

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Bill Mooney

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

DATE: July 2004

DF: Today is 20th of July in the year 2004 and we are with Mr. Bill Mooney Sr. at the offices of CDX Canada Co., Suite 1210, 606 - 4th St. S.W. My name is David Finch. Thank you so much for meeting with us today.

BM: You're quite welcome David.

DF: Start by telling us where and when you were born?

BM: I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, 27th of February, 1929.

DF: And what were your parents doing?

BM: Well, I was adopted. My dad was a dentist, he brought me home and he said, well, if he's good enough for me, he's good enough for you. That was the words my mother got. His name was W. J. Mooney, he was Doc Mooney in Regina, a dentist. My mother at that time, and I say at that time, was Bessie Leonid??? Mooney. Then she died when I was three and my dad remarried, Esther Mooney who later became my mom to me, a great individual, great gal. My father then died three years later. So she was left in 1934 with myself and a sister and she raised the two of us on absolutely. . .of course, doctor's in those years had no money and she raised us on \$60 a month. I remember the first raise from '34 was in '44 when the Canadian government, she got a \$15 raise. So she's sort of on the pedestal for me. So that's the family history. Then if you want me to go, I went to grade school in Regina at Holy Rosary. Took 8 years and followed that with a year at Campion College. where I flunked. Because my mother was working and she didn't have much of a . . .

DF: What was the name of that college?

BM: Campion, a Jesuit high school in Regina, I think it was the only one. Anyway I took grade 9 there and flunked because I was out playing hockey and fishing. So then I ran into Father Murray that summer, who was known to me through my dad and as a kid I went out there . . . Maybe I'll give you a copy of Pere Murray and the Hounds before you leave, you'd enjoy the book by Gorman??? So he said, I'll talk to your mom because they were good friends. So that was 1944 and he went and saw my mom and Pere said, it's okay, Esther, let the kid go out because he won't last, it's too tough for him. So I went in the fall of '44 to Notre Dame, stayed for 8 years until '52. And left there with 2nd year university in ???

#036 DF: How did you get into the oil patch then?

BM: Well, in '52 I left, I came out and worked underground in Kimberley at the Sullivan Mine.

DF: What did you do?

BM: I was a mucker, and had the odd other job that they assigned me to, which was quite unusual. I had a bonus of \$5 a day at one time but that only lasted a day until the union people found it and they said, no, no we got union people who should be doing this. Anyway, I was in the union but not a regular member because they sort of took that I was going to stay the summer. I was looking at permanent employee. The old miners would say, god dammit Mooney, get out of the mine, it'll get in your blood, you'll be here all your life. So anyway, they had a strike. Then they asked me if I wanted to go to Bluebell Mine because I was considered a summer student, I sort of needed the money. I said no and went out and helped an uncle in Vancouver for about 2 months with his turkeys. Then I hitchhiked down the coast to Los Angeles where my girlfriend lived, Lois Larson, who also went to Notre Dame. Anyway, I worked there as a house painter with her dad who was Beverly Hills Painting. Then after, in September, I came back to Calgary to look at going into the oil patch to look at going into the oil patch. I heard all the money was there, most people in Saskatchewan did. So landed here about the 20th of September in '52 and on the 22nd I saw a job with Core Laboratories. They're mentioned in this. I went down and applied for a job and became a mud logging engineer as they called them. I didn't have a degree of course, but worked for them until 1954, the spring sort of, '54. They decided they were going to move all their well logging equipment back to the U.S. and offered me a job back there. I ended up having three graduate geologists work for me and travelled all over western Canada, even down into Colorado. But I had gone down and talked to people at Colorado College and they offered me a chance. . .now in the interim, in '53, I got married and had a child, who will in fact, be 50 yrs. old tomorrow. So anyway, Lois and I decided to go back to school. We went to Colorado College on a football scholarship. Then they cut me out because I came from a four year university so I had to pay the fee for the first semester somehow. Anyway, 2½ years later I graduated. Not many fellows. . .I think only one other fellow, we graduated in February and got a job but I had a call from Cities Service, who I'd done work for in Canada on the well logging units and they offered me a job as a geologist with them. I went to Amarillo, Texas for about 3 months and then back to Canada and worked with Cities Service at that time and was with them until '80, but through that period I worked up to chief geologist then exploration manager which was a vice presidency and then assistant general manager and then general manager, I was actually the first president Cities had here.

#083 DF: So when did you get your degree?

BM: I got my degree in February of '54, bachelor of science in geology.

DF: Right. So why did you go to the States for that rather than take it here?

BM: You couldn't get scholarships here and we didn't have any money. In fact, the way we went to the U.S., because Bill was 6 weeks old, my wife flew and I took the bus with the two trunks. We got down there and we didn't have very much money. Then my wife couldn't find work and so she decided that she and young Bill would go back to L.A. and live with her dad and I ended up washing 52 milk trucks at night because they had taken me off the scholarship and I needed money to pay for it. So I did that the first two years I was there. In fact, the guy at Baker Truck Rental said, don't send any of those ordinary

football players, we need some Canadians over here again, this guy's a worker. So I guess he appreciated it.

DF: So tell us about the football scholarship, what were you. . .where did you play?

BM: I had played football at Notre Dame, then I played junior ball with, what was then, the East End Bombers in Regina. I always thought I was a fair football player. Anyway I went to Colorado as a quarterback but got hurt and they put another fellow in and I ended up playing end for them. Then when I came back, before I had graduated, Dean Griffin in Regina, who was then with the Roughriders asked me if I would like to go play with them but we never really talked in detail. He said, you're a geologist, I can get you a job with the PFRA, which is Prairie Farmer Assistants. I said, oh, do they use geologists Dean, he said, well, they're playing with that dirt all the time. Anyway, I didn't do that and I went back to finish the school off. I was just there on a holiday and when Lois and I went to Amarillo and then came back up here and then I was moved to Edmonton for a short time and then back to Calgary. Then Joe Badyk, who became very. . . we had met the Badyk's before we left Calgary, Joe was with Cities and so he worked with Jim Finks, who was then the general manager. The late Jim Finks who went on to fame with Minnesota, the Bears won the big cup and then he went on and was president of the New Orleans Saints, a very highly thought of guy here in town. Anyway, they negotiated that maybe I could play with the Stampeders, then the difference between the time I took off, the Stampeders would make up. So I wasn't getting much of a contract. Of course, not many Canadians did in those days. Normie Kwong talked of his \$500 a year contract with them. I didn't go out with them though. I decided not to and about two years later a fellow named Harry Langford, who was involved with the Stampeders and was a very top player had retired and they decided to form an intermediate team. Now Calgary an intermediate team but Drumheller didn't so he formed a Drumheller minor football club, which was Senior B. A lot of the old pros played on it, in fact, Sugarfoot Anderson was one of the fellows that did play on it, Ted Duncan, Alec Coonan. So it was sort of fun. We won Alberta and went out and played Vancouver team, I forget the name of them but Otis and Fantages were supposed to be playing with them and we beat them 7 or 6 - 0. It was a very tough game. Came back here and we had to play the St. Vital Bulldogs out of Manitoba and they just kicked the hell out of us. The St. Vidal team was sort of helped by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. They were sending players down, we didn't have that relationship. So that sort of ended up my playing career.

#144 DF: So let's get you back into the oil patch then. You were with Cities Services?

BM: Yes.

DF: What was your job there when you started?

BM: I started out as just a geologist, working plays. In fact, in those days they didn't have many people and I was responsible for everything west of the 5th meridian. Of course, Cities Service was at that time, ranked about the 5th or 6th largest oil and gas company in the U.S. It had other facets, but basically that was it. So I was working up plays, drillable prospects etc. So I did that for, let's see, '57 to '63, then I was made chief geologist, followed in '67 as vice-president of exploration. So basically, mapping and working up

plays.

DF: How did you get into the oilsands then?

BM: Cities Service was one of the main cogs in the oil sands. Originally, about the time I went to work with them, came up here and purchased Royalite's interest in the Athabasca tarsands and they formed a company called Cities Service Athabasca. They then brought, I think Gulf. . . because they bought it off Royalite, Gulf ended up with a small piece of it and they later brought Imperial Oil in. Then later, after that, they brought in Atlantic Richfield. So it ended up a 30-30-30-10, I believe it was, for Gulf Oil, which bought out Royalite. Where this happened was. . . I'm trying to remember here but I'd worked with Cities and I think I was at the executive VP and assistant general manager, in 1973 and I believe it was a year or two before that, that I'd gone to the School of Advanced Management in Banff. Anyway, I went to the school up there, very good course. The great thing about it was it wasn't all oil people, it was people from all over, different industries and particularly interesting was the government involvement in it. They had a number of trade commissioners who had worked around the world. We sort of built up friendships. It was a six week course and you were there for three weeks, then I think you got a few days off and then back again. Anyway I ran into a number of government people who used to ride me a little about our industry, saying we weren't too smart on how we deal with government people. We went back and forth on this a number of times and they said, Mooney, when you go down to see the Minister of Energy, you go and see him, you go out and jump on the plane and come back home. Isn't your industry in a number of other things, like corporate affairs, industry, trade and commerce and they named 5 or 6 other things. They said, if you went around and talked to those people and convinced them of what you think you need or what is needed to stimulate the business, they would be able to back the Minister of Energy in Cabinet, which would be much more valuable to you. Over that 3 or 4 week period, when I came back to Cities after going to the course I was asked what I thought of it and I told them a number of these things. I sort of came up with an idea that seeing the government in our country here seems to have a finger in owning the ??? and controlling the taxation and basically controlling the revenue stream to any participant. I thought maybe we should be dealing a little more with those people, with the government people. I was then requested by a fellow by the name of Fred Ramseur, who was then basically the president of the oil company, although there were 6 other companies affiliated in the Cities family. There was mining and I could name the other 3 or 4 but there was a whole load of them and each one of them had a president. Like the copper and minerals company, they owned Tennessee Copper which I think was the second or third largest copper company. They had a huge involvement in selling paints, also inks, india ink type of things, which I didn't know about, they were big in the refinery group. So I got a call to, our head office was I guess Bartlesville, Oklahoma but Tulsa would be better to say, they were out of Tulsa, that was the headquarters of the oil company. The corporate headquarters was still in New York City. 60 Wall Tower was the address. Actually, it wasn't on Wall St. but they built a walkway over to. . . they were on the next street. Anyway, I got a call there, that I should come to lunch and be prepared to talk to the chairman, who was Bob Sellers.

I had met Bob but didn't know him very well. He was chairman and a fellow named ???, he was. . . and of course, Ramseur was going to be there. Ramseur met me the day before and he said, now they want to talk to you about

#238 the government ideas that you have, that you've gleaned out of this. So I went through a little scenario with them, about how we deal with government in Canada and what we should be doing and people we should be knowing and how basically, we should deal with particular departments. In other words, it's good to go see the minister but we should also see the deputy minister, we should also see the people that would be actively working on any information that we gave to them and also that we should assure them that we aren't going over their head, that we're purely giving information on a continued basis to the people at the top, to the minister and his staff. And it seemed to work very well. Anyway, I relayed that to, they had the 6 presidents there. Sellers, after my presentation he said, okay Mooney, the game's yours, show us how you can do it in Canada. And I said, who do I answer to, do I still answer to ??? Housel. He said, yes, you do that on your oil and gas but all this other, you can call any one of these presidents and get information or give them a message on it. You have the complete freedom to do it how you want. I headed into Ottawa a very short time later and phoned a fellow by the name of Vic Chapman, who was a good friend of mine before he was in Trudeau's group. I think he was assistant press-secretary of Mr. Trudeau. Went down and had lunch with him at the press club and met a group of his buddies, who by the way, are probably all still friends of mine today. Except Victor has passed away. We went back to his office after and he phoned about 10 different ministers, their executive assistants and he said, I've got my friend Mooney here and if he phones would you get him a meeting. If he doesn't maintain his credibility you don't have to do it again. So I was sort of on the line but I wasn't worried and it was very nice of Vic to do that. So I would spend probably anyway from a week to a week and a half a month in Ottawa. I got to know the majority of people on the hill, the key people. Also finally joined the press club after the manager of the press club said, Mooney you come here, why don't you buy a membership. I said, I didn't know I could but I had that for 10 years. This is a long way to explain how I got involved in the tarsands. When the Athabasca Tarsands were going under, and I had, I think in '73, signed on behalf of Canada Cities Service, the agreement to build a tarsands plant in Fort Macmurray. It was the 2nd one to be built because Mr. Manning had already allowed Suncor to go ahead with theirs. We were sort of disappointed that we weren't first but actually, Mr. Manning did us a favour because we could see that Suncor was having some problems and of course, their mistakes were beneficial to us. Not that we wanted to see them make mistakes but. .

#296 DF: You could learn.

BM: We could learn from it. It was at that time that we were going ahead and we had Bechtel, a very capable corporation building the plant and supervising the building of it. We had formed a management committee at Syncrude to represent each of the parties and each of those parties had a member sort of responsible for the Syncrude project. Cities had Dick Richmond Galbraith and Jerry Cogan was Imperial Oil. The Gulf fellow was Floyd

Aaring and Arco was Sam Stewart. Things were going along fairly well building wise except the prices, the costs had doubled.

DF: Now how would costs get away like that on you, because you try to estimate fairly accurately don't you?

BM: These things are so big, I think that you can estimate fairly close and then it starts to go, but also it seems like the cost of products and equipment accelerates before you know. You couldn't say, I'm going to need this in three years, can we buy it at that price, you're going to have to buy it at the three year price. But something happened and the cost doubled and Atlantic Richfield decided, they had just made the north slope discovery and so they decided that was their big apple and that they would pull out of Syncrude. So that left three partners with double the price, I think it was from a billion to \$2 billion. The thing was, in a lot of the dealings with the press and that, they seemed to think that the 3 people were challenging the government on this thing. It wasn't really a challenge or a threat that they were going to shut it down. They needed a month time to get some other partners. The reason for that was the chief executives, which were the people above the representatives, and that would be Bob Sellers and Jack Armstrong of Imperial Oil, Sellers was Cities Service and Jerry McAfee of Gulf. They could be responsible. . .you see, the shut down costs for Syncrude were \$250 million and they could be responsible for paying their share of the shut down costs. But they had a hard time visualizing how they could convince their stock holders that they should be paying Atlantic Richfield's share. So they said, we'll take a month, it's January 17th, or whatever the date was, anyway, we need to get this done before the end of January. And they had been working on it and they had been on a radio show when out of the blue, I was flying from Tulsa to Calgary and Bob Sellers called me and he said, Bill, we cannot get any commercial people out and. . .

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

DF: Go ahead, so you got a call.

BM: So I got a call from Bob Sellers, in fact I was in the Horizon Club Room in Denver and it was from Galbraith and Galbraith said, here, Bob Sellers wants to talk to you. He assured me that they were not threatening the government, that they would go ahead but they had to have a shut off time and they needed partners. They had tried all the industrial partners they could think of, they only had one other one that they'd still consider which was Shell and I'll tell you a little about the Shell thing. Anyway, he said, see if you can get the governments in. So I said, okay and he said, you're going to have to put your full time into this. So I got home that night, the next day I started to call Don Macdonald, who was the Minister of Energy in Ottawa and Don Getty who was then, I think, Intergovernmental Affairs for Mr. Lougheed's government. He later moved into energy but at that time I think he was. Anyway, these two people were not talking to each other, they wouldn't be seen in the same room together. They were both fighting over shares of revenues out of the petroleum industry. After I think, 4 calls to Getty and 4 or 5 calls to Macdonald they

agreed that this was very important for the country and they met in the Edmonton Airport. I was told to be on tap to follow the 3 chief executive officers, which were McAfee, Armstrong and Sellers and ??? on plans going around. Anyway they had the meeting and then it was decided that the 3 principles should go and meet Mr. Lougheed. So I was included along and we were in the Chateau, it was quite . . . I will add this story, that they had about 25 minutes to go and see Mr. Lougheed. They were all ready to go when somebody brought up the fact, well, if we're going to see him we should go and see Mr. Macdonald. So Jack Armstrong said, I'll call him, this isn't a criticism of Jack, Jack picked up the phone and dialled the number of the minister. I turned to Galbraith, who I didn't know very well and I said, he won't get him. Galbraith said, why, I said, because he's in question period in the House of Commons. So Jack hung up and said, he's going to call us back. Time marched on and I finally said, mr. Armstrong, this is more a funny point, I said, do you mind if I call him. Jack said, no, go ahead Bill. So I picked up the phone and dialled the same number and then asked for Annette Leger who was Don's private secretary. I said, I've got to talk to the minister and she said, he's in the House Bill, I said, I know he's in question period but I need to speak to him. She said, he'll call you in 5 minutes, I hung up the phone, the phone rang. Don Macdonald said, Mooney, what do you want, I said, Jack Armstrong wants to talk to you and handed the phone to Jack. But Jack and Jerry, the 3 principles were big men there because Armstrong turned to me after he finished talking to Macdonald and he said, Mooney, don't leave our sight. That was followed, we had a meeting the next day to fly to Ottawa and meet with Don Macdonald and that sort of kicked it off and in the next 17 days I had 14 flights between Edmonton, Ottawa and Calgary.

- #044 DF: But just for the record, what was the purpose of what you were doing here with the government?
- BM: We were trying to get the governments in to participate and to pick up the share that had been left.
- DF: And these are 2 governments that are fighting?
- BM: Yes. But in that period of the 17 days we also went down and visited the Ontario government and they became interested. I've got this all documented, I don't know why I kept notes.
- DF: Good for you.
- BM: We went back and forth across the country, went down and visited the people in the Ontario government, Darcy McKeough who was finance, Dennis Trimbrell was Minister of Energy and Dick Dillam was deputy minister. We went down and saw them. The other fellow who was involved there was Tom Kearns, who is still around today. They became a little interested. Then we had Tommy Shoyama, who was deputy minister, come down to look at the numbers and go back to Macdonald. We had these trips back and forth so I was supposed to be sort of coordinating. . . I set up the meetings with them and then made sure the right people were there for the meetings. I sort of worked I guess, for Gulf, Imperial and Cities on the thing. Then on the Friday prior to . . .
- DF: And this is because you had this relationship with the levels of government.

BM: Yes.

DF: And was this something that other companies weren't doing?

BM: A lot of them sent people down there but I don't think anyone handled it this way. I sort of learned from the government people how it should be done and adapted that and I didn't try to pass it on. If I said something I'd sound like I was boasting but. . .

DF: Say it.

BM: The guys in Ottawa in the know said, Mooney, you handle it better than anybody we know. You keep everybody informed on every level so that there's no conflict going up and down. You aren't up at the top asking for the people down below to be doing things that you want, you always handle it the right way and make sure that everyone is informed and you maintain credibility. Because I think that at that time, you see, when you sent people in, unless they were people that could make decisions for the corporation, they were absolutely useless to the government people. They want people there that will say, yes, we'll do this, or this is what we need. So they knew it was coming from the right spot. It ended up the Friday before, I forget the date, if I looked at my notes I could find it, we were in Ottawa after these trips back and forth because we flew to . . . I could tell you a funny story, we were in Toronto and they said, you've got to go tell Macdonald. We've met with him but you've got to go tell him Mooney, that we aren't threatening him. So I said, okay, so I phoned Leger, I said, I've got to come see the minister, I knew it was a Thursday. Annette was a very key person in this because she was able to get hold of the minister any time, any of the people in that group. If I phoned her she put them on the line. She said, you won't see him, he's in caucus this morning, cabinet this afternoon, or vice versa. I said, I know that he comes there at noon and drops his books off when he changes from cabinet to caucus so I'm going to come up and see him. Well, she said, I don't know. I said, I'm coming. So I went up and all of a sudden, I was in there waiting and waiting and a fellow came in with 2 daytimers. He had 2 of them and Annette said, he doesn't need 2, here Bill, you can have this one. I said, I don't want it this way, I want it signed in the front, to Bill Mooney, That Great Geologist and Oil Finder, by the Minister of Energy, Mines, Resources, Donald S. Macdonald. We started to laugh. Anyway, the minister came in and he said, oh Bill, I said, yes, I need to see you. So I went in and had a meeting, told him we weren't threatening him, told him the same story of what I had told you about the possibility of them having to be responsible for Arco's money and I said, I think we're the project for Canada. He said, I believe it is too Bill, Don Getty and I have been talking about it. But I'm going to tell you that we will give you no pro-ration, we'll give you world price, we'll give you a tax concession and we're going to be involved equity wise, up to \$400 million. If you say a goddamn word out of this office I'll call you a goddamn liar. Now he said, get this thing done. I assured him that I wouldn't be speaking about it but I would be urging our group to move faster on this with that opportunity in my mind. I asked him to sign the book and as you see, it hangs on my wall that he signed, to Bill Mooney, That Great Supporter of the National Oil Policy, signed, Don Macdonald. I said, you son-of-a-bitch, I'll get killed out west. So the following day we had flown out, I had

#122 gone back to Toronto, we flew out of Toronto to Edmonton to see Mr. Getty and we met

with Don Getty and Bill Dickie in the hotel and went over a number of the things and how it was advancing. One thing that sort of helped in this was that I did two things, #1, I said, no press for 17 days and #2, I had one of the three chairmen, but basically I think every time except once it was Jack Armstrong call both ministers every night so he could give them a progress report on how it was going on. So Jack Armstrong talked to Don Getty or Don Macdonald every night and said, this is what we're doing. Anyway, we got to Edmonton to tell Don Getty and Bill Dickie, who was Minister of Energy and Don was Intergovernmental Affairs, how things were going and at the end I said, do you want to see my book. I showed him the book and he said, can I write in it. Of course, at the bottom he said, to Bill Mooney, Anybody who can understand the National Oil Policy is a genius, signed Don Getty. But it was the Friday before the 4th of February, in Ottawa at the Booth St. office and they said, okay, where's the meeting. I said, I reserved 35 rooms in the Continental Hotel in Winnipeg. Holy hell, why in Winnipeg. Well, first of all, it's neutral ground, second of all, Mr. Lougheed has to speak in Edmonton that night, Mr. Chretien has to speak in Ottawa.

#150 DF: So Winnipeg was a good central place.

BM: So I said, that's the place we have to meet for the convenience of the two. The meeting will start at 9:30 Monday morning and we'll see what we can do. So I flew out of there and flew to Winnipeg. I had confirmed all these rooms and of course, everybody started to descend and then some of the people for the meeting came in Monday morning. It was a very interesting table. The meeting began, it was February 3rd, '75 at the International Inn in Winnipeg. The table, I went down at 5:30 in the morning, hadn't seen my wife for about 4 weeks so she came in and then she was going to go back but Jack Armstrong said, we'll fly you back to Calgary. They had a long narrow table, I said no way, a big square table where they're all facing each other. The table consisted of, on the companies side was Bob Sellers, who was Chairman of Cities, and Richard Galbraith, who was vice-president and then also he was chairman of the management committee of Syncrude. Jack Armstrong, Jerry Colvin, Jerry McAfee of Gulf, Colvin and Armstrong of Imperial, McAfee of Gulf and Floyd Aaring. The other side was Don Macdonald, Jean Chretien, Tom Shoyama, deputy minister of mines, and Terry Trushak of Energy, Mines. Then the other side was Premier Lougheed, Don Getty, Bill Dickie, Merv Leach, and I think Chip Collins. The other side was Premier David, Dennis Kimball, Darcy McKeough and Dick Dillan and then were representing Ontario. Next to them, I mentioned before was Shell group, with Bill Daniel and 2 vice-presidents, I believe was with him. Shell was there because they wanted to discuss a base price, they didn't want the price of oil to go down. We had told them that if the government agreed to do that they'd also put a top price on it, but if you forgot about that then we'll just play with whatever world oil price is. It was sort of a security thing. Anyway, Bill Daniels asked his question and he got the answer that we had told him from both governments, particularly the federal government, and he left the meeting. Then the meeting continued on from 9:30 till 9:30 that evening. And we had a new partnership agreement of the group.

#207 DF: Any major stumbling blocks during that day?

BM: Yes, there was. Mr. Lougheed thought that he should try to, in some manner of course, he wanted the petrochemical plants and he wanted, I believe, a more favourable taxation. And he wanted to tie that to the whole thing. He got into a fairly heated discussion with Mr. Macdonald and finally, I believe, and I know other people, Galbraith, who's a very good friend of mine, credits Mr. Davis with sort of saving the day there. He said, hold on, let's stop the meeting here, we governments shouldn't be discussing inter-government affairs in front of the commercial partners in this thing. Let's, if there's a chance, we can get a room. I told him that I had quite a large room down the hall that they could meet in. They went down and had that meeting for about 1/2-3/4 of an hour, then came back to the meeting. But that was probably the only toughest point with getting the governments in. It then got down to the very last were, I think, just picking up small interests to get the money up to over the \$2 billion. I think Jerry McAfee sent a note to Bob Sellers saying, if I pick up 15 million will you pick up 5, type of thing. So that sort of ended the day. But both Mr. Lougheed and Mr. Chretien missed their speaking dates but we ended that Syncrude would go ahead and be a successful adventure I guess.

DF: In what way did you contribute to this then? I see your name is off the side of the . . .

BM: I wasn't the guy to be at the table.

DF: No, no, I know.

BM: I was just there and I put the meeting together, where it was, who was the key people to be there, I guess. Through visiting all the people. And then, if something happened, if they needed another room I'd say yes, I have one. When Bill Daniel went out to speak to the press and he talked to them but he didn't tell them anything, and through this whole thing no-one leaked anything to the press.

DF: Yes. But you had all these relationships with the politicians in Ottawa. And you did the same thing in Alberta?

BM: Yes.

DF: And how about Ontario. Was that not really. . . ?

BM: Yes, I did, some there. And of course, Saskatchewan and B.C.

DF: So you were a catalyst.

BM: I guess I was.

#252 DF: What did you enjoy about this process?

BM: I always . . . Father Murray taught us that it's people that make things happen, it's not corporations and organizations and all that. It's individual people that bring positive ideas that make life work and make things work.

DF: How did he teach you that?

BM: I don't know. I guess, we didn't have an awful lot of money there and we had kids of all religions, different nationalities and we all had to survive together I guess. But he had 2 philosophies. He had great faith in St. Augustine, he who does what in him lies, God will not deny his grace. What he tried to teach and push with the students, and he taught philosophy because Notre Dame went from grade 1 to 4th year arts, and he used that Greek saying, every life is insignificant until you yourself make it great. I guess those two

things. And I've always liked people. So I guess, after 8 years there. . . a number of Notre Dame grads are the same way and have the same feelings and basic teachings. Gorman brought it out in his book *Pere Murray and the Hounds*, which he wrote a number of years ago and I was sort of honoured to. . .

DF: Yes, there's a couple of copies over here.

BM: Yes. I'll give you that one.

DF: Thank you very much.

BM: And sign it to you after. Anyway, he asked me to write the forward in it. It's sort of. . . he had a great philosophy of life.

DF: So any other comments about this particular negotiations?

BM: Well, it took them about a year after to get. . .you know, they signed a one sheet piece of paper but it took them a year after to. . .

DF: Work out all the rest of the details.

BM: Yes.

DF: Now, because of the date here, '75, this is set historically against the quickly rising price of oil, the Middle East crisis, a whole mess of other things going on. Were those all important in having this completed?

BM: I think the big thing in having that completed was, it was a little different process than what Suncor had. I think that in those days, everybody was looking for security of supply for Canada and this was the thing that could answer that problem in some manner. I think prices did go up but they aren't quite as high as they were today.

DF: Yes, that's right. Security of supply was quite important in that period.

BM: Yes, it was. Much more so than the way things have changed now, it's all based on money. And the funny thing is, I think that in some manner we've hurt our people basing it on money instead of on, probably their ??? security and supply.

#313 DF: Yes, some of those issues are probably going to come up again aren't they?

BM: I believe so. Certainly could with the number of businesses that have oriented their business exactly to the price of oil, should something happen to that. I think it would be a real problem.

DF: This seems like a good time to take a break and go get another coffee, so why don't we do that. So we're talking about the transition from Lougheed to Getty? Go ahead.

BM: I was saying that the change in the economic conditions in Canada when Mr. Getty came in, which were ending up during the Lougheed period and Don Getty had a different environment to be premier in. Yet, he did things to stimulate our business, particularly trying to get the federal government to give some incentive for the drilling program. In fact, after our meeting at the Ranchman's Club where David Mitchell and Jim Grey were present and I think a couple of others, he said to me, Mooney, maybe we should pull another Syncrude deal. Go to work on it and of course, I did some work on it. Ken Lambert of the Small Explorer did a lot of work because they really needed it stimulated. Anyway, the thing came back and it was 180 million for an incentive to drill. I, in fact, had close contact with Myron Kanik who was then the deputy minister. He and I used to talk the odd Saturday morning, I called this morning and he said, Mooney, have you seen

what they're proposing as an incentive for us. I said, no, I haven't, he said, why don't you go to your office and I'll send you a copy. So I came down to the office and he sent the copy and he said to call him after, which I did. I said, holy god, this is terrible, 180 million, they want to start the program in April which is break-up, and end it in December. The federal government is going to look fairly foolish in this. In fact, stupid is what I used. I told Myron, let me call Mr. Mazankowski in Vegreville. Maz is a friend of mine and I phoned him and I said, Maz, this thing is crazy, it will make you look stupid. We had quite a talk about it, he said, let me phone you back in 10 minutes. So he phoned me back, he said, I just checked, I can get to Ottawa tomorrow. I said, tomorrow is Sunday Maz, he said, you know what I mean, I can get there, can you be at my office at 3:00 tomorrow afternoon and I said, sure. So I said to him, there's a fellow I'd like to bring along who speaks Ottawaese, and that's one of the problems we have in our industry, we don't say the words the right way for the people in Ottawa. David is a former employee of Energy, Mines, he's a financial guy and I think he'd be very valuable at our meeting. He said, bring him along. So we met the next day in Maz's office at 3:00 in Ottawa, he was then deputy prime minister, he was not of course, the minister of . . .

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

DF: So you met.

BM: We met in Ottawa at Maz's office, David Scrim and myself. We sat down and went through the program and then they got into the technical part of it. Of course, I said the person we have to keep contact with is Myron Kanik on the other end so that we can keep this thing coordinated, David knows Kanik and we can get this thing moving along. Maz said, Mooney, you'll have to contact Marcel Masses's office who is Energy, Mines. I did that, I never did talk to the minister, I talked to his assistant and I talked to the deputy minister. But basically, I think Maz at that time was Finance and if I remember, I think David Dodge was the deputy minister for Maz then or close to it. Anyway, it took about 3 or 4 weeks to work through this thing. He said, also Mooney, you have to go see Michael Wilson, he's got the money. So I met with Michael Wilson. That would be, the year would be 1987. In fact, one other person that was at the first meeting was Joe Dundas. So we went on from, I think the first meeting was in February and if I . . . the program came out in March of that year. Anyway it turned out to be about a \$4 billion. . . it was the end of March it came out, it was about a \$4 billion drilling incentive deal and all the particulars on it. I'm not completely familiar with it but Scrim and Maz and basically it was Maz's program and Maz calls it Mooney's program, you'll see in here. Whatever, it was a program that come out that helped Don Getty get us along. And of course, there was a number of other things. Getty you know, brought in Ralph Klein into the government, made him a minister. I think his first portfolio was environment if I remember correctly. He said, if he had his pick the next time he was premier he'd like to have a good economy. Like some of the other people that have had it. Another funny one that I got is that I was travelling into Ottawa one night, I always stayed at the Carleton

Towers, which is now I think, under some other name. As I walked in Jamie Dacey, who had worked for a number of ministers in Ottawa, including Alistair Gillespie, who of course, was Mines minister at one time but at this time he was working for the CPA, Canadian Petroleum Association as a rep. He was having supper with Pat Carney, the minister of Energy, Mines. I believe her assistant was there too, Harry Near. He came over and he said, you know, Bill, we're trying to get rid of the National Oil Policy. We've been working on it and the federal government tells me they're having a problem. They cannot understand what Alberta really wants. Mr. Leitch was at the table, Merv Leitch. But we were wondering if what Mr. Leitch is saying is what Mr. Lougheed wants. I said, well, I'm sure it's pretty close. Well, we'd like to be assured of that, how could we do that. I said . . .

#055 DF: Just approximately, mid 70's?

BM: I think that that was in 1985. They said, how will we do that. I said, let me think about it Jamie, I'm just going up to the room. So I phoned him later down below and I said, the way I'd do that is I would get the best federal conservative in Edmonton, that is a very good friend of Mr. Lougheed's to go and see him and tell him of your concern and find out if he has any input into this thing. Jamie passed it on I know, to Near and to Carney and they thought that was a hell of a good idea. Then after thinking of it overnight I phoned Jamie the next morning and I said, forget about it, I'll get it for you. So I phoned Harry Near because I couldn't get hold of Dacey and I said, Harry, do you have your pencil. He said, yes, and I said, there are 5 points and I read the 5 of them off. He said, gee, thanks a lot, that's invaluable, now we know where we're going. He didn't ask me where I got it but where I got it was Don Getty was out of government but I knew that he and Mr. Lougheed were very close at that time, so that he was completely aware of what Alberta wanted at the table and relayed the points on to me. And then after that, I kept contact, which I somehow get tied into. Maybe I sort of force the issue of being involved, maybe I like it but I was calling the three ministers which, I think Rogers was the minister in B.C., and John Zaozirny was the energy minister here and I forget who was energy minister in Saskatchewan but I know that I talked to Bob Reid, the deputy and these people I would call every 2 or 3 days just to see how things were going. Because, I guess why I got into these things and why I sort of stayed on the edge of the Syncrude thing, the edge of the Western Accord and the Seadip??? thing was, you find that people get at the table, talking and they'd like to call the other guy a son-of-a-bitch but they can't do it at the table. I could always call them after and they could tell me the guy was a son-of-a-bitch, this is what they wanted. And I could pass it on to that other side without putting the son-of-a-bitch in there that would cause a problem. So anyway, I know that John Zaozirny said to my daughter, we'd still be involved in the Western Accord if your dad didn't help out so whatever. I hate this boasting.

#093 DF: It's not boasting, it's just telling your story. Were you involved when that short-lived Joe Clark government, 1980, he was trying to deal with the oil industry and with Lougheed and so on, what do you remember of that time period, where were

you at that point?

- BM: 1980 I had moved over to Harvard. We had formed a company called Harvard Resources. Tried to do exploration work. We weren't very successful but then we became involved with a fellow out of Cordillera Corporation, a fellow named Neil Blue. He had the right to purchase Tenneco's properties in Canada. So we negotiated, in fact, Byron Felesky, who is also a Notre Dame grad, came up with the idea of the Egyptian Bump, which was later used by the Reichmann's and by the then deputy minister who was working for them, to purchase Gulf Oil. But it was a matter of where you put a partnership together and by having the partnership you were not required to pay a big tax hit. I give Felesky the credit for coming along with that. Anyway, we did purchase the assets of Tenneco in Canada and we formed a company called Harvard International which became a partner, and to form the partnership we put my company, Centipede Energy, into the bailiwick and they had a small interest in, about a point and a half. Then the two other owners were Blue and Fred Hill out of Regina.
- DF: Were you involved in these negotiations between Joe Clark's government and Lougheed's government in 1980?
- BM: Not that I can remember. I'll tell you why, is that in '78 I was transferred, became president here of Cities in about '75 I think, and then in '78 I was moved to London, England as the president of Europe, Africa and the Middle East for Cities.
- DF: Okay. But you have a unique perspective in that you're a Canadian, you worked for an American company and you had all these personal relationships with these politicians and civil servants. Tell me more about, like are you a Canadian nationalist, where do you. . .when we went for a walk you figured Canada first and then. . .tell me more about that?
- BM: I'm a nationalist in the whole country. In fact, I phoned Mr. Charest a very short time ago, Jean Charest who's now the Premiere of Quebec and who's a friend of mine because I had worked also for him. I like Jean, a very capable individual. Had a good philosophy of Canada. Sort of felt that we needed to erase this French-English thing and become Canadians. That was sort of Father Murray's philosophy too. Not erase the culture, maintain the culture of the French. I love the French-Canadians, they're a great people down there. And the English-Canadians are the same but let us get together and forget examining our own belly button, as people say, and let's do something for the country. So anyway, I did phone Mr. Charest on St. Jean Baptiste day because that was his birthday and that was right at the election at this time, our most recent. I said, Jean, you know I've got to take a run at Duceppe, his idea is a separate Quebec. My feeling is, I own a Canadian passport that says I own 1 thirty-millionth of the whole country and I'm very pleased to have the French-Canadian culture here, I think it adds to being a Canadian. But Mr. Duceppe is saying he's going to take my French-Canadian portion away from me and he's also taking the English-Canadian portion away from the French-Canadian. Can't we live together. I also said facetiously, who the hell wants to cheer for the Montreal Quebecers hockey club and what league do they play in. So I guess I'm a nationalist. And I think I was able, in a number of things I did with government, to make sure that it was good for Canada, good for Alberta and then good for the industry. Those were sort of guidelines for me I think.

#164 DF: But they must have come into conflict at time?

BM: They did but there were ways that you could negotiate around those things to satisfy both sides.

DF: All three sides.

BM: Yes. I think that a lot of times when they make the economy good here, of course, they're going to get more tax money and more people are going to be working. So they may be giving up something but they're sacrificing it for something that, it creates something better for Canada.

DF: What else would you like to comment on about your career? What else did you enjoy doing? Any geology that stands out?

BM: I scare anybody when I tell them that I'm going to do geology. No, I didn't have any big accomplishments. I did have a fellow that I worked with, before I was president at Cities, Bob Grady, and maybe this will explain my. . . He was a self taught fellow who became vice-president of production for Cities Service. You know, there was always a conflict or seemed to be, between production and exploration. Grady and I got along great but we took a run at each other often. I remember one time I was presenting the exploration play for Cities down south and as I finished Grady said, holy god, I hope they don't buy that stuff. If the Athabasca tarsands were buried a foot Mooney would never find them. But I got him back on a few others. No, I've liked to work within the industry, I think we have great people in the industry. I do a lot of charitable stuff, community work.

DF: Tell me more about that. What's the motivation behind that, we're a very, very rich province, with billions of dollars of surplus and yet we rely on people like yourself and others to fund cancer research, to do all kinds of things that society perhaps, could do itself. Tell me about that.

BM: I always say I'm an easy touch. I did the Children's Hospital Golf Tournament for five years.

DF: But why should you do it rather than the tax payer.

BM: I don't know. Now that's a very good question David. But I guess I'm glad it's there because it makes me feel good if I accomplish something by doing that. It doesn't make me want to jump up and say, Mooney's great, it's just something inside. And I think that again, comes from Pere's teaching, he said in one story, we weren't created to come here and help ourselves, we must have been created to come and help other people. So I've worked on Don Mazankowski's golf tournament, I've worked on the Milk Fund, I've worked on Ralph Klein's golf tournament, I'm now doing Colleen Klein's golf tournament, I went up and did Storey's??? at the Erminskin Indians golf tournament. But there's various charities that you can work on, I did Between Friends for a number of years, Clay Riddell's group, which is for disabled children. I think those things are a good mix.

#219 DF: What do you think of the current status of things here in Alberta, with this announcement that we've retired the debt?

BM: I think it's very good. I think it's a great accomplishment for the people involved. Very

much easier at \$40 oil. I worry a little myself, is it good for the country, to have so much wealth in Alberta. I hope it doesn't hurt our direction. Maybe we'll have everybody moving to Alberta but I think it's a good accomplishment. I've been involved a very minor amount with J. R. Shaw who is raising funds for the new heart centre in Edmonton. I was very happy, I went up about two weeks ago and witnessed what the doctors are doing and looked at the new facility and I think we should be very happy here and I know that Calgarians are donating for that structure. I think that's important in our province, that we have a place like Edmonton where that's going to be. Maybe down here we have the stroke centre and spread these things around but don't jump up and down because they're getting a benefit up there that we may not be getting here. Yet, it's available to us.

DF: Sure. But why do we have to raise money as a charity to pay for these things when we're so wealthy?

BM: I don't know. Of course, it said in the paper the other day Alberta is spending an awful lot of money per capita on people. I was quite surprised it was that high, it was much higher than the federal government involvement per capita. I guess that's good for us though. If we were asking the government to do everything we'd be in trouble, we'd be a pretty lazy group sitting around not doing anything.

DF: Yes. But the people of Alaska get a \$2,000 cheque every year and they decide what they're going to do with it. Whereas here, our politicians have decided that retiring the debt, while the infrastructure is falling apart, while health care is in trouble, while education is in trouble. When I went to university I worked my way through. Now if my daughter goes to university she's going to come out with a huge debt. There's a changing set of values. I have a mortgage on my house, why wouldn't I have a mortgage on my house. I'm not going to impoverish my family and eat poorly now just to pay off the debt. The balance here, obviously these things go back and forth but . . .

BM: And it's not a small number David, anymore, to educate a . . .

DF: No, it isn't.

BM: It's not what you paid when you had to go through.

#270 DF: Yes, that's right. What motivates you, what excites you about getting up in the morning?

BM: I think coming down to work with the young group that are trying to do new technology. And working in the coal bed-methane. . .the other thing that excites me is meeting people. I tried retiring about, maybe 4 years ago when I was going to Arizona for 6 months, here for 6 months and these people, TDX came out of the blue and do the government work, do the senior executive work and be a mentor to this group. I like getting downtown and meeting people. Most people say, Mooney, tell us story and making people laugh, which I seem to have the ability to do. I don't know where that came from. I know my son has that capability too. But it's good to make people feel good, and see them. I enjoy seeing different people on the street. And not all frivolous stuff. We talk a lot of things about politics, a lot of things about the business world. Sometimes people interpret if you're just telling jokes all the time that that's the type of people you are but there's a lot of other

things. I get a chance to visit with people and get a feeling of where they're coming from and what they think is going on, particularly in the country. I've never been able to move over to the far right I guess, I'd be more middle of the road. I guess every government that's running our country has got in through the middle of the road. Even Mr. Klein's here was middle of the road and then moved to the right and made things tough. I have the same questions as you, why do people claim there are waiting lines to get health care when it should be available. Build more hospitals, do more MRI's and give people a fair shake health wise. But I think that they claim that people who need it get it right away. On the other side I think that people abuse our health system. I think they go an awful lot of times to doctors or to hospitals when, in days before, as they call them, they would have been taken care of at home. Or maybe we've got more sick people.

DF: Well, the population is aging, that's true.

BM: Yes, but we've still got the younger ones and maybe the aging people are living longer.

DF: Yes, that's true too.

BM: But the smokers go fast David, so they aren't . . .

#321 DF: Aren't as much of a burden, says the man who had a smoke during our coffee break. What do you think of the future of the tarsands, the oilsands?

BM: I think there's a big future there. Of course, it came out that that's the second largest recoverable reserves in the world. I've been involved in the Canadian Petroleum Hall of Fame and we were dealing with the Canadian Energy Centre, which was established through some generosity of Encana and the group and the work of CAPP. Pierre Alvarez over there. It came out that an evaluation of the tarsands said, I think we had 172 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the tarsands. Having established that Energy Centre, it had something like a million hits in a very short time from people looking for information on the tarsands. There was also of course, a report that came out a few months ago in Oilweek, I think it's only about a month, month and a half ago of all the overruns and this same thing we experienced at Syncrude. So I think as long as the price of oil is maintained at the high rate is that these things will continue even with the overruns. But certainly people have to get the costs down on a lot of the projects. But the very projects and great interest in the world of doing something in the tarsands.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 2

DF: Now anything more about the tarsands?

BM: No, I think that pretty well sums it up, I think it's of course, a great future.

DF: And there's more exploration and development coming out of the north.

BM: Yes.

DF: Have you been involved in that, in the Northwest Territories?

BM: No, I haven't. I know there's a number of companies working up there. Of course, the big thing they talk about is the pipelines. A lot of people excited about that. I know Murray Smith, the minister here is very . . . well, he's done a lot of work in trying to assure that

there will be a hub for that gas in Alberta, which I think is very important to Alberta. So that he's had a number of people working on that. That would be a great success, to bring all the gas down through here. Of course, he's another mafia guy, he's a Notre Dame guy.

DF: So a whole bunch of you.

BM: Yes. There's quite a few. There's, as I mentioned, Byron Felesky and then Gerry Maier who was the head of Hudson Bay Oil and Gas and then he went on to work for Doc Seaman and his brothers over at Bow Valley, then he became the president and chairman of Trans Canada Pipelines.

DF: Tell me about your association with the Seaman brothers?

BM: Basically through friendship. They grew up of course, the next town to Wilcox, where I grew up. I didn't know them at that time and didn't meet them until I was in the industry here for awhile. Of course, we have the Oilmen's Golf Tournament, it alternates between Jasper and Banff. That's a great tournament to put people together, sort of all the key people here and at one time, the key people in the U.S. and a lot around the world went in for this golf tournament. You spend a week there so you got to know people. Over the years I've had great respect for the Seaman brothers, the three of them. They're very good businessmen, Doc, B.J. and Don. Plus they're very good Canadians. They not only looked after their own well being but they've made a considerable donation to Canadians across the country. In fact, Doc is very involved I know, in the University of Saskatchewan but the Seaman brothers are also trying to bring a robotic operation up to the Foothills Hospital here. But they're good guys to be with. They think of Canada and they've got good attitudes and they laugh at my jokes.

#035 DF: Tell us a joke.

BM: Well, I've been telling the one about Molly going down to the church is the latest one. I seem to get one that I sort of start with. . .but Molly was going down to the church, the priest said Molly, how are you. She says, not well Father, Mike, me husband died yesterday. Oh, my god, he said, wonderful chap, wonderful participant in the parish, very well liked Molly, very well liked. Liked to drink and carouse a little but all round a good chap. By the way, did he have any last words Molly. She said, he did Father, he said, god dammit Molly, put down that gun. And for some reason the gals laugh at that more than any. I guess they've had occasion.

DF: Any other stories?

BM: Well, I've been telling the one about, I was asked yesterday about Mike going down to the priest and he says, Father, how are you. I'm fine Mike, how are you. Well, I'm not too good Father, Pat me dog died. Oh my god, he said, that's too bad, I know you were awfully close to him. Well he says, Father, I'm here because I was wondering if you could have a service in the church for him. Well, he said, you're an awfully good participant in the parish but you know, in the Catholic church we don't have a service for animals. There's a new denomination down the road here Mike, they're very good people, I think they might be helping you out. Well he says, Father, I'll be going down later today and have a talk with them. By the way Father, I was thinking of making a donation of \$50,000

in connection with this service. Well, he says, Mike, you didn't tell me your dog was a Catholic. Those are the Irish ones, I do some Jewish ones. My wife being. . .we were in Tel Aviv and I was taking an awful lot of pictures and ran out of film and I saw a store window with a bunch of cameras in. I went in and I said, I need some Kodak film, they said, we don't sell film. Well, I said, you've got cameras in the window, you must sell film. He said, we don't sell film here, I said, what do you do here, he said, we do circumcision. Well I said, why have you got cameras in the window, he said, what would you put in the window.

DF: This really happened?

BM: No.

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

BM: I have one regret with Cities. I worked for two years to get a position in the Norwegian North Sea. There were a number of blocks coming up, particularly one which we called the Golden Block, 6/30 I believe. I'd done the work over there. The Norwegians wanted you to come in and do something more than just energy to help their economy. So I'd had a number of friends in the government there that I met, they have an energy policy meeting up in the mountains and then a number of their government people and they invite people in from all over. And I knew a number of the banking people, Den Norske Credit Bank and had them working for me. So I went around and saw a number of people but anyway, we had settled on a company that was commercially doing some copper work, I think it was Brathens. They had a problem with their copper and we had a way of taking the sinters??? and making them into a solid rather than a dust. And we had another thing called ferifloc, which was a solid water purifier, most of them are liquids but this was a solid. We had worked on this and they were very interested in it. I think that name was Bollegaard A.S., I said Brathens. Anyway, they were very interested and we were going to make a commercial announcement in a very few days. I had set up to make this announcement jointly with the minister of Energy and also the minister of Industry in Norway and it was to be the next day and I was phoned by Cities and they said, we don't want to be in Norway. This was somebody about two levels down the corporation and I had questioned them about we had passed it by our Board of Directors twice, and I mean, the corporate board of Cities. They were very much in favour of it so I was quite surprised when this fellow came out but I had to go over and tell them. Which they didn't believe. People in the government said, holy hell Mooney, you would have had a piece of that block, which turned out to be a \$1.3 billion oilfield. Because again, over there I had done the work with the government people and knew them all and made presentations. But in all these things, the one thing that I maybe said to you earlier, is that I didn't do them myself. I always had great help from people and worked with people. Not for or people worked for me, we worked together. So I've been pretty fortunate that way.

DF: So why did Cities pull out?

BM: I don't know. I could never understand that but it was shortly after that I left Cities. I think that had something to do with it. Besides that they had moved me to London and Houston and I was travelling back to. . . had an office in London and one in Houston. It

was when they wouldn't send people over is what they said, but I would have been better off in London and we were able to obtain a position in the North Sea.

#113 DF: Did they let you go or did you leave them?

BM: I walked out the door.

DF: And what was the incident there, what was the reason?

BM: I had decided that. . .well, there were a couple of people over me, the one guy that had pulled out of this thing, I'm not going to mention any names. You find there are some people that work for themselves rather than the person who is paying their salary. I guess I sort of lose a lot of respect for them. Having been in the business since '52 till now, I'd seen a few of them. But I guess the few rather than the many, that are more interested in how they do themselves.

DF: Anything else you'd like to tell us?

BM: Can't think of anything.

DF: One more joke.

BM: I should tell you the one that drives my wife crazy. I heard it in 1952 east of Peace River, from a fellow called Norm Bruce. My wife said, I've already gone through three generations, you, the children, and now the grandchildren, they all tell the story. It was about Jack's Suit Store down on 8th Ave. here. He had a fellow work for him by the name of Sheldon. He said, Sheldon, unless you sell that suit off the rack, it's been there the last five years, over the noon hour, you won't work here at 1:00. He said, Jack, what suit is that, he said, the purple suit with the pink stripe in it. He said, don't worry, I'll sell it. Jack comes back at 1:00, he opens the door, he says, Sheldon, he didn't get any answer. He goes over, he goes down through the suits, the purple suit with the pink stripe is gone. Hears a groan from the back and he goes out, here's Sheldon laid out, his suit is all ripped to hell, scratches all over his face, he leans over and he says, Sheldon, you must have had quite a crowd in here at noon, you sold the suit. He said, Jack, I didn't have a crowd, I had one guy. He said, you had a lot of trouble with the guy. He said, no, I got the suit on him, got him in front of the mirror but I want to tell you, that seeing eye dog was a son-of-a-bitch.

DF: Well, Mr. Mooney, on that note, we'll end the formal part of this interview and I'd like to thank you so much, on behalf of the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project and the Petroleum History Society for taking some time with us today. Thank you very much.

BM: Thank you David. Thanks for coming in and I'm pleased to do it. I love this industry and love the people in it so it's an honour to be asked to talk. And as I said, I'm not prone to talk about myself, it's better to be kept quiet. Anyway, thanks a mil.

DF: Thank you very much.