

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Mr. J. Kirker

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

DATE: May 24, 2001

DF: Today is May 23rd, in the year 2001 and we are with Mr. Jim, do you go by Jim?

JK: Jim, that's right.

DF: Jim Kirker at 61, 1815 Varsity Estates Dr. N.W. in Calgary. My name is David Finch. So nice to be with you.

JK: Glad to have you here.

DF: Great. So start right at the beginning, when and where were you born?

JK: I was born in Trail, British Columbia, November 17th, 1927 and my parents names were James and Katherine Kirker, both had immigrated from Ireland in 1927. I have two brothers, a brother Bill who's a petroleum geologist, one year younger than I am and one brother, Mervin, who's a doctor of ophthalmology here in Calgary.

DF: Tell us about your schooling and so on. Wait a minute, what was your father doing in Trail?

JK: My father was a warehouseman in the Cominco or at that time, Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, he worked in the company store. Both my parents were from Antrim in Northern Ireland, just outside of Belfast.

DF: Tell us about your schooling.

JK: Well, first of all let me tell you that Trail was a large smelting town, at that time the largest lead, zinc smelter in the world. And of course, was supplied from the large Sullivan ore body at Kimberly and previously had been working the copper, gold deposits from the Rossland camp, just up the hill. So as a youngster I grew up crawling around the mountains and looking at old adits and hearing about mine discoveries. I got it into my head that I wanted to be a discoverer, I wanted to find one of these ore bodies. So I went to school in Trail and in 1946, I went to the University of British Columbia, thinking to become a hard rock geologist. But in 1947 the Leduc discovery changed my mind, largely because in 1936 my father had taken us to the Calgary Stampede and relatives there had talked us into driving out to Turner Valley to see the large flares that were then producing all the gas that was being flared.

#029 DF: Do you remember anything specifically about those flares?

JK: Just the noise and the flame and so on. And when I heard about Leduc I said, this oil and gas industry is a hell of a lot easier, producing it than hacking and hewling in all these old mines. So that turned me on and I then obtained an exchange scholarship to go to the University of Alberta and I took my third year university at Alberta under Dr. Stelk, Dr. Rutherford and Dr. Warren and got to know an awful lot of other students who became principals in our industry here. So it was a great opportunity. I went back to British

Columbia and graduated in 1950 with Honours Geology program.

DF: So why did you go to U. of A. for awhile?

JK: Because the more interest in soft rock geology. I mean, British Columbia was primarily a hard rock school. They had one program in petroleum geology, but Alberta was, the forefront was soft rock geology.

DF: But your degree was from UBC?

JK: That's correct.

DF: Okay, so then what did you do?

JK: Well, I had worked a summer underground in Kimberley and one summer on surface work in southeastern B.C. for Cominco. Sorry, I should go back and tell you that all during my high school days I worked for Cominco, in the smelter, in the refinery, the zinc plant, in the chemical side, the fertilizer, the phosphates, the nitrogen and even in Project 9, which was the Manhattan Project. Cominco had this secret project to develop heavy water for the development of the atomic bomb. And all the boys in our Grade 11 and Grade 12 classes were hired to go up and help built a trench from Warfield down to the Trail smelter. We didn't know what we were working at but it turned out that that was the heavy water for the atomic bomb. So that's what my summers were all during the war. Even worked for the CPR as what do you call it, candy dancer, replacing ties in the railroad and so on. So from about the age of 12 through 20 I was working summers for Cominco.

#058 DF: What was your first job in the oil patch?

JK: I got a job with a company called Rio Bravo Exploration, which was the seismic arm of Canadian Superior in Rimbey, Alberta. This was very interesting in that all of the drilling crew were Oklahoman, all of the shooting crew were Texan, the office crew were Californians and there was one other Canadian, Dave Miles who went on to fame with Chevron and myself were the only Canadians. I learned a lot about the oil business from these Okies and these Texans. I only was there a year but in that year Dave was moved on to another party, they had two parties in Alberta and I took over as chief computer. Dave is famous for the west Pembina discovery. The interesting thing about that one year with Rio Bravo, I left them as chief computer on that crew, but we had shot all over the Rimbey area with our primitive geophysical tools, geophones etc. and had never recognized the build up of the 600' of Devonian reef in that area. It subsequently became the Rimbey field so that tells you what the technology was in 1950.

DF: What were you doing on that crew?

JK: I was in the office computing the records.

DF: Can you describe that for us, specifically what did you do?

JK: Yes, that's right. What happened is the crew would come in from the field in the evening, with these paper records and we had to first, wash them and dry them and hang them up overnight. In the morning we would start work on them, the Party Chief would pick the records with coloured pencil and the computers, we would have to take that information off the records and put it on a large roll, plotting each one of the picks that the Party Chief had made. In other words, making a cross section from these individual paper records. It

would normally take us all day to do the shooting that had been done the previous day. Very simplistic and primitive I would call it.

#086 DF: So you weren't in the field, you were in the town of Rimbey?

JK: The town of Rimbey, that's right.

DF: What kind of an office?

JK: We worked out of the main floor of the White House Hotel and I had a room in the garret about three floors above there. It was my first exposure to Texans and Oklahomans and it was a very interesting experience.

DF: Any stories?

JK: No, I've got many other stories to tell you, so I think we'll skip that.

DF: Okay.

JK: Well, one story, we had a basketball team, made up of these Texans and Okies and Canadians and we called ourselves the Rimbey Oilers and played in Lacombe and thereabouts and Stettler.

DF: So what did you do next?

JK: Well, I always wanted to get into geology so in August of '51, I was interviewed by Bill Gallup at Royalite and was offered a job in Edmonton as a geologist working with Gunner Haugrud. . .

DF: What was his job?

JK: Well, things were very busy for the company at the time. Gunner was involved in the development of the company's properties in Redwater, namely Section 16, where the Bronfmans, who at that time controlled Royalite had offered a bottle of whiskey for every well that was drilled on this section that they had purchased for millions of dollars. The story was that they drilled 16 oil wells and one Viking gas well and they never saw a bottle of whiskey. I was put in charge of the company's operations at Acheson, just west of Edmonton, which incidentally had been discovered using a structure test hole program. I was put in charge of two drilling rigs, which I had never seen to that date. And, working with the company's tool pushers was supervising these two wells. Now, being unfamiliar with the situation and Chevron was drilling across the road, California Standard I should say, I decided to go over and talk to them, maybe learn something about what I should be doing. And I met Rollie Richardson and his assistant, both of whom constantly smoked cigars. It impressed me to the point that I thought, to be an oil man you must smoke cigars. So I had a red pick-up truck that I would run back and forth to Edmonton for lunch each day and I would buy a cigar and start off back to the lease, puffing and spitting all the way back. And I would never learn to smoke cigars and I thought, man, I'm never going to learn to be an oil man.

#125 DF: So why did they unleash you with two oil rigs if you didn't know what you were doing?

JK: Gunner was telling me what I was supposed to be doing. It was learning the hard way, or learning on the job sort of situation. I was at that for only a month when they sent me to the Peace River country to sit on a wildcat 20 miles west of a town called Spirit River.

They gave me a prognosis that talked about the bellamites??? in the Jurassic, that's something you might find in Turner Valley but you don't find in the north country. Anyway I went up there on the 1st of September and asked if I could have 3 days off and was given 4 days off to get married and got married on the 29th of September that year. In Vancouver by the way.

DF: What year is this?

JK: 1951. Brought Margaret back and established her in Spirit River in the very primitive accommodation of that little village and I was in the camp 22 miles west of there. We were there 5 months without a break and I was the only geologist on the well. The interesting part of the exercise was that in mid-December the cook and the flunky went to town, to Spirit River, proceeded to get drunk and were run off. I was the only one with a single accommodation in the camp and I volunteered my wife's ability as a cook to tide the company over. She cooked till the 8th of January and I had to flunky as a cook's helper as well as do the geology for that three week period. The interesting thing about that was when the cheques came on the 8th of January for the December 15th to 31st period, Margaret's salary was greater than my salary and I was running the show. So that tells you the value of the cook back in 1951.

#155 DF: And of a geologist.

JK: Of a geologist, that's right. I was making \$175 a month.

DF: And what was she making as a cook?

JK: I forget. Her cheque for the half month was larger than mine. Gordondale #1, I believe from memory it was a dry hole but we subsequently drilled gas wells Gordondale 2, 3 and so on in the area and developed it. I became District Geologist for norther Alberta and responsible for the company's program, joint program with Fina by the way for the Saddle Hills, Gordondale area. An interesting part of that exercise was that I asked the company to allow me to go to Pine Point up in the Territories and log the core up there that would give us an idea of the stratigraphy of northern Alberta. Having worked with Cominco I was able to get that permission and spent a week or so up there, logging those cores and talking to the geologists and determined the reef front situation that exists up there. The back reefs, fore reefs and the situation, which came into prominence later, I'll describe it to you. The other thing was in the summers we had a field party up the Peace River and the Pine River working the Triassic and Permian sections up there. With the discovery of Pembina I spent a summer mapping the Cardium outcrops in the foothills of western Alberta.

DF: Tell us about that mapping work, how did you do it, on the ground, helicopters?

JK: No, no, this was pre-helicopter. In the Peace we actually worked with a boat out of Hudson Hope. It was part of the building of the large dam there, the Bennett Dam. We were taken upriver with supplies and tents out in one area and then a couple of days later the boat would return, move up upriver further, a few days, upriver further and so on and so on. One interesting side story there is that Gulf Oil had a party working in the same area. As a gag one day we, my assistant was John Ontko and we took some Cretaceous fossils we found down near the Bennett Dam and we planted them, seeded them you

might say, on a Triassic outcrop. Subsequent story from Daryl Wigham told the story of his Party Chief finding these fossils, getting very excited at this discovery until Daryl, who had gone to University of Alberta, pointed out to him that these were Cretaceous fossils and this outcrop certainly wasn't Cretaceous. At which point the Party Chief was very upset. That's about all that happened during the period with Royalite. I worked in the Edmonton office with legends such as George Burke of Peter Bawden Drilling fame and Jim Harvie and a lot of other veteran Turner Valley people and it was a great learning experience.

#205 DF: Tell me more about what Turner Valley contributed to the geology?

JK: Well, Bill Gallup, those who had the opportunity to know him, as a matter of fact, that reminds me, I have here a letter that Bill Gallup wrote for me. I'll read it to you. This is after Bill had left the company and he was with Gallup, Buckland and Farney. In the letter, *attached is a copy of the letter of reference to the Association of Professional Engineers. I am sure this will settle the matter once and for all.*

DF: What's the date on that?

JK: That's December 30th, 1957. The letter reads, *Dr. A. E. Macdonald, Executive Secretary, Association of Professional Engineers. Dear Sir, re: Raymond James Kirker, I knew the above named for a short time when he was under my supervision as a sample catcher. Unfortunately this employment was brief as he was seldom wake and never sober. Since that time I understand he has held various positions briefly in different geological departments and these periods of employment were terminated for reasons similar to those given above, in addition to a series of complaints from female employees of all ages. Mr. Kirker is young and may change his ways and on these grounds I consider he should be accepted into your association. Signed yours very truly, W. B. Gallup.* Talking again about Gallup, I subsequently met him in Inuvik, many years later when he was working as an expediter and he passed away in September 1982. Unfortunately I was just getting on a plane to go off to Australia at the time so I wasn't able to go to his funeral. But subsequently the Society asked me to give a toast to William Gallup on the occasion of our Logan??? Day celebration. This is a transcript of that toast I gave to Bill Gallup. And I might mention that subsequent to . . .

#236 DF: Why don't you read that for us?

JK: Sure. *Friends we are gathered here today to do honour to one of Canada's pioneer petroleum geologists, William Bradshaw Gallup. Bill was born in Saskatchewan, actually McRory??? in 1914 and graduated from the University of Saskatoon in 1938. He went to work in Turner Valley just two years after the discovery of the oil lake on the west flank and stayed 11 years, being the resident geologist when the field was unitized in the late 40's. These were exciting days in the valley, rich with drilling of nearly 300 oil wells, at a time when the gas cap was being flared to recover the condensate. In 1949 Imperial sold its interest in Royalite to the Seagram interest, that's the Bronfmans and Bill was appointed Chief Geologist with the company in Calgary. He quickly recruited a team of new graduates, three sodbusters from Saskatchewan, Buckland, Hamilton and Haugrud,*

three Maritimers, Kristy, Stevenson and Miller and assorted others. This was on the job training at its finest and Royalite quickly purchased 6 of the first Crown sale parcels offered at Redwater. Over 50 wells were drilled and some 40 millions barrels of reserves were booked. In 1951 as a result of an extensive freehold program, the company acquired several leases on the Stony Plain Indian Reserve west of Edmonton and eventually drilled some 10 reef wells. Between 1952 and '53 the company discovered the Gordondale and Sakkle Hills gas fields in the Peace River country. A farm out from Albertcan discovered the Coleville heavy oil field in Saskatchewan with in place reserves of over 200 million barrels. (The fact the engineers can only get out 10% of the reserve is their problem). You must remember I was talking to a group of geologists out at Sandy McNabb's campsite there west of Turner Valley. In addition Royalite discovered a small oil field near Hartney in Manitoba and managed a majesty of exploration and drilling projects in the Gulf and Queen Charlotte Islands off the west coast. In spite of these successes or perhaps because of them, the Seagram directors decided to make Royalite over into a refining, marketing company and the exploration budget was so reduced that Bill's dynamic team lost interest and left the company. Bill himself became a consultant and worked for many years on the tar sands, down the Mackenzie Valley and in the foothills, which he loved so much. Bill's work took him from the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming to the Beaufort Sea, from Manitoba to the islands off our west coast. We would be amiss if we did not mention Bill's contribution to our Society in its days of rapid growth in the mid 50's. Bill organized the famous 1953 field trip to the Crowsnest Pass, the first large trip in a very successful series. In 1954 he was elected President of the Society and was in part responsible for bringing the AAPG to our first joint meeting in Jasper in 1955. However it is not for any of these reasons that Bill is remember by those of us who worked for him and are here today. And I'm also speaking for those who are unable to join us here today. We remember ??? the guide that took small groups of novice geologists up the Sheep River on beautiful fall days like today, to examine the Cretaceous and the Jurassic, to Yaha Tinda to examine the Mississippian and Devonian, up the Wapiati to study folded faults. All with ??? story that made geology an exciting pursuit. We would also be amiss if we did not remember Bill's associations with our native people. Many a Stampede week, we had visits from his great friends, One Gun and Shot in Both Sides and marvelled at the rapport that existed between them. The last time I ??? Bill was in the Mackenzie Arms Hotel in Inuvik and he introduced me to a new Inuit friend and explained the meaning of many of their words and phrases. Several of Bill's early students (they may not look like students anymore after 30 years) have been passing amongst you dispensing a fiery liquid known as nopicola??? in Cree that we felt was going to be much more appropriate than hot wine to toast this particular geological pioneer. It is an honour for me, on behalf of the group, to now ask you to rise and raise your glasses and drink the toast to William Bradshaw Gallup, the guide, the teacher, the geologist.

#300 DF: Wonderful. Tell us about this event where you read this.

JK: The Society did have, I think still has, Logan Day, celebrating the, I don't know if it's the

death, of Sir William Logan, the first head of the Geological Survey of Canada. It's normally held west of Turner Valley, in the foothills. Some people camp out and some people just go for the day. I might conclude this little section by saying that what we did again, at my instigation was, we went back to Turner Valley and had a table set up in the Chinese restaurant with one empty chair for Bill at the head of the table. And we took turns toasting and telling stories of our experiences with Bill Gallup for a long evening and then we went into Turner Valley, to the Turner Valley camp, roused out one of our old friends and had a few more drinks and decided we were going to go down to Royalite 25, which I recall was the discovery of the oil leg and urinate on the well head. But in our condition we were unable to find Royalite 25 and settled on the big rock at Okotoks. Enough of that story.

#326 DF: So tell us more about your work in geology.

JK: Okay. I worked with Royalite as District Geologist in Edmonton from '51 to '54 and then I was asked to go to work for Campagnie Francaise Des Petroles, which subsequently became known as Total as their operations geologist. Campagnie Francaise Des Petroles, you might recall, or may not know, was famous because they had a 5% override on the Kirkuk field in Iraq. But they were not knowledgeable in the oil business. I guess you might say they had the land there. They opened an office in Calgary with Mr. DeCizancourt, whose background was in palaeontology and I was hired as an operations geologist and they sent over young recent graduates from Ecole de Petrole and two of them were Jacques Canaple and Henri Hussien, who, each became. . . Or let's go back to Jacques, Jacques became Exploration Manager for the entire worldwide corporation in Paris. And Henri Hussien became the Chief ??? for the company. I feel proud that I had something to do with training these fellows in the field geology and operations geology. Also notable in that one year I was with the company, their engineer was a fellow called Roland de Montague and he and I prepared the bids, I shouldn't say bids, for a quarter section at the north end of the Bonny Glen oil field that was the highest price ever paid to that time for a parcel of land.

#366 DF: How much?

JK: I forget the number. But the field, we were talking about, all from memory but, there must have been 150' of gas pay and 150' of oil pay at the north end of the field, something like that. It was a big, big one. That was very exciting. And we were successful with that bid. But I was only with them a year when I was asked by Charles Lee and Al Ross at Western Decalta Petroleums to form a geological department for their company. That was in 1955 and proceeded to build a geological department and manage their exploration in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

DF: So how do you go about building a geological department?

JK: You look for people with skills in different areas and set up log libraries and so on. The company had worked with a consultant, Ian Cook, prior to that time. I ran into Ian Cook the other day, he's still around. The interesting things that came out of that situation were I guess, the first thing that I can say was, we or I, determined that there was further

production on the south end of the south Sturgeon Lake oil field. We purchased the lands and subsequently drilled 10 successful wells, due to further build up on the reef as you moved to the south. That was the most notable thing about the oil that I discovered for Western Decalta. But at the same time, Decalta was the manager for a company called Petro Oil and Gas, out of New York. It had a block of land in the Simonette area, which we farmed out to Shell Oil. Shell drilled a Devonian test on the lands and we drilled into the back reef, water field reef. I was called to a meeting at Shell's office and sat down, myself with about 10 Shell employees. And Mr. Tocarsky, the Manager proposed that we drill a [paddy cadotte]??? well as a follow up to this dry hole. From my work at Sturgeon Lake I had deduced that the original well was drilled some 2-3 miles back of the reef edge and suggested that rather than drilling a Cadotte Cretaceous well, that we should drill another deep test looking for the reef front. After some time Shell took the suggestion and we drilled a discovery well at Simonette. I think there's some 40 millions of barrels resulted from that discovery. So I feel I had a part to play in that situation and it was very gratifying. Petro Oil and Gas also had interests in the Obed area and we made a farm out to Imperial Oil and subsequently made the Obed natural gas discovery. Also notable at that time was the fact that the company acquired title to New Brunswick Oil Fields. This was a company that in 1911 had obtained a concession on all of the province of New Brunswick to follow up on the oil seeps in Albert in that area. And subsequently discovered the Stony Creek gas field south of Moncton. There was an oil associated with that and our engineering department felt that we could water flood this situation and recover further oil. So I was sent down to New Brunswick, to Moncton and examined the samples that had been collected from 1911, had been stored in a tar paper shack all this time and arranged for those samples all to be moved to the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. The water flood project by the way was a complete disaster, the sands were too lenticular and. . .

#450 DF: So what happened to the water?

JK: It went in till the pressure built up and there was no oil coming out. Also interesting at that time, oh, that's the story about the ???, we're going to leave that. That comes up later. In about 1959 Art Patterson came to work for the company from Imperial Oil and he was very keen on an oil seep in the Rond Lake area of the Northwest Territories. The company acquired the land and one of the highlights of my period at Royalite was a field trip to Rond Lake where I worked locally with the helicopter and Arthur worked with a Norseman doing the sort of regional geology of the area. Very little had been done in the way of field work in the area and this was primitive stuff.

DF: Tell us exactly what you did.

JK: I with a helicopter, landed at all the outcrops locally, around Rond Lake, trying to determine the stratigraphy and. .

#478 DF: Where more or less is Rond Lake?

JK: It's about 60 miles northwest of Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River. A couple of stories come out of this. One is that one evening Art was late getting back to camp. It got

later and later and of course, it was in September so we had lots of daylight but it was getting about 11:00 in the evening and we became concerned. Art finally showed up and it turned out that he had landed on Belot Lake and they had manoeuvred into a small circular bay at the north end of the lake as Art was going to examine an outcrop, which incidentally was heavily oil stained, in the vicinity. When they came to the part it turned out it was a sink hole and the current within the small bay kept turning the aircraft such that there was a danger of the fabric wings being punctured by the trees on the shoreline and they had spent hours manoeuvring, trying to get out of this small bay. We had taken with us a fire auger, similar to what they use for drilling post holes and with the cook, who was our draftsman by the way, and ourselves taking turns with the pilot and the mechanic, we tried to auger into this oil seep with very little success I might say.

DF: Why?

JK: It was very gooey and there were lots of branches and sticks and everything in it and it was a tiring but hopeless job. The interesting part of this exercise was that we ran into a peer party of Cam Sproule's. Keith Williamson was the Party Chief. They mentioned that there was some good outcrops on the Hare Indian River, which I subsequently explored with a helicopter and that was the subject of my annual address to the CSPG in 1961, when I pointed out that Dr. Harrison of the Canol project, sorry Lieutenant Harrison, who had mapped the Hare Indian River for the Canol project, had been correct. That there were two black shale, the Canol and one I called the Bluefish and that Ted Link, in his editorializing of Lieutenant Harrison's report had written bullshit, bullshit, bullshit, every time he came across reference to this second black shale. Because obviously Ted believed that it was the Canol shale being repeated. So I hope that address, the President's address helped to clarify the stratigraphy of the area.

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

DF: Okay, so any other highlights of your time with Western Decalta?

JK: Well, this is the time of course, when I was very involved with the CSPG but I think we'll cover that. . . .

DF: No, let's do it chronologically. Why were you interested in becoming involved with the CSPG or ASPG as it was called then?

JK: When I came down from Edmonton I immediately got involved in the field trip committee and worked with them. Then I was asked to go on the program committee. This was a gem of a job. It was arranging the program for the noon luncheons and the highlight of course, was the meetings with distinguished lecturers coming from the States and having dinner with them at the Petroleum Club, face to face, one on one with people like Pratt of Esso fame and Hallibootie, big names in the industry. That was very exciting and inspirational. Then I was asked to become the Secretary and subsequently Vice-President under Bill Gussow and was one of his staunchest supporters for the Arctic Map Project and for the geological cross section. Bill and I hit it off, he was not the easiest guy to work with but I think he liked the fact that I didn't always agree with him and stood up to him and argued with him. Anyway we got along very well. So during the course of that time at the CSPG, I should mention that I organized a field trip to the Bahamas.

DF: What?

JK: Yes, that's right. Andrichuk and Edie at the time, were doing a lot of prognosticating about eh proximity of reef masses based upon their study of the samples and I decided that we should go to the Bahamas and do our own examination of the sediments adjacent to the reef build up. And arranged with Mr. Siebens Sr. for the use of his 45' Chriscraft and he in turn arranged for the use of Sir Harry Oakes' 60' Fairmile. We were unable to recruit 8 geologists so 4 of our members took their wives and went to the Bahamas for a week working near the island of Andros and snorkelling and sampling the reefs.

#034 DF: So who were the geologists?

JK: Bruce McDougall was one, Ernie Carter, and Howie . . . you'll have to live with me and I'll get back to you on that one. Anyway, I left Western Decalta. . .

DF: Wait a minute, let's talk about your year as President.

JK: Oh yes. You've got all that here.

DF: I know but you look over your President's report there and then tell me the rest of the story. What were the highlights of your year, what stands out for you?

JK: I think the field trip was excellent. Then I see Kurt Teichert of the U. S. Geological Survey gave the 5th Annual honorary address, Reefs in Space and Time. Let me just talk about Kurt a minute. I subsequently ran into him at a convention in Denver and he described where he lived in Golden and that it was something like a 10 mile drive from the U.S.G.S.'s office and that when his wife heard the garage door opening she went to the Frigidaire and poured two glasses of dry martinis. He said, they did not speak until the had finished these two martinis and I thought, here's a palaeontologist that's so stressed with his work and the 10 mile leisurely drive over country roads back to his home in

Golden but he has to have two martinis before he can relax. The inauguration of the gold tournament, that was significant. Fred Briectel came to us and suggested that we form this . . . this was organized, Fred organized it and arranged for all the trophies, he and Bruce Bailey and I was fortunate enough to win the Cambrian flight that first year and some 25 years later I was again successful in winning the same flight. So obviously my game hadn't improved over those 20 years.

#065 DF: Or hadn't gotten much worse.

JK: That's right, I guess that's right. I mentioned the Arctic map earlier. Of course, at the same time Bob McCrossan and Perry Glaister were preparing or had prepared the Geological History Atlas that was such a fantastic contribution in those days, collating all the information. And Gussow had pushed forward with the reef cross sections in association with the Geological Association of Canada. Actually, there's mention here of the Highway Signs Committee, that's another thing that I would like to talk about. Dave Duncan was the Chairman that year, he's the one that's subsequently gone on to write these science fiction novels and become famous.

DF: So what were the Highway Signs Committee?

JK: We proposed to the government that we put signs along our highways and we recommended one for the Gap there, just west of Calgary and gave them the description of the quarry . . . the quarry belongs to Steel Brothers, and English company. Steel Brothers has the lime quarry across the river and we described the geology and subsequently the sign appeared and it had wording that had nothing to do with what we had suggested. But that interested me in geological monuments and it wasn't part of the year but subsequently I wrote to Peter Lougheed and Allan "Boomer" Adair with the government, suggesting that the Hummingbird reef outcrops be declared a geological monument for all geologists and Albertans alike to visit. I have a letter here that I could read but yes, I will read. It's October '84, years after the Highway Signs Committee. *Dear Mr. Lougheed, Our chance meeting with Bill Daniel at the Scotsburg Refinery opening prompts me to write you about a possible heritage project which I have been interested in for several years. It concerns the establishment of a geological monument in the Ram River area, section 4, township 36, 16 west of 5. Although I do not know of any such designated areas in Canada there are many in Europe. This specific site is known as the Hummingbird Reef and it is the most spectacular exposure of those Devonian reefs which harbour so much of Alberta's oil reserves. I believe this exposure should be made available to every citizen of our province and the tourists so that they may appreciate our geological heritage. There currently is a forestry road known as the Onion Lake Road, which comes within three miles of the proposed site. It is recommended that the province designate the area a heritage site and/or a geological monument and the forestry department be asked to extend the Onion Lake Road to the site. The following text which is suggested for the inscription may help to convey my enthusiasm for this project: This area is designated a heritage site so that all the citizens of Alberta may appreciate this example of nature's wonder. Exposed here by the forces that formed the Rocky Mountains is a 350 million year old reef, similar to those now growing in tropical seas. It has been*

raised from a depth of 4,000 metres and pushed 10 kilometres to the northeast from its original place of burial. It is the finest exposure of those reservoir rocks which contain much of the vast reserves of oil and natural gas in Alberta. Fields such as Leduc, Redwater, Stettler, Sturgeon Lake, Innisfail and Rimbey have their counterpart here for all to see. Secondly this area is dedicated to the memory of those pioneering geologists whose work in the mountains and on the plains of Alberta led to the discovery of the vast reserves of oil and natural gas under our province. I think your government should be congratulated for its efforts in Kananaskis country, which have added greatly to the recreational activities of Albertans and our future tourist potential. I hope that this proposed heritage site would add to that legacy.

#122 DF: And what came of this?

JK: Complete failure. Subsequently we were again approached by the government in the way of doing geological signposts and so on and Daryl Wigham again, and I proposed again, the Hummingbird reef as a project and nothing has developed. It's one of my failures.

DF: It sounds like quite the site.

JK: It is. It's fantastic. One thing I don't mention there is that the reef is exposed high on the mountain but a large landslide, not comparable to Frank slide but a large landslide has brought the reef down to the valley bottom and it's exposed in little erosional pyramids, little, maybe 60' high of this fossil reef and the exposures are fantastic. Immediately adjacent is the [off reef]??? equivalent, across the coulee. It's a spectacular site. But only accessible by helicopter or people willing to. .

DF: Hike in.

JK: And the Onion Lake Road has been let go in disrepair because the forestry doesn't want people in there and it's a real shame.

DF: What else from your year as President? Tell us about this employment Committee.

JK: I guess we must have had a lot of people looking for work at that time.

DF: This was the early 60's, yes, you see that. . .

JK: Yes, Al Hiles, he worked with us at Royalite, that's right.

DF: Okay, can you tell us about what he did?

JK: During the year he said 30 unemployed members were interviewed, 9 of whom are still unemployed. Arrangements were made so that the requirements of the external aid department and the United Nations could be advertised for membership.

DF: Do you remember what the downturn was in the early 60's, why were people. . .?

JK: No, I don't recall that. But Al Hiles obviously took up the arrangements because he subsequently went back to Ottawa and went to work for the federal government.

DF: Is he still around?

JK: No, I think he's retired from the federal government.

#150 DF: But is he still alive?

JK: I don't know that either, no. The next thing I see is John Ontko's name mentioned as Chairman of the Membership Committee. That's interesting because John also worked for Royalite, was my assistant up in Edmonton.

DF: Any things that stand out in your memory as highlights from that year? What did you like most about being President?

JK: Well, the interfacing with other geologists and other companies. I made fantastic contacts with a lot of people, Jim Shouldice, Tom Oliver, who was editor of the Bulletin at the time. Tom, who was a neighbour here until recently was a great friend. Rudy Martin gave his paper, Principles of Palaeogeomorphology, which was very interesting at the time. When Rudy passed away I purchased his library from his widow and it subsequently passed on to Canada North-West and latterly to Sherritt. That was the year that Ted Link presented the tankard for the best paper presented at the . . . best oral presentation to the Society. And Al Rudkin was presented the paper, the Lower Cretaceous of Western Canada.

DF: Do you have any stories of Ted Link?

JK: Yes, I've got lots of stories of Ted Link. As a matter of fact, I was going to write a book about Ted Link, or not a book but a . . . Ted was one of the people I admired, sort of a mentor. Of course, you'll recall that he went down north to Norman Wells, he looked at the oil seeps and subsequently flew in the next year with two Fokker tri-motors and one crashed on landing and the other was damaged and they had to build the propeller out of wood to fly out and so on. But those were pioneering days and somewhere in my library I've got all the studies I've collected on Ted's experiences and so on. Another story comes to mind, it's a 1955 field trip in Jasper with the AAPG. The field trip took off from Jasper Park Lodge and the first outcrop we passed was at Old Fort Point. Bob O'Connor, the guide on the bus who was very embarrassed to see Ted Link get on reported that the outcrop to your left is either orodivician or Upper Cambrian and Ted Link's voice from the back of the bus says, well, stop the bus and we'll decide right now. Mr. O'Connor didn't say another thing for 40 miles. Another story about Ted that I like to tell is Sun Oil company and Elf Aquitaine had a permit in Algeria. They decided to drill a well and there was an argument about how deep this well should go. It was resolved that they should ask a neutral geologist, one Ted Link, to make this decision for them, arbitrate. Now, people who knew Ted would know that he believed in drilling to the basement. But obviously they didn't know that. Anyway Ted recommended that the well be taken to the basement and subsequently that was the discovery well at Hasi Messoud. Found a 1.5 billion barrel oil field I believe. Another story about Ted I like is, he was asked to evaluate a company for acquisition. He phoned them up after studying the situation and told them, do not proceed with the acquisition. They subsequently received an invoice for \$10,000 at which they were rather chagrined and asked him, would he not write a report for that. Oh, he said, certainly he would but that would be a couple of more thousand dollars to write the report and did they really want it. He said, it was his knowledge, not his writing expertise that was in demand.

#212 DF: What kind of a guy was he in person?

JK: He was a very humorous guy. He enjoyed a joke. I'm told by Art Patterson at Imperial, that when he came back from the field he would go around the office and kiss all the girls. This kind of lighthearted guy. But obviously he was a very tough task master on that

Canol Oil Project when he supervised all those geologists. There was Bill Hancock and Fred McKinnon and this American soldier, Lieutenant Harrison. Incidentally Al Hemstock recently gave a talk on the Canol oil pipeline and project and it turned out he was the assistant to this Dr. Harrison on that field party on the Hare Indian River. Small world.

DF: Yes it is isn't it. Do you know what Canol stood for, what those letters stood for?

JK: Canadian Oil. Can was for Canada and ol was short for oil.

DF: But that's not what it was. Canadian American Norman Oil Line.

JK: Is that right? That's interesting.

DF: ??? and their publicity people all tried to make it exactly what you thought, Canadian Oil but it wasn't Canadian Oil, it was Canadian American Norman Oil Line and as Hemstock said when he gave his talk, the Americans were trying to cover up the fact that they were running the Canadian north. That's why they wanted everybody to think it was Canadian Oil but it was actually Canadian American Norman Oil Line. Even back then publicity people were doing their spins on things.

JK: Yes, that's right.

#236 DF: So anything else from the CSPG period?

JK: No.

DF: That's pretty much it. Now, tell us how much you were paying geologists when you set up Western Decalta in the 50's, how much did you pay rookies?

JK: I can't tell you, I would have no idea.

DF: Can't remember? So where did you go after Western Decalta?

JK: Oh, incidentally, I might go back and point out that, as I said, Rio Bravo became Canadian Superior, Royalite became Gulf Oil, Campagnie Francaise became Total, Western Decalta became Pembina Pipeline.

DF: Now did you ever work in Turner Valley?

JK: No, but I had occasion to visit a number of times.

DF: Because you know, we're taking that old gas plant and making it a museum.

JK: Yes, as a matter of fact there's a fellow called Ernie Carter, who you may not have interviewed but Ernie Carter lives just a few doors from me here and he grew up in Turner Valley and became a draftsman, became a big fellow in the CSPG, went on this field trip with us to the Bahamas and so on and so on. So he has a lot of history in Turner Valley, as does Jim Harvie, if you haven't interviewed Jim Harvie, he lives out at Okotoks, he's a great fountain of knowledge.

DF: Yes. His father was in the provincial government wasn't he?

JK: That's correct. When the province was awarded the mineral rights he was the first Minister of Mines and Minerals in Alberta.

DF: So what happened after Royalite for you?

JK: Then I was asked by J. Ray McDermott, the large offshore oil field contractor, to open an office in Calgary and act as their Exploration Manager. This was a very exciting time. One of the memorable events was we decided to pick up some permits in the Dunvegan area of the Peace River country. We were looking for the reef to subcrop against the pre-

Cambrian shield in the area, the pre-Cambrian uplift in the area and did plane table work, mapped the Dunvegan fault.

#271 DF: Explain to me what you do when you use a plane table?

JK: What we did is - this is an interesting story too - I obtained the assistance of a one eyed engineer from Accurate Geophysical, Doc was his name, I can't remember his last name. We went up to Spirit River where I had worked in the Gordondale project, rented a river boat, about a 45' skiff with a 35 horse motor and drove down to the Dunvegan ferry and put in the boat and we would go up the river to probably what's Dunvegan Creek. Rather than climbing up and down the 200' escarpment each day, mapped the layering of the rocks exposed in the creek bed. We had this project going for about a week when I ran into a fellow called Bob, let me come back with this one for you too because this is a good story, and his wife. They were doing a slim hole project in the Gordondale area, just as I had done years previously, for Micmac Oil, or was it Newmac, I think it was Newmac, their successor. I had arranged to rent this boat from the manager of the hotel but the condition was on the Sundays he wanted it for his personal use. So on Saturday he asked if I would like to go down river with him because he took it as a sort of break from the hotel and I invited this Bob and his wife to go with us. We proceeded down river to the big island where Sir Alexander Mackenzie spent the winter of 17, something or other and bought some corn from the farmer and so on and turned around to go back upstream. I should mention that the hotel keeper had a large ice chest with beer and whiskey and so on and so on. To make a long story short we ran aground several times, we had the one eyed surveyor at the front of the boat who was the only one not drinking but we finally ran out of gas and had to climb the 200' escarpment, beat on farmers doors about midnight, asked to get some gas and finally were given an open 5 gallon can, put it on a stick, carried it back to the edge of the ravine, scrambled down the ravine, spilling gasoline everywhere. Finally made it back to the boat and proceeded up to the Dunvegan ferry about 3:00 in the morning and this fellow was very concerned about not supervising this structure test hole that he was drilling. I told him not to worry, I knew all the subsurface geology from structure test I had done. But we called that the Peace River yacht trip. What was Bob's last name, Bob. . it'll come to me.

#322 DF: So the Peace River. . .

JK: Yacht trip. Not a yacht trip, that's just a joke. Anyway, we drilled the first well on the Dunvegan prospect down to the basement, the reef wasn't present and we logged the well and decided we should test the top of the Mississippian, had gas cut mud and abandoned the well. Subsequently J. C. Anderson who was working for Amoco determined by his analysis of water resistivities??? on the logs, that there was something unusual about the porous zone that we had interpreted as wet in this particular well. He proposed that Amoco redrill the well. They refused, he quit the company, raised the money himself and drilled the offset to our dry hole and discovered the Dunvegan gas field. Something greater than 1 trillion cubic feet of gas. So that's one of my big failures. But it had looked wet to us, log interpretations said it was wet but it was gasoline. I see that J. C. was

recently honoured with the Slipper Award. He is a risk taker.

DF: So what did you go on to do after that?

JK: Well, with McDermott we did a number of very interesting things. One thing was we took acreage under Great Slave Lake. We mentioned earlier about my early experience mapping the Pine Point reef front and determined that there could be isolated reef bodies out in the shale basin under the lake. So we employed a large barge owned by a missionary outfit that had worked the Arctic coast. Accurate Geophysical put on an airgun, a bolt??? airgun and we used Radist for positioning and we did a survey of all the western portion of Great Slave Lake.

DF: What's Radist?

JK: It's a survey instrument, like radar. And mapped a number of anomalies and subsequently obtained permission from the Fisheries and Wildlife people to drill wells on the lake and that's covered by a paper that I gave to Aubrey Kerr and he published. I'll just give you that because it describes the many troubles we had. We drilled three wells over the course of two winters and it was many exciting moments. I might digress a minute here. We were also drilling, with Hamilton Brothers, a series of well at Rainbow Lake, development wells. One of our engineers from the company in Texas decided that he would come up and see how this was done. He went to Rainbow Lake and I told him, when he had completed that job he should come on up to Hay River and we would take him out on the lake and show him how we drill on ice in Canada. He arrived in Hay River and ran into the Haliburton tester, who was stationed there and the two of them decided in the bar that they would drive out to the lease the next day on 11 miles of ice road, or winter road. However during the night a storm had blown up and the road had blown in and we at the rig, were driving in to pick him up. We had a one ton panel truck belonging to Electronic Velocity Logging Company and we were going with the wind and we were able to bust through the drifts. About 9 miles into this trip we could see the top of a little red truck. We arrived at the truck, the Haliburton truck and they were digging and turnaround so that they could go back to Hay River. This engineer from Texas, as I got out of the truck he said to me, Kirker tell me what the fuck a coonass like me is doing in the middle of this fucking lake. Now, you've got to abbreviate that somehow. Now another great thing we did then, my buddy Jules Poscente, who I'd gone to school with and who figures big in my life, you'll see, was working for Great Plains and happened to mention to me that they had farmed out a large structure at Taylor Lake in the Yukon Territories to Shell Oil. Shell had done a bunch of seismic on the feature and wanted to walk away from it. This was the time of Prudhoe Bay and the north was very exciting. I was shown the seismic and suggested that our company, J. Ray McDermott would put up half the money to drill this well and suggested that Great Plains utilize the government incentive money to pay for their 50% share of this well. It was all worked out and they formed a company called Southdown. This seemed to not be the right name to be very appropriate but it was named after the Chalk Hills south of London. We drilled this well, we managed the project, we freighted all the supplies down to Fort Good Hope again, built 150-180 miles of winter road and moved all the equipment in, drilled the well.

#444 DF: Did you build your own road or hire someone?

JK: Payjack Consulting actually managed this project. And drilled the well and ironically we had taken in all this barite in order to kill the well in case it blew out because it had about 1,400' of closure on the structure and we anticipated a blow out. Well, we drilled into the top of the Bear Rock, our objective horizon and it was all filled with this white dense material. When the well was logged the density showed that it went right off scale. So I went to Schlumberger and I said, how can you explain this and they said, it's something like, it's got to be iron or this, something with a density greater than 4. It twigged to me, barite. We had taken in all this barite to suppress the well and here the porosity in the well bore was full of barite. Ironic isn't it, you drill a well in a big structure . . .

DF: And it's full of barite already.

JK: But the Americans were very impressed with this operation that we pulled off in one winter season.

#471 DF: But no oil?

JK: No oil. Now, the last thing I did for J. Ray McDermott was we had taken a position in the foothills, in central Alberta, on what we thought was the extension of the reef trends into the foothills, into the mountains.

DF: What year was this?

JK: This would have been about 1967, '68 and subsequently the Ricinis discovery was made. This excited all the major companies and we were approached by Pan American, Mobil, Esso, everybody wanted to take options on this land, which we had acquired for 57 cents an acre. They proposed doing seismic and drilling a well, something like a 12,000' well to earn a half interest in the block and so on and so on. Management of the company decided that if it was that good, that they would do it themselves. Then they sent north a geologist, a redneck geologist from Louisiana who how shall I describe it, this incompetent individual to Canada as our manager. I realized that if there was going to be any success from this exercise he was going to take the credit and if there was any failure I was going to get the failure, so I retired from the company. It was a most distressing time but it turned out it was the opportunity of my life, as a consequence of that retirement. Incidentally Trans Ocean subsequently became known as Swift Oil. So I went consulting and formed a company called Arjay Kirker Resources and the first project I was asked to do was for Mesa Petroleum. Jack Stobart asked me to collate some two years of work that had been done in Vienna, Austria on their permit in upper Austria and to write a report that they had to submit to the government. This work exposed me to the opportunities in central Europe, in the tertiary basins of central Europe, the Molas Basin. Which was subsequently to guide us in our exploration in Europe. George Macleod of Samadan was kind enough to offer me office space on the condition that he had first opts on any project that I worked up. I subsequently went to see Western Leaseholds who controlled the land in the Eagle Plains area of the Yukon and received verbal permission to farm out the acreage on their behalf and spent 3 1/2 months working up the geology and selling it to a prospective buyer. Then found out that Western Leaseholds was not interested in farming it out.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

JK: And I said, when did you decide not to farm it out and they said, oh about a week after you were in to visit us. Here I was a struggling geologist supporting a family with three kids and after 3 1/2 months work I'm told, we decided not to farm it out. Subsequently in my career, whenever I hire a consultant I never ask what he charges or question his bill because I've been there, I've done it.

DF: What else did you learn from consulting?

JK: At this time I also became involved in the industry. I took a position with a company that was formed called Rio Alto Petroleum which is the founding company for the Rio Alto that's now so successful. This was a group of geologists who had different prospects in coal, copper, oil and so on and so on and they pooled their interests under Mr. Poscente and I was an investor and we raised money, went on the stock exchange, raised money and so on and so on. We had our most success in the coal business which was very exciting at the time but subsequently backed away from it all. . . . I shouldn't say that. One thing we got involved in was a well at Cessford in Alberta that blew out. This well was drilled on a farm out from Tenneco and it was an expiring lease. The well had to be drilled prior to year end to utilize our monies for tax purposes and there was no geologist on the well, there was no engineer on the well and after reaching total depth the crew pulled the pipe out of the hole, swabbed it in and the well blew, created a crater, collapsed the rig into the crater, created an ice volcano. We had to hire the great Red Adair to come and visit and Red Adair determined that we should drill a relief well which we did. The original well was scheduled to cost \$100,000 and I had a 10% equity and the blow out cost us another \$400,000 and fortuitously the bank backed us in this situation and the relief well, we were able to kill the wild well and subsequently put it on production and over a number of years were able pay back the bank. But it's ironic that I became involved in this venture after the discovery of the gas and I thought this was an easy thing, we'd found the gas, not realizing it was going to cost another \$400,000 to kill the well.

#038 DF: So what happened, why did it get away on you?

JK: Let's see, how you would describe the situation. There was no casing in the hole, they anticipated it was going to be a dry hole, we were going to log it and so on. Well, when they pulled out of the hole to log it, the gas came in, it was swabbed in behind the pulling of the pipe and it started pulling all the rocks and everything out of the hole, then it cratered around the casing you see.

DF: So you'd already pretty well given up on the hole, that's why . . .

JK: No, no. There was no geologist, no engineer on the hole, it was anticipated to be a dry hole and we were going to log it and. . .

DF: Just use that information.

JK: Yes, that's right. I shouldn't say this but a lawyer [running a tax pool ran this whole thing

you see]???. And I came in after they made the gas discovery. Rio Alto was involved in that as well.

DF: So what other stories do you have that are on your list?

JK: As a consultant I was approached by Julio Poscente, who had formed a company called Red Deer Minerals, with Bob Mitten out of Red Deer, and asked to office with him in Executive Place and the two of us with a secretary occupied a suite in what is now known as Executive Place. We became interested in finding large blocks of land to explore and we thought of Europe because of my experience in the Molas Basin. Julio had connections in Italy and he went to Italy and visited with the government, he speaks Italian and he could talk to them. About taking concessions offshore Italy. We decided on offshore because we could survey it geophysically very inexpensively, hundreds dollars a kilometre versus thousands of dollars a kilometre onshore. And we appreciated from the geology that there was tertiary basins offshore Italy, tertiary basins offshore Spain, offshore Greece and so on. So Julio on his way to Italy, and this is all written up in another paper I have for you, ran across a landman who said that Spain had the best regulations in Europe for oil and gas exploration. So he returned to Calgary, we obtained the regulations, we had them translated in Calgary, approved them and I was sent to Spain to select areas. I surveyed the geology of the north coast, the west coast, the south coast and the east coast and settled on an area on the east coast, selected some blocks we made application for them and the rest is history you might say, we discovered with the aid of Chevron, we farmed out to Chevron and discovered the Casablanca oil field, which is the largest oil field in Spain and has produced over 140 millions of barrels. And it's all written up for you here David if you wanted to take a look at it.

#080 DF: Great. So did you live in Spain for awhile?

JK: No. But commuted extensively, made as many as 6 or 7 trips a year. Because we subsequently, when we hired the geophysicist to shoot the program over these blocks in Spain, he was familiar with the North Sea and suggested we should also examine putting together a group to explore in the North Sea. We put together a group of Canadian companies, I've got that for you here too, here it is. The companies were Scurry Rainbow, Dennison Mines, Trans Canada Resources, Polaris, Patrick Oakwood, and H. W. Bass, it was an exploring Canada. Sorry, I must go back and explain how Red Deer Minerals became Canada North-West. Graham Gammell was a geologist who had worked for Sun Oil and other companies but was principally a financier, had gone back east and had worked for Canadian Pacific in their investment portfolio department and had determined that the company had a large holding in a company called Canada North-West Land out of London, England. David, I'm going to give you this book, it has all the history of that company and a page explains the origin of it. It was the old Canadian Pacific Railroad and the incestuous Directors and so on. Let me tell you something, when we were forming our company in australia they asked who was Canada North-West Land and I said, it was a sister company of Canadian Pacific Railroad, formed in 1882, to acquire land in western Canada, all the town sites in western Canada. I explained it was common directorship and it was rather an incestuous relationship and the Australian said, well, I

guess with that cold climate you have up there, those things go on. Anyway, Graham Gammell had a falling out with Ian Sinclair, who was the President of the CPR, left the company and went to London, England and purchased control of the company on the London stock exchange for \$66,000, brought it back to Canada, retired the only employee, who was an elderly lady in Winnipeg, looking after the rentals and payments and turned it into an oil company. They started receiving royalty income from their mineral rights in Saskatchewan. He then took an involvement with Pan Arctic and needed a geologist or two and a landman to straighten things out and Red Deer Minerals, with Julio Poscente, the landman and Kirker the geologist was a fit and we came to work for the company and looked at their situation. Incidentally I have their annual report of 1970 and their net income for the year was \$1,571. We talked the company into going to Europe which Red Deer Minerals had become involved in and we were given \$50,000 on a string. By that Mr. Gammell said, when you spend the \$50,000 and you don't get any more or we pull you back. So we obtained concessions in Italy where we subsequently discovered the big oil field, we had concessions in Spain where we discovered Casablanca I mentioned and we put together this group in the North Sea and made a presentation to the Ministry, to a gentleman by the name of Angus Beckett who had formerly been Minister in charge of Fisheries. With our Scotch geophysicist, our interpretation of the seismic and stated that we felt the large anomaly that covered the corners of four blocks, which we called the four corners anomaly, was the best block in the offer and we could not expect our small company, or group of companies to be awarded the top of the structure but we would commit to drill a well on one of the flank blocks of the structure if oil was discovered higher on the structure. We were awarded this block, 3-7 it was called and subsequently Burma Oil discovered the . . . how come I can't remember that name that's so prominent, Ninian Field, with Ranger Oil. The flank structures were drilled and we farmed out our block to Chevron, who drilled the discovery well in the field now known as Columba. Chevron drilled a second discovery on the block. At this time we were approached by Demenex, the German oil company and were offered \$28 million for our group's interest in the block and Canada North-West recommended we accept the offer to the partners because we needed the funds to finance our share of the development in Spain. This occurred back I 1973, thereabouts, '74 and it wasn't till about 3 years ago that Ranger Oil tied this Columba oil field to their Ninian platform and put it on production. So it was a long time in coming to production. We felt the technology at the time would not justify us trying to tie back to the Ninian platform. Now the biggest story, the Casablanca story I'm going to give you and let you read that.

#170 DF: You've got a whole page of notes here, what else would you like to talk about?

JK: Let me see where we go to. Here's an interesting side light. At Canada North-West, because of my early involvement with the mining industry, they put me in charge of a copper project near Landsend in England, Hingston Down. That was a disaster.

DF: What happened?

JK: We drilled a 1,200' adit under the old copper workings in Devon. We had to bring miners from Nova Scotia because all the old Welsh miners had been gone, they didn't know how

to do it anymore. But I was asked to go over there. This adit had water pouring out of it and then disappearing into a hole right beside the adit, into old workings, you know. Gammell said, I'm not going in there, so I went in with the miners and looked at the face and I couldn't understand a word they said, these guys from Cape Breton. Anyway, we didn't find any copper, so that exercise . . . I also was involved in talking the company into geothermal exploration and became the operators of a group that was exploring in 5 American states for geothermal energy, in the Philippines for geothermal energy.

#196 DF: Explain to us what the purpose of that is.

JK: It started back in about 1911 in Italy, in a place called Larderello, which I've had the opportunity to visit. They took the steam coming out of these natural vents and used it to drive a turbine. The technology developed to the point where, in California, in a place called the Geysers, north of San Francisco, there is a very large development where they drill wells just like they do in the oil business and they put the steam into a central plant and they produce electricity, competitively. In the course of our exploration we used the geothermal consultants out of San Diego. Excellent man and he put us into numerous excellent prospects. One of which, in northern California we called Glass Mountain and it's the best geothermal prospect in the United States and has been developed by Shell, Phillips, Chevron and Union Oil. All of them have subsequently walked away because of the frustrations of dealing with the environmentalists and the Bureau of Land Management. But there's fantastic potential. The reservoir has temperatures of 354 degrees Fahrenheit and it's been deduced??? from these test wells but it's never been tied in. Very frustrating experience. We spent many, many years working on that geothermal project. Another story, another failure, let me tell you about another failure. Trans Alta Resources was approached to be taken over by Atco, the predecessor Canadian Utilities, and as a poison pill, Transalta bought a 40% interest in Canada North-West Energy. With this infusion of this new money, Canada North-West decided to beef up their assets in Canada. Because we were now in Spain, Italy, had producing wells and we wanted to beef up our Canadian presence. So we bought a company called Geocrude. Geocrude had a subsidiary called Pan Cana Minerals. Pan Cana Minerals was valued I believe, at \$1 in the transaction. Pan Cana Minerals had a 50% interest in a gold property on the Carlin trend in Nevada. Goldstrike is the name of the property, is now the largest gold producing property in the United States of America. It was my recommendation that we sell this property to American Barrick, because the property was poorly managed by our partner, the ore grades were very low and we would have to do a large excavation job to get to the ore body and the danger of flooding at those depths. All of these things have been rectified by Barrick. So that's one of the failures.

#252 DF: Another one of your stories.

JK: That's right. I had to bring that up, that's right. One of the highlights of course, in the project was working on Pan Arctic and travelling to the north and being involved in the discussions about the discoveries and this, that and the other thing.

DF: Any stories from the north?

JK: The highlight was going up to Drake Point when they tested the offshore wellhead and flow lines that they thought they would use to develop the Arctic, which we subsequently of course, used offshore at Casablanca and so on. Now, I retired from Canada North-West after it was taken over by Sherritt International. As a retirement was given a week in Cuba, visiting all the geological sites in Cuba and so on. But I've made a list here of field trips that I've had an opportunity to do over the world. In 1960 I got to visit the Yucatan and talk to the geologists drilling wells in the area. In 1970 I was in Tunisia, '72 I did the eastern Catalan in Spain courtesy of Coparex. That's a digression but Coparex farmed out their acreage on the east coast of Spain, to Shell Oil and their exploration manager, who's a friend of mine, was visiting in Calgary from Paris when he got a telegram saying, while attempting to kill the well because they had lost circulation for three days, the pumps broke down and the well started to flow oil. That was the discovery of the Imposta oil fields, it produced 57 million barrels in something like 7 years, at rates up to 25,000 barrels a day per well. And that was our tip off to Spain, that's what prompted us to go to Spain the fact that I'd known that fellow and knew that story. But I had field trips in Montenegro, in the classic ??? area of Montenegro, northern Greece, Thessalonika, Calabria in southern Italy, in southern England with Jeff Thomas, the Kimberlies in western Australia with Playford, in South Africa, a field trip in Kenya, the Sechetts in Mauritius, the Baisa Basin in southern China, and Quilin, the classic ??? area in China, Sicily, Northern Ireland, Argentina. So working with Canada North-West I had the opportunity to go to China, present proposals to the Chinese government and go to South America, Argentina, Cuba.

#305 DF: Did you work in Cuba?

JK: No, I worked on Cuba in Calgary for the company.

DF: Did you do any development there.

JK: Oh yes. Sherritt is the big operator, produces something like 35,000 barrels a day now, in Cuba.

DF: So anything you'd like to tell us about your career? What have you enjoyed most about what you've done over the years?

JK: Here's something else I'm going to give you. Here's a talk I have to APEGGA on the Heritage of Geologists, Geological Heritage. And you talk about Link and Sproule in it, it's good.

DF: Super. What have you enjoyed most about your career?

JK: Travel. Let me say that my first trip to Europe was in 1959 on a propellor job and I was trying to organize a group to go to the 1960 Geological Society meetings in Copenhagen and failed to raise enough enthusiasm or get enough people to go on a charter. But KLM offered me a trip to Europe and I fell in love with flying. I flew a lot in the north, in the Norman Wells exercise and so on and so on, then jets came on the scene and that's when I took to travel. I love to travel and make it a point to try and get as many stamps in my passport as I can. I proposed to the wife recently that we go to the Emirates on the Arabian peninsula so that I could drive from one end to the other and get five passport stamps in a day. I love to travel. And of course, I lived in Australia. We haven't talked

about Australia but I was the manager in Australia for 2 1/2 years from '80 to '82. The highlight of that was, well, two stories come out of it. We went public in Australia, we had something like 10 million acres at one time. We drilled a well offshore in the Gulf of Carpentaria, it was the first ever pioneering effort there. And we organized the group to farm into a permit of Wapets, which was a consortium of Shell, Chevron, Texaco and Ampol. And the oil industry went flat, the partners were not able to come up with their money, our management wouldn't guarantee their performance, we dropped the farm out. Wapets subsequently drilled the well, discovered 60 million barrel oil field in 14' of water, put three shallow platforms and had it on production of 60,000 barrels a day in like, two years. That's another failure.

#356 DF: For you, good for them.

JK: That's right. So my only foreign residency was in Perth, Australia. It was a fantastic place to live, place to work. The west Australians are just like western Canadians.

DF: Any regrets, things you wish you could have done?

JK: Oh yes, this Hummingbird reef. Now David, there's a list somewhere of things I had done for the CSPG, other than the year as President. Because one of the things I did was inaugurate the past President's dinner. I started that and I conceived on the third elephant, the CSPG calendar, that are a legacy and what was the other thing, something even more significant, I can't remember what it was.

DF: You said you made a list so it's here somewhere. Tell us a little bit about your children, what have they gone on to?

JK: That's interesting too. When I was consulting I took my son to the Yukon, we were involved in coal exploration in the Yukon.

DF: What's your son's name?

JK: Same name, James. Wright. And wanted him to become a geologist and he decided to become an accountant like his mother, in spite of all these exposures, the helicopter trips and so on. Then my oldest daughter. . sorry, the son is now a CA with a tax practice. The oldest daughter. . .

DF: Name please.

JK: Janice. We're all J's. She went to Japan for their Expo, became interested in foreign religion, subsequently won a scholarship to go to university in Kyoto, spent a year in Japan, went to University of Victoria, got a degree in anthropology and Pacific studies, became a Buddhist, spent a year in India with the Dalai Lama, writing publications for and returned to Victoria, worked for the federal government for 10 years or so and now is back in Calgary doing part time work. Still a Buddhist and still very much interested in alternative medicine. The youngest daughter, Jill took a year at the University of Edmonton, she found the school too big and she went to the American College of Switzerland in Leysin with friends and became interested in geology. Subsequently enrolled at the University of Boise, Idaho and took her bachelors in geology, back to Calgary and took her masters in geology, went to work for Chevron. I should go back a bit. She spent a summer working on the Rusty Springs mineral prospect on the Yukon, Alaska border and wrote a report on the geology of the area, working by herself. She then

went to work for Chevron, became a geologist looking after eastern Canada, including Virden, Manitoba and Hibernia. And then became their carbonate stratigrapher and then had two children and Chevron did not believe in part time work so she quit and she is now a Director and an employee of Ecotrust. She's become very much involved in the environment and wrote a book on Nose Hill, on the geology, the botany, the history, this, that and the other thing. So that's the children.

#449 DF: Is there anything else you'd like to say about your career?

JK: I should say about brother Bill. Now, brother Bill took geology at the University of British Columbia a year behind me because he didn't know what he wanted to do and he knew he could use my text books and spend the money on beer. He went to work for Gulf Oil and consulting companies, Winter's Hall, D. D. Feldman, retired as Exploration Manager of D. D. Feldman. He worked Canada and I worked internationally and we both have many, many friends and both were very successful in our respective fields you might say.

DF: Wonderful. Now there's a whole mess more stuff on the table that we haven't talked about. But if you'll loan that to me, maybe I can take photocopies of it all and that way we can keep that. Any final comments you'd like to say about your career or about the ASPG, CSPG?

JK: I think in one of the things I gave you. . no, I know what it is, in my talks to the CSPG ??? field trip seminars, I gave a talk for years on international exploration and I always give them a bit of advice that I think was so great, whatever things you think you can do or dream you can do, start it, because you do not know of the numerous events that fall into place that will aid and abet you to accomplish that objective. For instance, we talk about Casablanca, a chance meeting on the plane about the regulations, writing for this, that, the regulations, translating them, going there, a company that had revenues of \$1,571 and obtaining a concession. Whatever you can dream of, go for the stars, shoot at it, that's my advice. Be a discoverer.

DF: That's great. Good for you. So on behalf of the CSPG and the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, I'd like to thank you so much for spending this time with us today and opening up a little part of your life to the tape recorder. It's been just wonderful, thank you so very much.

JK: It's a pleasure David, it's a pleasure.