

Interview with Ted Riback, by Lynn Huhtala, Glenbow Archives,
Calgary, 30, November, 1978.

Tape: RCT-235

Speed: 3 3/4

Footage: Reel 1, Side 1:0-857
Reel 1, Side 2:0-1139
Reel 2, Side 1:0-748

Topic of Interview

Discussion of business and
community activities and
general views on business
of Calgary entrepreneur.

Footage

Subject

00	Introduction
08	Date and place of birth Family members Father's occupation
22	Childhood -warm family relationship
39	Schooling
54	Reason for coming to Calgary, 1930 -joined sister and brother-in-law Rueben and Elsie Maerov
67	First job, 1930-34 -Blue Boy Service Station
78	Calgary during the Depression -close community
95	Ed and Ted's Service Station, 1934-45. -partnership with Ed Lovo -obtained business from Macklin Motors and Imperial Oil -financed business with chattel mortgage -description of services offered at the service station -founded Calgary Service Station Association -balanced selling program -clean facilities -expanded to a total of 4 service stations -partnership responsibilities

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
206	United Tire Service, 1944 -extension of service station -re-capped tires -difficult to obtain used tires -led to business with War Surplus Department
244	United Trailer Co. Ltd. -sold house trailers and built industrial trailers -bought parts for trailer undercarriage from War Surplus Department -built units with Bruce Nodwell -received first order from Imperial Oil for a camp -reason for leaving industrial trailer field
344	Ribtor Surplus Sales, 1945 -partnership with Sam and Morris Hector selling war surplus articles -also manufactured farm trailers and hydraulic lifts
384	War Surplus Stores -sold "soft" items -partnership with Ralph Kaliff -also owned Payless Stores
405	Evolution of partnership with the Hector brothers
415	United Mobile Home, Contract Division, 1951 -large Department of Defence contract for prefabricated, portable buildings for \$4,500,000 -financing -reason for manufacturing in High River -renovated airport hanger to use as factory -tooling and financial problems -involvement of Bruce Nodwell
564	
612	
627	United Mobile Homes -manufactured mobile homes -first attempt failed -manufactured successfully 3 years later -built up a dealership with own outlets -reason for selling the business -bought by Neonex

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
737	Industrial Fabricators, 1953-5 -partnership with Bruce Nodwell and Parnell Hovey -built an all-terrain tracked vehicle for Imperial Oil -also built separate for tar sands
780	-description of first tracked vehicle -Bruce Nodwell developed a successful design -now manufactured by Canadian Foremost Ltd. -description of the Nodwells
847	Olympic Bowling Lanes
857, End	-brother, Frank, entered the business
0 Side 2	Real estate interests -built Sun Oil Building with Harry Cohen, c. 1952
34	Faidon Building, 1954 -named after daughters, Faith and Donna
57	Bel-Air Estates, 1958 -description of Development -tax problems -unique landscaping and "laneless" lot design concepts
156	-plan for apartment complex next to Bel-Aire -zoning problems -eventually sold land to the Pentecostal Church
240	Foundation Properties Ltd., 196 -bought land and built Brentwood Shopping Centre
279	Safeway store, Banff -undersold local grocers
321	Ketchikan Northern Terminal Co. -investors: U.S. government, Chicago group, Seattle group, C.N. and Riback -overland route from Chicago to Prince Rupert to Ketchikan -description of venture -proved to be a failure

Footage

Subject

413

C.N. Tower, Edmonton, 1963
-developed warm relationship
with C.N. from Ketchikan
venture
-formed Allied Development Co
Ltd. and made submission
which was accepted
-catalyst to re-development of
downtown Edmonton
-financing of building

502

Reason for not pursuing real
estate development in Edmonton
-real estate business was
changing

545

Instant Housing Industries
Ltd., 1967
-felt there was good market
-built sectional houses and
portable buildings in a factory
-one partner was Bruce Nodwa
-did not prove successful

606

Business ventures since 1970
-bad cycle, 1970-74
-started divesting himself
of real estate holdings to
prepare for retirement
-obtained liquidity to do other
things

670

Reason for entering many
business ventures
-loves challenge of something

700

Qualities necessary to be an
entrepreneur
-must be convinced of idea

729

Relationship between education
and success as entrepreneur
-arguments on both sides
-discussion re his own personal
experience

767

Opinion on being both owner and
administrator of a company
-professional managers lack
"entrepreneurial" spark or
ability to conceptualize

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
826	Qualities of an administrator -example of bank managers
866	Discussion of financing -difficult in beginning
900	Opportunities still exist to be a successful entrepreneur
925	Possible fields for business opportunity -energy field -invested in segments of oil industry
964	Would give advice to person starting a business today if asked
1000	Feelings about growth of Calgary -discussion re development
1088	Prominence of energy in Alberta economy -suggestions for future develop- ment -agriculture is still important
1131	Prospects for secondary manufacturing -optimistic for future -unions could cause problems -unions have too much power
Tape 2, Side 1 0	
37	Relationship between business and government -has had good experiences
56	Alberta's prominence in national politics -Alberta has extremely buoyant economy
75	Views of Eastern business and financial establishment on Alberta -in past did not appreciate the west -situation is changing
130	Role as company Director -Directorship requires input -position has obligations
130	Description of companies of which he held directorships -Conuco: gas and oil business

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
130	-Voyageur Petroleum -Ventures Capital West:off-sho of Canadian Development Corporation
186	Jewish community activities -re-activated Jewish community centre, 1930 -Meadowlark curling rink, 1951 -built because Jewish curlers could not obtain ice time else where -B'Nai Birth Young Camp, Pine Lake, 1957-58 -at same time the Conservative congregation built the Beth Israel Synagogue -instrumental in acquiring the land -synagogue has active groups: Beth Israel Theatre Group
350	Anti-Semitism -has met discrimination -situation has improved and is improving
388	Calgary Community Foundation -background to its creation -now known as Calgary and District Foundation -founders -served as President, 1973-76 -new thrust, 1978 -discussion of other Foundatio and potential for Calgary Foundation
454	Achievements -became foster family to 2 orphaned Jewish children after World War II -rewarding experience for the Riback family
530	Honoured by the Jewish community and the Canadian Cou cil of Christians and Jews, 197 -description
592	Wife and daughters -married Betty Levin in 1934 -daughter Faith born in October 1935, married Norman Green -daughter Donna born 1938, married Dr. Grunberg -aspirations for daughters

<u>Footage</u>	<u>Subject</u>
666	Regrets or disappointments -enjoyed most activities
688	Personal plans for future -winters in Palm Springs
711	Recreational activities
728	Could never completely retire from business
741	Additional comments and acknowledgements
748	End