT: Mmm hmmm.

AK: So you started your... and you were in charge of the two rigs them, were you?

RT: That's correct. I was the tool pusher for both rigs.

AK: Oh, you pushed too.

RT: Yeah, I was the tool pusher on both rigs.

AK: How did you manage that?

RT: Well, they worked me awfully hard. I spent I spent more time in the car than I did it at home. I probably averaged two nights a week is all in back in Edmonton in a bed, I stayed at the rig all the time in the car.

AK: Did you not have a shack out at the rig?

RT: We had a shack for one of the rigs to start with. I spent most of the time between the rigs just back and forth. If I wasn't running casing on one, I'd be running tubing on the other one or surface casing or moving or something, I was on the go all the time.

AK: What kind of blowout preventers did you put in?

RT: I bought two double Schaeffers, one for each rig.

AK: Yeah. Now were these hydraulics?

RT: No, they weren't, they were manual. Yeah, the old, crank wheels on them.

AK: Yeah. And at that time was there a requirement by the Board to have blowout preventers, or was that something Gulf said you had to have.

RT: I believe it was a requirement of the Board. I'm pretty sure the Board specified you have to... I know Gulf, period, wouldn't let you drill a hole less you had it on there, I know that. So I'm sure it was a requirement of The Board.

AK: Now it says there that you reported to Paul Gassett. Is that right? G-A-S-S-E-T-T?

RT: That is correct. I didn't report direct to Paul Gassett, they sent Wayne Powell up here from Kansas, I believe Wayne came from.

AK: How do you spell that?

RT: Wayne P-O-W-E-L-L.

AK: Oh, Powell.

RT: Yup, and he came up and then a few days ahead of him or just behind him, one of the other, Kelly Gibson arrived. I believe Kelly Gibson came out of Oklahoma somewhere.

AK: Yeah, and he had just come to work for you.

RT: That's right.

AK: So he was brand new.

RT: Kelly and Wayne Powell were the two guys that we reported to in Edmonton. Well, they were out, in and out to the rigs, in and out.

[00:29:35] The first hole that two geologists they sent on the first hole, two young geologists, I think probably their first or second job on their own.

AK: So do you remember their names?

RT: Yes. One of them is Rob Lawrence.

AK: Oh yeah, Bob Lawrence.

RT: Yup, you know him?

AK: Yes. He's passed on.

RT: Yes he did, a couple of years ago. That is correct. And the other geologist was Neil Taylor.

AK: Oh, yeah. Well Neil is retired. Just a minute, I will just turn this off. It was Bob Lockwood. Yeah, that's right. And then there was another fella. Yeah, but there was another fellow called Max Littlefield. Do you remember him?

RT: Max Littlefield.

AK: He was the specialist from Tulsa.

RT: I don't remember him offhand.

AK: Yeah. But these two lads, Neil Taylor and old Bob, eh, they got the kind of a baptism of fire, did they?

RT: Yes. They nice boys, we had a good time, got along well.

AK: And did you, did you have any getting used to with the way things were done up here?

RT: Not really. I think the first hole, of course we just got started going good when Wayne or Kelly Gibson, one of them arrived, I can't remember which one got there first. And we sat down and talked about it, how, what they expected and what they wanted. Of course, they had worked in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, where I had so I knew exactly pretty well what they wanted and how to go about it.

AK: Yeah right. And how far along did you go with the drilling? Did you, you ran your long string?

RT: Oh, yes, we ran the long string, ran the tubing, we record all the holes, ran the long string, the tubing and completed the wells.

AK: Well now did you barefoot the completions or did you run the casing through the basal???

RT: I believe most of them were ran through the zone and perforated them, if I remember right?

AK: And did you remember any of the *Schlumberger* people or some of the others?

RT: Well, yes.

AK: There was Neil Collins, do you remember him?

RT: Neil Collins. Offhand, I don't remember him.

AK: There was Frank Black.

RT: Frank Black, very well of course come, still ??? Frank. The head man for *Schlumberger* was...

AK: Hubie Gerdis???

AK: Hubie Gerdis, that's right. Yeah, but you wouldn't probably have too much connection with him, would you?

RT: No I didn't. I was always there when he did the job, but you don't really get involved.

[00:32:37] AK: Did you have, in these first batch of holes, did you have a footage rate?

RT: The first hole we drilled we had a footage rate. Then they took a contract. I believe was 12 holes. I'm not sure that 12 old contract with golf to the two rigs to drill straight day work. How much was that a day six hundred and sixty bucks a day whose idea was that somebody in Tulsa? That was cool. So did the made a deal so forth were the anxious to make sure they kept the rig's busy. It sounds that way. I told was too low but they said they could make pretty good money in Oklahoma that rate I said, well, this is not, Oklahoma.

AK: Well you did you have your drillers come up with you?

RT: Yes, they let me bring six drillers and six derrick men. In other words, three for each crew, each rig, and we hired the helpers up here.

AK: Right. And they were given permits to come up?

RT: Yes. As a matter of fact, we all came in on a six months work permit. I believe we had one driller and one derrick man left before we finished the first hole. Of course, we had all on one rig because we only started one rig to start with.

AK: So did get some of them want to go back?

RT: Yes a couple more of them, I talked them out of it for a while, I said, don't just leave, let me get a little farther along, and we kept hiring the boys and working with them trying to train them. I knew, I could see the writing on the wall that you've got to train them quick. Yeah, because these guys aren't gonna stay some of them are gonna stay. I believe we had 7, 7 or 8 of them stayed.

AK: The fellas you brought on.

RT: Originally. No, they brought some more, some more came in. We had we had 2, 4, 6 on each... we had 12, that's right. We had 12 and I think 7 stayed eventually, that wound up being for several years. We had 3 drillers on each rig and 3 derrick men on each rig, which is 12 guys.

AK: Okay, and where did you look for your roughnecks?

RT: That was a real problem? We went to the unemployment, not unemployment, there's a company, I'm trying to think who it was. I guess it was unemployment, must have been unemployment. Yes. I did ??? insurance stamps. Had to go to the unemployment office and ask them for...

AK: [inaudible]

RT: Yeah, that was a real problem in those days, stamping their books.

AK: Well then, you had a... you were doing a lot of office work then.

RT: Well, yes, the company was ran out of Tulsa ??? I reported to Tulsa every day...

AK: You phoned every day?

RT: When I get to the phone, try to get to them, yeah, but I had to keep track of all the boys' time and it was paid out of Tulsa also, if the boys fired someone I had to figure the time out and pay them and stamp their book and so forth. I had to do quite a bit of book work besides put looking after the rig.

AK: Right. So there's a lot... and were you responsible for going and getting the bits.

RT: Yes, in those days...

AK: Where did you get those from?

RT: In the early days, Aubrey, we had to get your bits from an oil field supply store. National and All Wells were the two main stores open at that time. And what about Dominion?

RT: Dominion was there but before Dominion... I didn't know anybody there and we'd dealt with All Well and National before so that was, that's how we started. We came up here, I went to All Well Supply to help me locate a place to unload the rigs. And you go in and just pick up your bits. There was a bit salesman. Reid had a bit salesman and he was a bit salesman, but they didn't deliver bits, they were salesmen.

AK: Right. Well, they would fly around too, didn't they? They had their plane.

RT: Well I think Reid had a plane, originally Paul Steel, was it Paul Steel that was with Reid? But he didn't use the plane. The guy that came behind him, what was his name. He flew the plane himself. I believe Horitz Nelson was the representative for Hughes.

AK: Right. Did you did you get most of your roughnecks from right around Redwater or did you have to get them in Edmonton?

RT: Well to start with we got all of them in Edmonton. We didn't know anybody in Redwater but we got to looking around, out there when you're traveling around the areas, asking is anybody around here like to go to work anywhere. So we wound up getting a few farm boys and that's where we got our best men. You can depend on them.

AK: That's right and they would show up.

RT: Yep.

AK: I think there was an awful lot of drifters and everything.

RT: There was, very much so.

AK: And they probably, just been right close there anyways to Fort Saskatchewan, they probably had a room over at Fort Saskatchewan.

RT: Yeah, I would think of some of them did. Also I was lucky, I went to the university in Edmonton there, to see if there was any boys there, you know, that was interested in working, and I got 4 or 5 boys from there for summer work which really worked out good for us. They were eager and wanted to work.

AK: Yeah, they wanted to get the experience.

RT: Uh-huh.

AK: So did any of them move on to greater things?

RT: Yes, we had...

AK: Who did you have that started like that.

RT: Jeep Hall was one of them. Yes, and Don... what was Don's name...Don studied to be a lawyer, he worked for us two summers. Don Kennedy was his name. Yeah, he became a very good lawyer.

AK: Isn't that interesting that you... that was a good idea of your going over trying to scrounge somebody from out of the university.

RT: Yeah, and I got another guy from there, his name is Vic Collins. He was kind of a wild character, pretty good hand, little trouble keeping in line, but...

AK: So these fellows you just started to pull together on a bit of a group then, that worked.

RT: That is true. We were lucky, we... I don't remember how it came about. Oh, I know it was Lanky Desjardins. I don't how he came to... oh, he came to our door in Edmonton, talked to my wife, Louise couldn't understand him. He just didn't talk English very well. And she took his name and all his ??? and said when I come home the next day or two, I'd give him a shout. I got him, took him out to the rig, he went to work for us and he helped me out. He had 4 or 5 more French buddies, French boys, and they all came from north and west of Edmonton around...

AK: St. Albert.

RT: Well, farther up, up close to Peace River even. Frank Duseau was one of them, Frank worked with me a long time, we had... we had Winnie?? [inaudible].

AK: [00:40:54] Okay, so when winter started to set in were you still drilling on those...

RT: No, we finished those before winter got to really freezing up much, actually, I think the last two holes had frost. Yeah, we bought the boilers, had to buy boilers, rig up the boilers and prefab all the rigs in.

AK: Did somebody say you better do this, or?

RT: Oh, yes. I had talked a couple of tool pushes, I met some pushes out there, taught them how, I said what happens when it gets cold, get the information from them. They told me what you need and what you should do. I said, so that's where I started. I started doing that in the middle of summer, building the prefabs and locating boilers, build a boiler house around them and rig them up.

AK: So you were you were ready for winter, you weren't... it didn't hit you, although it hit you pretty hard, because that was the one of the worst winters on record.

RT: That was very true.

AK: 49 to 50.

RT: It really was.

AK: And you were, by that time you were settled in your house in Edmonton?

RT: Yeah, my, I think my dad drove the wife and kids up on the 22nd or 23rd of May, April, I mean May.

AK: So you were commuting. Now what you do about your crew, did you have a, some kind of a pickup or a truck that would bring them out?

RT: For the first couple of wells, we let them drive, they all had cars, we let them drive their cars. We had to scramble around a little but we got them in and out of there. And now I told the Tulsa office, I says, this is not going to work up here, we've got to have some transportation. There's no way around it. So we bought two panel trucks, one for each rig, hauled the crews back and forth.

AK: Right.

RT: We ran them all through Redwater. We kept them for a couple years after that, finally just abandoned them.

AK: Did they... they lasted through all that terrible road?

RT: They were pretty well beat up, but the boys, what they did one crew would bring it in to start the morning, they'd all come out, other crew would take it back, just rotated, one for each rig.

AK: So they never got cold.

RT: No, it didn't even...

AK: So that went on and what kind of pay were you giving them?

RT: I can't remember what salary we paid in those days. I know I was I was only drawing \$600 a month myself, I know that.

AK: Yeah, well you are working for 10 cents an hour.

RT: I believe we were around a dollar, a dollar and a dime. I just can't remember.

AK: Yeah, just about that. Did you ever talk to Harry Webster?

RT: Yes. I knew Harry Webster very well.

AK: That's how he got his start, you know at Redwater. He said, we've got a contract if you've got a rake, so that's where he started with Wally??

RT: Right. He bought a cargo trailer rig, I remember it very well.

AK: I've got a tremendous picture of him and Len Walker and Boyd McIntyre.

RT: Yes, I knew Boyd very well, too.

AK: So he probably give you some good advice too.

RT: Yes, but I think the guys that got most advice from was one or two pushers from Parker and George, George with Cantex, became Cantex later on, at that time it was, he was working for.

AK: Yeah. Well, that's interesting than, so when winter really started to hit did some of your U.S. boys go back.

RT: Yes, they a few more of them moved away, and it wound up down to the very end, I think after the first winter was over, we only had 5, 6 guys left, 5 guys I believe.

AK: All together.

RT: Yeah of the original group that come in.

AK: Had did, you have the choice of picking these men to bring up? Yes and no, I asked a few of them on the rigs I was pushing, if they'd like to go. They said they would and off the other rig, from the, the second rig was set up, he said, we've got some guys over here will come with the rig. The drillers and the derrick men. I said, that's fine. We moved the one rig from Redwater to Calmar.

AK: I'll just turn the tape over.

Side 2 – 40:00

AK: We are with Ray Tull, and you were just saying that, that was the last year Redwater drilling then, was that it? You didn't drill any more holes in Redwater?

RT: No [inaudible]

AK: Yeah, and you were you were working for... I'd like to know about that Bear Oil thing. Scotty Tosh. Was Scotty your man ???

RT: Yes, we drilled, I think we took one rig over and we drilled 5 or 6 holes at Bruderheim, I don't remember exactly now.

AK: Now was that back on footage?

RT: Yes, that was on footage. And we took the other rig to Calmar on footage.

AK: Right. And this business that, in Bruderheim was so much per day work.

RT: Oh, yes. Right.

AK: What would you get for day work?

RT: Oh gosh. I can't remember that now, that's long long ago.

AK: Well, then you... did you have any special experiences with old Scotty or?

RT: Well, yes and no...

AK: Some stories there about Scotty, I mean, he was ???

RT: Scotty was a little cantankerous all right, but he and I got along well, he'd say what he wanted and I said, okay, Scotty we'll do it this way, and whatever you want it'll be done that way. You have to, I think we had the same problem later on in the years with Kelly Gibson. Lot of guys had trouble working with Kelly Gibson. Kelly was pretty tough. But if you did what Kelly wanted to do, the way he wanted to do it, and then if you had a problem you'd tell him exactly what happened, you had no trouble, but if you lied to him, you're blood, you're mud.

AK: Yeah, well he's still living down here.

RT: That's right, just down the street here.

LT: Was Dutch ???, was he in Redwater with you?

RT: Dutch Comar?? was pushing the tools for Parker Drilling Company. He had two rigs, I had two rigs. They, Parker had two rigs on day work and we had two on day work during that Redwater boom.

AK: Comar, how do you spell that?

RT: Dutch Coumar, C-O-U-M-A-R, something like that. He passed away several years ago. Matter of fact, he left Parker and went with Gustafson when Norm Gustafson started his drilling company. He was ???

LT: His wife was the sister to Gord ??? wife.

AK: Oh yeah. So then when you're finished up with Scotty, where did you move that rig to?

RT: We took that rig, went to Smoky Lake, northwest of Redwater, northeast of Redwater. I can't remember who we drilled for up there.

AK: You drilled for Seaboard or Bardstown?

RT: No...

AK: Bardstown and Seaboard had some acreage up there.

RT: It could have been. I can't remember now, it was so many years ago. The other rig went to Calmar, we drilled there and we had a, matter of fact the first hole we drilled in Calmar, Schlumberger came out to log in??? And they didn't realize how cold it was, that was the coldest winter we had and their cable going over the over the ??? run lying down, would crack and they pulled it out and they called another truck out, they brought two more trucks out tried, couldn't log it. We finally wound up, that was a quite an experience. We took buckets of diesel fuel and set them along the cat walk all the way out from the truck to the rig floor to help keep the, warm the line up a little bit.

AK: Oh, I see, and then set them on fire eh?

RT: Set them on fire and they'd burn, just blow the line, just blow on the heat, would help keep the cable...

AK: That was that old rag??? cables, they weren't worth a damn.

RT: Yup, they would crack and short out, you couldn't long...

AK: Yeah right. Isn't that interesting. So by this time you would, were you still reporting to Tulsa?

RT: Yes. Actually the Toronto, the Tulsa group, Falcon Seaboard put up the two rigs. There was five guys came in as partners. Frank Bridges was one of them and four more guys from Tulsa, Frank came to Calgary. And it was called Falcon Seaboard of Canada Limited. That was a subsidiary of the Falcon Seaboard Drilling Company and they thought, of course they came up here, they was going to get to six dollars a foot, it was going for six dollars a quarter., I think a foot came in Redwater, something like that. And the price dropped down, went down to \$3 or something eventually, but we worked all those holes at the straight day work. What money we made that summer, we made a little money with it, rigs was in good shape, but we spent it all winterizing them, no prefabs, ballers and all this and that and so forth getting ready, so that they didn't make any money, might have made a few dollars I think, all the profit was all spent back to the rigs. And the guys got a little unhappy that they didn't make any money out of their investment, and Frank Bridges went down and talked to them about it, if they would sell out, asked them. They said, sure they would, so he wound up going to Toronto and got Brian Newkirk's group to back him, it was the money group, back him, and he bought the Tulsa group out the four other partners and Falcon Seaboard Drilling Company.

AK: Right.

RT: That was in May the 22nd, 1952. I guess it was, '51. And changed the name to Canbridge Corporation Limited. How they got that name was Canadian Bridges, just cut it Canbridge.

Oh yeah. That's C-A-N-B-R-I-D-G-E. And that's using Bridge's name.

RT: That's right. Canadian Bridges. Just made it Canbridge.

ARK: And did you have a piece of that?

RT: No, nothing. When they, Frank come to me then said he's buying it and so forth, are you going to change it? I called his house and I said, okay, what have you got for me to do ??? He says well, you should stay and write for Frank. I said well, I don't mind doing that. But what happened, Jerry Stahl says, well Ray you've been with us a long time and you stay and write here for Frank because he'll never make it if you don't stay and run it for him. And if something happens and it doesn't click, it doesn't work, we've always got a superintendent job for you back here. And that's the way it started, and I stayed with Frank and we had a few ups and downs, little spot here and there but nothing serious. He wanted to do certain things and I'd say, Frank you can't do that. But Frank was a fine gentleman, but he's an old, he started out with the old Gypsy Oil Company and Gypsy bought out, Gulf bought out Gypsy and he went, Frank came out of Gypsy, into Gulf, and he was always with a big oil company, and they took a lease or something, they took, it was a big deal. They went through a big play and he thought big all the time until you know, you're small, you crawl till you...

AK: Well, big is not always beautiful.

RK: That's right. Then after he got the Toronto group involved, they formed an oil company and called it Marigold Oils Limited. You probably remember that, and they put a bunch of money in it and then some stock in it and then ??? Frank says, we're going to make a little oil company out of this and we'll do real well, but it got to the point where, every time we took a deal, I'd say Frank that's too big. You can't we can't do that because the Toronto group at that point moved me up to, as Vice President of Canbridge and Vice President of Marigold Oils. And I was in the office there, and ??? and ??? the tool pusher out, and the superintendent, that was in the fall of '52. We... he took two deals and I says don't take them. I really shouldn't have bumped him or said that, but I said, Frank, it's just too big. If you don't hit that... he said, oh this, we'll be a big ?? will be a big company. And I said, I says, don't take it, and when the money was pretty well all spent on Marigold, like, Toronto kept saying, well what the hell's going on? I said, well, I told Frank to not take it. I told you guys it's too big for us. And they come back and said, we had a wild well at Flatbush, a well blew out at Flatbush and we shut the preventers on it, crater?? came around outside the surface casing, parked the rig down, and I was up there day and night till we fought that thing out, we moved the rig and drilled a Drexel hole to it and killed it. But I was there about six weeks almost totally on that thing...

AK: Who was the operator?

RT: Gulf, Canadian Gulf. It was a wildcat. And when it was all over I said, I'm going to get on the train and go to Toronto and down to see my sister in Washington DC, well she lived actually, Vienna Virginia just out of DC. And I said, I don't want anybody, no phone, no one's going to see me for 10-12 days. I'm

gone, I'm bushed. And the Toronto office says, well when you get through visiting your sister, why don't you come back to Toronto and stop and talk to us. And I said fine. So I came back and talked to them. This would be in the early, late, this was the early part of '56. And, I said fine and they said we want, we're going to buy Frank out and we want you to run it for us. That's how the thing developed, and I said well that's strictly your fellows' business. Will you stay and run it if we buy Frank out? I said, well sure I'll try it. And that's... it was kind of sad, Frank had started the thing and built it up. But really, unfortunately Frank just didn't know the drilling business and, take the little Marigold Oil company and what money they ??? yeah, about \$2M or something to start it. Well, that was all gone, nothing flat.

AK: Oh, yeah, it doesn't take long.

RT: He took the second deal after I told... first one I said don't do it, and he went ahead and done it anyway. That was the one they took to the States, they bought a rig, drilled deep hole down there. And we'd go by and lift the rig out, he says, can you use a rig when it's used up, and I says, no, I don't want it. And that was his, that was his downfall. That's what killed the whole thing really. I hate to say this but I mean a spade is a spade, is what I called everything.

AK: Well, that's right, yeah. So then you became...

RT: Moved up to president of Canbridge yeah.

AK: Did they continue with Marigold?

RT: No, they finally just wound it up.

AK: And you stayed drilling until when?

RT: I stayed drilling until I... Well I, we run it till, I can't remember the years now, it seems they're passing so fast, and they kept telling me, we're going to sell it and then see, they said, we're going to get out of the business. We want you to go with it. This happened in, I think it was '59 or '60 or somewhere. And I kept saying well, that's no good. But they said, well we'll sell it, we will sell it and make sure you go with it. I said, yeah, this ??? back in a corner, I'll be just a paper pusher. I don't want that. I said if you sell it just sell it and I'll go back to States. I'll work for Falcon Seaboard there, because they promised me a superintendent's job and if I get back there.

[00:12:06] We couldn't, we had bought a few more rigs all this time building the company up. Originally what had happened, I, every time we got a little money ahead, Toronto would take the money out of it, out of the drilling company, put it in something else. And I'd say to Frank, I said, I found a rig over here, I can buy this rig fairly cheap. We can pay for it as we go along and we'll pay for it to in a year or so. And we built the rig up from three rigs, up to six or seven rigs this time, buying one rig at a time. But when I took it over, I said to the Toronto group, now you guys have been buying rigs and building it up. That's what they were unhappy about, we didn't have any big money coming out of it because drilling went up and down, you'd have a high and low for a year and a drop-off down to nothing. I finally, I went to the supply company, we had a little ??? on the last two... we bought Devon Drilling Company, that was the last thing we did, we had three rigs.

AK: Oh, from...

RT: From Stafford ???.

AK: And Paul... you know who I mean...

RT: I know who you mean, yup. Trying to get the money from the supply company, to back me to buy it. They wanted me to buy it, see, that's what ??? I said, if you're going to sell it I'm gone. They said well, we want you to buy it. I went to the supply company because we had this debt over top of, those rigs from Devon and money was hard to get, they wouldn't loan you any money on rigs at that time. The drilling was pretty well as on the down slope. Finally, I think it was Norm Wilson said, Ray go see John Scriminger. He probably, he'd be looking for something like that. So I went to John and he says, okay, he says that sounds good to me, he says I tell you what I'll do, we'll loan you some money to buy it, but we want 75% of your business from all the rigs to get it paid for. And I said, that sounds like a deal. Well Bill McKee was the Vice President of the company in Toronto, which was Newkirk Mining Group. And he says Ray, I want you to have it. You've built it up to this point, it's all yours. We're going to make you a deal. You got the money to back it, I said, I've got the money back it, and he says, they ??? showed John Scriminger the price, he says, hell's for it, you want the money tomorrow, let's get it, he says you can't turn that down. So actually Bill McKee was a very good gentlemen and he was nice to me.

AK: Well now did John Scriminger roll this into Westburne?

RT: No. What, John Scriminger, Bill Atkinson, they were involved in it. And when I showed him what I had and they sat down with my accountant, Don McGregor with Clarkson Gordon. And he and Bill Atkinson are whizzes at taxes and all this...

AK: Oh, Bill Atkinson...

RT: Was a whiz. And what they did, I think the new credit group had 58% of the stock of the parent company, which was Claybar Oil and Uranium. They formed it after they wound up Marigold, and this was a Claybar thing. They had some little mining propositions ????. That was the parent company and that owned Canbridge Corporation, Canbridge Corporation was a subsidiary of it. For me to get the drilling company I had to buy the parent company. So we bought the stock from the Newkirk group, and fifty-six point something percent of the stock. And after we bought it, John and Bill and Don sat down, and we said, this is what we'll work out. They get the stock, they hold the stock, give me the money to pay for it. I buy all my supplies, at least 75% of everything through Dominion Oilfield Supply. And when it's paid out, they'll just hand the stock back to me when I pay them out their money back. I visualized it being, you know, 6, 8, 10 years. You never know what it's going to be, it wasn't a big ???, but I was pretty fortunate. I phoned my brother, he had went back to the States, he went back to Richmond, come back and help me run it. And we were very fortunate. We worked hard at it and we had a good relationship and did pretty good. Had some good crews at that time, most of these boys I had hired originally in Redwater, the local boys, we set them up as drillers, and the odd one as a tool push. They knew as long as they stayed with the company they'd get moved up. So we had some good crews, we were very fortunate. And most of the companies that we drilled for was very happy with my crews in the operation. So we did pretty well. I paid it off in two and a half years, Dominion Oil Supply. So I did very well. Then in the meantime, when I got the, them paid off, during this period I kept writing, I think Claybar, there was 890 some shareholders in it, scattered all over, States and everywhere else. They had promoted, Newkirk Mining Group was a promotional group. They were promotional people. And I would write to somebody that had 10,000 shares, I'd say, would you like to sell out, would you consider taking this amount of money for it. I kept buying it up a little at a time. Some of them would say, no, no, I'd say,

fine, just going with ??? the company. I had something like 70,78% of it of the company stock, before I paid off Dominion Oilfield Supply.

We turned around, then McGregor and Bill Atkinson says, now this is what we're going to do, how we'll pay off Dominion Oilfield Supply, the simplest way to pay it off, we'll help you, we'll declare 10 cents a share reduction in capital. For the dollar, stop the dollar capital dollar, dollar a share. Knocked it back to 90 cents a share of the capital. And everybody that has shares got that ten cents a share paid back to them.

AK: Almost like a dividend then.

RT: It was a dividend out of the company, out of our operation. So we paid that back through that, well all the stock I had you see, that money come back to me, I'd turn around and just pay Dominion Oilfield Supply, that and the operation I had for the... that's how I paid for it. That, it's a long haul but I'm very fortunate really.

AK: Well now, did you still have ??? in this company?

RT: No, no, I sold out to John Thompson. I read it. I read it till 1970. I sold it to John Thompson the last day of July 1970. Thompson was in trouble. He wanted, see Claybar was a public company. John wanted a public company.

AK: Oh, he wanted a vehicle.

RT: Yes, if you're, you know, a private drilling company, you know, if you get in real trouble and so forth and you lose everything, they can take everything you got period, you know.

AK: Well, seize the whole...

RT: Seize the whole works, everything you've got period, all your assets. And if you've got a public company, they can only seize what's in the company-wise and that's what John was playing for, I think. He's of course, John was a, he was a CA, he knew his ins and outs and he talked to Clarkson and Gordon, they were same accountants that I had. The reason I even considered selling it, I can't remember the exact time, somewhere in there, someone in Toronto was trying to buy into my company. And the stock was... I think they wanted to buy ??? or something, see if they could get it. And it was, it was listed on there about, I think 35, 40 cents or something like that. All at once it was 75, then it was 85, then it was at 90, went to a dollar. And I said to my brother, I'll just sell about 10,000 shares of that, little capital, my wife and I will take a little holiday. Well, my broker says, you can't do that, says, you're the major shareholder. You can't just sell your insider trading stock. You have to make an application for it. So I went to not counting, the lawyer, we filled out the papers, I think it was like 13 sheets or something to fill out, get it all fixed and when it got approved, this guy had backed off, and the stock was back to 60 cents or something. I said, hell I won't sell it that cheap. And in all this process, then John Rooney, with Clarkson and Gordon says, Ray, you can't sell a public company, pieces of it. You can sell the whole thing at once if you want to just, whole, lock, stock and barrel. I said, well I've been working here in Canada, it was in 1970, '69, I've been here 20 years and worked my tail off and built it up and all this and I can't even use it to enjoy it. I pay my salary, my expenses, stuff like that, but you're not really, you know, what's in ??? It's tied up and John says, you can sell the whole block, they can't do anything about if you

want to. I said, well if that's the case, it's for sale. I says, I worked my tail off and want to do something, won't let me, my hands are tied. I'll sell it ????. That's how I got out. I wasn't ready to get out. I enjoyed the ??? but circumstances finally come around and John says, one day he says, Ray, I've got a buyer for it, and I says, really? He said, yes, John Thompson wants to buy it.

AK: Then you cut a deal.

RT: Yup. I don't know how John did it and I shouldn't say this but I, as I said, I call a spade a spade, somehow John took... I had, when I sold it to John, I had \$365,000 in the bank and everything was paid for in the company. John somehow, used part of that capital to pay me off to buy my stock down. This, I don't want to get involved. I didn't say that if somebody asks you a question, somehow, they worked the rigmarole around it, that \$365,000 came back to me as part of the payment for what he'd bought for me.

AK: But you never pursued the Westberg thing, that old Scriminger that Atkinson...

RT: No, I didn't. I asked the Toronto group when they were promoting the stock and they promoted Claybar and Marigold ??? I said, I'd like to have a little tip on that but they wouldn't give me that.

AK: Well, you see, they were probably the two cleverest promoters in Calgary.

RT: No doubt.

AK: And Atkinson was the brains, if you want to really know.

RT: I know that very well. I talked to him.

AK: That's right. And then Atkinson died a very young death, it was terrible.

RT: It really was. I really liked Bill, really liked Bill. I like John as well, but I mean Bill was the man.

AK: You see, I worked for Home Oil, and that's when they took Home Oil over. That's exactly right.

AK: And Atkinson, you'd look at him, you'd say, gee, he's not smart enough to come in out of the rain, you know.

RT: That's true,

[00:23:54] AK: But when he got into the books... Well, then after 1970. What did you do then?

RT: Well, I, the deal was I couldn't go back in the drilling business for five years. I sold John that, and ??? I said, well, I'm going to miss it and I really missed it. It was hard to stop all at once, but I formed a little private company, Tull Exploration Limited. Personal, the wife and I and the two daughters were the shareholders, just a private company. And we tried to get ??? I'd take a little piece of a well here, you know 5% or a piece of this and that, then got a little production not much. And was going along fine and I said, I know how to drill these holes, but I don't know how the hell to find the oil. See, the last three or four I had taken, one was a dry hole., it was getting... the guys getting a little fed up with it. So we

carried on and finally eventually, I got a little older, I got to retirement age, I says, I think I'll just wind this company up. And I talked to my accountant and he said well Ray, if that's what you want. How do you want to handle this? He said, I'd suggest you might just sell your production out of it for capital. Then you can give that capital to your daughters and you and your wife yourself as a dividend. So I sold little production I had, and declared dividend and paid all that to myself, the wife and the two daughters. And then I just had the shell, and I was going to win the shell up but one of the boys at Clarkson & Gordon says, Ray, I can sell that company. What do you mean sell it? He said, I can sell that shell. He said it's a, he called it a company for life. These were the words he used. He said somebody will be looking for that, it's a little company been running for the years I had it, hadn't ever lost any money, it stayed above, it stayed above the board, somehow drilled a few more dry holes that year, might be down a little but ??? And it's a clear company, he said I can sell it. I said, okay, I was just going to line it up and that's it. He said I'll sell it, and he wound up and sold the bare company for \$30,000 for me.

AK: Is that right?

RT: And I gave him half of the rest of it, you sold it, you get half of it. And the other half, I split up between my wife and two daughters.

AK: So since then...

RT: I'm retired.

AK: You're fully retired, you haven't gotten into any...

RT: No. I, in the meantime when I had Tull Exploration going I was approached by Elwood Sawby about forming a little oil company because... and we formed a little company, called it Myrol Petroleum, no Myrol Oils Limited. And we had Don, a geologist and... let's see what was Don's name... and Merv Canfield as landman. And they had, they had three little parcels of property, and formed the company and Elwood said, we want you to get involved in it help us run it. They did sell me a little block of shares, put \$20,000 into it or something. Each one of them had 500,000 shares apiece and I got 100,000 shares or something like that I put into it. They got theirs for the property they had Elwood got his for putting the company together. We went out we drilled the first hole and we hit an oil well. Of course, Don was a good geologist. ??? case, put tubing in, got tank ready and kicked off ????. It's an oil well.

AK: What's Don's last name?

RT: I'm trying to think of Don's last name, he passed away about six years ago, Don... he was a geologist, the reason I knew him very well too, he was a geologist for the old Samidan??? Oil Company, which was, Samidan, was the old Noble Oil Company. Oh, what was his last name... So the third hole we drilled and we got another well, and hell, all my capital's gone. But in the meantime before we started the drilling, Elwood said to me, can you get somebody else to put a few dollars into it? I said, I'll talk to somebody, so I got John Rooney, Don McGregor and a couple more guys to put in \$20,000, something like that, just to get a few shares and to help the capital, get it kicked off, because all this capital is gone. And then the boys said, what are we going to do now, I said, we've got to do something. We needed some more money. I told them, I said you guys have got to sell some of your shares period. No! I says, listen, I've got these four guys putting money up with me, we've put the dollars in there, and your property Elwood would do his promoter thing, you've got no dollars into it, you sell some of your damn stock, period, for

the capital to keep, going on. So he wound up, and we talked to Norm, Royal Bank, Norm Sturms?? And Norm was representing some group in the east, Eason, Eason something, I can't remember.

AK: Yeah, well that was Tom...Tommy Dobson too.

RT: Yes, Tommy Dobson was in it.

AK: And Don McKenzie.

RT: Okay. I think Don was just a rep. So these guys put up... that's it. I think, Elwood, I'm not sure how many shares he sold or what price he wound up selling them but Norm thought it was a good deal, he says, sure we'll take it, it was his group and they put the capital into it. We kept going and we got a dry hole on one property??? lease over something, that lease got a farmout, got a well over here, five miles away or something like that, it was out there east of Big Valley area. And then things got going real well, the company's going good. And these two boys, the geologist and the landman both said, we want four percent of everything, all the production of that company we started. And I said no. Everything...they wanted four percent overage added and I said, no way. And I talked to Don McGregor, and he says hell no. They kept pressing it, the first year after we ran it, we raised their pay up. I think we paid them, went from, seemed like about 28,000 a year to 33 or 35.

AK: What year was this?

RT: Well the exact year, I'd have to look...

AK: Approximately.

RT: In the mid 70s right? I'd say '73-'74 in there somewhere, yeah. And we raised him from 28, I think it was 33 or 34 plus all expenses, the car and this and that. He was living pretty well. Then they kept bitching and says, no we want more. I says, well, tell you what we'll do, we'll give you 2% override on everything you find new from here on, but not any of the old stuff that we've got. Everything you find from now on you get 2% override on it. They kept... they said, no, we're not happy with that. I said, okay, if you're not happy we'll make you sell, because Don McGregor said, Ray, we'll make them sell it, ??? we can go to the Board and make them sell the company. So we wound up, forced them to sell the whole company, sold whole package. Of course, they come out with a million dollars apiece out of it, those guys. We all, we all got four time what we put into it, so that gave me another hundred grand ??? But you know, you work on something and you get going, a guy like that doesn't have anything which they didn't have, and they get something, then they want the whole damn works.

AK: Yeah. They want a... it's kind of retroactive.

RT: It really is Aubrey, and of course I wouldn't have known this but Don McGregor said, Ray, we could force them to sell it. He says don't bend. He and I sat on top...

AK: It's nice that they were pressured.

RT: That's right.

[00:31:59] AK: Well since then, what have you been up to then, since you ???

RT: Well that, ??? nothing other than ??? and I sold it to ??? that was three years ago when I did that.

AK: Well, look I've spent an awful lot of your time here, and it's been very enjoyable. But I'm just wondering, what I usually do in these tapes, if I can get you to give me, a minute or two or whatever you want, of your philosophy, that you started up as a farm boy and ended up here in Calgary. Incidentally, did you become a Canadian citizen?

RT: Yes, in 1968. Actually we, was going to do it 1967, had our better papers all ready, but the papers came up the week before Christmas and we were going to Oklahoma with our daughters for Christmas to see their grandparents. So we wound up and didn't get the... they postponed it and came back and did it in February of 1968.

AK: The Evans', they did theirs in '65, Paul.

RT: Yes. When Paul did his, he got a... of stock into it. That's why I did mine, also, you know, the big thing was when I sold it in 1970, Aubrey, I was fortunate because the capital gains didn't come into effect until January 1, '71.

AK: That's right, Benson.

RT: Yes. So I sold it you see in July of 1970. So everything I got out of it was capital gains, I didn't get taxed to death on it. No tax.

AK: Well anyways, would you care to, or you and Louise both would with care to give me a kind of a summary of what your life has been and how you feel about the whole... your career, you've past me so vividly, it's been a wonderful interview.

RT: Sure, that would be fine. You want her to come in? Well, if you'd like to say something.

RT: Louise, can you come here a minute?

AK: You both here together, or separately... I'm just asking for kind of a summary of how you feel about this whole, this whole vista ??? since '44 or before that.

LT: Well, we came from a small town in Oklahoma and we'd never go back, just to visit. This is home. Our kids are here, our grandkids are here. So we stay here all winter so he can curl and check up on everybody.

AK: Well that's good. So this is your home.

LT: This is home.

AK: Right. What about you Ray?

RT: I enjoy it. I love golf. I didn't play golf till I was 30 years old. I did very well, golf's been good to me, started curling, I was 34, curling's been very good to me. I enjoy... I like people, the camaraderieship...

AK: That comes through right there.

RT: The camaraderieship in curling is very good because it's four guys on the team and you're playing four. And the social aspect of it, I enjoy it, but I just love to compete. Back when I was in the drilling business, first got involved in that, I was very fortunate Aubrey, figures, you throw figures to me, I'd give you an answer just like that. I didn't have that much schooling, but I'm very fortunate. And I got to know the areas all over Canada, and some guy would call me up and say, Ray, I got a hole, I'd like to drill a hole about 4,000 feet insert drill, I'd say just a minute. And he'd say, about what would it cost me, and I'd say, well, I'd say four dollars a foot, but I'll call you back in 15-20 minutes and give you within 2 bits of it. I just knew the area so well, I think I had a, well I had a great memory of different things, like, what happened in those areas, we drilled holes in there. I think that was the biggest thing. If we had any complications and how well it drilled. So that was good to me.

AK: What do you think, where do you think we're heading for in this oil business?

RT: It scares me. Right now they're indicating it's going to be a very busy winter and I'm glad to see it. I'm glad to hear it. The States are doing the same thing. Their gas supply is a little loo and there's gonna be a lot of drilling in the States. I don't know what's going to happen, but it's great to see it pick up. I don't know what's going to happen. I did... it's scary.

AK: Did you ever get into the Foothills with drilling?

RT: No, we drilled down at Pincher Creek, deep in a couple holes, cleaned out some holes there, we didn't do any deep, no.

AK: No. You didn't ??? or the ???

RT: No. We only had one rig that would go below 10,000 feet. Most of our rigs were, you know, the 3 to 5, 7, 9, we had three rigs that would go 9,000 feet, but we had the one that would go 10,500 or 11, that's the...

AK: That's what do you think of the Foothills as potential?

RT: I don't... I can't really get enthused about it myself. No, I can't.

AK: It's too bad. Do you know, like, you see Redwater is just about finished.

RT: That's right.

AK: It's producing a million barrels a day of water. And it's producing eight thousand barrels a day of oils. But you see, that's the end of that.

RT: That's right.

AK: So, where do we turn? It's the tar sands.

RT: That's about really all we got left, there's going to be a little more, they'll find little pools here and there but nothing big.

AK: As long as you get the odd curling game and you get out and golf, that's...

RT: That's my biggest thrill now, Aubrey. I've been fortunate. I won the Provincial Senior's Championship three times in the seniors, that's 50 and over, and since I've been over 60, I've won the Provincial Master's Championship four times, so I'm very fortunate.

AK: You're to be feared, you're a real threat.

LT: And then during that time he had a triple bypass and new valve.

RT: Open heart surgery the 19th of June 1990. Triple bypass and I got a new aorta valve, it's out of a pig, one of those ??? valves...

AK: Is that right? Just shows you, eh? You be nice to the pigs.

RT: That's right, it doesn't squeal or go oink, oink, but... I feel good and it's working fine.

AK: Well that's thanks to the Holy Cross crew?

RT: That's right, sure was.

AK: That's some crew there.

RT: It really is, Aubrey, and I'd go down there once in a while, and every time something comes out, I send them a donation

AK: Well, by golly, you can't buy that.

RT: No, sir, you can't, you sure can't.

AK: Well, I thank a very much for your time and I've enjoyed very much talking to you but I'm going to have to phone my wife now. She will wonder where I am. So we'll say it's six o'clock and over and out.

End of interview