

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: R. H. Erickson

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

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DF: Today is the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year 2001 and we are with Mr. Bob Erickson at his home at 4320 Coronation Dr. in S.W. Calgary. My name is David Finch. Could you start by telling us where and when you were born?

BE: I was born July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1923, in Plainfield, Illinois. My father at that time, was a merchant, had a store there. But that was not his business really. He was a pattern maker. He had hurt his hip and he tried to get an easier job but that failed so he went back to and spent his life as a wood pattern maker in the days when industry was kind. Big gears, all these things had to be made out of, all the big heavy industrial machinery had to have wooden patterns and he was a pattern maker and a proud old country craftsman. He was born in Sweden and came to Canada, 99 years ago this time, pardon me he came to the States. My mother was American, she was a school teacher, taught 5 years before she got married. Her training was interesting because her only training for teaching was, after high school the principal invited any student interested in teaching to come and take some extra courses. Having done that she went out and had a country school, taught 8 grades, right out of high school. Of course, the boys were bigger than she was. Pretty amazing. Anyway she was old New England American family, lots of history there. I better not go there, I'm afraid I'll get into much detail.

DF: Okay, well let's get into your story then. What do you remember from your childhood?

BE: I had a good childhood, a good family and loving, good parent. These were hard times and my dad was sure affected by the Depression. But we survived but it was skimpy. But we were a proud family, there was never relief, no charity but we got by. I think in 1937 there was a recession within the Depression and I think he worked one week. Actually that killed him, terrible things, blood pressure and all that. I still get a lump in my throat.

#026 DF: Tell us about your education.

BE: I spent all my grade school and high school in Aurora, Illinois and I was not interested in school at all really. I wasn't quick in math you know, so I didn't excel, I didn't think of myself as being bright. In fact I enjoyed playing so much and I enjoyed recess so much I thought anybody that studied was sort of tantamount to cheating. I basically felt that way. Like girls, they cheated, they studied, that just wasn't fair. But as years went by I got more interested. I matured, undoubtedly I was immature. I see this in my grandchildren too, some of them. All of a sudden they blossom you know. But anyway I went on to school and the War came along. I was sent to Denison University in the Marine V-12 program. Denison is in Ohio, Granville Ohio. The Marine V-12 program was hastily organized during the War. Actually it was the Navy V-12, to provide a steady line of

officers rather than draft everybody and all of a sudden terminate their officer source. So I ended up back in university for 12 months and got 2 years of full education at no cost. Then after the War, I went under the GI bill, which was a wonderful thing.

DF: Were you an officer?

BE: I was an officer in the Marine Corps, in the South Pacific. I was actually, I was flying between Pearl Harbour and Guam when the bomb was dropped. I was in the first officer class trained in street fighting, before there was all jungle warfare. Our earlier training was jungle warfare. So our platoon commander class was taught to street fight, presumably for Tokyo. So I'm one that happens to be thankful. Anyway that's another story. I took a Masters at Northwestern. You have others here that Northwestern, Andy Baillie, Bill Eyrton, John Andrechuk, there's about a dozen of us here that were . . . Northwestern was way ahead of everybody else as far as basin studies were concerned.

#054 DF: And where is Northwestern?

BE: Evanston, Illinois, north of Chicago.

DF: Why were they ahead of the others?

BE: They were doing regional stratigraphic studies, which had great application to basin analysis on the western Canada sedimentary basin. Traditionally geologists would sort of come and take a look at an area, sort of a column, but their approach was to look layer by layer, the whole sequence of rocks. You maybe have heard of the word, sequence stratigraphy, recently. It started in the concept really, of Northwestern as one of the key places. And the fellow that really proposed it here a few years ago, was another Northwestern PhD graduate. I was a Masters, not a PhD.

DF: When did you get the MA?

BE: It was in 1950.

DF: What did you do then?

BE: I was offered a job by the Pure Oil Company, out of Chicago. They had 3 opportunities for me where they needed this type of work, one was Shreveport, Louisiana, one was Midland, Texas, I might have been a friend of George Bush and family. The other was Calgary and I thought Calgary, wow, that would be a nice place to be for 18 months or so. So I came up here all by myself, I didn't know the difference between a farm out and a Crown block on a drilling well. But I had some good geology and I opened an office here. They'd had an office but they closed it so I reopened an office and I had to do all these things. I hired a young lady to help me as a technician and subleased an office from a company called Great Plains Development, which was an interesting company. Aubrey Kerr has written that up in his Corridors of Time. I subleased this office from Great Plains and within about 9 months, I was employed by Great Plains.

#079 DF: How did that come about?

BE: They had two key people at that time, one was Nick Nichols, a geologist and a natural exploration manager, a better manager than he was a geologist. Nick drowned unfortunately, in Hawaii, about 1959 I believe it was. And the President was Lewis McNaughton, of the firm DeGolyer, McNaughton, which in the 1940's and 50's was the

prime oil consulting company in the world, I think without any doubt. So he was our President. So from Nick I learned a lot about wheeling and dealing and from McNaughton I learned a lot about prospect preparation, evaluation, comparisons. I think of McNaughton as being my mentor in many ways, a tremendous man. And that was a good experience. Great Plains was a good organization. We had a lot of proud people at every level, in all departments. I still have many friends that way.

DF: How big was their geology department?

BE: It grew from I was the second geologist and I think we had about 12 geologists. I became the Chief Geologist very early, within a year or two.

DF: Do you remember what the pay was at that time?

BE: Yes, my first pay was - I started out with Pure Oil at \$325 a month, then I made, because I was coming foreign, I made \$350 a month and I held Great Plains up to \$500 a month. They weren't too happy about that and I didn't get a raise right away, but they wanted me so that was my pay. But that was higher than what was paid for quite awhile for other geologists that we hired. It was \$375 and \$425 and that sort of thing. In fact, I remember when I got to \$10,000 a year, I got a long lecture from Mr. McNaughton telling me what a high echelon I was in this world, to get that sort of pay. And it was, I remember telling a friend before I ever came here what might happen, I said, I might be a division geologist or something, someday, maybe I can make \$7,500 a year. That was the aspiration. I reached that all right.

#109 DF: Tell me about the geology in those early days, what fields were you doing, how were you doing the geology?

BE: Well, the wonderful thing was that it was a lot of fun. Because nobody knew anything about western Canada's subsurface. One of the key tools was the old schedule of wells that the Alberta Conservation Board put out. And 1959 was a key on, it had a summary of all wells, maybe 300 wells. That gave us a framework of Alberta basically, basic data. I came here, I knew nothing, nor did any of our staff. None of my staff ever had big company experience, we were all self trained. We took courses, e-log courses, sample courses, we went to the outcrop. We made outcrops, we took little field trips on weekends by ourselves, and then of course, we attended courses and we read literature. Attended ASPG lectures in those days. There were other tools though, the tools have changed a lot. Of course, seismic was very simple. Only a geophysicist could understand a seismic, now a geologist can look at a seismic record and see changes and pinch outs and these things, unconformities and structures. But in those days we really had to take the work of the geophysicist, the data was pretty crummy and much of it wasn't valid as any geophysicist will tell you. Another tool was the slim hole drilling. People were looking for structures out on the plains and doing a lot of correlating structures between wells. A lot of that was very poor data because coals??? themselves came and go and you got false structures. But one of the key things in exploration is to have a reason to drill and then let serendipity take place.

DF: Can you explain for us what slim hole drilling is?

BE: It was drilling with a small well, it drilled a slim or narrow hole. In other words, instead

of using a 6" bit or something, you were using maybe a 2" or a 2 1/2" bit as I recall.

DF: And that was straight exploration?

BE: It was just straight exploration. But you weren't looking for oil or gas, you were just trying to. . . and then they would drill a hole, they might even core some of the hole, looking for geological markers and then they would certainly run an electric log. It was a mom and pop electric log company, it wouldn't be one of the big Schlumberger companies. I'll tell you, the Seaman family were in the slim hole business, Doc Seaman and his father and the brothers, they were slim hole drillers. That's how Bow Valley started.

#143 DF: So what part of Alberta were you doing geology in, with Great Plains?

BE: Great Plains worked right across the province, right across the western provinces into northeastern B.C., from northern Wyoming into the Arctic, we've mapped. We believed in regional mapping, here again, it's northwestern. But when it was all said and done, it was really central Alberta, really you might say, from Calgary, Drumheller to Edmonton and into the Peace River country. It was the heart of Alberta today. Of course, it moved, exploration moved west during that time. But we were mapping on 8 miles to the inch, 16 miles to the inch, some of our maps were even 35 miles to the inch. Now I'm sure they're mapping inches to the mile or to the kilometre. But it was taking a big view, it was very exciting. Sometimes you forgot you were being paid from some of this kind of work because we were learning you know. I think that's such a pity now, the young geologist has to come out here, I'm sure he's assigned to, almost a township or something, just to work up something here, look there. But we had this whole western sedimentary basin, it's a great basin. To try to decipher it you know. But they're doing things now too, that. . . we never thought there were any prospects up above the Cardium really, particularly above the Valley??? River, now they have things up. . . But we looked for the Devonian, we were looking for reefs.

DF: With good reason.

BE: With good reason, yes. But we didn't have a lot of success. Actually Great Plains ended up doing a lot of paleo-geomorphology, which is studying the ancient land forms underneath. And it's that that you get all these Mississippian gas and condensates. So that part of it worked out for us, very well.

#171 DF: What other tools did you use in those early years? Seismic was still in its. . .

BE: Seismic really came in about the time of Rainbow, which would be in the mid 60's. At that time I was in Australia. That gets me into the company history I guess.

DF: Okay, so how long were you with Great Plains?

BE: I was with Great Plains when they were taken over by the Mamba Oil Company?

DF: Burma.

BE: Burmah, spelled with an h on the end, out of the U.K. It's an old company that started in Burma and was one of the two supporters of the British Petroleum Company. The British government and Burmah Oil sponsored the whole of BP. Burmah took over Great Plains in '62, or bought a large share of it. And in '63 or by that time I was a Vice-President of

Great Plains but I took a downsizing in stature and went to Australia as a staff geologist. I did that for 18 months and did a paper and was awarded the best paper of the year over there, in their APEA, their Association of Petroleum Explorations. Then I was made Manager. So I became Manager for Burmah in Australia. I did that for a year and a half and they brought me back to Canada in the middle of the Rainbow boom. Then I ended up a pure exploration company, called Northern Oil Explorers, we called it NOEL, Northern Oil Explorers Ltd. That was sponsored by Burmah and Great Plains so I was still tied in the Great Plains family. Noranda Mines had a company out of the States called Barber Oil, so they all put in \$5 million a year or something at that time, which was a pretty good sum. So I did that for 7 years, I was the head of that company. It was pure exploration. We had then a staff, overall, I think of about 35 but I don't remember quite how many geologists. We had geologists, landmen and geophysicists, draftsmen. We had draftsmen in the old days, I think they're kind of extinct now. NOEL when all was said and done, really wasn't successful. I think Great Plains had some good success in the early years there. We got the money back for the investors I think. But finally when people wanted to go their own ways, we had an auction, which was kind of fun too. I organized that. Anyway that's another story. So then I went back into Great Plains for a year and then I was called to England, so I went over there as the Chief Geologist for the Burmah Oil Company, worldwide. And they had operations in Australia, the North Sea, Canada, the United States, Ecuador, India, Pakistan. I think that was about it.

#215 DF: What year was that?

BE: I went there in '74, we bought a house and New Year's Eve, '74, the company announced that they were in financial strife. What had happened was they owned shares in British Petroleum but Burmah had expanded greatly and they used these shares of British Petroleum, 23% of BP, to finance their operations. Well, in '74 the stock market was the pits and American bankers, who had loans out, got restless and the Bank of England, as far as I'm concerned, essentially panicked and called these shares. So Burmah had to sell Great Plain, sell their interest in ??? in a great field in the North Sea, sell all the Australian stuff, which had some great fields, huge fields and eventually just got out of exploration all together. And finally, production. As of last year, I'm jumping all over, became part of British Petroleum, BP bought Burmah and Castor Motor Oil, which was part of Burmah. So that was the end of Burmah Oil.

DF: So what happened to you in '75?

BE: I came back and thinking about doing international geology but international business was suddenly in the pits then too. So I looked around and decided to do my own thing. I looked at some maps, I thought, I'll be practical, I'll look for prospects along pipelines and I will go to the mountain sort of thing. Then I saw some free hold land so I took money, I was going to buy a cottage and I took the money I was going to buy a cottage and I started buying free hold mineral rights and either working up prospects first or afterwards, around this land. I picked up a bunch of land. I was pretty lucky, in that I think Voyager Petroleum was running about 3 months behind me where I was picking up land. So I'd buy it on one hand and sell it to them on the other and retain a royalty. But

the key thing was to find some good land and do some geology with it. And I was also selling prospects at the time. Some of the best turned out to be some leases I picked up over the edge of the so called, southern Alberta, reef complex, which goes from Drumheller up to Lloydminster. And also west of Drumheller. Over that, there's a fair structural drape and I got some production out of that, which still goes on today, so I have royalties on that. But the advantage of picking up the leases myself was that I could set my own royalty rate. If a geologist goes out with nothing, he's likely to get 2 or 2 1/2%, I was getting 5-7%. I took the difference between what say, the farmer had and what the Alberta government took and that became my royalty. So I was getting 5-7%. Many of them didn't work out, which is the nature of the business but it doesn't take too many. So that worked out well.

#265 DF: Were many other people doing that? It sounds kind of unusual for a geologist.

BE: I'd had this fairly broad background, a broader background than a lot of geologists I guess. And was not afraid of land and not afraid of much of anything. But I think, yes, there were other fellows doing it. Dick Wasternau were doing something similar, Andrechuk and Edie weren't too far from doing things like that. But I was doing geology. I sold up and down and also along the 5<sup>th</sup> Meridian here. I sold plays to Bill Elser who was a prominent oil man and a very able guy. He was starting up the Atco Oil and Gas business at that time. A very good man to work with. Tough as nails to a lot of people but very good to me. But I gave him data, I had back-up for everything I did.

DF: He was with what company?

BE: Atco Oil and Gas, they were just starting up.

DF: Then what did you do in the 80's?

BE: Go back a second. I was with Great Plains that first stint, for 13 years and I ended up not knowing it, in a terrible rut. And I got to Australia and that was very, very stimulating. I mapped many of the key basins in Australia in about an 18 month period there, by broad northwestern methods. And I decided at that time I was never going to work more than 5 years at anything. So after I came back from England in 1975 and I had done this thing with my own company, R. H. E. Resources that I was telling you about, I started to do a little consulting. I did some work for a company and they decided they wanted to be in the oil business, this was 1980. They had a little company called Wellore Resources. So I agree to start that up. It's 1980, in just the peak of the business, the boom. Second time I came back to start up an oil company, terrible time to start up an oil company. Just like today, it would be a terrible time to start up a company. It was the second time, I don't learn very fast. I ran an ad for an engineer and geologist, I didn't get any replies, period. So then I used my name, then I got a few ads and I got a couple of good fellows. We built a little company and we got some production. We were sponsored by Laidlaw people, Mike de Groot, who was the founder of Laidlaw and the Rothman tobacco people, out of South Africa. I can't say his name right at the moment, he was the first billionaire I've ever shaken hands with, or the only one. The Air Canada pilots had a piece of that and Murray Kofler, who founded Shoppers Drug Mart, we had a pretty high powered group of people. We did okay, we got some production up around Miniuk and . . .

#327 DF: The South African company, how do you spell that?

BE: Well, the company was Rothman Tobacco Company and his name, I can't say it. He's got a book downstairs. It doesn't matter I don't think. He was the Chairman, mathematics professor I think, who became the Chairman of Rothmans, very successful man. They had, by law, 25%. It was at that time of course, the National Energy Program came in and just . . . it wasn't bad for little companies like Wellore because we qualified as being fully Canadian. Rothman Tobacco was a small, less than 25%. So we were okay but suddenly there were hundreds of geologist available and hundreds of engineers available and it was disaster of course.

DF: So NEP didn't affect you negatively?

BE: It didn't really affect a small new companies. It was a disaster for Canada, without a doubt and I'm still bitter about it I think. But personally it didn't affect us. We had all the benefits, being Canadian I guess. It was anti American and anti international.

DF: What do you think of companies that try to protect their industry to some extent?

BE: One thing that comes to my mind is the strangeness that we export our gas as much as we do and our oil as much as we do and then we're suddenly jealous about a renewable thing like water. I've never understood that. We can find water coming out of a river on the B.C. coast, in great gushing amounts and not destroy the delta, not destroy the wetlands, not hurt anything. What would be the harm of shipping off a few tank loads of water. Off of Newfoundland or. . . Now, taking it off the Alberta prairies or the Great Lakes and things, that gets a lot more complicated. But anyway, that's just a side point, I don't understand that. My friends, my senior friends, we're all seniors, we have concerns about this natural gas business, we're shipping out a lot of gas.

DF: And all the products that go with it too.

BE: Well, exactly. And that Fort Chicago company, that's shipping liquids too without being stripped, which is contrary to what Dome did in the old days.

DF: And it's contrary to what Peter Lougheed tried to do, diversify the provincial economy. But why is nobody mentioning that these days?

BE: I guess my friends aren't prone to say that. We have enough problems trying to convince people that climate change isn't a big problem. But that's another topic.

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

DF: We've got you starting another little oil company.

BE: Yes, I did that. It was a five year contract to start with, here again, five year business.

DF: What's your theory behind the five year?

BE: Stimulation, boredom. I don't want to do the same thing all the time.

DF: Did you ever become a Canadian?

BE: Oh yes. That was a Centennial project. 1967, except it was January '68 I think, when the papers finally came through. My wife and I both became full Canadians.

DF: What prompted you to do that?

BE: It's interesting, a lot of people ask me that, especially Americans ask you, they can't understand anyone wanting whatever change from being an American. Of course, my father was an immigrant so I could become an immigrant, why not. When you move into a community, wherever it is, you become gradually a member of that local community, whether it's the neighbourhood or the city or the town or the province. Over time, I'd been here most of 18 years, not counting the three years in Australia. I always liked Calgary, from the day I came here. Calgary is to me, a great city. I like the people, I had good friends. We never tried to be in the American clique or club particularly, we just went for people we enjoyed, didn't care where they were from. After awhile you become a citizen of the community and after awhile you become a citizen of the country. I'm a better citizen of the west part of the country than I am of the east part of the country I guess. But that's my problem.

DF: So what were you doing in the 1980's then?

BE: After I left that Wellore, that's when I basically did nothing organized. What I did was handle my own affairs. I invested in, well, I have always had some stock market investments, that's been my main source of what we have. So I managed that, I retired, came home. I've invested in a small company down in Oklahoma, for which I have hopes for but which hasn't done much yet, sort of thing. But I spent 45 minutes this afternoon, dictating a letter down there, commenting on his last shareholders letter. He sends them out frequently. He's a smart young geophysicist down there but we have some problems. I read and study and write letters to the editor, some of which I send to the editors. I've been involved more recently in this climate change business. The Glenbow Museum took a lot of time in the 80's. In the 70's it was the Heritage Park. So in the 90's, I've been on my own, just doing whatever I wanted to do sort of thing. I don't do much geology anymore. I'm not interested in the small things. I like new ideas, new concepts and big picture things.

#035 DF: Well, climate change is certainly one of those big picture things. Tell me about that.

BE: I've been naturally suspect I think from day one. Many, many geologists are because we appreciate the earth and we appreciate that it changes and we appreciate that man, despite the damage he can do, is still pretty puny in the big system. Global warming and all this came out into the public before it was ready. It takes a lot of hassling to get a scientific thing, there are probably a million factors, a million variable in this thing. The wrong thing right now is that the basic data of saying that there's warming is wrong because it's based on bad data. It's based on urban temperatures, airport temperatures. Airport temperatures are heat islands and cities are heat islands. They're hotter. That's known, that's been proven. Every one of those should be thrown out. For good reason all the people who make these global models, even though they're all different, they all say that the Artic and the Antarctic should be warming. But there are all kinds of excellent records, going back 100 years, that show there is no warming in the Arctic or the Antarctic, south pole, it's not warming. Now there have been things unexplained, there's thinning in the ice in the Arctic, since 1970. Some good measurements from the nuclear



submarines. But what was the 1970's, was it strange or is the present strange. CO2 is very beneficial. Mankind is probably benefiting right now from the CO2 stimulating the growth in plants and trees. You can see it in tree rings and things. We can stand a lot more CO2 in the atmosphere. So those are just a couple of points, I've written notes and I've got a file yay thick. And I'm biased, I'm very frankly biased, there are all kinds of good Internet sites that satisfy my bias. But there are things that just aren't answered. And there's deception really, to the public. And scientists, their comments have been distorted and altered by bureaucracies, through the United Nations, this international panel on climate change, IPCC. I've got a lot of notes here.

#063 DF: Why don't you grab them and we'll start working through them.

BE: These are going back. Or I could go right to the CSPG, I don't know.

DF: No, I'd like to hear more about your career and then we will go to the CSPG.

BE: Well, let's see if there's anything that I wanted to talk about here. We've talked about the universities I think, you had field practices there.

DF: Anything stand out on the geological end. We haven't talked much about your experience in the field?

BE: I've made a note here that I was at the end of the horse era. I did have one horse trip.

DF: Oh yes, where was that?

BE: That was up into the Hummingbird Creek area, to look at reefs and reef outcrops, southwest of Nordegg. I was lucky to do that, it was 3 weeks, I think it was done in late September or October. It got colder than the dickens. I learned a lot of things. The other thing was, some of my field clothes at that time were still stuff I had left over from the war and they were frankly rotted so all my first aid tape, I think I used like, duct tape, patching my pants and making my shoes hang together. The clothes had spent a year on Guam, in the tropics at the end of the war there, so things got kind of rotted I guess. What else is there. We did work on photographs but there was no GPS and no elevation from satellites and that sort of thing that's available now.

DF: How did you use photographs for geology then?

BE: We wrote right on them or marked on them or marked on overlays, with the wax pencil which could be taken off with a little acetone, which there again, you never use acetone now because you could destroy your brains with it I guess. You worked right on the photographs. This was making notes on maps on rock formations, dips and strikes, basic field geology that all geologists would have done.

DF: How much of your time did you spend out in the field in those early days?

BE: Basically none in Alberta. I'd spent three summers in the States I guess, after the war, with the Atomic Energy Commission, with a coal company and then I helped a student one summer, took a course one summer, field geology. So good experience. But in Alberta, the oil is under the ground, it's not in the outcrop. But I believe in outcrop work. It was more on my own free time, other than this one trip to go look for myself, to go see these reefs. That was a three week trip, that was good.

#093 DF: So seeing reefs at the surface just gives you an idea what's far below the ground

elsewhere?

BE: Yes. And that's the whole idea of going to the outcrop. It makes me sound like an old guy but I've got a notion this isn't done enough today. We should do more of that and the Society should push people into the outcrops more, not just for field trips. On the other hand they do do that, maybe I'm just sounding old. I think people should do it on their own too, they don't have to have an organized trip, there's plenty of outcrops out there.

DF: Oh yes. Well, that's why the early geologists did so much along the rivers didn't they? It was a transportation corridor and it was a place to see the outcrops.

BE: Yes. All these rivers were mapped here, that was ending about the time I got here. A few still did it in the early 50's. John Andrechuk I think, went down with Bear Petroleum, down the Athabasca and that sort of thing. Bill Gallup I know, did some up in the north for years, probably after he should have done it. Bill is a past President who died years ago. Up and down the rivers was important. Other mapping was tried, they tried to do mapping out in the plains. George Hume was a senior geologist with the Geological Survey and he made all kinds of maps with lots of old structure on them. I went back years later and thought, maybe I can find oil using some of his old maps. But we had a lot of wells at that time and there was just no structure. He was mapping bad data on the surface, doing the best he could but there was nothing there, it was flat. Anyway I never worked for a major company. That brings up another one of my interests I guess, starting in '75, off and of, I have proposed to the Society, to SAIT, the university, Mount Royal College, Northern Alberta Institute, that geologist be trained technically as well as academically. What was happening and I saw this starting in '75 and it's a big problem today, the majors trained geologists. I'm a rare exception. The majors trained geologists, then the independents would hire them after 3, 4, 5 years. This went on and on and one. Slowly as the big plays stopped, the majors lost interest in Alberta. And the independents grew, even by 1975 there were more independent geologists than geologists working with major oil companies, international oil companies. I thought the only way to cure that, was to, after the academic training, to get people to technical training. And in fact, old Burmah Oil Company in the U.K. had done that. Before they sent people out into the east for their three year stint, they would train the geologists in a year of engineering. And the engineer got about a year of geology, sort of technical geology, technical engineering, so they'd be more useful in the oil fields. It's not really the sort of thing I was thinking about but. . . So I was thinking about everything from learning how to map, learning how to prepare a prospect, learning how to describe rocks, learning about a drill stem test, learning about well site operations, all these things that make up an experienced geologist. My son-in-law, who is Operation Manager for Shell Oil said that is now being done by the University of Calgary. He has some write up on it, along the lines I've been talking about. So anyway I had meeting with SAIT, SAIT to me was always more flexible in this sort of thing than any other institution in Calgary. And looking for ways to make a buck frankly. But I never had much luck, it just fell by the wayside.

#145 DF: But the purpose was to diversify the knowledge base?

BE: The purpose was to take an academic geologist, right out of school and make him into a

practical oil geologist, without having to go through the . .

DF: The majors?

BE: Yes. So what else have we got here that I'd like to talk about. You talked about the activity when I came to Calgary, I think there were 40 or 50 really active companies, so they were all in this Scout Check. The Scout Check was an organization which disseminated information, it was an information pool. It was kind of an interesting organization in itself, very colourful you know. All kinds of incidents happened. I know, I remember one of our tool pushers shot a shotgun over the head of a scout out in the field, trying to find out what was going on. He left in such a hurry that his jacket was caught in the barbed wire and it was still there the next day. That you know, is not funny. Gulf I think, ended up in trouble because they actually kidnapped a guy, held him in jail until after a sale. Not in jail, held him like in jail in a shack, at well site until after the sale so this fellow couldn't tell them that Gulf had a discovery. They were persecuted over that. They were prosecuted.

DF: Prosecuted.

BE: Exactly, persecuted too, I guess. The fellow was persecuted.

#163 DF: Any other scout stories?

BE: I have two good stories. I went out with a young fellow, we had a scout and by this time I didn't know probably too much but I knew a little bit about rigs. And the Drumheller pool, I determined there was a dry hole and therefore there was two pools at Drumheller instead of one, because of different oil water lines, just by counting the stands and doing this. . . The other one I kind of liked was, we had a new scout, Glenn Bird became fairly well known in town, Bird Oilfield Equipment, Glenn was our new scout and I took him up to Sundre on a Sunday morning to scout a well by Hudson Bay Oil and Gas. We sat in a kind of wooded area that was a pig run, so we had these big old sows going by us, they were 6' long, kind of cutting off our view as we sat there, grunting as they walked. But we watched Hudson's Bay, Sundre #1 come in. It was a successful drill stem test and we could see a little bit of oil here and there. I snuck around, they had a little production tank on the site and I walked over to that and I could feel where it was warm, how much oil was in that tank. And then I thought, well, I think they've got oil, I'm sure Glenn, so we were making all this noise. We got in our car, we'd been out of sight, I drove up to the rig then, like I'd walk up there just nonchalantly, just visit, drop in and say how are you doing. Well, there was light green oil all over the steps, up to the doghouse. There was a bucket of oil by the geologist's shack, I could have picked up a sample if I'd wanted to. So I got on the phone, this was Sunday morning, I called back to my boss, Nick Nichols, he was kind of a tough rough guy, they've got oil, they've got oil. Well, what do you want me to do about it, I can't do anything about it on Sunday. I was pretty excited and that was kind of fun, sitting out there with these pigs going by and everything. But scouts could do a lot and they did do a lot. And it was a pretty efficient system. They used to meet in Red Deer and that was eventually got to be considered wasteful and they had to meet in Calgary, but not downtown where they would have interruptions. They just met in a hotel on the outskirts somewhere. That was interesting, I don't know if they still have

scouts or not or what they do. I've been out of all that. But it was a good information exchange. It wasn't done elsewhere in the world really. They had scouts elsewhere but the Alberta legislature was such that the scout information had to come out in about a year and so it was beneficial to bring it out sooner to those that would give. So you'd give your information, you'd get information on 50 wells or something, so it was a good deal. And if you didn't give it you got kicked out of Scout Check. Sometimes the scout thought they were bigger than the company. So I complained to one of my good friends, who was the Exploration Manager of another company and his scout got in trouble so he was mad at me. But we didn't have to give out anything if it was not in our interests to do it. So we didn't, occasionally. Good times, they were good times. I've gone through my jobs I think. One educational thing I did was in 1971 I took a so-called Executive Development course at Cornell University for 6 weeks. That was my last bit of training. Where would you like me here now?

#216 DF: Well, should we go on to the CSPG? How did you first here about the CSPG, ASPG as it was in those days?

BE: I was basically right out of school, so I was interested in anything, meetings and all this sort of thing, I'd been going to some of those in the States. As soon as I got to town I found out or I knew of, learned about the Alberta Society. So I promptly joined. I went to a meeting in Banff that first summer. I met Arnie Nielson who was there, he was right out of school at the same time. Had a nice visit with him I remember. So anyway, within a short time I was invited to. . the membership was 4 or 5 hundred maybe by then and I was invited to be membership chairman and try to get some members. So I became Membership Chairman, that was my first job about '53, '54 maybe, '53 probably. So I called up one fellow, in each of these 50 or so active companies and said, will you be my representative. So they all rounded up people and we ended up, at the end of the year, with about 1,000 members. So I was a very successful membership chairman, except it was all in a pyramid shaped stack of paper on my desk that was totally unorganized, but at least we had members. The next fellow had to organize it, which wasn't my thing.

DF: So your technique for getting members was just to tree it out, just go to each company and get them to recruit in the company.

BE: Yes. By that time, very soon, I knew about one person in all these companies I guess and it worked fine.

DF: That's a great system.

BE: Well, as I say, it wasn't much for order when it was all done but . . . Then shortly after that I think I was invited to run for the executive as a Business Manager. And the another year I ran for Treasurer and I became Treasurer, that was under Jim Scott. That was interesting, we had the 1955 field trip at Jasper and I think we had \$5,000 in the bank and a \$6,000 bill for the guide book. Somehow we had to convince McAra that this wasn't possible and that was it. The other thing that happened when I was Treasurer - I was here again literally, my predecessor Fred Lyons, a great guy, Chevron guy, died years ago, reached into his side pocket and gave me all the information, all the notes for the ASPG, all the book records. So I did that year, get some proper accounting started and we used

actual Chartered Accountants and that was the first year that happened. But we were talking about \$5,000 and \$6,000, now they have around a million dollars or something. It's incredible. Jim Scott and I, we'd spend more money than we had. Anyway we got out of it, I don't remember exactly how. Have you talked to Jim yet?

#271 DF: No, not yet, he's on the list.

BE: He's a good fellow, real good. That's the other thing. Some of my best friends today were made through these early connections in the Society, these are good people. It was a wonderful way to meet friends. I think I was out for the Society and then they asked me to run for President one year. I think maybe I turned it down, then I was a little ashamed of myself. So the next year they asked me again and I said I would and I did and I was elected.

DF: So you weren't Vice-President first and then President?

BE: I was never Vice-President I don't think.

DF: Okay, because that's usually how it works isn't it?

BE: Yes. We weren't as organized then as now. Well, you had to have two. . maybe the predecessor was. . maybe one had been a Vice-President or something, there were never two Vice-Presidents.

DF: Right. What do you remember from the year you were President, that was what year?

BE: That was '58, 1958 I was President. If I look over these notes here, things do come to mind. On that first page of my report here, I notice there was a Polar Wandering Symposium. Well, that's kind of interesting because that was the indication by magnetics that there must be something to this Continental Drift idea. In other words, Continental Drift had been turned down by North American geologists because there was no physical explanation as to how it would happen. It can't be because we don't understand the mechanics. Well, then this magnetic business came along, well, this seems to prove it, now we've got to find the mechanics. Then Tuzo Wilson at the University of Toronto and other great scientists, Ewing at Columbia University I think it was, they started seeing these patterns in the ocean and then the whole concept developed. But it was just kind of interesting, this one note, I saw Polar Wandering Symposium, 1958. Another thing, we had a Peace River Arch Symposium. There was a great mountain in the Peace River country, 3 or 4 thousand feet high, it's the start of the Devonian times. Later on, it totally collapsed and became a great basin and the other day they had an earthquake there, 5.3 on the Richter scale. I suspect on some of that long ago, active area, kind of interesting. But I think, when I look at these notes, what we were doing was building a basic information base for the geologists of western Canada. You see mention of the bibliography, mention of the lexicon, mention of the Alberta Oilfields volume. There was something else here, a new tectonic map of Canada, these things were all building a base so they could give a foundation for the geologists. We had 32 meetings. The interesting thing there is half of those, about, were evening meetings. There's no way you'd get anyone downtown in this day and age for an evening meeting, partly because of the parking hassle and the town is infinitely bigger, the city is infinitely bigger.

#332 DF: Yes. And so many people live out of town now too.

BE: Yes, so you can't have an evening meeting. We were building bases. Another thing was the Names and Correlations Committee, getting stratigraphy straightened out.

DF: How about this field conference at Nordegg, did you go on that?

BE: Yes, I was the guy. I don't think it was as important or as good as some of them, nor was it as big. It was good but we'd had a couple of excellent ones before that at Golden and Jasper and I don't think our '58 one was as interesting as the others. People didn't work as hard and all that sort of thing. To me it wasn't quite as exciting. Maybe I had other things on my mind as the President.

DF: You could have been busy.

BE: Yes, but there was one thing of interest here, well, a couple of things of interest to me. It says "the education committee at first functioned to help universities train more and better geologists, this service was not appropriate in 1958". What happened there was about January of '58 we'd had a big meeting with university professors from all across the country. We pounded the table, give us geologists, we're in a boom, we need people, we need staff. Then the Suez crisis came along and an oil glut and for several years there nobody wanted geologists. So you know, we'd been through it I think, in '52, 1986 we went through that thing, there's about 3 or 4 or half a dozen.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

BE: But I sure learned a hard lesson then, I was part of the instigator, get us more geologist we need them, then it wasn't really until the Rainbow boom in the early-mid 60's there that got things going for another boom.

DF: In retrospect have you had any ideas on how to rectify that problem of, like you as geologists are looking at long term things but the industry itself goes in quite short term, booms and bust?

BE: Yes. I don't know, I don't have any. . . If I were a young student and we were in a boom today, I think I'd say I wouldn't pick geology. If we were in a bust period, I'd say, you've got to believe it's a good time to study geology. I have no. .

DF: No crystal ball.

BE: No crystal ball that way. I notice our year was the first year we used a paid secretarial service. That was a big hassle, the first step towards a bureaucracy. Now, we have an employee and so forth and I think there's now a desire to get a fund raiser or something like that. I notice we end the year with \$8,948.

DF: So you made some money.

BE: Yes, that was better than we did when I was Treasurer.

DF: But you were doing quite a lot to expand the information base weren't you?

BE: A tremendous amount. You see these circles on my page here, that's all basic data and good basic data and disseminating that data. Assemble the data and then disseminate it to the members, that's what we were trying to do with all the meetings. So those are sure the

highlights I think of. . .

DF: But industry was in a slow period in the late 50's, do you remember why?

BE: It was the glut of oil of the - looking back I'm not quite sure why we said the Suez crisis but it was tied into that Suez crisis, suddenly there was a glut of oil I guess. When there's a glut of oil you don't need more oil in western Canada. And western Canada of course, for many of those years, the oil was pro-rated.

DF: It was also pipeline capacity though, wasn't it? In the early 60's they built more pipelines down to California and so on.

BE: Yes. Pipeline capacity. It had to resolve. . Probably you could have shipped Saudi oil to Redwater or Edmonton cheaper than we could produce it. So there had to be compromise. At one time, Montreal and east got all the overseas oil and Toronto west got all the western oil. That was a good policy and we should be thankful to the east for that, otherwise there wouldn't. .

#030 DF: How come that's never brought up by the western oil. .

BE: I don't know. No, that's fair enough, because that was a very key thing.

DF: That was 1960 wasn't it?

BE: I don't remember.

DF: I believe it was called the Ottawa Valley line. National Oil Policy, which was a 20 year predecessor to the National Energy Program.

BE: Yes, it was more favourable.

DF: Yes. And it was something that the westerners had been lobbying for, for many years, was to get access to central Canadian markets. Because there was all this oil here in the west, in the late 30's but especially in the 50's, because of the Leduc finds and Redwater and so on.

BE: And then Pembina. Which put the majors at odds, Amoco was at Pembina and Imperial had better quality at Redwater and Leduc and those two were at loggerheads all the time. No, that was an important, very major policy. The other thing of course, that pro-rated policy was good for conservation but it also suppressed production in a sense and preserved capital, I think that was part of it. We had 40 acre spacing, 80 acre spacing at Pembina I believe. I was looking at some stuff today, here again, tied into my Oklahoma interests. Old fields, you know. . when our oil field volume mentioned here came out, 40 acre spacing and 15 wells in the little Thompson Lake pool out east of town here, very nice little pool. Now there are something like 130 wells in that little pool with 15 wells. Mind you it expanded some. But it's on 5 or 7 acre spacing obviously, not 40 acre spacing. And pumping water, like the old days, you'd get a water gut, you'd shut the well down, it wasn't economic. Now where I have royalty interests, Thompson Lake, Bells Hill Lake, some of these, these fields are making 93, 95, 98% water. I'm on one that's making 98% water and I'm still getting a pay cheque every month. I don't understand it. I think my friend down in Oklahoma, I think he's in a 1960's or 50's mode down there and I think we've just got a lot more oil to get out of the ground down there. Anyway that's what I'm haranguing him about all the time.

- #058 DF: Improve the technology then eh. Were there any political issues in the year that you were President, as in politics with the province or with the feds?
- BE: No, the only crisis I think was at Suez. I don't remember anything. We were not very political at all, the Society never has been very political, deliberately so. But whether they should be or not I'm not sure. They usually leave that to ???, whatever they call it nowadays.
- DF: Yes, it's interesting, CAP is celebrating it's 75<sup>th</sup> next year, just like CSPG, because they both go back to the Turner Valley days, back to '27, in their formation. Of course, it was called the Turner Valley Producers Association or whatever and it was called the ASPG. But it's getting to be a fairly grandfatherly club now isn't it, the oil industry. It used to be quite young when you came.
- BE: Well, it was. I was a Chief Geologist, I was something like 29 or 29, my boss was 32 or 33. And the regulations were about 1 1/2" thick instead of 5' thick. Well, that was 10 years ago, I don't know what they are now, they might be out of sight. It was very young, very progressive. Much of the technology came from the States but they use of the technology was done in Canada, the coring, the logging. Far more logging percentage wise, was done in Canada than in the States.
- DF: Why is that?
- BE: I think we were young and maybe still more academically slanted and willing to try more new things. We were very proud of all that sort of thing, that we saved our core, that we studied our core. We had our own core, in fact we were even mentioned in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists volume as being, on the Great Plains that is, as being a repository of core. Because we were somewhat academically slanted. Eventually that all went into the Conservation Board, which is a wonderful facility. That may not last because it's not used as much as the government would like it to be used. It's like any library, you know, how many people are using it sort of thing.
- #087 DF: Any other things you'd like to say about the CSPG? What do you think its role is in the future?
- BE: Well, as of last week, Bill Eyrton called me and asked if I would go on to a committee to see how we could upgrade the Reservoir. Are you familiar with the Reservoir, that's their little news magazine, in contrast with the Journal. So I've been thinking about things. As far as the Society goes, I think they're doing a pretty good job, I think they always have. It's changed so much, it's micro-geology they have to do now and computer geology. I think the idea of the Society to get information out to the member, maybe inform the public a little bit but primarily you're getting information out to the members, through meetings and through bulletins. I don't see a big change particularly.
- DF: Have you attended some of these past President's dinners?
- BE: I usually go, I've missed very few.
- DF: Any stories come up at those.
- BE: All kinds of stories. You get 6 past Presidents around a table and there are all kinds of stories. Jimmy Kirker is one of the greatest, I don't know if you've talked to him yet.
- DF: Not yet, no.



BE: He always has the stories. Sure there are a lot of stories. I couldn't think of any when I saw that on your list particularly. Oh, maybe a few. Some of these field trips used to get pretty wild, again, we were young and we did things we don't do now.

DF: Such as?

BE: We were up at Jasper Lodge and we were out in that Outlook Cabin that just burned down, where the Queen had stayed and all this sort of thing. I remember the party got going pretty wild there and one of our past Presidents was up swinging, literally, on a chandelier. That seems to be remember by a lot of people. One my wife and I sort of get a kick out of, I was Treasurer so my wife and I didn't quite get our own room but we had little rooms across the hall from each other. Jim Scott was the President, maybe the past President, whoever, had the Royal Suite so to speak, but I was in this little servants quarters it might be and my wife was across the hallway. Anyway we didn't think much of that so I went over and I slept with her and in the morning I'd hang my pyjamas up on the hook but every night I'd come back, I'd find them in my room hanging on the hook in my room. So the maid would always take my pyjamas out of there, so I don't know what she thought of me.

#123 DF: Let's get back to some general overview questions of your career, what contributions do you consider most significant or what did you enjoy most about your career?

BE: I suppose the real excitement comes with a discovery. I would stress first of all and say that discoveries aren't made by an individual, they're a team. I don't care whether it's a draftsman or the financier, it takes everybody. It certainly takes the idea of the geologists. Geologists are sort of the focal point for a prospect, without a doubt, geophysicists pours information in, engineer pours information in but the geologist has to be the focal point, which makes a wonderful interesting thing. So I think the discoveries. I was associated with some good discoveries, Joffre Oil Field, that was a joint venture with Great Plains, Bayley Selburne on a Canadian Superior farm out. Alex Bayley and George Sellers I think, were the founders of the company. It was gobbled up years ago. That was a Viking discovery. Then we had a good discovery at Elkton, which became the Harmattan field, which is a major gas field, close to a trillion cubic feet I believe. We had another good discovery at Miniuk in the pikisco??? formation. That became close to a trillion cubic feet I believe, of recoverable gas, condensates. And then we had a significant discovery, we called it Eagle Hill which became Harmattan east and that again, was a significant discovery. In Australia I had a lot of fun. After I became manager we had bought into a little company at that time, in south Australia, called SANTOS, which stood for South Australia and Northern Territory Oil Search I think, SANTOS. They had almost all of south Australia tied up, including an area called the Cooper Basin and there were structures around the flank of the Cooper Basin which had been drilled with some occasional success but nothing too significant. But I was sitting in, with our partners in this venture, which were the Delhi Company of Dallas and the French Petroleum Company. And we were looking at a broad regional map we had and there were just kind of wiggly amoeboid lines and we thought, well, we need something to drill, we'd like to

drill out in the middle of the basin. So we looked at this rather funny looking map and, well, here's a little structure, maybe from my background of looking at the broader thing, maybe I said it, maybe I didn't, I better not say that. Anyway somebody said, does it drain into it, is there drainage into that structure so oil can trap from a distance. We went well, here's another contour, here's another contour, well, the thing got bigger and bigger. We drilled that thing and ended up with a field that's something like 3 trillion cubic feet which justified a big inch pipeline to Adelaide and then after I left, a big inch pipeline to Sydney, 60" pipelines. Anyway about that time I became a pipeline expert, which was a farce, of course, I was not at all. So I went to a meeting knowing hardly anything. Esso was interested I think they sent 3 people from New York, but that was the difference between the way we did things and maybe the right way to do it.

#179 DF: And the big boys.

BE: And then in Australia we did a lot of seismic surveying offshore. I was the manager so I wasn't directly involved in it. That resulted in some very big gas discoveries, some of which now goes to Japan and some of which is used locally.

DF: What did you enjoy most about your career, what stands out in your mind, the discoveries but . . . ?

BE: The discoveries and the people. My best friends were probably my Exploration Manager competitors I think. You name a company and I've got good friends who were. .see, they were often involved in the CSPG. Those are highlights, but it's hard to just pick a highlight here and there and for me to say that this was it. But certainly I think the friendship now, is still rewarding. I get together with some of these people every week, people who need to get out of the house. I started that about a year ago, or two years ago, getting together on a Thursday noon. We all happen to be members of the Glencoe Club. Sports has always been an important part of my life, before I got interested in academics.

DF: Oh yes, what kind of sports?

BE: When I was a boy it was baseball and football and when I came to Canada it became more curling for awhile and badminton more seriously and skiing, which I still ski and played badminton last night. Oldest guy in the Glencoe Club playing badminton in the Men's League.

DF: Any regrets?

BE: No regrets. I think we sometimes think, we could all do more. I had respect for the brains I had and I also had respect for the brains I didn't have. Occasionally I could have maybe moved into a higher position and proven, who's wall was it. I had leadership qualities all my life, from early days in the YMCA and the friendly Indians, I think they called it through my corporate career. On the other hand, I've never thought of myself as being the head of a real major big company with lots of financial problems and political contacting relationships. I'm a middle manager and an explorationist and I enjoy that but no regrets I don't think. How could I, I've got more than I need, more than my kids need. So we're doing fine, good health and long life. So how could I have regrets.

#226 DF: Well, anything you thought you might want to do one day and you never got

around to doing? It sounds like you've been very busy.

BE: I still think about doing other degrees even. There's a lot of things I think about doing. I have a cottage out at Wasa Lake, in the Windermere Valley, near Cranbrook. The geology of that area, in the post glacial periods is sort of interesting, it's hit me lately. When the ice melted, after the last great glaciation, here and there, there were great lakes formed. One was down in the area near Missoula, Montana and when it let go, probably several times, it washed out a vast amount of the soil in central Washington state and then went out the Columbia River. We had a great lake that went apparently from Winnipeg, all the way across Saskatchewan and when it went it drained out the Mackenzie and really formed the Mackenzie as it is known today. That Windermere Valley has some interesting things in it, which I think, maybe might show the same sort of thing. So I'm thinking about - there are things we're thinking about - buying some photographs and a stereoscope and maybe an elevation GPS thing and doing a little work. I've got a pick-up down at the cottage, I can bang around in that. So sure I think about things. I think about doing a history degree, I love history, I read a certain amount of history. The first thing I did when I got to Canada was. . . I liked Canadian history, it was simple. I've got to go back. Can I go somewhere else. I had a geology professor at Denison. I'd had all this wartime academic credit, which included a lot of geography, history, good liberal arts courses. The time came to get my degree, I was going to get a Bachelor of Science degree, he said, why don't you get a Bachelor of Arts degree. You know how, in Canada particularly the Bachelor of Sciences thinks he's quite a bit above the Bachelor of Arts. Well, that wasn't the case there, he said, a Bachelor of Arts indicates you're an educated man, not just a scientific technician. He said, you're going to graduate school. So I had a Bachelor of Arts degree and it was because, this professor thought an Arts degree indicated an education and I agree with him. I'm proud of all that miscellaneous background. I had an awful lot of credit when I graduated from university, more than I needed. But it just was a lot of stuff. Anyway, I've enjoyed history. My wife does a lot of genealogy. She found I think, 40 new relatives yesterday, down there on the computer. But these people came from places you know, they came from Germany, they came from Holland, they came from all over England. And once they got here, we had four families fought in the American Revolution, two on the British side, two on the American side. The British side escaped to Canada and then they all came back to Illinois, in a round about way. The whole route though, just speculating on all these people, you can do a lot of history, what were the times, each one of these stages, why did they move. Maybe you know, maybe you'll never know, but it's kind of fun. But I do a lot of reading. Anyway that's kind of a summary, I don't know if there's other things. . .

#291 DF: Anything else that leaps off the page?

BE: No. I do want to get to the Glenbow some time. The group of maps I got after Lewis McNaughton died in Dallas, we used to send him copies of everything we did basically. His estate, after his death, returned those maps to what was left of Great Plains, which became part of Norcen, I should say and they didn't want them and they were given to me to do what I wanted with them. Many of these maps were very fine studies. So I threw

away a lot of stuff that was outdated and one thing and another but I kept about 15 or 20 maps. And it was on the basis of that, that I gave a talk to the Petroleum Historical Society 2 years ago I think, or 3 years ago. I don't think you were there, David.

DF: I don't think I was, no.

BE: Anyway, I talked about exploration in the 50's at that time and then also about Great Plains and these maps. Ordinarily you wouldn't have those maps, those maps wouldn't be saved. But it was the peculiar circumstance they came back to me after the death of this man, our President. But anyway, they're almost all in the 50's, a few early 60's, they should be in the Glenbow I think.

DF: Absolutely, yes, that's a really good idea.

BE: I've got them downstairs but I've just got to make a few inserts. I found a few maps after I gave my talk, when I cleaned out some other files. I'd given all my books away to various people. I gave about 10' of books to the University of Calgary at one time. They were mainly on Canadian geology, then I had a nephew in law, who's a professor at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and I gave him 770 lb. of books here awhile back, which he was delighted to get. Most people around here wouldn't want that sort of thing, there's too many people like myself, giving away too many books. But he took everything.

DF: That's great. Anything else? You certainly made lots of notes.

BE: Well, we've talked about a lot of these. CSPG and its future. I'd like to say that volunteerism at the CSPG, I think has been great. That's been built by the volunteers. We've talked about many of these things I think. Swan Hills was a hot area when I was President because that was a major discovery. I couldn't think of any gossip that was 43 years old, it was 43 years ago I was President so I was a little short on gossip there.

DF: That's fine.

BE: I think I've exhausted myself.

DF: Well, we're just about out of tape on this side of the tape so I'll take this opportunity, on behalf of the CSPG and the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, to thank you so very much for spending time with us today and allowing us to record your recollections. It's a very important part of the history of western Canada and we greatly appreciate it.

BE: Thank you for doing this, for the whole project. I hope I've said something that's partially coherent anyway.

DF: Oh no, you've done very well, thank you very much.