

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Dr. C. E. Cleveland

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: October 1983

AK: Okay, this is Saturday, October 8th, 1983. I'm Aubrey Kerr and I'm looking out the window of Courtney and Edith Cleveland's residence overlooking the beautiful Okanagan Lake and Courtney is with me here in their lower flatty I guess we could call it. It's a partly cloudy day but we're very glad to be with you today, Elsie and I and I'm pleased that you're able to give us a little of your time to put some of your personal reminiscences on tape. Let's start off Courtney, with your birthplace and your date of birth.

CC: I was born Aubrey, in Vancouver, in the year 1910 and of all things, down in the west end of Vancouver, which is not the most desirable location of that city today. I was born at the corner of Jarvis and Haro St.

AK: Your first name Courtney, would you like to tell me how that name came to you?

CC: Yes, that name came through my father. My father had a great friend, a Colonel Courtney in Ottawa. Colonel Courtney had been in the Boer War and my father admired the man to a great extent and so he named me Courtney, after Colonel Courtney. They were a well known family in Ottawa, I believe there are still a few of the Courtney's down there. I met some of them at one time but unfortunately, I haven't kept the connection.

AK: And just a little background on your father and mother. Your father had established himself in a brilliant engineering career, could you just give me some of the highlights of your father's career, and how it happened that you moved to Victoria?

CC: My father was a self made man shall we say. He was a civil engineer and a very studious type and learned his profession through a lot of hard work. He came from New Brunswick in 1916 and was articled to a surveyor in Vancouver and subsequently, earned his surveyor's papers in Vancouver and had a firm Cleveland and Cameron, during the First War. An interesting point is that Mr. Cameron was the inventor, shall we say, of the septic tank. He was older than my father and they had a very reputable firm for another year. Subsequently, due to ill health, Dad moved to Victoria and became controller of water rights for the John Oliver government. As you Aubrey, were looking out at the Okanagan scenery this morning, I'm reminded that a lot of the work that was done in this country in the early days in irrigation was under the supervision of my father for the Oliver government. The little town of Oliver was established at that time. That would be about 1918 or '19. Subsequently, my father moved to Vancouver and for 35 years or so, was commissioner of the greater Vancouver water district and very, very instrumental in the water supply for the city. His work has always been looked upon with great regard. Now, what else?

#041 AK: I think we should mention that the Cleveland Dam, which is an integral part of the

water impounding system and also the tunnel under the First Narrows was a lot of your father's engineering there.

CC: Yes, that's correct.

AK: And Victor Dalmadge ??? did the geology on the dam didn't he?

CC: That's right. On the dam and on the tunnel site.

AK: He did eh? I guess your father and Victor would work closely together?

CC: They did. Victor Dalmadge did practically all the engineering geology for the greater Vancouver water district for a great number of years.

AK: And just for the record, did your father ever attend university?

CC: He went to the University of Washington in Seattle for one term and that's all. I don't have any further details on that but he was a tremendous self student and I have books of his. He was a great man to mark a text book up and a tremendous leader.

AK: We have examples around us here. So in a sense he just pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

CC: That's right, that's correct.

AK: And then your mother, where were her roots?

CC: Mother came from Ontario, where a lot of the good Scottish highland people settled. Her forebearers were from the Isle of Mull in Scotland, and the name was McKeckney.

AK: Was her maiden name McKeckney?

CC: Yes.

AK: Did she have any relationship to the president of the University of British Columbia?

CC: No, she didn't.

AK: So then you had 2 brothers and you have 1 sister?

CC: Yes, that is correct. The sister being the eldest in the family and the brothers were Ernie, the youngest, and Howie, who was just junior to me. Ernie was drowned in an unfortunate accident in Hawaii in about 1959, '58. Howie was a fighter pilot during the Second Great War and he flew the Mosquito planes and made quite a name for himself and was later president of Neon Products of Vancouver, of which George Swainey, an industrialist in Vancouver was president at one time, and founder of the firm.

AK: And is this how you got to know the Railton's???

CC: Yes, that's right.

AK: These are friends of course. Just getting back on the record, unfortunately your brother Howard died of cancer about 2 or 3 years ago.

CC: 3 years ago.

AK: And your sister Hester is married to Larry Dunlap, who was Air Vice Marshall?

CC: No, Air Marshall. He was last Air Marshall in the Royal Canadian Air Force before the forces were united, the Army, Navy and Air Force.

#074 AK: He was in the permanent forces?

CC: That's right. He'd been in the permanent force since he graduated in electrical engineering at Acadia University. It's interesting to note that he did a great deal of the aerial mapping in British Columbia that has been used geologically by any number of geologists. He flew the Okanagan area here, he flew a lot of Vancouver Island and when I

was out with Dr. Gunning in the Sebalis??? area, before the mines were found in that area and we were doing the reconnaissance geology, we used nothing but aerial photographs and they'd been flown by Larry Dunlap. It so happened that at university, I had a professor, Dr. Scofield, who was kind enough to grant me the prize for a student essay I wrote on the use of aerial photographs for geological work and we had some wonderful examples of photographs that I included in the essay. One I remember in particular was a fault up the tribute to the north branch of the Sebalis River in which the faulting feature was beautifully shown. All in all, this would be about 1932, and I don't think the aerial photographs were used to any great extent much before that.

AK: So when Larry was taking these photographs, was he doing it in a civilian capacity or with the Air Force?

CC: No, he was doing it as a member of the RCAF.

AK: So he must have joined the RCAF at a very, very early age?

CC: Just as soon as he graduated. When he retired from the Air Force, he was one of the oldest, if not the oldest member of the RCAF at that time.

AK: Because it must have been a very, very small unit back in the dirty 30's?

CC: Oh yes. Well, they had a station at Jericho and there was a squadron leader, Shearer, I think was head of it because I remember, he flew us in by float plane, Gunning and myself and a chap by the name of Clair Donaldson and Paul Bevan, who was with Brinco??? in Montreal. The 4 of us, we went in to Sebalis and Wass Lake and that area and they flew us in from headquarters at Jericho.

AK: At the time that you were doing your work with Dr. Gunning, you had no connection with Larry, you hadn't met Larry?

CC: Yes, I had just met him because he had met my sister at that time, in Vancouver, at a bridge party. So I knew him slightly and he was in a junior capacity at the station.

#108 AK: Then did you draw his attention to the fact that you had used his photographs?

CC: Oh my yes. As a matter of fact, I got some technical information from him, as to the spacing of their flight lines and all that sort of thing, very interesting. And he was naturally, right up on the techniques at that time.

AK: So there was a very early connection then with Larry, way back before World War II?

CC: Oh my, yes. This would be in 1932 as I recall.

AK: And you were still . . .

CC: A student.

AK: Yes, you hadn't graduated yet.

CC: No.

AK: Let's go back to Victoria. While you were there you attended school?

CC: Yes, I attended the model school in Mt. Tommy, which is now I believe, Camosun College, I'm not sure. But there were just 2 classrooms there and the normal school students, who had the intervening part of the building, which is a large handsome building on Mt. Tommy, those classrooms each had 5 classes in them, 5 grades, and there was only one teacher for each room. So when you think of what the teachers are wanting today, and the number of students that they teach per teacher, and what they had in those

days, it was a big load and they were very proficient teachers. And then I went to Oak Bay High School for 3 years and became interested in chemistry at that time but in general I got a good education there. Then we moved to Vancouver and I went to the University of British Columbia. Through my father's great admiration for mining and mining people, of which he'd had quite a bit of experience himself, I became interested in mining. Thus I took geological engineering at the university and subsequently, in the Depression, went on a shovel for Bralorne Mines, at Bralorne, B.C.

AK: Going back to UBC, and this is a general question, you were probably fairly greatly influenced by your father in the choice of. . .and of course, being in Vancouver, what else but mining. Mining was all around you, you know, mining companies and everything else. Did you have many connections with people through your father before you went and signed up at UBC when you enrolled.

CC: No, I really didn't because we had just moved from Victoria and it was almost a momentary thing. I went from high school to university in Vancouver, without knowing a soul at the university, so I had no background or acquaintances with people of that nature and it was wholly through my father that he instilled the love of that sort of thing.

#145 AK: That's interesting. Because you see, every person that we interview, we like to get where the thing started to grow and root.

CC: Even to fortify that a little further, the last year we were in Victoria and I was in my very, very early teens, or just about to enter them my father had a large interest, a controlling interest at one time as a matter of fact, in a gold mine, Surf Inlet Gold Mines on Princess Royal Island, which was the biggest producer of gold during the early part of the First War. The ore bodies were becoming depleted and he had to take a trip up there to see the mine and consult with the people. I think they were trying to have the operation taken over by some other mining company. So he took me on that trip and I was underground at the age of 12 I think it was. I loved it, I loved the smell of the underground, and maybe the dark, but I've always enjoyed underground. I'd just as soon work underground as I would on the surface if it came to that. Then we went up to the Premier Mine and Dale Pitts, who was a very well known figure in later years in Vancouver in mining, was running the Premier Mine for the Guggenheim's of New York. It was becoming the richest gold mine in British Columbia at that time. Father, as I recall, was trying to make some arrangement to take this mine over. So it was through that sort of thing that it became instilled in my blood shall we say.

AK: That's very important because you know, the influence of older people is always important. When you went to UBC, you took mining engineering or geological?

CC: No, I took geological engineering. This was in the later days of Dean Brock, the last year of Dean Brock's regime there because the poor man was killed in a plane accident on Seton Lake the next year. No, several years later, my dates are a little hazy at the moment.

AK: Wasn't he killed in '35?

CC: Yes, that's right, because I was at Bralorne at that time. They had an excellent faculty in engineering geology. My goodness, there's some well known names and they became, some of them were known in the oil and gas. Particularly N. Y. Williams and Dean Brock

and a Dr. Scofield, who was an excellent man.

AK: That was F. J.

CC: F. J. When I think of it now, Victor Dalmadge. . . now I should say this too, he was instrumental in me getting into geology. I missed that because Father sent me down to see him the first year I was out at the university and deciding to go into engineering, to see Dalmadge. He said, you go down and see Victor Dalmadge and see what he has to say, he'd like to talk to you. Victor Dalmadge, at that time, had a little 10 x 10, one room office with a little file in it and one little table desk, in the Birks building, in one of the old offices in the Birks building. He was an exceedingly kind man and he affirmed the idea in my mind that I should go on into geology. What brought that to mind was that he taught me in structural geology, Dean Brock had him as an instructor at the university, he wasn't a professor, he was an instructor between his consulting jobs, and that was in the Depression and it actually gave Dalmadge enough money to live on, to eat. So that's sort of an interesting point, so I'd say through Dalmadge and my father.

#199 AK: But at that time Dalmadge was a consultant?

CC: He'd just left the Geological Survey. As you perhaps remember, he was the British Columbia representative of the Survey in the early days.

AK: Who were some of the other people after Brock was killed to carry on, and the ones that also influenced you to some extent?

CC: Harry Warren of course, he'd been there for many, many years.

AK: Still there.

CC: He's still there and a very fine lecturer I thought, in mineralogy, an extremely good man in mineralogy.

AK: What about Gunning?

CC: Dr. Gunning came later, much later. Dr. Gunning was at that time, stationed in Ottawa and when I worked for him during those years, he came out of Ottawa.

AK: How about Swanson?

CC: Swanson, let's see, Swanson was there but I didn't have him for classes. He was there and quite an influential man. And of course, in mining, J. M. Turnbull, who lived to be 103 years old, was there. We learned a great deal from him.

AK: So you had a good grounding in mining?

CC: Very good. Yes. Turnbull gave us a general course in the economics of mining, it was called Mining #1, which was an excellent course. He was a pretty good lecturer, a little hard to listen to once in awhile. But in the geological engineering course we had excellent background in allied engineering subjects, particularly in the mining end of it.

AK: After you were still at UBC, during your summer seasons, did you try to get out on the Geological Survey of Canada?

CC: During my tenure at UBC you mean? Yes.

AK: Yes, summer student work?

CC: Yes, that's right. I got out, let's see now, the first year with Gunning, he was the first one. And unfortunately it was the roughest summer because there were only 4 of us, we were working in very high areas in the Sebalis country, which is on the west flank of the

backbone of Vancouver Island and extremely rugged country. We couldn't have a cook with us, we had to pack everything. Gunning kept a diary, we went out in May and came back in September and had 10 days sunshine all summer. It's country with 300" of rain a year. So it was pretty tough work. Then the next year, I ended up in fairy land. I got a job with the Geological Survey in the Cariboo area, topographic work, with a Mr. Bartlett, a very fine man.

#242 AK: Can I just go back to Sebalis? Who were some of your assistants with you?

CC: Clair Donaldson, who was at the university taking, I think he was taking geology and art. Clair subsequently worked with Noranda Mines and he went to Australia for Bern Brindleson, who was Noranda representative for a long time and found the mine up here above the lake here, the Brenda??? Mine. Clair passed away a couple of years ago I think. The other chap was Paul Bevan who was a first rate geologist. He was a student at that time but he later went with Brinco out of Montreal, and headed up their mining exploration because at the time I was manager of Bralorne mineral exploration I made joint ventures with Brinco, through Paul Bevan. He's a wonderful chap. I think he's retired in Montreal right now.

AK: So then your next year was doing topographic work?

CC: Under Mr. Bartlett yes, in the Cariboo area, out quite a bit west of Barkerville, in the Beaver Pass area, they called it. We did all the triangulation work in there.

AK: Was that from mountain top?

CC: That's from mountain top yes. We used to climb ??? up these triangulation stations, then they would cut them in from transit. And we did a lot of plane table work too. There was a civil engineer by the name of Norman McConnell out with us and he was taking civil engineering at UBC. Norman later, strange to say, became the manager of the Privateer Mine in the area that I had been in with Dr. Gunning the year before at Sebalis. It was at that time, the Privateer was the richest gold mine per ton, in grade, outside the Balatok Mine in the Phillipines, in the world. They drilled several hundred feet of tunnel, and with the high grade ore which was shipped to Tacoma, they built their mill, the ore was that rich. And Norman, who was the plane table man at this. . . so that's the way things wind up sometimes.

#283 AK: Why did you not go back with the Geological Survey?

CC: I don't know, I can't answer that. I know in those days there were a lot of students out vying for jobs and I was lucky to get a job. I remember going down to the Survey office in Vancouver week after week asking if they'd heard anything. No, but we'll hear next week, sort of thing, and I figured I was lucky to get it.

AK: Okay then, the following year?

CC: Dr. Hanson was out that year, on the Survey, with us up there. I've forgotten who his assistant was but to make a long story short, the next year I went out in the Barkerville area with Dr. Hanson. It's interesting to note that Johnny Gray was the other assistant with me, with Hanson, and we did all the underground geology at the Cariboo Gold Courts Mine, which was sponsored by a Dr. Burnett, a well known physician in

Vancouver, and mining was his hobby and a very fine prospector by the name of Fred Wells, who found the Cariboo Gold Courts Mine. We did all the underground geology, we did it all around Barkerville and up and down Williams Creek, where they took so much gold out in the early days, as much as \$21 million when gold was \$12 an ounce, they took \$21 million out in the Milo Creek bed. We had a wonderful summer. That further impressed me with mining geology. I loved the plotting of veins underground and underground mapping in geology and it was Dr. George Hanson that taught that to me.

AK: Was he chief geologist at that time for the Survey?

CC: Oh no, George was just one of the boys. He'd be on a par with Dr. Gunning I guess, they were regional geologists you know.

#319 AK: But he moved up later?

CC: Yes, quite a bit later.

AK: Then you graduated in 1934. Next year will be your 50th anniversary.

CC: That's right.

AK: We were talking about that last night. But let's go on, when you completed your bachelor's degree, what did you do that summer?

CC: That was actually the summer that I was out with Hanson, that was in '34.

AK: Then when you completed your summer's work, what did you decide to do about either furthering your education or going to work?

CC: Dr. Hanson had quite an influence on me at that time. I was almost of a mind to try and get with the Geological Survey, join them. At that time they were hiring quite a few geologists and I had several interesting and earnest conversations with Hanson. I was half a mind to go with the Survey if I could get with them and of course, he didn't know at that time, in his position, whether I could get a job or not. But it so happened that he was going down to the Bridge River district at the end of our season to see Dr. Howard James, who was the manager at the Pioneer Gold Mine. The Pioneer Gold Mine had joined the Bralorne Mine in a very rich belt of ore and both mines were in the early stages of development. He was going to see Howard James on the way home to Vancouver and we had a pick-up truck so we drove down into Bralorne and went to the Pioneer Mine to see Howard James and he had his visit. Actually, we also stopped at Bralorne because Dr. Matt Headley was the geologist at Bralorne and was a friend of Handson's so Headley took us underground at Bralorne. Having worked underground at the Quartz ??? geologically during the summer, I was really very interested in all the underground goings on in geology. I had a friend at Bralorne who was the chief engineer by the name of Henry Hill and before I left in the spring I said to Henry, is there any chance of getting a job with you when I'm through with the Survey. He said, sure, I think there's a good chance. So we left it at that and I saw henry when we were there and he said, sure you can start your job tomorrow but you're going to have to go underground, on a much stick for awhile. So that was the way that. . .

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

AK: Tell me Courtney, why did you choose McGill?

CC: Because I couldn't get into Harvard. I was in a hurry to get back to school and get it over with, I wanted to keep it in a practical way. Harvard had a very fine name at that time because Professor Gratton at Harvard was one of the best authorities on the origin of ore bodies, probably in North America at that time. But due to the red tape and the time consumed in trying to get into Harvard and then, subsequently finding out that if I went to Harvard I probably wouldn't make it in 3 years to the PhD, that they sort of sidetrack you and get you into pretty theoretical academic work, I finally decided on McGill and I was glad that I did.

AK: Right. So some of the people that went through in the same graduate program, you mentioned Heath Grey.

CC: Yes.

AK: And was there a Bob Brown?

CC: Yes, who's now Professor of Geology at Victoria. And I see Bob right along.

AK: Yes, Bob and I. . . I interviewed Bob. So Bob and then, let's see, who else was there that would be in . . . ?

CC: There was a chap by the name of Ab Moss, who also lives in Victoria now who was a very likable fellow and a pretty keen geologist. He became manager of the Iron Ore Co. of Canada's mine at Knob Lake. He was up there in the early days, in the early mapping. And this is very interesting from a Calgary point of view, Billy Howells, who was manager at Texaco, was one of the very first geologists, or young geologists, that did the mapping in the iron ranges in Labrador. He was with a Dr. Retty???. Why Bill didn't keep on with them I don't know. He was at McGill when I was there. He had his degrees but he was teaching stratigraphy under Dr. Clark at McGill. Then I lost track of Billy until I saw him in Calgary in later years. But now, he was one of the pioneers in the Labrador trough. And this Ab Moss stayed with it and became manager and did very well. And Heath Grey of course, I lost track of Heath for years but he was president of ???.

AK: That's right. So when you completed your academic career with your doctor's degree, had you been married yet?

CC: No, I married the year after I obtained my PhD.

AK: That was in what, '40?

CC: That would be in 1941.

AK: So you're just a year ahead of us, you've had your 42nd anniversary. And you married Edith.

CC: Edith Hughes was her name, from Edmonton.

AK: And how did you meet Edith?

CC: I met Edith subsequent to the World's Fair. I came back from McGill University via San Francisco, there was a World's Fair on there.

AK: In '39.

CC: In '39. And Edith was at that Fair and I happened to meet her immediately after the Fair and that was a critical time in my life.

- AK: Wonderful time. Well, you made a wonderful choice. And your 2 children are Cameron and Cassie?
- CC: That is right.
- AK: Okay, that takes us up to '40. You continued your association with Bralorne?
- CC: Yes, Bralorne took me back on as they'd more or less agreed to do before that, when I went to McGill. Only I became more interested then, in evaluation of mining properties and finding new mines and that sort of thing. Not so much the prospecting end of it, or the straight exploratory end of it, but whatever it took to get a new mine, whether it was an old property to be rehabilitated or whatever. So that I spent a considerable amount of time in the field in the next 6 or 7 years, for Bralorne and I guess I was about in every old dirty hole that was in British Columbia. Unfortunately we were never successful in picking up another mine but it certainly drove home to me that mines are very, very hard to come by, if you're looking for them in the field. And even with a straight exploratory work, and we did do a good deal of exploratory work. This led up to a mercury find that our prospector made 200 miles north of Fort St. James and subsequently, during the way, we developed this mercury property and shipped pure mercury, in flats, 76 lb. to the flat. They call them bottles in the industry, and shipped them to metals reserves in New York. They were used for explosives, for war purposes. That was Bralorne's war effort was the Takla Mercury Mine.
- #060 AK: And that was separate from the Cominco Pinchy Lake. . .?
- CC: Yes. Pinchy Lake had been found the year before or 2 years before that. Geologically we assumed, Pinchy Lake was on a regional fault zone and we assumed that there might be something, or further deposits to the northwest. There were a number of scattered, small, low grade deposits and ours turned out to be, it was further removed from these I speak of and ours turned out to be a commercial one. I think it's worth mentioning at this time too, that Johnny Gray, who subsequently was with California Standard, which is now Chevron, was the man who, on a geological survey, noted this cinnabar ore and tipped some prospectors off around Pinchy Lake. That they probably had a mercury mine under their feet there.
- AK: This was about 1935 when he tipped them off I think, or at least when he examined it. He was up there several years before
- CC: Yes. I'm a little hazy on that date. You having been in that country yourself.
- AK: Do you remember Jack Armstrong's party going through?
- CC: Yes, Jack was a classmate of mine at UBC. He came up to visit us but this was, yes, several years before that wasn't it, that Johnny Gray was in there.
- AK: Oh yes. I'm thinking of Armstrong, because you see, I was on Armstrong's party.
- CC: Yes, I remember you saying that.
- AK: But do you remember me? Or was that the same. . .
- CC: No, that wasn't the same year, that was a different year. It was subsequent to your year that Jack was up. We went in there in 1941 I think and we were in there till '43. We were there till the end of the war, '44 I guess.
- AK: I think I seem to remember work at Takla, I think there was some preliminary work that

summer. That was the summer that Russia and Germany declared war on each other. You know, they'd been in bed, then there was a big row, I remember that happening out there in June of '41. But anyway, let's move on, when you were with Noranda during that period.

CC: Bralorne you mean.

AK: Sorry, Bralorne, you moved around a lot, or did you stay in one place?

CC: You mean, during those exploratory years?

AK: No, I mean the time from when You graduated till You left Bralorne?

CC: Oh yes, that period. As I had to be, I used to leave the main office in Vancouver, I worked out of there, I'd leave in March or April and I wouldn't come back till Sept., Oct. I'd be gone practically all summer, travelling the province. Bralorne of course, was a well known mine in Vancouver or well known company, and so was Austin Taylor, the president. So that we had any number of submissions from prospectors and so on. So I always left with a big list of prospects to go and visit or old mines to examine. I'd get home maybe in the summer, for 2 or 3 days, maybe once or twice, that's all. But I was away most of the time.

#099 AK: When You were with Bralorne, when was your first encounter with Neil McQueen?

CC: My first encounter with Neil McQueen was as a student at the time I was graduating. I went in to see, Mr. Dick ??? was the manager of Bralorne in the Vancouver office. Neil McQueen was a vice-president of Bralorne at that time, under Austin Taylor who was the president. Neil called me in to talk to him while I was waiting for ??? and the first question he asked me was how much would it cost to put an assay office in at Bralorne. I had just graduated from university and Neil of course, was a pretty acute man and I couldn't answer his question properly at all, I had no experience. But that was my first contact with Neil McQueen at Bralorne, and later I worked at this time we're speaking of, an exploration of 7 years or so period, I actually was under Neil and he was vice-president of Bralorne but looking after the exploratory work. When we were at Takla, he was vice-president in charge of that situation there.

AK: Was that the one where You had to walk in 14 miles?

CC: That's right.

AK: Would You tell us that little story about that?

CC: That was very interesting. After our prospector found the property, the samples they sent to Vancouver were so rich we decided we had to get up there right away and have a look at it and see what we'd do. So I went up in the first place. We used to go to Takla Landing by boat and it was 1 3 day trip, up through Stewart Lake, Taki, and on up to Tomblor Lake and one other lake, Takla Lake itself. Then we had a 14 mile trip by truck, and then a 12 mile walk trip by rough trail up to the showings, which was pretty rough going. Then we decided subsequently, to diamond drill the property and I stayed in there. I left Vancouver and told my wife that I would be back probably, in 10 days, and I didn't come back to Vancouver for 3 years. We were in a big rush to get that thing into production and I stayed there and started to map it right away for diamond drilling.

Within a few weeks we had a drill in and had some good intersections and plowed right ahead with getting the property towards production. Within 6 months we were sinking a shaft. We started to sink the shaft in 25 below zero weather, in January. All the shaft equipment and so on had been brought in by Manson Creek from Fort St. James, by cat train. We had 2 little log cabins. It was a real pioneer operation. We sunk this shaft and subsequently, by next fall, we had it into production. Neil used to come in, he was only in there twice I think, but it's interesting to note that during the operation we had to quickly get storage tanks for fuel oil in there. All the oil was flown in and it was flown in by Russ Baker, who was the founder of Pacific Western Airlines. Russ at that time was a bush pilot out of Fort St. James and a wonderful chap he was. He had an old Junkers plane and he used to fly this oil in if you please, 4 barrels at a time and we had to run the powerhouse with that oil that was flown in that first winter. The power costs were phenomenal, it was just too much really, for a normal operation. Subsequently it used to go up the lake by barge. But anyway, to try and shorten this a bit, we had to have fuel storage tanks put up and Neil McQueen knew Ken Doze in Calgary and he got hold of Ken and had Ken ship out some small tanks that he had on a farm somewhere, a tank farm. These were bolted tanks and Neil said, you go on up to the mine and you can show the chief mechanic how those tanks should be put up. It was in the winter time, we had terrible fogs, there were weeks that the planes could never get in. So it turned out that Ken had to sit in a hotel at Vanderhoof and over a one way radio, instruct our men how to put those tanks up and they were put up within a week or so. So we never even saw Ken Doze but we got the tanks up. Later, in the latter part of the operation Neil came in to see us on some critical situations about capital expenditure on the property. Neil was a real tough customer in the bush, I found that out. I'd only known him in the city, in city clothes. But he walked in that 14 miles to the mine in Oxford shoes and thin socks. It was at that time that he told me, and I hadn't known it before, that he'd been out at Norman Wells with Ted Link on the original locations up there. And had had a lot of field work experience. I hadn't known Neil in that way before so it was really interesting.

#167 AK: Was that the one where you walked in too?

CC: That wasn't a particular trip but we did walk in originally.

AK: Wasn't there one that you had to walk in and there was a bit of a mix up in orders. . . was that another mine property?

CC: Oh no, that was with Geralamin??? I guess, who was our consulting geologist, showing us that you should always take note of your senior personnel and make darn sure that you look after them and look after them well. I certainly, as a junior at that time, learned a lesson. This Ira Geralamin was a consulting engineer for Bralorne Mines and he'd recommended the Bralorne Mine to Austin Taylor. He's probably one of the finest economic mining geologists in the United States. He'd found a number of the big ??? copper mines in the States, down around Morancy and some of these others. He was working for the U.S. government at that time, on strategic minerals. They were in great haste to get things into shape for their military purposes or supplies. Ira Geralamin came up to see us and Neil McQueen was with him and another side light on Neil, Ira

Geralamin was in an extremely great rush to get around the country in those days. He told me that he hadn't slept in the same bed for something like 60 days, he was going around looking at so many properties for the U.S. government, and he was very anxious to get this Takla one on the go for Austin Taylor naturally. Neil was a great fellow to work at night, Neil never got to work early in the morning and he loved working at night, the later into the night the better. So they got up to Fort St. James, to take the boat up the lake to come in to see us at 6:00 at night. Ira Geralamin had been travelling in the States subsequently and he was tired and wanted to wait till the next day to go into the mine. Neil says, no, we're going right now. And they got a transportation man to take them up the lakes and they travelled all night and Geralamin of course, didn't get his rest. So the next morning, they were to be met with horses, 12 miles away from our mine and come up the trail with these horses. Well, I sent the packer down with the horses, I was sort of running things at that time, to pick them up and lo and behold the packer lost his horses or something and they got sidetracked and Geralamin had to wait down there for hours. He was so anxious to get up and see this property, and I know what it's like, having looked at a number of things. When you hear what they're like you're very anxious to see them. So by the time he got up to the camp, subsequently the packer did get them, Geralamin was fit to be tied. He really lit into me, or he didn't but Neil got at me later. He said, you really made a mistake, with Geralamin there you should have been down with those horses yourself and made damn sure he got up. So nothing to do but when Geralamin got into camp and it was about 5:00 at night, that our camp was about 1 mile and a half away from the showings at that time, we hadn't decided where we would make the permanent camp, we must walk over right then and see the showings. So we went over and he mapped until dark. He always told me something about mining exploration that I've never forgot, he says, if you're out looking at a property, I do it all the time, I'll look at it during the day, get a good quick look at it and then I'll go to bed and I'll sleep on it and the next morning I'll decide from there which way I'm going to go. Which was good advice. So he had to see that thing before dark one way or another.

#219 AK: Yes, well, that was his style.

CC: He was a very rapid worker. And he assimilated information to beat the band. So for a young junior man starting out, men like that are of great assistance.

AK: You can probably see, the thing that really interests me about Neil McQueen was the cut of the man, he was a gambler, he was a daredevil. And he actually was a compulsive gambler, did you ever see him gambling around the camp?

CC: Well, no but I know his reputation in Vancouver Club in Vancouver. He played bridge down there a lot of the time. At one time I think they had to excommunicate him for awhile. But another very interesting remark on Neil McQueen's gambling or the way he thinks. We were laying out diamond drill holes the next day, after Geralamin had been there and Neil was with us, huddled over this map that I'd made in this tent on the desk. Geralamin was starting to figure out where he thought they should be drilled or some of the critical ones and Neil piped up and he said, why don't you drill there and he plunks his finger down on the map, which is about 3,000' from the centre location of the ore

bodies, which in mining you never do. The analogous term I guess, would be step-outs in oil and gas. We drill them very close to start with but Neil wanted to take a big step. Geralamin just about bit his head off, he said, you can't do that. But that was Neil's style. Go way out, he said, go way out there and see what we've got. He wanted to wildcat it you see.

AK: Yes, and all the gambles he took you know. Well then, let's get into the oil end of it now. You said, Neil left about 1943, was that about it or '42?

CC: Yes, because he told me up at Takla the time that he'd come in in his oxford shoes so to speak, that he was leaving right away. He said, he was going over to Calgary to work for the McMahan's, Pacific Petroleum. I knew no particulars about Pacific, it was just a name to me, or the McMahan's. So that's all I could follow up with him on that at the moment. So Neil left us.

AK: Yes, but probably with the blessing of Austin Taylor.

CC: No, I don't think so. I think they sort of got at odds. Neil was a little bit of a bad boy I guess, in the last years. But I, being completely isolated those years. . .

AK: So you wouldn't have any knowledge.

CC: No, but I would gather that. I would sense that.

AK: Yes, well, that's all right. Because you see, what I'm trying to hook up is Austin Taylor, who you said, received a lot of his cash from some production that he had earlier obtained. Now was that Austin Taylor's own operations in Turner Valley?

CC: No, and I'm sorry, I think it was interests he had in Royalite. Now, I think I'm wrong but you could probably run that down somewhere.

#271 AK: But let's not worry about it.

CC: No, and I think Neil McQueen was in him with it too.

AK: That would be very likely because you see, Neil's father was a senior man in Imperial Oil.

CC: Well, he was president eh.

AK: Sure. So I mean, Neil had an inside track. But I think he probably caused his father as much problems as he did anybody else. But at any rate, Austin Taylor, would it be fair to say that at the time that Neil left that Austin Taylor would be somewhat acquainted with Turner Valley and somewhat acquainted with . . .

CC: Oh me, he had any number of connections in Calgary. For instance, the manager of Imperial at that time, Walker. . .?

AK: Walker Taylor.

CC: He knew Walker Taylor extremely well. A lot of this might have come through Neil or between the 2 of them. They had a lot of connections in Calgary, a lot of them. Especially with Imperial Oil.

AK: And Austin was quite an entrepreneur anyway.

CC: Yes, he certainly was.

AK: Well then, leading up to the point where you come into the scene as far as oil and gas was concerned, you probably heard about Leduc #1 discovery?

CC: No, I knew nothing, I never heard about the oil business in Alberta. I knew nothing whatsoever, nor was I reading news or looking for news on Alberta. Then one day Taylor

got hold of me. In the winter time I was in Vancouver office most of the time, writing up reports and preparing for the next year. He said, say, Cleveland, you're not doing very much here in the winter time, at this time anyway, right now, you'd better go over to Alberta, Imperial Oil have made a discovery there. Just go over and nose around and see what you can find out, I'd like to know something about it. That didn't make particular sense to me with Taylor, I hadn't known at that time that he had been involved in the oil business and knew oil people in Alberta. So that opened up new events for me, or new horizons. So I went over, Leduc, you know that Aubrey was '47 wasn't it, February wasn't it, February '47. I went over shortly after that. The purpose was just to scout around. Let me get this clear . . . yes, it was to scout around. So I went to the Palliser Hotel and Neil was over there at the time. He started in, so I got hold of Neil and he knew what I was doing. He could guess right away, I was scouting for Austin. So I got to know a number of people including your George Colkey???, I got to know George quite well. And Neil and Neil's landman, Skinny Macdonald and people like that, so I got to know the chatter a bit and what it was about you see. Then I went to see Johnny Gray at Cal Standard. I said to Johnny, things in the oil and gas business over here are going to look pretty good, are there many geologists in the business over here. Johnny said, oh, there are not many Canadians but there are some Americans. [odd noise on the tape] Things at Bralorne aren't so good, the gold mining industry is really in bad shape, the price of gold hasn't gone up and the costs have gone up something terrible and I think I'm in the wrong business, I think I'll come over to Alberta and see if I can get a junior job in oil and gas and maybe get into geology that way. So subsequently, to cut it a little shorter, I was in touch with Les Clark. Les Clark had just gone with Burnstall, Los ???, Seaboard team. He had left Shell Oil as chief geologist there, and I was very impressed with Les, and in a minor way I guess he was impressed with me because within 3 weeks time or so, Les gave me a job over there.

#351 AK: Can I just interrupt, there's a very important piece of history if I can get from you and it's concerning what Les may have told you about Shell's decision in the Hague to drop . . . Shell ordered the people in Calgary to drop the Redwater acreage. Now, have you got any story about what Les might have told you about that?

CC: No, I haven't Aubrey, no, I don't recall that. But I'll tell you one interesting thing, and I think I should tell you is that, before I actually went over to Calgary and was still with Austin Taylor in Vancouver, Mr. Harvie came into the Bralorne office with Norman Whitall???, with a map of the Redwater. . .

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

AK: . . . Courtney Cleveland's interview. At the conclusion of the other tape you mentioned a very interesting incident about Eric Harvie's coming to the Vancouver offices of Bralorne and showing this Redwater, checker-boarded acreage which he had acquired in [fee simple]??? from the land company and to the best of your recollection, you feel it might

have been somewhere's between the discovery of Leduc and prior to the discovery of Redwater. Would that be fair?

CC: Yes, I think that's correct Aubrey, I'm pretty sure.

AK: And he had Norm Whitall with him.

CC: Which is sort of an interesting thing because Norman Whitall in those days, was very active with the McMahan's and Pacific Petroleum. He helped the McMahan's to a large extent, Pacific Petroleum. Whether Pacific was involved, I don't know. But Bralorne's resources were fairly constricted and I don't suppose that Austin could have ventured into the thing but I distinctly remember seeing the acreage plot.

AK: And the main purpose, Eric was looking for somebody to spread the bets and drill a hole with him probably?

CC: I think so.

AK: Surely.

CC: Oh yes.

AK: It's interesting that he never was able to, or maybe he decided not to as soon as he found out that Imperial were going to drill the Redwater thing themselves. Because he never farmed that acreage out to anybody, that freehold acreage you know.

CC: No, he didn't eh?

AK: And you know he sat there, right across, there was one section in particular I know, right across from a half section that Home and Anglo had bought, and I was then fooling around with them. That acreage sat there undrilled for I don't know how many months. So I'm sure Home and Anglo got a lot of Eric's oil drained out you know, as a matter of capture. Okay, now, in this interim about you coming and a growing awareness of Alberta, you also mentioned that you and Mel O'Brien, the vice-president, had travelled to Calgary to look at the Joseph Lake play. This was Jack Webb showing you it?

CC: That's correct.

AK: Can you give us any details of what Jack said, or what he was trying to sell?

CC: No, I really can't. Actually Jack didn't have too much to say about it. We talked generalities and I better say that this Mel O'Brien had previously been with Consolidated Mining and Smelting and was one of their very senior men. He had a lot to do with the actual putting into production of the Pinchy Lake Mine. He was an excellent mining engineer. And he was more or less in a consulting capacity and a senior man when Austin Taylor decided to hire him after Neil McQueen had left. Mel O'Brien knew absolutely nothing about oil geology and he wasn't particularly interested in geology at all. He was a very pragmatic type, and a very well known man. Anyway, Jack didn't give us very much information, it was very generalized. Mel was the sort of chap that would talk about everything and maybe not get down to the point so I don't think we got anything concrete. But what he did was turn us over to the landman. I can't remember the landman's name.

#037 AK: Ivan Burn?

CC: No, it wasn't Ivan, I know Ivan. Ivan was with Pacific wasn't he at that time?

AK: Rex Dawson?

CC: Rex Dawson, that's who it was.

AK: A little short fellow.

CC: That's correct, nice chap, a fellow from the States, haven't heard of him for years. Anyway, Rex showed us the flat, you know, the usual farm out agreement and the whole set-up. And geologically we had to do the guessing ourselves. So we went back to Austin Taylor and we didn't recommend it because, well, we were a little afraid shall we say. But we did see that field, and subsequently, when it was found, I took real note of that fact.

AK: All right. Then when did you decide to cut the links with Bralorne?

CC: That would be in 1949, I'm hesitating, late '49, I was over there in '50. Les called me one day in Vancouver. As anybody who knows Les Clark will appreciate, he said, you were over here and you said you were interested in taking a job and I have a job for you. Well, I started to hum and haw a little bit. He said, you've got to come over within the next 4 days and get to work or the job's not there. So I had to make my mind up in a hurry and I did and I made the right move. But when I went with Les Clark, Les was a pretty tough boy from a money point of view. At Bralorne I'd been making about \$250 a month in those days, or \$300 and he cut me back \$100. And he had an argument all right, and I'm not very good at standing up against that sort of thing. He said, well, you know nothing about the business at all but on the other hand, I'll have to cut you back to see what you're like but if you should prove yourself up and play your part of the game, I'll play mine. Les was a wonderful man that way, if you delivered for him, he'd deliver for you. And he was a tough customer to work for and there's many a person will attest to that. So I went to work for him and it was nothing but fun for me. After being out in the bush in mining for years, running all over the country, to sit on a well was great.

AK: All right now, the other thing that I've got to get on a tape is when you visited me at Leduc. That was in '48 I think, because we hadn't moved out to Devon. You visited me in the basement office.

CC: I was going to say, I can give you that story, sure.

AK: Well, I'd like that. And I'd like to get you to put on a tape how you found out about this guy Kerr, and why you would come to see me?

CC: I think actually. . . Walt Dingle was out there then wasn't he?

#070 AK: He was the engineer. He was doing surveying but he only was there for a short time and then he. . .

CC: Wasn't he chief engineer there or something?

AK: Yes, but he worked out of Calgary

CC: Oh I see, I thought he was working out of. . .

AK: Well, he was up at Leduc.

CC: Well, I've got an interesting side light there too. He's a friend of mine. But anyway, I heard about you I think, through Jack Webb. Or after the discovery had been made, naturally the well site geologist got to be pretty well known, what he did. So I decided. . . and then you having been from UBC and so on, and I'd heard quite a bit about you, a good type, I decided that I should go out and see you and see what these well operations were like and what a well site man did and what they did in the office and so on.

AK: Had you met me before?

CC: No, no, never had.

AK: No, we were total strangers.

CC: Total strangers. So I went out there and I went to the office in the morning, about 8:30 or something, and who should I meet but Walt Dingle. No, wait a minute, I asked for Walt, no it was Walt that told me about you. I'd met Walt in Edmonton.

AK: What time of year was this, do you remember?

CC: It was in the winter, it was cold. It wouldn't be at the Atlantic time, the Atlantic was subsequent to that.

AK: We'll get to that in a minute.

CC: It was cold anyway, because I met Walt in the hotel in Edmonton, in the elevator. I hadn't seen him for years. He'd come up from South America. So I went out and I asked for Walt naturally, because I didn't know you at the time.

AK: Did you have a car of your own?

CC: Well, I had a Bralorne. . . well, I had my fuel car from Vancouver, I drove over here all the time. So I was pretty mobile. So I asked the girl in the office for Mr. Dingle. And do you think I could get hold of that Mr. Dingle, and I couldn't get to you really, for some reason. And I didn't like to because I didn't know you and I didn't know what you would be doing. And I could hear Walt in an office down the way and Walt's quite a talker you know. And that guy talked for practically a whole hour before I got to him and found out about you and where you were and what I wanted to do. I was a little upset because I had somewhere else to get in a hurry. So I went down, lo and behold, there's my good friend, friend of days's since and you gave me a lot of information as to how you carried on your work and everything else and I was very interested in it. So that's the way we got to know one another and then you subsequently came to visit us in Vancouver, on ??? St.

AK: Did we go out to the field together, did we drive out?

CC: No, we didn't go out in the field, because I think you were pretty darn busy then. Oh, and you showed me the first electric log, I remember that. You showed me how you read the logs and so on. And that to me, was really appealing, it was something I'd never heard of or knew anything about.

AK: I had a bunch of fellows down in the basement there, washing samples, do you remember that?

CC: That's right. And looking at them under the mic.

AK: Do you remember meeting Slusar???, do you remember any of the people.

CC: Yes, Slusar. . .

AK: Quite a comical fellow.

CC: Yes, right.

AK: Well, that's interesting. Then you came away, but you hadn't made up your mind then about leaving Bralorne?

CC: No, no, not at that time. But it was really building up through people like you and through Jack Webb who was very nice. And another man I interviewed, 2 men and noteworthyly so, were at Cal Standard. One was Don Weir and the other was John Galloway. John Galloway was exceedingly nice to me. He knew that I was over there, didn't know the business in general and he explained a lot of things to me about the oil business and so

on. I can't recall whether he knew my connection with Taylor but he was very, very nice to me and I never forgot John for that. He's a good friend of mine.

#115 AK: Good. Okay, do you remember how you met Les, what were the circumstances under which you . . .

CC: Well actually, and I have to thank Johnny Gray for that, he said, when I talked to Johnny about the possibility of going over there he said, there are a number looking for well site men, starting out, junior men, geologists, to fill their staffs up. He said, gee, maybe you ought to go see Les Clark but you want to watch out because he's a tremendous talker. I have to put that in. But you go and see Les, so that was how I got to see Les. He was away up 8th Ave. in a little building, opposite the Fina building now I think it is. That would be '49 I think.

AK: At the time you met him he was with Seaboard?

CC: That's right, he'd just left Shell and gone with Seaboard. Gene Powell was the manager, no, of Barnstall, it was Barnstall Oil were the operator of that team.

AK: The three, Barnstall, Honolulu, Seaboard.

CC: And Lockney Otis???. 4 of them. And Barnstall was the operator.

AK: And Honolulu, there was Nick Taylor over there I think. I don't know if you remember Nick, he probably hadn't started yet.

CC: Oh no, no, he hadn't started.

AK: With Gene Powell there was a Scotty Beanum???, do you remember Scotty Beanum?

CC: Oh sure, and Roy Baker. But they came subsequent, right after I did. They graduated that year. Then Bob McCrossan. All those fellows, and Con Hage, they all came right after me. And Con went in as Les's right hand man.

AK: Yes, well then, what they had done, what Les probably had done, he must have filed on that. . . was he the one who filed on the Pembina acreage or who filed on it?

CC: I can't tell you that, no, I don't know. Because that is a critical decision and that came up subsequently, when the operations turned over to Seaboard. You see, Barnstall, I was there something like 8 months before Barnstall was bought out by Sun Ray from the States you see. So the team was broken up as far as Barnstall went and Seaboard became the operator.

AK: There was one other question, they had an office in Edmonton for awhile because I was up in Edmonton, and it was right on 109th St. I think. What was the name of the red-haired fellow that had a lot to do with . . .

CC: Bob Bischoff. And he subsequently became pretty high up in Seaboard in the States.

AK: Is that right? But then they were taken over by Texaco.

CC: Were they?

AK: Oh yes, Seaboard was bought out. That's why Roy Baker. . .

CC: Maybe it was with Texaco, he got up in the real high ranks I know. Nice fellow too.

AK: Right. And before we forget it, you were saying you had a little story about Walt Dingle.

CC: No, what I told you, just about how he delayed me in getting to see you.

AK: Oh, I see, there was nothing else particularly.

CC: Walt and I had been at UBC together and I knew him quite well. It's a very minor point

but I distinctly remember that because I was in a hurry to see you.

AK: And that building was just on the outskirts of Leduc, it wasn't out at Devon?

CC: Oh no, it was in Leduc.

AK: And it was with the outside toilet and . . .

CC: Sure, the usual deal.

#158 AK: Yes, terrible. And we went by the other day and they've demolished it. It turned into a Legion hall you know.

CC: Yes, it did eh. But one of the things I would like to tell you about my first encounters with Barnstall, and technically maybe, this is a little interesting just historically, Les Clark, they had acquired a considerable amount of acreage. They had acreage up at east of Lesser Slave Lake.

AK: Wabeska.

CC: At Wabeska, and we were looking for Devonian reef there, at the updip edge of the Cooking Lake, for reef developments. I think Bear Oil did that in the early days too, only they weren't in at Wabeska. So a wildcat came up there and that was during my first year there. Nothing to do but I would go up and sit on it. Now Les said, I've got to get you on these wells and you can learn the field procedure and everything because later on, you're going to be in the office and you'll know how to handle the information, if you produce you see. He was very good that way to me, he said, you do this and this, I'll do my part if you pull through with yours. So I went up there in November and I was there till the end of February. We drilled a basement test at Wabeska. We had temperatures down to 65 below zero. You know all about that sort of thing, you've been on the wells. But it was pretty cold weather, but I think Aubrey, that that well was the first penetration of the oil sands down dip from the outcrops. And do you know, that we found a great pocket of gas on the top of that stuff. I well remember because it was at a depth of about 1,000' and we took cores. We cored that whole tar sand section, the whole Cretaceous containing the tar sands, and this pudding like stuff came up. I said to Chancy, who was up there at the time and had come from California and was the drilling superintendent for Barnstall, a little wee guy, a peppery little fellow and he just hated the cold weather, he couldn't stand it and he was scared stiff something was going to happen to those rigs in that cold weather you know. So I said, gee Chancy, we've got to test this stuff, there was one section had quite a bit of porosity in it and didn't seem plugged. Hell he said, you can't test that, all that tar sand in there, there won't be a bit of any gas in it. Well, I said, I'm going to make a test and we got several million feet of gas. Subsequently there has been a gas field, isn't there, up at Wabeska.

#191 AK: Oh yes.

CC: Now I don't know where our well would be from that but it was sort of an interesting point.

AK: But remember, in those days Courtney, that gas was a nothing. You didn't want it.

CC: Oh, many a well we drilled and just plugged.

AK: Yes, because you didn't want the gas.

- CC: Sure just plugged it. Any number of them. And one other item in that connection in the north was that Lac La Biche. . . Now this is interesting because the following winter I went to, no, when I first went out there I went to Lac La Biche, just before Christmas. And it was cold up there too. And we were looking for reefs naturally, they had a nice seismic picture there. We went down through this Viking sand and the Viking there as I recall, was only about 500-600' of depth, shallow. As we know now, gas bearing too. And Chancy, this drilling superintendent was just scared stiff that we would hit that sand and she'd blow and we'd lose circulation and everything else. But we did get down through it all right. We didn't find anything but it was certainly a lesson to those Americans in winter drilling. Well then, subsequent to that, would it be Amerata, lost a rig up there. They went down through the sand and it blew on them and they lost the whole bit.
- AK: It caught fire.
- CC: It cased and caught fire and subsequent to that the Conservation Board put in the orders about casing to such and such depth so they wouldn't have this sort of action. But that's where it all started, brought that order in.
- AK: Do you remember the name of the drilling contractor that drilled that hole?
- CC: No, I don't. But there was a great to-do about that. Our well was I remember, Seaboard, Lockney Otis Time #1.
- AK: Well, yes, but the Time well, do you remember the contractor on that hole?
- CC: No, I don't remember it. I remember Chancy was in a terrible state.
- AK: Well, he'd probably been sent up, hey, you better straighten things up out here. He was sent right up from California as a drilling engineer like?
- CC: That's right. He was a good man too, but he wasn't used to the cold you see.
- #222 AK: When you phoned in, how would you phone in your report?
- CC: I used to drive in to Lac La Biche as I recall.
- AK: That was a long drive.
- CC: Oh yes, some of them were long trips.
- AK: And in the meantime, Edith was in Calgary?
- CC: Yes. But the one up at Wabeska was the long one. We had radio there, and we had everything coded too. You know, all the drill stem tests were coded, everything. One morning, a message came through that Barnstall was no more, that's when Barnstall was sold, and we were working for Seaboard. It happened overnight. Which was sort of interesting.
- AK: Yes. So what happened to Chancy.
- CC: Chancy stayed on for several years. And Bischoff worked with him a lot because he was the chief engineer and he lived in Edmonton. Chancy finally went back to California, he'd had enough. He was a nervous little guy. But he really knew his stuff as a drilling superintendent.
- AK: All right. Now getting into the Seaboard situation. Seaboard had these properties but then they had this large spread of land at Pembina. My recollection from the late John Hale, who was sent up by Seaboard, after you and Bob McCrossan and Les Clark had left.
- CC: Then Con Hage.

AK: Had left.

CC: Wait a minute, had Con left?

AK: Yes, there was nobody there, he said there was nothing in the office, just maps. He said, a pile of maps and he had to sort this all out and he was sent up to liquidate the situation. But prior to that, Les and you must have still been with Seaboard when you negotiated the deal with Mobil.

CC: That's right.

AK: Do you remember Les Clark showing the play to Home Oil?

CC: No. Were you with Home then. No, I remember him talking about it but I know nothing about that.

AK: Do you remember Home Oil losing the seismic maps?

CC: No, I don't.

AK: Les was terribly upset over that.

CC: Is that right.

AK: Oh yes, there was a big row over that. Somehow or other, you see, I had no seismic department and I depended on George Blunden to do the interpreting, we lost the maps. I just wondered whether you'd ever heard anything from Les.

CC: Never, never heard a thing about it, no.

AK: Okay, we'll just move on then. So you had negotiated a deal with Mobil on the Pembina acreage with Seaboard, is that right?

CC: Right.

AK: What caused Les to leave Seaboard to go with Pacific?

CC: The cause there was decidedly Frank McMahan. Frank McMahan at that time, was looking for a first class exploration geologist to bring forth his dream in the Peace River country and find some gas up there. He heard through the president of Sun Ray who took Barnstall over, now what was his name, he heard through him about Les Clark. McMahan, when he wanted somebody, and he always got the best, Les to me was the best, he went right for Les and they made a real good deal with him. That's my. . . and Les, at the same time, I must say, was getting pretty restless with the Seaboard bunch. And he hadn't found anything. But this would be what, after 2 or 3 years. Gene Powell was still with them, as manager you know.

#280 AK: And then Gene went over with Husky.

CC: That's right. He was a good man, he was a terrific fellow, and a good manager. So I think Les was restless but he had this bid from Frank.

AK: Prior to going over, do you remember anything about Nick Nickels being involved in any of that. . .?

CC: Oh sure, yes, Nick I can still see him.

AK: Nick was with Superior you know.

CC: Yes, but then Great Plains wasn't it.

AK: He formed Great Plains.

CC: Well, he'd just started Great Plains. Because we drilled a well up at Smoky Lake and I sat on it and that's one of the first times that I got to know Nick Nickels. He used to come

over to our office constantly, we did quite a bit of back and forth. This was with Barnstall I think, in the first year, it was in the old Barnstall office, and we got farm outs with Nick. Took some of their lands. And we were chasing that updip edge of the Cooking Lake, we had a rather nice picture, it looked as though it was reefing up in there but it didn't turn out quite right.

AK: Okay, now, what was the year in which Les went over to McMahon, was it '49 or '50?

CC: I went with Les in '49, it would have to be '50 or '51. '51 I think it was.

AK: Because you weren't long with Seaboard before you went over?

CC: No, no, only 6 or 8 months. I went over early '52 because I was 20 years with Pacific. '52 to '72.. So he went over in '51 or maybe '50. He was there about a year I think.

AK: Well then, what happened to you, you didn't go right along with him?

CC: No, I didn't go with him immediately, no.

AK: Where did you go?

CC: I stayed with Seaboard and Con Hage was chief geologist. And Johnny Hale hadn't arrived. I don't know who was. . . no, Johnny Hale wasn't there at that time. But it was right in that transition period anyhow.

AK: But at that time Court, Seaboard was sort of slowing it's actions down, it didn't want to spend any money?

CC: Right. And I was getting restless. And I think some of the others, I don't know whether they others were or not, not particularly but I was.

AK: Scotty stayed on with Seaboard.

CC: So did Roy Baker. And Con did, because Con was chief geologist. That was the only thing I hated doing, was severing with Con because Con was such a wonderful chap. And I think it sort of hurt Con at the time, because as you say, the thing was falling apart a bit and he didn't have many men and he knew the fellows he had and he wanted to keep them.

#327 AK: Yes, and then he went consulting, didn't he?

CC: Con, yes, maybe he did. And then subsequently with Dome.

AK: Yes, he went over with Dome later.

CC: That's right, he did go consulting.

AK: Okay, so Seaboard was kind, would you say it was kind of a holding action.

CC: That's right, it really was.

AK: And you weren't really doing any drilling too much?

CC: No, nor anything promising.

AK: No, and you see, Mobil hadn't started drilling the hole at Pembina until '53. Now, I was under the impression that the deal with Mobil hadn't been consummated until maybe, Les Left, but. . .

CC: Well, maybe it hadn't. But I remember that particular meeting, there was a man by the name of Watson with Seaboard. Watson came up from California, and there was another chap, I can't remember his name but he and Les didn't get along. Van somebody, I'm sorry I forget the name. But he was a very astute fellow, into everything and he'd come up here and scout around and get all sorts of stories and then go over and tell Les these

things. Les didn't like him because Les thought he knew everything about everybody and what was going on in the oil patch. That was always one of Les's strong points so to speak, not a strong point but his belief, he said, keep your ears open all the time, you've got to know what's going on everywhere, keep scouting and he was very strong. But anyway, this particular meeting was a very fiery one. I was in it but I was in a junior capacity. And Les fought with these fellows from the States about keeping this acreage. And it finally turned out that no, it wouldn't be kept. That may have been one reason that Les was more restless than ever, because they wouldn't listen to him.

AK: That's right, he wanted to get the hell out, yes.

CC: I think so.

AK: So when you stayed then with Seaboard, you were getting a little more restless, but how did you come to go over with Pacific?

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 2

AK: . . . hooked up with Les and you said the you became his right hand man and kind of running the office situation because he was short staffed. And at that time Scotty Tosh was the drilling engineer. . .

CC: Superintendent.

AK: Yes, Frank Ronigan and Al McIntosh were engineers up at Fort St. John.

CC: No. Before that, Al McIntosh was at Redwater. He was the engineer at Redwater and Ronigan went to Fort St. John.

AK: Right. But they were on staff. And Bob Manahan ultimately took over from Rayburn???, who had been senior.

CC: Yes, I'm right in that I think.

AK: Yes, well, that's okay. But the point I'm making about Manahan is, he was there fairly early on in Pacific.

CC: That's right.

AK: Okay, then you gradually built up a staff. You hired Albert Rutgers.

CC: Albert Rutgers was one of the first ones we hired.

AK: How did he come in contact with you people?

CC: He just came in for a job. He'd come from Holland, yes, I remember the day he came in. And then subsequent to that Stan Oskowski??? came in. No, no, we had somebody else, I can't remember his name, he didn't last long, he was a geophysicist. After Fort St. John #4 came in we were really desperate for men because Les could see the picture. We had a terrific stratigraphic trap in the Triassic up there as you know and we had this one pinpoint with production and boy, we were anxious to get at the rest of it. So he built a staff up pretty fast. Within a year we'd gone from about 2 geologists up to something like 6 or 7 and we had 12-14 rigs running and we were just going crazy, 7 days a week.

AK: And you had Jerky Brown?

CC: No, he came later, quite a bit later.

AK: So there was this tremendous push. Then prior to Oskowski and the other person, you had

John Legg doing your geophysical interpretation for you.

CC: Right. And he did a good job too.

AK: So did most of your work then become more involved in British Columbia than in Alberta or were you spread out?

CC: We were spread out to a certain extent but the main concentration was in British Columbia. Because the pays were good, as you well know, in that #4 well and it indicated good reserves and then, Frank was so anxious to get enough gas to transport it into a line, form West Coast Transmission, get it down to the States. And go through those terrible commission hearings in Washington, which subsequently took place in the next 3 or 4 years.

AK: Did you have to attend those hearings?

CC: No, I didn't have to attend them but I had to feed a lot of information. Les was down there a lot of the time and I more or less looked. . .

AK: And B. P. Macdonald and he. . .

CC: And Hetherington. Hetherington was the big push.

AK: That's right, Charles R. And he was the one that designed that 2 phase pipeline.

CC: That's right. A tremendous optimist, I've never seen an optimist like him.

AK: He and McMahon must have had some terrible stormy sessions. Because my story is that Hetherington was ultimately fired off the plane at Winnipeg.

CC: What caused that was, George McMahon was more or less general manager of the company for quite awhile and a wonderful chap, got on with people and a terrific man. But there were certain qualities they were looking for, I guess, that George didn't have. So some way or other and I don't know how, Hetherington got in there, for about a year, and he was frightful. Just awful. So I can quite appreciate why Frank got rid of him. That was the stage at which Scotty Tosh retired from production superintendent and Kelly Gibson first came into the company. And Kelly of course did nothing but, never looked back from the time he joined the company. He was production manager, he'd come from Gulf eh. He had the qualities that Frank McMahon soon found out about.

#046 AK: And all this time Les Clark was reporting to either Hetherington or Kelly Gibson?

CC: That's right. Yes, this is getting in later years, after we'd found a lot of gas.

AK: That's right. Then McMahon must have started looking at some of these companies that his friends had, like the Cal-Van Consolidated and others.

CC: Yes.

AK: Now how did he evaluate those companies. Did you have any evaluation to do for those companies when they took them over?

CC: No, at one time we looked at Fina you know. That was a lot later on.

AK: Is that right?

CC: Oh yes. I was mixed up in that one and I think Becel, 2 or 3 of them, and we did an awful lot of work. When I say we, that's the engineers and geologists and everybody.

AK: Yes, but you were doing evaluation work?

CC: Yes.

AK: What was the driving force that caused Becel to be taken over by Pacific?

- CC: I can't tell you, I don't know enough about that.
- AK: Because Alex Baillie, they were all good friends you know, and there was share exchanges and. . .
- CC: No, I can't tell you that.
- AK: What about Merrill?
- CC: I think Bob Manahan came from Merrill. No, at that time I wasn't close to that part of the work so I couldn't tell you.
- AK: And the same with, you'd know George Hobson then?
- CC: Oh sure. George was geophysicist with us for years but he didn't get on with Les. Oh gee, they were. . . it was too bad because George was a nice fellow and subsequently did very well at the Survey eh.
- AK: Very well.
- CC: Yes, he did all that polar work and so on.
- AK: Okay. Well, I guess, to be very honest about it, Les wasn't the easiest person to get along with?
- CC: Les was very difficult to get along with and I must say this, that not long after I joined them, I met somebody out in the street, I can't remember his name and I don't want to take the time to think about it but he looked me in the eye and he said, you've gone with Pacific and I said yes, I'm with Les Clark. He looked me in the eye and he said, my god man, are you crazy. Just like that, as earnestly as could be. And he was typical of a number of geologists in Calgary at that time, that didn't like Les. The reason they didn't like him, some of them is, they wouldn't work. We had fellows with us that, at the pace Les was setting, well, they just wouldn't take it that's all and they got out.
- #073 AK: Yes, and you know, one of Les's greatest admirers was in town the other day, Bill Gusso. Bill had a lot of admiration for Les.
- CC: Well, that means something. Gusso was the old type too you know.
- AK: Sure. Then when Phillips decided to take Pacific over, were you involved in that?
- CC: That was a most difficult situation. You see, we went through what, 4 or 5 or 6 of those mergers, and as you can appreciate, when it comes to personalities and staff melding and all that, it's very, very difficult. Because in many cases the men that belong to the party being taken in are excellent people and if you can't take them they've got to find a job too. So whoever has to weed them out or cut them out has a terrible job. But anyway, with Phillips, it sort of happened that way too, they had some good men and one of them that I swear by was Tate Clark. Tate Clark came in as the senior geologist over me. You see, I was in next to Les all the time anyway, I was more or less chief geologist with Les for a long time. But Tate came in and took that spot for about a year and then Les retired. When Les retired Tate took over and he was a wonderful chap to work with. He had a very, very nice quiet personality, and after Les, much easier to work with in many ways.
- AK: I seem to recall Tate, what happened to him?
- CC: Subsequently he had enough. I don't know whether I should put this in here but it was personalities with Merrill Rasmussen and Tate finally left. He went to the Middle East for Phillips.

AK: But Merrill was a protege of Kelly Gibson.

CC: That's right. But both of them were heading for higher up because Tate in my thinking had the qualities too. And another one that was involved in that triangle was Bishop. Remember their landman, a man by the name of Bishop. Anyway, there were personality clashes in there, and Merrill was the one that came out on top.

AK: Well yes, because he had Kelly's blessing.

CC: That's right. Now all through that period too, Stan Oskowski, to me, was quite outstanding. I really admire Stan. Stan was a pretty sharp boy and he did very good work in the seismic and he really helped Les. He helped Les a lot. Some of Les's successes I think, were through the cooperation of Stan. Well, they'd have to be anyway.

AK: Now, the other person we should mention before we forget it, is Jim Scott. When did he come on board with Pacific?

CC: Let's see now. After Tate left there was nobody, there was a gap. I was the most senior one there and I had the best general background so I carried on in an average fashion. I felt that I probably couldn't fill the bill anyway but Merrill sort of kept me in the spot. And Merrill, bless him too, he said to me, look, I'm looking for another man to fill Les's shoes but you carry on, so to speak. So it didn't leave me terribly happy but I stayed and I liked the work and I was doing all right. What was your question again, who was it you. .

#116 AK: How did Jim Scott come on board?

CC: Yes. So in his ferreting, looking for somebody, he landed on Jim Scott.

AK: Because Jim had been with Husky.

CC: That's right. And I knew Jim very well and I was quite happy about it.

AK: Yes, and Jim had been with Shell.

CC: So Jim came over. Now, as one more development, maybe we better do it right now. Soon after Jim came in, I got the idea one day, and this is the way things develop, I used to always read the Norther Miner and I used to stand at the entrance to the Pacific Building at night waiting for Edith or Cam or somebody to pick me up, and I'd be reading this Norther Miner. One night who should come out of the building but Kelly Gibson. I knew Kelly very well, he was very nice to me and he said, what are you doing Court and I said, I'm reading the Northern Miner. Oh, he says, that's mining, yes, I said, I've always been interested in mining and I used to be in it in British Columbia. Well, well, so on and so forth. So about 3 weeks later who should turn up in Kelly's office but a man by the name of Frank Jubin. And you've heard of Frank, he discovered the big uranium. . .

AK: Oh yes, I went to UBC with him.

CC: Very fine mining geologist.

AK: Doctor's degree, yes.

CC: He discovered the uranium field down in Elliot Lake.

AK: That's right.

CC: He was talking to Kelly about some project that wasn't closely associated with mining, it was something to do with oil and gas. And Jubin happened to mention my name and Kelly called me the next day and he said, do you know Frank Jubin and I said yes. What

sort of a fellow is he and so on and so on. So I never heard anything more than that but I got to thinking right then, by gosh, maybe Pacific could be interested in mining work. Pat Boucher used to be in Vancouver and knew mining people and we're at the stage where we're doing well in oil and gas, these companies have got to diversify someday. They're not going to be in oil and gas, I could see these depleting reservoirs ??? So I went to Pat Boucher one day and I said, say, you know my experience with Bralorne and so on, I think maybe we ought to be scouting around and see if we could get hold of some production in mining. So he went to Kelly and we decided finally, that they would have a meeting and I would present it to the executive committee. So one day I went up and I knew what I was talking about because I'd had a lot of experience. I gave them a real good run down on what a mining department should do in the company and how long it might take them to find a mine and what the results could be or might be in years to come. They sent a man up from Phillips to talk to me and by gosh, they decided to go ahead with it. So they put me in charge of mineral exploration department, we formed a department. Right away quick I got out and I went to Toronto, I had a lot of connections in Toronto and this Paul Bevan in Montreal and I formed, gee, within a few months we had about 6 joint ventures going. Subsequently we had a pretty good budget for mineral work. Unfortunately we never found anything but we got into coal work too, and they have some pretty potential coal stuff that I had filed on in the earlier days now. And Pacific was the first one to start out in mining work in the oil companies in Alberta. Not long after we got going Jack Gallagher got hold of me, Dome Petroleum. And you know Jack, and I went to lunch with him and with Con Hage. Jack starts to put the screws on me you know, about this mining, what are you doing in mining, where do you go, who do you know and all this sort of thing. So it wasn't long after that that other companies got involved. I think Esso was one of the first to do it, because I met their man. I'm not sure but Doug Layer had something to do with it at one time.

#164 AK: Yes, they sidestepped Doug into it.

CC: That's right, yes. Well, this one of mine into it was actually a lateral.

AK: Yes, okay, well, that's fair. But Jim Scott continued and what about Sid Smith, when did he come into it?

CC: Sid came in through Phillips. We were in the new building and he came in as a senior geologist. I think Jim hired him, I'm not sure, I'm a little hazy on that because I was in the mining then. And that's when you used to come out and I was on the other. . .

AK: Yes, that's right. And I'd see Sid and I'd see Jim. Because we had some pretty hot and heavy confrontations over Clark Lake.

CC: Yes, well, gradually Jim brought Sid up to a pretty good position. Actually to the point where he could take over from Jim.

AK: That's right.

CC: And I can't tell you anything about Sid because I didn't work with him, except that he was a very . . .

AK: Holy bonehead, look at that. We're just about finished. [woman's voice in the background] Oh yes, we're still taping. That's fine, come on and listen to the wrap up

here. We got to the point where you were over more in mineral exploration. The other person that you've talked about on quite a few occasions is Mac Jones. Now, was he solicitor for Pacific or how did you. . .

CC: No. That was through a personal. . . Edith was associated with the YW and ??? Jones was president subsequent to her.

AK: Oh I see. I thought maybe that he might have. . . Then who was legal counsel for Pacific at that time?

CC: Macdonald.

AK: Oh, D. P.

CC: Yes, and I got to know D. P. very well because I went through the discovery sessions on the Act Oil??? case.

AK: Yes, I wanted to get Act Oil on the tape and then we'll quit. How did. . .there was a fellow named Digbey Hunt I think, that was acting for Act.

CC: That's right.

AK: No, he was with Canada Southern, he and Mel Reasoner.

CC: Mel Reasoner. Mel Reasoner was the push in that.

#195 AK: That was right. And they were the ones that were against you. And they were always trying to find out ways and means of trying to get Pacific's accounts straightened out so that. . .

CC: That's correct. Well, it all hinged on farm outs we made with Act Oil, we took over a lot of their lands. ??? carried interest that they had access to all our information and that was the heart of the whole thing. They figured that on land sales they were losing out badly because they couldn't get this information. Les always made it a point that that wasn't the heart of the agreement at all. And if you looked at the agreement it was sort of two-sided though. Some of those agreements are very open-ended and they shouldn't be. So they went to court on it and I did all the examinations for discovery that took, I think, 2 years and I did a tremendous amount of work going through all the well operations in those farm outs. And Reasoner came to me at one time and more or less, perhaps I shouldn't say this. . .

AK: No, go ahead.

CC: Intimated that maybe I should be with Canada Southern you know.

AK: Yes, defect.

CC: Maybe wean me away. I know that's what his purpose was. Anyway, we went through these examinations for discovery, Reasoner on one side and me on the other. Macdonald was our attorney. The other attorney was from Edmonton and they used to fight like cats and dogs as to what was admissible information. So anyway, it makes a complete circle because Act Oils was ACT, which was Austin Taylor. And Austin Taylor was tied in with people in New York who were head of Canada Southern.

AK: The Buckley's.

CC: The Buckley's. And Austin Taylor's daughter married a Buckley and that's the Buckley that's on TV, that you see. So that's ACT Oils.

#221 AK: And of course, to even make the circle a little bit more turn around, Robert Kerr, our Robert, worked for awhile with United Canso, which at that time was under control of the Buckley's.

CC: I'm not sure, Robert, would he be in some of those examinations.

AK: No, this was just a few years ago. No, that's just a little personal matter.

CC: Sure. So anyway, that made a complete circle back to Austin Taylor.

AK: Is Taylor still alive?

CC: No, he's passed on. It was his son I was telling you about, in Toronto, that is spearheading the ???

AK: Well, ACT disappeared didn't it?

CC: I think so.

AK: The company, or was it bought out by Pacific?

CC: Oh no, I don't think so, I can't tell you, I don't know what happened to it.

AK: Canada Southern gradually lost its interest in the lands because it couldn't keep it up.

CC: Yes, that's right.

AK: I think that was another thing that bothered Mel.

CC: Yes. But I think there was \$5 million in that lawsuit.

AK: Did it ever go to court?

CC: Oh sure, we went to court. Fortunately I didn't have to testify or anything. Al McIntosh got into the act then and he was terrific.

AK: Well, thanks.

#237 AK: These are some additional comments made as a result of talking to Courtney after the interview. The first of these is concerning Ken Germond, shortly to retire from Oakwood Petroleums and Mike Strong, no relation to M. F. Strong but a rather loud boisterous person. These 2 people, at the time of their arrival in Canada, were in charge of Southern Productions, which was a company which took a large farm out or a series of farm outs from Pacific. Court also mentioned the big farm out that Imperial took, the 75-25, 75% oil, 25% gas, and this switcheroo between the 2 companies and their respective properties was in the hands of Gordon Darling who has just retired. At that time he was with Imperial. The other thing that I should add is the membership record of Courtney. He was a member of both the CSPG and the AAPG but he dropped them. However he continued to be a CIM member and when in Calgary he was chairman of the Calgary branch one year. He is now a life member of that organization. He is also a life member of APEGGA, that's the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologist and Geophysicists of Alberta, and the Professional Engineers of British Columbia. Two stories that Courtney told about himself and his father concerned the travelling by vessel up and down the coast. His father had to go out and survey claims and there was a short discussion on the fractional pieces that could exist between claims. But his father was set ashore with his crew and they were to be picked up at a pre-determined time later on but the ship didn't return when scheduled and they ran out of food and fortunately were able to dig clams on the beach. His father had said that he had eaten so many clams that his stomach went in and out with the tide. The other story concerned Courtney as a young

boy, travelling with his uncle up the coast to a camp in a newly commissioned yacht. When they had been part of the way up the coast they encountered a storm, which they lost their way in. They could not determine with any accuracy their bearings but they finally got up to Powell River and they could identify that because of the pulp plant. They were grounded and had to be taken off by dinghy and Courtney's recollection of the search light of the tug bearing down on them was something he would never forget. They were rescued and taken ashore and then the next day the tide came in and the vessel was refloated. There were 2 other stories that were discussed later on and these were concerning Bus Lacey, who tormented Courtney with lease offerings. This ended up in a visit to Los Angeles with Edwin Pauley, a high up U.S. politician and owner of an oil company, regarding a trade of leases. The other story concerns the official opening of the West Coast Transmission Pipeline in Fort St. John, in October 1957 at which Edith and Courtney attended and were wined and dined in the Vancouver Hotel. This is the end of this tape, thank you. Over and out.