

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Jean Greig

INTERVIEWER: Nadine Mackenzie

DATE: January 1984

NM: This is Nadine Mackenzie speaking. Today is Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, 1984. I am at the home of Ms. Jean Greig, Apartment 406, 1334 - 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. in Calgary. Ms. Greig, thank you very much for having accepted to participate in our project. Can you tell me, when and where were you born?

JG: when was June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1915, in Toronto. It was Western Ontario at that time, but it's now part of Toronto, so I just say Toronto.

NM: What did your family do?

JG: My father was an architect and estimator. He was Scottish, born in Edinburgh. He came to Canada in 1907, met my mother at the same boarding house in Toronto and they subsequently married and I was the first result.

NM: Where were you educated?

JG: In elementary school in Hamilton and in high school in Toronto and university at McMaster and at Victoria College in Toronto.

NM: What did you study?

JG: English and French were my majors.

NM: Why did you choose these subjects?

JG: At that time I thought I wanted to teach and while I liked most subjects, I preferred the arts to mathematics or sciences and languages had always interested me. English first and subsequently Latin and French, which we had to take.

NM: How many years did you stay at the university?

JG: Three, two in Hamilton and one in Toronto.

NM: Did you take any summer jobs?

JG: No, there weren't any then. It was Depression and the only summer jobs there were, were on farms as fruit pickers or at the northern resorts in Ontario as waitresses and my mother thought I was too small and would be exploited if I did either.

NM: So what did you do when you left university?

JG: Well, I changed my mind about teaching at that time, and my father was in England because during the Depression there was no work in his field in Canada and he was part of an enterprise to manufacture some kind of fire-proof brick and they were able to get some backing in England, so he was there. That was really why I had to change from a 4 year course to a 3 year course, he expected that he would be sending for us to go there and live and if I hadn't had a degree of some kind before I went there I would have had to start all over again at an English university, so I switched to pass Arts and finished up at Victoria College at U. of T. and got a degree. Well, then of course, it turned out. . well, the next year there was Munich and things didn't look so good and it turned out it was

going to be a miserable little mining town where they were going to settle and he decided to come home instead. So before that he knew he probably wasn't going to stay there and here I was with just a pass degree, wouldn't have been able to get a specialist certificate, was becoming a little less interested in teaching anyway so I took a secretarial course and applied for an office job, it was kind of important to get something, in those times. I was lucky enough, after one or two abortive attempts to become hired, nobody thought I was over 17, in spite of my education which they could see, so they didn't want to hire me, so I was lucky enough to get on at Imperial in the Geological Department.

#041 NM: What was your job there?

JG: Well, they wanted somebody to recatalogue a library they had there, with a lot of company reports, government reports and some basic texts. So that was the official reason for my being hired. They also wanted someone to do some translating and part of my contract was that I would learn Spanish because they handled the operations in South America for International Petroleum as well as the regular Canadian. .

NM: So you learned Spanish?

JG: Yes, I learned it with a tutor because I couldn't take the regular day courses at the university, but I had to cover the same material because part of the idea was that if I was going to take it I wanted to write the examination and at least have credit for having completed the course in Spanish. So I took it for 3 years with an approved tutor and wrote the exam each year.

NM: Did you use your Spanish a lot?

JG: Not really, nearly as much as I had thought. I think I translated one contract and a few occasional things that came along. No, it was a bit of a disappointment that way because that part of it had appealed to me.

NM: Were there many women working for Imperial at the time?

JG: Well, there was the usual what you might call domestic staff. Yes, there were quite a number, not in any major positions of course. I guess the most important woman was the President's secretary. There were let me see,, in the office where I worked, there were two women already on staff, I made the third.

NM: Were you working in the head office?

JG: Yes, it was at 56 Church Street in those days.

NM: How was it, what did it look like, was it a big building or. . .?

JG: Well, it was as a matter of fact, the cornerstone said it had been built around 1922 or 1923. This was 1937 when I started there so it wasn't all that old a building but it seemed a very old building, it was built old fashioned. Very solid, the washrooms had solid marble partitions and great solid plumbing fixtures and massive taps. The offices had high ceilings and it was supposed to be fire proof. It looked like mahogany trim around the doors and so forth, but it actually was metal, with a grain, the way they do arborite now.

#070 NM: How were the conditions of working?

JG: Oh well, I guess they were a lot plusher there than in many other offices but they were

quite formal. For instance, even the three of us women that worked there addressed each other as Miss. If we went to lunch together we would call each other by first names but not during working hours. There were quite a number of men in the department because the Drafting and Reproduction services were sort of part of it and the Chief Advisory Engineer looked after those. After I came I sort of did his work and there were two others, there was the Chief Geologist and a man they called, I guess the Department Manager and the other two women worked respectively, for those two. Then I also had to start reorganizing the library, making some kind of system and all that sort of thing.

NM: What about the atmosphere?

JG: It was pleasant but it too, was quite a bit more formal than now. One didn't fool around particularly and there were no such things as coffee breaks in those days, at least not official and none of us lesser types even contemplated such a thing.

NM: What were your hours of work then?

JG: That was another area, where I was considered very fortunate and I was too, we worked 8:45-4:45, Monday to Friday and no Saturday mornings. I think we were about the only outfit that didn't work Saturday mornings in those days. It was just general. It was explained to me that how that arose was in the early days of the Depression, 1931-32, when things were really so bad, they considered how to retrench and they put it to the employees, would they consider taking a general 10% cut and no Saturday work, to avoid having to lay anybody off. And they agreed and the understanding was, the 10% cut would be restored as soon as things improved. Of course, they subsequently did improve, and the 10% cut was restored but by then they had found that they operated just as well working the five day week, so they never did go back working Saturdays. Except during the war years, for two or three years, they did.

#103 NM: And no coffee break, how long did you get for lunch?

JG: We had an hour. Oh, and that was another thing. Women were not allowed to smoke in the offices.

NM: Men could smoke.

JG: Yes. I wouldn't have objected if there had been no smoking in the offices, that wouldn't have seemed strange. After all, one didn't expect to smoke just everywhere in those days, but I always resented the fact that men could smoke in the offices but women couldn't.

NM: It was the idea at the time that it was not very elegant for women to smoke.

JG: I don't know, I think it was just part of the stuffy atmosphere. I thought then that it was a little bit stuffy, certainly later on, after I came to Calgary I realized. But it improved in the time I was there too.

NM: And then what happened?

JG: I guess I got finished the library and before I finished the library, they decided the files needed reorganizing and so I got that job to do too. That's another thing, this building had what they called a sub-basement, which was exactly what it said, a basement below the basement, and that was where the ancient files were kept and every now and then I would have to go down there to find something from 10 or 15 years ago. Because that was before micro-film or any of the simpler methods of storage, certainly long before

computers. So I would have to go down to these old filing cabinets. Of course, also in those days, the building was heated by coal, most buildings in Toronto were. So the kind of dust that you got, you could see the glint in it that told you it was coal dust and it was absolutely black. I used to hate it, I always used to prefer to have a day's notice if I was going to go down there because you just got so dirty. That's one thing, in doing the library I had the same problem because the books hadn't been touched for ages and they were all full of this coal dust. I remember I bought two smocks, sort of like butchers smocks, they were a black. . . this was before they had nylon but they were I guess a rayon sort of material and I used to put them on when I was working in the library, because otherwise your clothes just got filthy. Especially in the summer, when it would be so hot and sticky anyway and of course, nothing was airconditioned, only movies.

#135 NM: How were the filing systems?

JG: Oh, steel filing cabinets, much the same as the steel filing cabinets now and folders, or acco-press??? binders, they had all those things then. Some of them have changed very little.

NM: What about the library, was it a big library or small one?

JG: No, it was very small and I worked in it. . .well, when I say it was very small, I guess it was. . .about 8' x 12' maybe. I don't think it was 15' and there were bookcases all around, the kind with the. . I used to know what they were called, the kind that you can buy separately and stack and they have glass doors that you ??? up and slide back along the top. It was supposed to keep the dust out but they hadn't. But I had a window.

NM: Did you order the books?

JG: No, most of them were already there. It was more a matter of just organizing them into some kind of systematic order on the shelves so that you could find them. I'm trying to remember if I had a card. . I think I probably typed cards for them and had them. . . .

NM: Where were these books coming from mostly?

JG: Actually most of the reports that we had there were from Alberta or from the west here. They had reports about Turner Valley and they had reports later on, about Leduc and then during the war they had reports on the Canol project, a great many of those and as they came in I used to have to put them into the system and shelve them and so forth.

NM: Who was your boss?

JG: He was the Chief Supervisory Engineer, do you mean his name? His name was George Britton.

NM: How long did you work for him?

JG: Until I was transferred to Calgary. He wasn't transferred to Calgary, he went with Imperial, stayed with Imperial I should say. Which was better because after all, he had a family and was much more established there and it was time I went somewhere else.

NM: What happened during the war years?

JG: One thing that happened was that they were so short of young men that they started sending females down to South America for secretarial jobs. That was very popular with some of the young girls there.

#171 NM: Why?

JG: Well, see the world, change, also lots of men. Any men that were down there were single, pretty well, except the executives who worked there constantly. But mostly you went down on a two year contract and had some summer leave in the first year and then came back on the second year. Have you interviewed Keith Huff.

NM: No, I haven't.

JG: Oh. Because the woman who became his wife worked in the department down the hall from me at that time and that's how she met him. He was down in South America, she went down on a two year contract.

NM: It was a romance in South America.

JG: Oh yes, it seemed to flourish down there for awhile. The other thing was we started to work Saturday mornings. Not all departments and it was voluntary, but there was enough extra work and we couldn't get extra drafting help. So Drafting and Reproduction used to work Saturday mornings and neither of the other two women wanted to come in on Saturday mornings so I did, because they needed somebody and it was all right, I didn't mind too much. We had a war services group, the women had this war services group and we used to do work for the Red Cross. We used to stay down every Wednesday night after work and we'd all go to Murray's Restaurant and have dinner and then we'd go to . . . I'm trying to think, it was on the third floor of the Red Cross building at that time I guess. What we used to do was, Imperial Oil paid for whatever materials we were using and we did the work and made whatever the Red Cross wanted.

NM: So it was a contribution from Imperial.

JG: Yes. We did the work, they paid the Red Cross for the cost of, I guess the place and the materials. I remember what we started out doing was making clothes for British civilians, because a lot of the bombed out people, this would be during the Battle of Britain and they were constantly having to outfit people who lost everything during the blitz. So that was a little more interesting because we weren't just knitting army things. One did that of course, I don't know how many socks I knitted, they always knitted socks and you could do it on the streetcar. I had about a 40 minute streetcar ride to get to work so you could get a bit done. Socks with short needles, you could . . . you didn't. . . because you sat very crowded on the streetcar during rush hour and so you didn't have much elbow room but you didn't need it for socks. Anyhow we used to make these clothes and that was a real war effort as far as I was concerned because knitting I like but sewing I hate. Sewing was what we had to do mostly. We also adopted a fair mile???. I don't know if you know what a fair mile was.

#219 NM: No.

JG: Well, a fair mile was. . .you've probably heard of a corvette and a frigate. Well, a fair mile wasn't as small as a corvette but it wasn't as big as a frigate. It was . . .

NM: So just in between then.

JG: It had two merlin engines, and I forget what the crew was but it was . . .it wasn't as big as a frigate but as I say, it didn't look like a coast guard boat, which is what corvettes looked like. So we got together a bunch of ditty bags and a ship's library of paper bags that

everybody donated and collected and outfitted this fair mile. We got a nice letter of acknowledgement from the captain and later on they happened to be in port in Toronto Harbour and we had a formal invitation to come down for a tour of the ship and have tea and so forth. And everybody was all smart in their uniforms and they took us down to the engine room and started the engines, just idling and it was louder than the printing room at the Toronto Star, which we had a tour of when I was in school and I didn't know how they stood it. But he said, oh they're just idling now, they're much louder than that, but he said, you get used to it, sometimes you can hear a coin drop. But that was a little bit of an adventure.

NM: What other changes were there during the war years?

JG: Not so many changes in my work place particularly. But the whole. . .well, sometimes you had trouble getting stockings and I remember one time I had to ask permission to get off and go over to Eaton's at 9:30 in the morning, so I could replace my only pair of stockings which I had had to wear with a run in them. I went and showed them to my boss and said, please can I go over to Eaton's when they open, because if I wait until the lunch hour the stockings will be all gone. So he said, well we can't have that and so I went over. And at that they often would only let you have one pair. It would have been much more practical to let people have two because they would last longer. And of course, you really had to fight too, and at my size I didn't find that so easy. I used to have difficulty getting anywhere near the counter. Another thing, they took off the luxury tax. Of course, there weren't that many imports so there wasn't really that much point. They also took the amusement tax off, which meant that you could get to go to a movie for a little less money. In those days you paid 25 cents to go to a neighbourhood movie in the evening and children paid 10 cents. First run downtown movies were 35 cents until 6:00 and then they went up to 50 cents. I think children were 15 cents at the downtown movies. When you think about what it cost to go to movies now. Of course, people were still not all that well off, although they were better off after the war came. The streetcars would be full of women who worked in war plants and you could always tell them because they wore these cotton turbans and pompadours were in style then and so women would have these quite intricately knotted cotton turbans to keep their hair safely under control and away from the machinery. And then they would have the pompadour sort of rolled up over the front of the know you know. It almost was like a uniform. They wore slacks too and of course respectable working women didn't go to work in slacks in those days, not in offices.

#283 NM: And then Dr. Link came on the scene?

JG: It must have been towards the end of or just after the war, because it was before . . .we were still in the 56 Church St. building. I had heard of T. A. Link for years of course, and the library was full of reports by T. A. Link and I'd heard people talk about him but I had never met him. I'd heard that he was quite a joker, definitely the opposite of pompous but I had never seen him. But we were informed that he was going to come and he would be occupying the office that was just off the library where I worked. It's summertime I guess, and I'm sitting there one day and he's supposed to come that day, and I looked all

morning and no sign of him and so I was just working away. I was sitting at my desk and I know it was summertime and it must have been hot because I had a Coke. We used to send the office boy, there was a little snack. . what would you call it. . .most buildings have them, where you can get chocolate bars and pop and that sort of thing on the main floor. So it was accepted that we could send the office boy down if it was hot, and he would bring us a Coke. So I had a Coke sitting beside my typewriter and I'm sitting typing, concentrating on what I'm doing and all of a sudden, a head with a cowboy hat on leans over my shoulder and takes a great long swig of my Coke and said, my I needed that. So I looked at him and I said, you must be Dr. Link and he said, that's right, who are you. So I told him who I was and that's how I met Dr. Link.

NM: After he drank your Coke.

JG: Well, not all of it, just a good pull. So anyway, he proved to be just as much fun as they had said. I particularly enjoyed him because I felt he was a bit of what head office needed. He sort of specialized in what you might say, destuffing shirts. I used to love hearing him speak to some other people and see their eyebrows practically climb up into their hair. I remember our Chief Geologist was a rather shy man. Dr. Link had know him before, they knew each other all right. So I happened to be on the elevator and they got on after me, this was going down from the fourth floor to the first floor and there was a very formidable older woman, steno from one of the floors above happened to be on the elevator. So the Chief Geologist introduced Dr. Link, he was being very punctilious about introducing him to any new person that they happened to encounter, this was still just the first two or three days he was there. So she looked as if. . .she always did look as if her face would crack if she smiled but she murmured something and then we reached the main floor and of course, the men stood back for us to go out. Just as she was walking past the Chief Geologist, Dr. Link said, watch yourself when you go past him, he's liable to pinch you. The poor Chief Geologist, anybody less likely to pinch anybody ever. He sort of looked around and I had to hurry and get out and go around the corner so I could break up without anybody seeing me. But it was so funny.

NM: This is the end of the tape.

## Tape 1 Side 2

JG: It seemed as if I had known of him for quite a long time, through his reports and because he was in the west, I think he had worked there since 1922 or something like that. I don't know too much about his background except what I read in the odd oil journal of the time. I believe he was one of a fairly large family, all of whom distinguished themselves and had post graduate degrees.

NM: A bright family then.

JG: Yes, they seemed to be. I don't know, I think there were five or six of them at least. I know a Water K. Link, he was the youngest Link and he worked in the New York office Standard Oil and he was editor of the exploration newsletter at one time. That was a thing that Standard Oil used to circulate at one time, for information. Then one time, I remember, it would have to have been when he was in the Toronto office, Dr. Link's sister came to visit him and he brought her into the department and introduced her to us and she would be a lay, I guess about that time, of about 50 or so, very smart looking and the most stunning hat. I was most impressed, I always liked hats, partly because they made me look taller I think and people tended to take one more seriously if one were wearing a smashing hat. I can't describe the hat but I can almost close my eyes and see it, it was very impressive. I don't know what Dr. Links parents did at all, but I do know he was American. He just died fairly recently, just a year or two ago. He had retired to Victoria. I saw him various times after I came to Calgary of course.

NM: What about W. D. C. Mackenzie?

JG: Well, he had distinguished himself in the Calgary office and they were . . . well, people who distinguished themselves in what was then considered the boondocks are sort of on the list of people who might be groomed for stardom, so to speak, so he went to Toronto for a bit and then the idea was he would get used to the east in Toronto I guess. They wanted him in the New York office. I guess he was in Toronto only for a few months, that was the first time I met him. Everybody thought he was a very fine person, also a very able person and they weren't at all surprised that they wanted him in New York. But I understood he didn't stay in New York very long, he didn't like it. He was the rare sort of person who could walk away from a future if he didn't like the circumstances so he came back. Later on, after I had been in Calgary for awhile he came back as Manager of the Western Division.

#036 NM: And then you moved office?

JG: Yes. I did. And a number of the others of us. International Petroleum had always shared the same offices as Imperial Oil and the Geological Department was just a Geological Department that did work for both. But the South American operations were becoming a little more. . . well, they'd spread into Ecuador as well, not that I think they ever found any oil in Ecuador, but they had been doing a lot of exploration. The 56 Church Street, I think they felt we needed more room because they wanted to expand because of



developments in the west so around '46 I think it was, we got this other building, which was a more modern building, farther uptown, 434 University Avenue. It was all completely gutted and refurbished inside and so everything was. . .oh, fresh paint and new and lighter and brighter, not as high ceilings, this sort of thing, so we thought this was a great improvement, those of us who were among the staff that worked for International. And I and the Chief Advisory Engineer and several of that department were among those that moved. So it still was the Geological Department but it was just for International and we had our own Drafting and Reproductive Services attached. That was. . . of course when we moved in, the furniture was just sort of moved in and we had to organize it and there was no work that could be done for a day or so, so we were just sort of sitting around. So that was when I decided it was time, we women were emancipated and I corralled a bunch of ashtrays and set them around and we sat and smoked our cigarettes and somehow nobody seemed to pay much attention and when we got the furniture all straightened around everybody had an ashtray on his or her desk.

NM: So it was accepted then for a woman to smoke.

JG: It was accepted. At the same time we started. . .well, there was a coffee shop just across the road and what we used to do was send the office boy out to get us coffee because they seemed to object if we went and sometimes it did take rather long, if there were a lot of us, it took too long for everybody to get served and get back in a reasonable length of time.

NM: So you started to have coffee break.

JG: Well, first we started just sort of doing this and the department head didn't seem to mind, I guess they liked their coffee breaks too. Then there would be a directive come from the top floor, saying that employees were not supposed to leave the building during working hours unless on a specific errand. So then we used to send the office boy to fetch us coffee and so forth, but eventually they decided I guess, that they couldn't reverse the process, just about everybody in the workplace, not just ours, seemed to be expecting to have coffee breaks, so they established a little cafeteria sort of place, down in the basement and you could go down there and get coffee.

#072 NM: So that was a great improvement.

JG: Oh yes, it was. And they had two or three table there so you could either eat your lunch there, or you could buy sandwiches and take them back and eat them in your office if you wanted, so things became a little more relaxed in that way.

NM: Did you have improvement also with your typewriter, with the carbon. . . .?

JG: Oh yes. Well, when you wrote letter to South America, you had to make nine carbon copies.

NM: Nine?

JG: Yes. You had to send the original and either two or three to the South American office. Then there had to be two copies for the executive files in the building, two copies for our department files. . well, I guess maybe four or five copies had to go, because it seems to me there were two or three other people that had to have copies attached of the original letter plus the files copies, so sometimes we had to make as many as nine carbon copies.

So yes, we used an onion skin letterhead but even so, your ninth carbon copy had to be a little bit smudgy. This was before the days of fused carbon, it was just the paper backed carbon and in the hot, sticky wether, trying to get nine sheets of carbon in and keep them flat so that none of them got folded up and you lost the corner of the letter, was a real problem. After the war, that was one of the great improvements, they brought out the fused carbon, flat as a pancake, can't curl, they had all kinds of names for it. As far as I was concerned it was the greatest invention since Kleenex.

NM: What about a typewriter, you had an IBM?

JG: I had one of the first IBM electric typewriters, that was long before the Selectric one with the ball, this was a manual . . well, I mean looked just like a manual except that it had the automatic carriage return. It was quite noisy compared with what they are now, but it. . I had great difficulty getting used to it after an ordinary manual and for a time I couldn't type properly on either but eventually I just got rid of the manual and said I have to get used to this. And then when I came to Calgary I had an old beat up Royal manual, that must have been 15 years old at least and I had to get used to it all over again.

#102 NM: What was the Interpreter?

JG: It was our own little, you might say, house organ or newsletter at International. Imperial had their Esso. . I forget what it was called at that time and you see, the Esso Club was what their social and recreational club had always been called but when we separated we had our own Interpete Club. And I think it was as a result of this Interpete Club that we had the Interpreter. Interpeter, it was a kind of feeble pun but anyway I forget how many issues but I guess we did it for two or three years. At that time we had got this machine called the Vary Typer, which was sort of the forerunner of the fancy electronic typewriters that they have now, with all the different type fonts. This was in the Drafting and Reproduction Department, so . . I was the editor for this and collected the material and I used to type it up to fit, we used the regular letter sized paper and folded it in half, so it made, what. . .8 1/2 x 5 1/2 sort of page and stapled it down the back.

NM: Why was it called Interpreter?

JG: Because the Interpete Club, Interpete was International Petroleum, we called it Interpete and so Interpreter was kind of a natural offshoot from Interpete. We still used to have the occasional Italian organ grinder on the streets of Toronto at that time, and there was this particular, there was one used to come and stand right outside the window of my office. He had an organ that played all these old tunes, like When You Wore a Tulip and Take Me Out to the Ball Game, gay 90's tunes. In fact, I suspect that's probably when a lot of those barrel organs were made. So I needed something for the magazine, the Interpreter one time, so I went and interviewed him. At first he was a little bit nervous, he wanted to know what it was for, so I took a copy and showed him. He wanted to make sure it was nothing to do with the police Ii think. In any case, I found out where I had thought there was only one, there were actually two of them. They weren't brothers but they did know of each other and so some days it would be one and some the other and since they both wore the same sort of rundown, beat up suits and battered fedoras, it was a little hard to tell from four floors up. We used to throw. . wrap dimes and nickels in memo sheets and

toss them down to them. So that was kind of an interesting little thing, I doubt if there are any barrel organs around now, except in museums.

#140 NM: And then Leduc happened?

JG: Yes, well. We were interested of course, in hearing of Leduc, but the main difference it made to us was a little bit later. I guess it was after Golden Spike, that was when Imperial decided it wanted as much money as possible to put into the western play so it sold International Petroleum, with its South American interests, back to the shareholders. Standard Oil in New York was the largest shareholders so all of a sudden we found we were owned by Standard Oil and we no longer worked for Imperial at all, even a branch of Imperial. So we wondered what would happen and they had a company lawyer give us an announcement and say, business as usual and not to worry, but nobody really could see that this was likely to persist because when you think of a company whose head office is in New York City and whose operations are in South America, why maintain a Toronto office at all. Well, they said, the tax situation was better and that was one reason. This went on for about two years, during which morale got progressively lower. I wasn't so worried, because I was relatively young and single but some of the people who were older and had families, I could understand their concern. And then finally it was announced that International would give up its Toronto offices and they would move to new offices in Coral Gables, Florida, with a somewhat reduced staff. Those of us that had a reasonable amount of service, they did their best to relocate elsewhere within the organization. Those who didn't or who didn't want to be relocated wherever it was suggested they might go, they could leave and they were offered reasonably good severance pay. So my boss, the Chief Advisory Engineer, he went back to working for Imperial in the Production Department and I was offered the chance to come to Calgary and set up the library in the Exploration Department here. So since I'd always . . .

NM: That's why you moved to Calgary?

JG: Yes. Otherwise I would have had to look for another job in Toronto, which I suppose I could have found. I'd been living at home all this time and it was really time I left, after all I was 36 years old. And I'd always wanted to see the west. I liked horseback riding, I used to do it for an hour Sunday mornings, English style, which is what they had in Toronto, but I used to see in the movies sometimes western riders silhouetted against the sky on a mountain ridge and I'd think, someday I'm going to go out to that country and I'm going to do that kind of riding. So here was my chance, so I did. I did that kind of riding too.

#180 NM: I heard that the telegram talking about the discovery of Leduc was lost?

JG: Well, I hadn't heard that and I wasn't in Calgary at that time. It was probably 3 or 4 years later that I arrived, but I'm not surprised if they couldn't find a copy of it in Calgary because when I was first there I had occasion to use the files, the girls directed me to the cabinet. I forget what I was trying to follow up but they had the strangest way of filing things. I had one file that had memos to and from Toronto. And then teletypes would be on a file by themselves and then memos from D. B. Lair was another file and if you

wanted to try to follow a certain matter through, you'd end up with a great stack of files on your desk and have things marked in all of them and they would all be having to do with the same thing. So maybe the telegram got put in a file of telegrams to Toronto and maybe it had been put in dead storage by the time they got a proper filing system going. I think the reason was, it struck me, first I was horrified and then I realized the way the pace of the work and the organization in Calgary had expended over the last 3 or 4 years had been so great that they'd been scrambling just to do things from day to day and they'd had no time to figure out systems and really organize the office part. I'm sure all the people in the office were just working their heads off trying to keep up with the people in the field.

NM: When you arrived in Calgary, what were your first impressions, coming from a big city like Toronto?

JG: As a matter of fact, I was quite favourable impressed. I didn't know what Calgary would be like, everyone who'd every been to Calgary said I would like it. The people were friendly and whoever it was always said they'd enjoyed it very much while they were here. I knew that. . . we had a bank teller that I used to go to in Toronto and she was from Alberta and she used to say she missed the mountains and most of all she missed the sunshine. So I thought well, if there's lots of sunshine that would be fine. I elected to go out by train, mainly to have a bit of a rest after the whirlwind departure that I . . . I had three weeks from the time I accepted the transfer to be on the way and I decided that two days and three nights on the train would be rather pleasant and I might see some of the country as well. I remember getting off the train at about 7:00 a.m. at the CPR station which was still where it is, right behind the Palliser Hotel and I was staying at the Palliser. I got off the train and it was the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1951. It turned out later, I found out it was one of the hottest days of the year in Calgary, but it was a beautiful morning and the sky was so blue and the air was sort of piney and fresh. I though oh, this is just splendid. Also I was prepared for it to be more towny, much less of a proper city. I had conditioned myself, Toronto is pretty big and you're going to find things a lot different. Actually it had a great many things that I hadn't counted on finding so as I say, I was favourably impressed.

#248 NM: Where were the office of Imperial at the time?

JG: Well the main office was at 300 - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W. and that was still referred to as the old Albertan Building. Apparently they'd had Harry Peale???, who was the head of maintenance for Imperial, said that when they first moved in there, they'd had a great problem with silver fish in the basement because the newsprint had been stored there for so long and apparently silver fish just love that kind of lair. This had been eliminated long before I arrived but he still remembered it vividly.

NM: What did your work entail at the time?

JG: They wanted somebody to set up a library for the Exploration Department. Apparently there was quite a lot of material that had been sort of ordered over the years and had accumulated in various individuals offices and they thought it was time that it was all coordinated and put in one place so that it was accessible to everybody and also could be

kept track of. Then there were also a real large number of company reports, quite a few file cabinets full of them and they wanted those eventually to become part of the library too, so that all the information would be in one spot, for the Exploration Department. Now this didn't . . . I don't know whether they collected anything from any other departments. I don't think they did, not to start with anyway. So when I arrived, actually I arrived on a Wednesday and I expected to start work right away, but my arrival was a bit of an embarrassment because they hadn't got the room quite ready. They were still painting. . . they built shelves all around the perimeter of the room and they were still finishing those off and painting them and so forth, so they said, would I please not come to the following Monday. In the meantime I could be looking for a place to live, because I just had a week at the Palliser on Imperial. So I arrived the following Monday morning and here is this great room, it was quite a large sized room, with bookcases all around the edges, except where the window was. And great cartons of journals and magazines and government reports and great heaps and stacks of material all over the floor. I sort of had to thread my way among them and there was a desk and a typewriter.

#301 NM: And you were supposed to put all that in order?

JG: And I was supposed to put all that in some kind of order. I think the first day I was there, this tall distinguished looking man with a moustache appeared and introduced himself with great formality as Dr. Cricknay??? and he wondered if I could find him a certain government report. I looked at the material and he looked at the material and I said, well, I'll see, so we rummaged around and eventually I found it. So that was my introduction and well, gradually I got them sorted out. In those days the papers that the Geological Survey puts out, professional papers were in brown manila envelopes with the title on the front and you removed the material from inside and it was a mimeographed. . . several sheets stapled together with a map probably at the back. There were great numbers of these. I started with them because they were numbered and it was a lot easier to sort out numbered material than just miscellaneous. So I sorted these out but I got them all segregated and I listed them. I made a list of them just as I came to them, not any particular order, just as I came to them. Then I thought I would reorganize them by number properly. Of course, it wasn't a complete set, it was just what they happened to have, they'd ordered the ones that covered the areas they were interested in and not bothered with others.

NM: Did you have any help or were you on your own?

JG: I was on my own. In fact, I had great difficulty for some time, finding out who my boss was, who my supervisor was. I figured I had to be under somebody but nobody seemed to know. It was really funny because after I had been there I noticed my pay cheque was a little more and I hadn't heard any rumours or . . . usually if you're going to get an increase, your supervisor informs you or somebody informs you. So I wondered if it was a mistake, so I went to the Personnel. . . no, Doug Lair was away and I didn't know whom to ask so I phoned up the Personnel Manager. Because the thing was, I had gone to the bank and then I didn't like to cash the cheque when I saw it was different in case payroll had made a mistake. So I went back and I tried to find out about this. Well, I still laugh when I think

about it because I phoned the Personnel Manager and told him the situation you see and he said, well, why don't you ask Doug Lair and I said, he's away. So long silence and he said, well, I do have that information but I don't think it should come from me. I said, well, what am I supposed to do, he said, ??? would know, I said, he's away for two weeks, which he was.

NM: This is the end of the tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

JG: So finally I said, well look, all I really want to know it, do you think it would be safe for me to cash that cheque. So after some reflection he said, yes, he reckoned as how I could cash the cheque, so I said, fine, that's all I wanted to know. So I went and cashed the cheque and when Doug Lair came back he said, he was sorry that it had come as a surprise to me, but the memo hadn't come through before he went away and it was on his desk, in his basket when he got back.

NM: What a nice surprise.

JG: Oh, it was a nice surprise yes. I remember I said, my goodness I hadn't expected it, I'd only been there a year and besides I think I'd been there only about six weeks when I got a 6% increase because everybody got them because of the cost of living, they called them cost of living bonuses in those days. But I think I was a little mistaken. I knew by them that Doug Lair was my boss, but earlier on, I had occasion to write a letter to Toronto and I couldn't just write over my own signature, it had to have somebody more official than I was. So that was when I wanted to know whose name I should write it over. So I went and asked Doug Lair and he said, no, you're working for Ray Walters and I went and asked Ray Walters and he said, no, you're working for Doug Lair. Do I asked them would they please sort it out and tell me who. . I explained to them why I needed to know and I finally found out that it was D. B. Lair's name that I should be putting, so that was fine.

NM: And then did you move to another building?

JG: Well, not for quite awhile. I guess I was about six years there on my own in the library and I eventually had got it organized to some extent. About that time, I guess it was down in Houston, they had built a fine splendid library and information was getting to be a recognized important element in the business and Houston was kind of a pioneer library offering all kinds of services and research services. Now, I had done a little of that, I used to prepare bibliographies for people if they wanted. And that was when I first started doing that, when people asked me that when I was first here, because I didn't know that much about this part of the country and the western operations generally, that's where I found George Demille??? a marvellous help. If I had something and I didn't know exactly where to start, I'd pick up the phone and give George a call and I'd say, I've been asked to do so and so, can you recommend a government report or something that will give me a lead and he always could. Usually he'd name 2 or 3 and I'd go to it and of course, in the bibliographies from those I'd get leads to others. It used to be kind of fun doing that. I always liked detective stories and this was kind of the same sort of thing, library research

really is. So getting back to the Houston library, I guess they decided they'd have somebody from Houston come up and look over our little operation. The fellow from Houston was quite horrified to think that all this and only one person looking after it and not even a qualified librarian, really and I didn't even have a proper card catalogue. Because I didn't ever have time to type one up, I was always too busy doing other things. So they reviewed the whole thing and I wondered what was going to happen to me. They decided that they would set up a department and offer a somewhat scaled down version of the services that Houston was offering and they would call it the Information Services. Of course, they had to have a man to head it up. I was a little concerned what sort of man they would get, I was afraid they might think they ought to get some young twit from Houston who was full of degrees and wet hay so to speak who would make life a little difficult for me. But no, I was very lucky there, they called on a geologist who at that time was in the Edmonton office but who had started out in Calgary and with whom I was acquainted and whom I liked very much. An English geologist by the name of Jack Cherry so this was the fellow they got to come down to Calgary and head it up, so that was a great relief to me because I knew I could work with him. Also he was a year older than I so you know. .

#054 NM: Can we talk about the difference of working in Calgary comparing to working in Toronto, the working place, the people, the hours?

JG: Oh yes, indeed. I noticed a big difference. Much, much less formal for one thing. During the 14 years I did work in Toronto, things had loosened up somewhat, especially after I left the stuffy building at 56 Church. But even so, when I came to Calgary, well, I would never have thought of calling my boss by his first name, you just didn't do that. But Doug Lair just about had a fit when I called him Mr. Lair. Even the elevator man and the maintenance man called me by my first name so obviously it was a different order. And that was fine. Everyone was very friendly, of course, a lot of people knew I was coming and they were kind of interested, what this strange person from the east would be like. I think they were rather surprised that I was a human being. I remember one girl, I don't think she worked for Imperial, I think she was somebody I had met at church, but in any case, after she'd known me about six weeks and I guess the fact that I was from Toronto had never happened to emerge in the conversation. This day, I guess I referred to it, and she said, you mean you're from Toronto and I said, yes, I was born and lived there all my life, she said, really Jean if you hadn't told me I never would have realized.

NM: And that was a compliment?

JG: I took it in the spirit or which it was meant. Obviously she expected me to be quite impossible if I had come from Toronto. But that was another thing that amused me too, when I was first here. If Toronto wanted anything, or if somebody from Toronto was on the phone, or if something was required for Toronto, everybody dropped everything and ran around as if. . and of course, I had worked in Toronto and I knew they were just people too. It took me awhile to get used to the fact that everybody here was so impressed with anything to do with the Toronto office because I knew that it wasn't exactly all Olympian. But I didn't tell them that, I figured they would probably prefer not to know.

But the first day I was there, people would come in and introduce themselves and say where they worked. Of course, they knew who I was because they all knew I was coming. You're Jean aren't you, well I'm so and so. That's what Harry Peale did the first day I was there, he was the head of maintenance, the one that told me about the silver fish later. He said, any supplies I needed I was to let him know and then he said, he was going to bring his girlfriend in later at lunch hour and introduce her and he did that and she worked in the Accounting Department. They were engaged at the time and they were married 2 or 3 months later I think, so he brought her in and introduced her. They seemed to realize that I was a stranger in their midst and everything different and getting used to a new job and they really tried to make me feel at home.

#088 NM: That was very nice.

JG: Doug Lair's wife, Ginny, she used to give a tea, an annual tea I think it was, for the oil wives and women employees. I guess Doug must have told her about me. Anyway I was invited to this tea and so I got to meet many of the wives of the men I already knew from working. That whole open attitude was very pleasant and certainly somewhat different.

NM: What about the hours, were you working the same length of time.

JG: Yes, it was the same, 8:30-4:30 and that's what it had been when I left Toronto. I guess it was after the war in Toronto, when industry was getting back into full production, there were power shortages in peak periods and they started having blackouts and they would have one in the morning and then they'd have one at, between 4:30 and 5:00. So to accommodate the blackouts they changed the hours from 8:45-4:45 to 8:30-4:30. So when I came to Calgary it was also 8:30-4:30 and that didn't change until just the last few years that I was working here when they went 8:00-4:00.

NM: Let us go back now to the Information Services Department, you were working with Jack Cherry?

JG: Yes that's right. I think it was March 1957 he arrived and I was pleased to see him again. They got a desk for him and he sat in the back part of the office and I sat in the front. There were stacks dividing the two so it was almost as if he had a private office. The only problem was he had the window end and he had worked in the tropics for so many years that he was very sensitive to cold, so I used to stifle because he was too close to the window for it to be reasonable for him to have it open at all, in the wintertime that is, in March, you know. To start with there was just the two of us and I did all his typing and so forth as well as the library work, so I acquainted him with the practice and what went on and then eventually he put in for a typist. We got a typist and I guess by the fall we had got . . . I guess we had a typist and an assistant, a young chap who was the son of somebody in the Law Department, who worked with us that summer. I guess it was after that we decided we needed larger premises and more people and we moved. The Albertan Building had become a little bit too small, already staff had overflowed from various departments into the Petroleum Building next door and then they fixed up the Anglo Building which was two buildings from the Petroleum Building, they were all in a line. Imperial Oil eventually ended up having suites in all of them. This was before they built the new building on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. So we ended up with a fair sized. . . we had part of a floor,



a library reading room, another room with books and things. . .we had another room for reports and a general office.

#136 NM: So it was really expanding?

JG: Yes, I had an office and Jack had an office. We got a geologist and an engineer attached as information specialists. We got I guess in '57, September, we got Waldo Wearings??? daughter, Louise Fletcher and then Wilma Zalin???, from Hungary. She and her husband were refugees from the '56 revolution and she was a trained librarian and she also knew some Russian which was a bit of an extra asset. So they came on staff, and then we had a young woman geologist, whose name I think was Jean Virtue, she was with us for 2 or 3 years and then she married and moved east. So it became a fair sized department. I guess along about the second year, I wasn't really needed so much to do library work. I had been doing a bit of editing from time to time and Jack decided we should start an editing service to help out the geologists, geophysicists and engineers with their reports. Some of them weren't always too. . .or their supervisor wouldn't be too happy with the way they wrote. I remember we were asked to prepare. . .oh yes, just about that time, I guess it was '58 or '59, somebody came to Calgary with a report writing course and they put it on in the Board Room of the Anglo Building, which was downstairs. That was where they met, so the company sent me to take this report writing course. I was sort of the guinea pig, I was to take it and evaluate it and let them know whether I would recommend that they have some of their personnel, geologists and so forth should take this course. So the company paid for me taking this course and I used to have to go, I think it was 2 nights a week for about 10 weeks. I never thought anything about it, I just went along the first night. So here there were about 20 and 30 men and me, I was the only female. I hadn't thought about it, when I stopped to think about it, it was entirely reasonable because geologists and geophysicist and engineers, 99% of the time were men. Well, it didn't bother me in the least but the men seemed to worry about it more than I did, the first night.

#175 NM: Why?

JG: Well, I think they thought how they would feel if they were the only man with a flock of women, which of course, no man could survive and they were transferring this embarrassment that they knew they would feel, if the positions were reversed, to me. I didn't really feel, well I was a little surprised for the moment but I thought oh well, we're all people. The man who was running the thing, he seemed to have a little problem too, because he'd say, gentlemen and then he'd stop and look at me, you know. Then he'd say, gentlemen and Miss Greig, and I thought that sounded pretty silly. So after the first night I said, look, we all know that you know I'm here and we all know that you know I'm a woman, so why don't you just say gentlemen and I'll understand that you're including me too. So everybody relaxed after that and it was just fine. Actually it was quite nice, the men were all very nice. I must say I always got looked after, I always got rides home after and got my cigarettes lit.

NM: So you were spoiled.

JG: Yes. But I decided that it wasn't the greatest course in the world. I was a little astonished, I thought if that particular person could give a course, anybody could.

NM: What were they teaching really.

JG: They were teaching how to write reports. He was teaching them basic grammar, he thought. Very simple, obvious things I thought. So anyhow when I went back and reported to the company about it, I said, I didn't think it was worth the money. We decided we'd put on an in house one and Jack and I put it together. He gave the first one I think, and I used to mark the assignments. After that we used to collaborate on them. We also got out a sort of basic text and everybody got one, that sort of summarized the course, everybody got one when he finished the course.

#205 NM: How long was this course.

JG: Well, the first one I think, was one afternoon a week for 5 or 6 weeks. This was to give people time to write a bit of an assignment in between. Then, later on, we streamlined it and eventually it became part of the general orientation program that the company established and the last few years that I was there, of course, Jack had gone on to New York but I used to give this streamlined version and sometimes it would be just one afternoon. I tried one afternoon once, I was very annoyed that they scheduled it for the final afternoon of the orientation course. I thought that was asking rather a lot of anybody to put up with something like that after they'd been through everything else. So I complained about that and said, I wanted to see the program next time and I wanted them to split up my time and. . .

NM: It was too much.

JG: Yes, it was too much and I just didn't think it was good for anybody. So they did that and that seemed to work a lot better so we continued that way as long as I was doing it.

NM: What was your work then, what did you do?

JG: I was pretty well spending all my time at editing. From the time I started having reports edited, more and more people liked the idea. We were also trying at that time, to get a consistent style in the way that the company reports were reproduced. This was the result of having trained librarians who insisted that you should have certain information on the cover of things, the source, the title, the author. So we designed a sample cover for a company report and showed everything that should be on and it should always be in the same place. And all material was supposed to have a report number, which was a combination of the year and the number of the report. I forget, there was another number that was a code number that indicated the subject I think. Anyhow, they were kept in a book and when anybody was writing a report they would call up and ask you for a number and you would give him the next one in the sequence. So it came about we also settled on. . . we went down to the Reproduction Department and looked at the different kind of stock they had, cover stock and picked a type of stock that would be used regularly on reports. And we also had colours and depending on the department, the stock would be the same but the colour would be different. Information Services, our department, we chose russet I think they called it, a brownish stock. Exploration Department had green Engineering Department had blue, Systems and computers or whatever it was, they had

yellow. I think the Research Lab had. . there was an olive green that somebody had. . I can't quite remember all of the colours properly but that gives you an idea of some of the practices we established. Then it also fell to my lot, not just to edit manuscripts and give them back to the authors, but I would be responsible for getting them typed up in final form according to the proper set up that we also had established and if necessary getting the drafting done from the rough sketches. Although sometimes the writer would prefer to deal with the Drafting Department himself. So it could work either way. And getting the ??? typed and checked, proof reading them and then getting them run off, however many copies I was supposed to have and seeing that they were properly bound. That's where I found that relations with the service departments, particularly the Drafting and Reproduction were so important and I can't say too much in favour of the splendid people in Drafting and Reproduction that I worked with all the time I was doing that work in Calgary.

#285 NM: So your work was getting more and more specialized.

JG: Yes it was. It was broadening out. That's one of the things where I think that I've been so lucky in my career. Well, you know, if anybody had told me when I started that I was going to work 34 years for the same company, I probably would have fainted. But as it was I did work 34 years for the same company but not in the same place and the work kept changing. Just when I would maybe be thinking, I wonder if I should be considering something else, something would turn around and something else would develop and I would be with something new and another challenge after all. So I didn't really moulder, although I'm sure to start with I couldn't have imagined staying 34 years without mouldering.

NM: And then you went on working for Imperial until '71?

JG: That's right, yes. Jack Cherry had left by then. Standard Oil of New York wanted to borrow him, so I think it was about the fall of '68, around there, he went to New York and a geophysicist by the name of Doug Perry, succeeded him and things went on very much the same. He didn't change anything in particular, he just seemed concerned to maintain the standards you know. He was still in charge when I got my severance in 1971. But of course, I still didn't leave because they asked me to stay on as a consultant because they didn't have anybody else that did editing. So I worked there for another three years, during which I occupied 2 or 3 different offices I guess, as things changed and they needed that space for somebody else. Then I think one of the main reasons they discontinued my services altogether was they brought a lot of the staff, they pretty well closed out the Edmonton office and brought the majority of the staff down to Calgary and there just wasn't the space anymore.

#325 NM: What was your official title when you left?

JG: Technical Editor I think. I still use that when I'm asked to put down my occupation on anything. That describes the work I do about as well I think as. . .

NM: And you were the only one doing this type of work?

JG: Yes, I was.

NM: That was important. This is the end of the first interview with Miss Jean Greig.

Tape 2 Side 2

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Tape 3 Side 1

NM: This is Nadine Mackenzie speaking, this is the second interview with Miss Jean Greig. Miss Greig can you compare the atmosphere of the oil patch in your time to what it is nowadays?

JG: When I began first in Toronto, of course, that wasn't where the action was, so to speak, not compared to Calgary and it was . . well, I liked it, and at that time. . . but it was much more formal than Calgary. At that time, I remember, people used to ask me, what it was like. There was a general feeling among the women office workers generally that anyone who was working for oil company was definitely in a bit better position than what might be an equivalent in some other company. And I think they did pay better. I used to think at that time, this was long before women's rights received any special consideration, but I felt at that time, that an oil company was one of the better places for a woman to work. Even though they didn't visualize anything like women executives, by and large, I thought that women were better paid and better treated. When I came to Calgary, it was more exciting because of the recent oil discoveries. Everybody was. . there was an electric atmosphere, everybody was working like mad, there was an excitement about what was going on, it was a great time for consultants because almost anyone could get work. The smaller companies who didn't have large staffs of geologists and so forth, found it very useful to have consultants that they could get to do projects.

NM: So that's when so many companies started?

JG: Well, there were a great many. That's when Dr. Link and I think Art Knoss started a consulting agency earlier and then just about the same time I started here, well, I came in August '51 and then Cam Sproule came in October I think and he set up as a consultant, first as J.C. Sproule and then as his business grew it became Sproule and Associates. Stan Harding, who, when I first came to Calgary, was in the Exploration Department where I worked, he left and went with Sproule and Associates. Various other people, from time to time, some from Imperial and some from elsewhere, whom I knew, ended up at Sproule and Associates also. It was a really booming time for oil discoveries and oil companies and consultants. And I think, all the support industries, the drilling companies and pipe manufacturers and so forth benefited too. But it was fun and you felt you were part of something. There was pressure to get things done but there wasn't the pressure to be efficient in all areas all the time regardless, that one felt developing after the 60's particularly. I guess maybe, from about '68 or '69 on, I guess the party was over to a certain extent and probably with the growing power of OPEC and so forth, the whole picture changed. It became a lot more. . the general attitude became a lot more hard

nosed economically and I guess understandably the employees felt the difference. It was a bit of a shock at the time to be given early retirement because I hadn't thought I was important enough or made enough that it would make that much difference. But at the same time I was a lot less sorry about it than I might have been if it had happened a few years earlier, because already it wasn't the same place I had been used to. Since then having had occasion to go back to do a contract or so and be back in that same atmosphere. . well, I should say in the same surroundings, because the atmosphere wasn't the same, I was glad when I was finished. It was interesting to be there and to do it, but I was glad that I wasn't there permanently. I think things worked out quite well for me just the way they did.

#057 NM: You have seen the ups and down of the oil patch.

JG: Yes, I suppose.

NM: Can you comment on that?

JG: I think it takes an economist to do that and I'm not, I don't make any pretense of being an economist. I don't know whether the ups and downs are peculiar to the oil patch, I think it's maybe, to a large extent, the ups and downs in the economy. Granted the oil cartels, particularly since the discovery of oil in the Middle East and the switch of power from this side of the world to that side has influenced everything, not just the oil patch but the whole world economy to a very high degree. We learned, I think as a result of it, or we're learning, that we can afford to be less extravagant with our fossil fuels, that there are alternatives and I think the OPEC people are learning that once you've got all the money, you can't go any farther and if you've got it all, you can't keep on getting anymore. They just had to pull in their horns a bit. It's unfortunate that the price became so depressed so fast. That certainly has made it really tough on the oil companies. But I don't think that they're actually going to go broke. I don't think they'll ever run that risk.

NM: What do you think of the National Energy Program?

JG: Parts of it seem to make a certain amount of sense. Of course, the west, understandable objects to, as they see it, subsidizing the east, to the extent that they don't feel they ought to have to take less money for their oil just so the east won't have to pay, what they east considers an exorbitant amount. And I think that's quite understandable because for years it's been the other way around for almost everything else but oil, for the west. But I think a lot of the problems are the result, simply of ignorance on the part of the people who've had the task of formulating a National Energy Policy. I think they simply didn't find out enough about the oil business, whether they're Liberals or Conservatives. They seem to have treated the oil business as if it were any other kind of merchandising business and that just isn't the way it works.

#092 NM: How do you foresee the future of the oil patch?

JG: I don't know that I've ever thought about it very much, since it isn't going to have such a lot to do with my future and one naturally is self centred about those things. I think probably it will survive, at least, in the medium term. I think things are going to be rather different though. The great expenditures that some of the exotic oil involves. I mean, the

offshore, whether it's the Beaufort Sea or the east coast is going to call for a lot more initial study into all the circumstances, before they recklessly go off drilling wells. I guess you read in the news just this last week, that Mobil, I think it's Mobil, has capped off its well off Newfoundland, because it was gas. They found only gas in the stage that they tested and they decided not to risk testing any other stages, in the hope there was oil simply because it's prohibitively expensive to try to produce gas from an offshore well. They were hoping for oil and they're quite sure there's a big reservoir there but. .

NM: But in the meantime just cannot go on drilling.

JG: No. So I don't know. I'm sure there are a lot of other considerations that will enter in to whatever the companies do, that don't necessarily have anything to do with the oil situation. And there's no way I could even know what they are.

NM: Can we talk about the contribution of the oil patch of Alberta, towards the development of the Canadian industry?

JG: Well, I guess you could say that it came at a probably, critical time, to the extent that until the big discoveries of Leduc and Golden Spike, there wasn't a great deal of oil production in Canada at all. There was the Turner Valley which dated back to some earlier days and there had been some oil at Norman Wells, found back in I think, the 1920's. And then there was the oil in Ontario, around Sarnia, that formed part of Imperial Oil's original production. That was a good deal of the reason for Imperial having formed International Oil company and got some interests in South America, because they needed the oil from marriage??? concession in Columbia and the [Labray and Pineas]??? estate in Peru to make it economic to keep the refinery in Sarnia going. They even, at one time, I guess it was. . .was it just after the war, I think it was, around 1945 or so, they got, I think it was a 10% interest in some Venezuela holdings, NOM and don't ask me what NOM stands for, some Dutch outfit and that was just an interest. But it was to get the oil that they could ship up to the refinery in Ontario. So we were relying on what you might say, foreign oil, except that we harvested it in South America, or else we just received some of what someone else harvested. But it was an agreement that we had that this was guaranteed. Well, once the big play started paying off in Alberta, all of a sudden there was all kinds of oil right in the country that could be developed. I'm sure that not only was that of great economic help just as a product in itself, but I think the whole industry developed. . it wasn't just oil companies that were better off, or new ones springing up. And there were a great many new ones that sprang up in the 50's, but the whole technology, it gave such a boost to all the support industries, the drilling rig companies and the pipe manufacturers. So I think there was a tremendous spin off, quite apart from the importance of the actual oil. Of course, all kinds of refineries built in Alberta too. Every big oil company had its refinery, you just have to go out Ogden way to see that. Of course, now they're beginning to retrench on refineries because there isn't the production. One thing I think too, that was very well managed was the production itself, the pro-ration policy that the Conservation Board, in Alberta established from the very start of the boom. This was. . .well, I guess it had two objectives, as I understood it, one was not to exhaust the supplies too soon, but the other was not to glut the market and depress the price too, which was perfectly practical. You might as well leave it in the ground and produce just what was feasible as

produce a whole bunch and have it sitting in expensive storage.

#176 NM: That's right. You have not completely left the oil patch, you are still involved with it in a sense?

JG: Well, yes. In 1971, I didn't feel quite ready to pack up work altogether. Besides in 1971, with inflation looking as if it were here to stay, who could afford to stay retired. For the next . . . actually not too much changed in my situation for the next 3 1/2 years or so, because I just continued to stay in my offices at Esso and go on doing what I had been doing. The only difference was that I did it on a job basis at an hourly fee, instead of being on regular staff on a monthly salary. So I got paid by the hour, but the job. Of course, I was getting my pension too, but that just went into a retirement fund, so as far as I was concerned I was still working for my living. And then in '74, in September, when they pretty well closed up the big office they'd had in Edmonton and brought most of the staff they'd had, into the Calgary office, they needed my space. Well, they'd already built another five floors on the building, at 500- 6th Avenue. They started out with 7 but the design had been set up so it could accommodate another 5 if they needed it. So they added those five on, over. . . I guess, between '69, '70, '71, around there, with the idea of bringing the Edmonton people in and they gradually brought them in. Eventually they needed the space that I was occupying and had decided that they would dispense with my services altogether. So that was the end of my retainer with them. But I still got called back periodically because they have some specific. . . as a matter of fact, there was one client that I had there, who wasn't satisfied with whatever had been done to his report by the person who was doing that kind of work after I left and insisted that I do it. So after that I had to come and do his report.

#213 NM: That was nice.

JG: It was flattering yes. Of course, there was one regular thing that I had. I had started doing it before I finished at Esso, I guess I started in about '68, was to become Production Editor of the Bulletin of Canadian Geology. It was one of Esso's geologists who was the President that year and he thought that it was time that they had some professional person to look after the nuts and bolts of the thing. The poor volunteer editor had enough to do just deciding what papers would go in it and getting them read and juried and all the procedure that goes into establishing the content of a proper scientific journal. But to have to edit the reports and set them up for the printer and proof read and paste up and all that was just getting to be too much for one person. So I took over that aspect of it and my title was Production Editor. So I've been doing that every since, I just did it. . . well, I didn't feel that I should be paid for it because I used to do it around the edges of my work at Esso. I didn't have. . . I found I couldn't do it in my spare time and I didn't think it was right for me to get paid twice for the same time if you know what I mean. But once I was not on staff anymore at Esso, I became a regular. . . what you might say. . . well, they pay me a flat rate per issue, which they have very nobly raised from time to time to keep up with inflation, so I haven't any complaints about that. There are four of those a year, so it seem as if there's always some stage of one of them, either just behind me or just ahead

of me. Since then the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists, they have a journal too, they just put out one issue a year. Unfortunately it usually comes around the year end. Everything seems to come around the year end. When it gets to be October, everybody suddenly thinks, oh my goodness, it's getting to be almost the year end and nothing done yet. So the phone rings and rings and of course, I'm trying to get things cleared up so I can take a Christmas holiday. It takes a bit of figuring around. Once in awhile, although I think there won't be any for the next two or three years probably, but in the past five years or so, from time to time, some company has a big environmental impact statement to submit to the government, with regard to a project, usually for offshore drilling. These are quite elaborate affairs, involving studies done by various companies and the whole has to be put together into a coherent, consistent style for submission to the government authorities and the various local authorities and so forth. I've had two or three rather nice jobs of that sort that have lasted several weeks. The only thing is that it means a regular working day and I've been spoiled from not having to have a regular working day for so long. But it makes a nice little windfall and helps pay for the odd trip and that sort of thing.

#275 NM: You must have a very good knowledge of technology, to be able to correct mistakes and put all that together.

JG: Not really. I couldn't work on any kind of project. It's a lot easier to be critical of some work that's being done and is put down, already written down. I don't undertake to correct technical mistakes, unless it's a very obvious one that a child of four practically would know, I assume that the material that I get has been taken care of, the technical aspect has already been gone over and criticized by the person's supervisor or whoever. If it's a paper for the Bulletin, there's a committee of readers, all of whom go over this material. That's part of the reason that they do it, to see if it the case stands up, if it's a worthwhile contribution and to make sure that there aren't any gross technical mistakes. Some of them have mathematical equations in and I certainly am no mathematician. I never even took elementary calculus and say, yes, sure, sure. All I do is make sure when I'm proof reading it, is that it's the same as was in the original, so far as I can tell. All I have and it's been interesting for me, is a bit of general knowledge that you can't help absorbing if you read enough of the kind of material that I've been reading for the last 20 years.

NM: Can we talk about the story of the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology?

JG: The main reason I happened to know about that was because it began just shortly after I came to Calgary. Some of the staff geologists. . of course, I wasn't doing editing at that time, I was librarian, but I happened. . the room which I used, in which I worked, which was the library, one side of it did not, there was a partition that did not go all the way up to the ceiling. I guess it was about 2' difference. On the other side was a room where 3 or 4 of the staff geologists worked. We had a rather loose arrangement there, if one of them wanted something he'd shout over the partition and I'd throw it over. So anyhow, you were not totally unaware of what was going on and then I kind of got drawn into some of the discussions when I would go in there. There was some feeling among the Alberta



Society of Petroleum Geologists, as it was called at that time, that they'd start a newsletter, and so 2 or 3 of our people and a fellow from Phillips, I think, Petroleum and other people. Anyhow they undertook to get this thing out and it was . . . I guess it was kind of a mimeographed deal, the first issue or so and it was . . . I think it was called the ASPG Newsletter. Then I guess after about 2 or 3 years, it was growing and they were getting more important types of contributions and so I think it was around that they changed the name to the Journal of Alberta Petroleum Geology, I think at that time.

NM: This is the end of the tape.

### Tape 3 Side 2

JG: Later on, don't ask me what year because I'm not sure, I wasn't paying that much attention then, I encountered it mainly when I had to shelve the copies in the library and so I would notice if something had changed, oh when did that happen. So somewhere along the way it changed from being the Journal of the ASPG to the Bulletin of the ASPG and it continued to be called the Bulletin for a while and then it became the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology because they found that it wasn't . . . well, they wanted to make it more of a national journal. And from that it was . . . I guess shortly after 1968, the society changed its name from the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists to the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. But the Journal already being called the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology, this name change in the society didn't affect the name of the journal, so it still is the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology. But it started from this little idea that some of the geologists had that it was time they had a newsletter. Now, it has subscriptions. . . well, it has subscribers all over the world.

NM: Can we talk about this Journal of the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists?

JG: I don't know too much about that, I could probably refer you to somebody in that area who would be more knowledgeable. I've know that it existed because we had them in the library. It's not been around nearly as long as the geological bulletin, it's just. . . I just finished Volume 19 for 1983 and the '83 volume of the geological one is volume 31. Each one represents the professional society for geologists in the one case and geophysicists in the other. I don't know when the CSEG was established but I imagine it was sometime after, simply because geophysics came along a bit after geology. When I was first working in the Toronto office, back in the late 1930's, all I knew about geophysics, or the only tools that I heard about were the gravity meter and the magnetometer. We had files on geophysics and well. . . I don't think seismic was. . . well, it was maybe just emerging as a possibility, but I don't remember anything very much in the way of seismic.

#035 NM: What about the relations between geologists, geophysicists and engineers?

JG: You mean, how do they feel about each other.

NM: That's right.

JG: Well, in the early days when I was there, I was rather conscious that the engineers

considered themselves sort of low man on the totem pole, with respect to geologists. That is to say, that they thought that, in the company view, the geologists rated a little more highly. I guess they went by the budgets and the conditions and in general. . . maybe it was because geologists were a bit newer thing, engineers had been around quite a lot longer in general. And geologists, they were the ones that made the discoveries, or supplied the information on which the discoveries were based. The engineers of course, were more concerned with the production side. Bear in mind I worked in the Exploration Department so any engineers that were working there, would naturally feel that they had less consideration simply because the Exploration Department was for finding oil and of course, the geologists really did have more to do with that. As far as geophysicist go, in the earlier days there weren't too many people called geophysicists that I remember. I don't think it was a separate course at the School of Practical Sciences. I think geophysicists were people who were trained in geology and became involved with that aspect, because as I think as I have already mentioned there weren't nearly the number of geophysical tools and approaches that have developed since. So I don't know. I haven't been conscious since of any particular feeling or hostility or jealousy or whatever you want to call it between geologists and geophysicists. But then I maybe am not very noticing of that kind of thing. Some things I have to be hit over the head to notice.

#065 NM: Who were the most influential persons in your career?

JG: I guess there are probably about 3 altogether. My first boss, when I first started off in Toronto, G.C. Britain, he certainly gave me what I realized, even at the start and certainly since then, was an excellent launching. He realized that I didn't know anything at all about the oil business, so any time he was giving me a memo or an important letter, he would explain the background and would tell me, virtually why this was being written, what had led up to it and what he hoped to accomplish by it. I don't think he was like that only with me, I think this was the way he felt you should be with people. He believed that if a person knew what was involved in what he was doing, he ought to be able to do it better and it would also be more interesting. Which it certainly was, I learned a great deal through working with him. Then after I came to Calgary I guess I'd have to say, Doug Lair certainly had a lot of influence. He was my first boss, it was his idea to have set up the library, so really, if it hadn't been for him I might never have been here. He was a joy to work with. The thing that I admired a great deal about him was that if I had to go and see him, he didn't mind being interrupted and the reason he didn't mind being interrupted was because he could turn a switch from what he was doing and immediately be receptive to what I was saying and the whole little matter that I had come to see him about could be settled in a minimum of time. I never felt I was upsetting him or even distracting him for longer than just the few minutes it took. He's one of the few people I've ever encountered who was like that. Generally if I've wanted to see someone about something I would go and wait to be noticed and then I would sort of ease into whatever I wanted to say to give the person time to get focussed on it. There seemed to be no need for that with Doug. His attention, he could switch faster than anyone I've ever encountered I think. That was great because I didn't feel I was wasting his time and I certainly wasn't wasting any of mine

and I didn't feel guilty about doing it because I knew that before I was even out the door, his mind would be back on what he'd been doing before I came in. Unfortunately after just about two years to, I can't remember if it was better things at the time, but it was different things anyway. As a matter of fact, I think he had to go to Regina. So I had a different person and well, I won't talk about that particular occasion. We had a few clashes but there were ways around the problems and I manager but it was much better after we got a regular department and I had a regular, what you might say, boss in residence. I decided that there were advantages to being on my own, but it wasn't as good really as having somebody in charge of the staff. And Jack Cherry, when he took over, we all respected and appreciated his attitude, which was, he demanded a lot from his staff but he wouldn't let anyone push them around. Nobody but he was going to push them around.

#111 NM: He was looking after you very well.

JG: He looked after all of us, not just me, but certainly I benefited from having him as my boss. So I think I'd say those were the three most influential people.

NM: What was the most exciting experience?

JG: There wasn't all that excitement in connection with my work in general. I guess the most dramatic thing that ever happened to me happened about the second or third year that I was working, when I first started out in Toronto. One of the jobs that I had recently been given, oh, I guess maybe I had been doing it for some months, was to report the monthly production from Columbia and Peru, to a number of publications around the world, such as the Financial Times and the Financial Post and a Parisian financial paper and some of the American oil magazines and so forth. I think there were about 16 altogether and so I used to get a letter each month from Tropical Oil Company in Columbia and one from International Petroleum in Peru and they would report the production that month. My job was to get out the statement that I'd sent out the previous month, which was accumulated from the start of the year and add this new monthly figure on and send out the revised accumulated figure, as of that particular month. 16 copies would be run off and it would be mailed out. So I did this as usual and about 4 days later my boss came in and said, can I see that last production memo that you sent out on the South American oil. So I got it out and he looked at it and he said, where are the letters that you got the figures from, so I got them and I said, what's the matter. He said, well, I think you must have got them switched, we just had a teletype from Paris suggesting that it didn't seem quite right. And when we looked up the letters, sure enough I had, I'd added Columbia's production on to Peru's and Peru's production on to Columbia's. The thing was, there was quite a difference, the monthly production from Columbia was always a good deal more barrels, or thousands of barrels, or hundreds of thousands of barrels, than Peru's. So this was how. . . I felt very stupid, not just. . . anybody might have mixed them up, just out of carelessness, but I thought I should have noticed myself that it was out of proportion with the sort of figures I was used to reporting. I must have been in a bit of a hurry or something. Anyway, apparently the International Petroleum stock went up 1/4 of a point that day because of this. I was absolutely horrified, wondering if I'd get fired or what. He said, well, you'd better issue a correction, so I did and sent it out and never heard

anything more about it. I asked him later, did he still want me to do it as before and he said, oh yes, I don't think you'll make that mistake again. Needless to say, I never did. I'd put one letter on the table and the other on the desk and make sure I never got them confused. So I guess that was about the most exciting thing that happened to me, I don't know whether it was exciting to anybody else. I don't know if anybody made or lost a fortune but I rather doubt it because even my boss was only moderately concerned.

#158 NM: What do you consider your achievements?

JG: I don't know that I've achieved all that much. I mean I don't know that the oil industry in general is very much different as a result of my having spent 30 odd years in it. One relatively limited achievement I think I might claim would be that during the years that I did editing of the reports for the people that were my clients, I did see their writing improve quite a bit. To start with I was worried about how they would accept changes that I made. I was very fortunate in that generally they seemed quite pleased and they also became interested in finding out just what made the difference. So they would ask questions and then I started writing little notes to explain changes and I noticed the next time I got a report back, it would be a little better, I wouldn't have as many red marks on it when I finished. Toward the last few years that I was working there, some people's reports wouldn't take me very long at all to do. They had just improved that much. Now, of course, practice helps anyone to improve, but I like to think that the fact that I was there to start with to steer them in certain directions was of some help.

NM: Did you help them also with something else?

JG: How do you mean?

NM: You were mentioning bibliographies.

JG: Oh, right. That was one of the areas where I guess there was the most notable improvement. To start with some of the people were pretty sloppy about the form in which they submitted their bibliographies. They would forget to put initials for the authors in some cases or sometimes they wouldn't put the pages or the volume number, or they would put initials for the journal and you couldn't tell what it was supposed to be. So I was in a position to verify all these entries because I was right in the department that had all the references where you could do this. So I used to get the bibliographies, North American Geology or whatever was necessary and go through and fill in all the things and I always used a bright red pen, so when they got these back with all the marks on, I guess they felt a little ashamed because it wasn't too long before they came in in much better form.

#195 NM: Looking back at your career Miss Greig, is there anything you would do differently nowadays?

JG: I doubt it rather. I think I was lucky to begin with, in ever being able to get a job with an oil company, particularly at the time that I did. They were always considered great places to work. They definitely paid better. For instance, the average, the minimum wage for women, in 1937, was \$50 a month, the lowest salary that Imperial Oil paid women then was \$75 a month and they didn't even start me at that, they started me at \$90 a month and

that was a small fortune in those days. It really was. I sometimes think I had better clothes and lots of things than I do now. Of course, I was living at home, I paid board but still my expenses were quite a bit less than if I had been on my own. But \$90 a month was a lot of money. So, no, I don't think I . . . I don't see how I could have done anything too different but supposing I could have, I don't think I would have. I think things worked out quite well. Every time I began to think that I was getting a little . . . well, that what I was doing didn't have much challenge and that it was becoming kind of routine, it just seemed around then, something new would crop up. There's be a change in my position or . . . in one case, there was a definite change of location and . . . no, it's been interesting all the way through. Otherwise I don't suppose I would have still stayed there.

NM: Before ending this interview Miss Greig, can you tell me, what do you think of the oil patch?

JG: I think I was lucky to be able to work in it when I did and I think I probably had the best of it. Certainly I think the most interesting and exciting. I don't regret the time I spent in it and I certainly don't regret the people that I encountered. They had a lot to do with my enjoyment of it, both in Toronto and in Calgary. I was fortunate in that I worked with people who were congenial and supportive.

NM: Thank you very much for this very interesting interview.