

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Jack Orman

INTERVIEWER: Susan Birley

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SB: It's July 18th, 1983, it's Susan Birley interviewing Jack Orman at his home in Calgary. Mr. Orman I wonder if we could just start with where you were born and raised and where you went to school and you know, how you first got involved with the oil industry?

JO: I was born in Calgary in 1925 and I did all my schooling in Calgary, Crescent Heights High School and from there I went into the Navy for 3 years. I got out at age 20 and went to work at the Albertan where my father and grandfather both were employed. The Albertan was owned by Max Bell and as soon as my apprenticeship had expired or been completed I went to Max Bell and told him that I understood they needed a scout at Pacific Petroleums but I didn't know just what a scout was. He said he'd give me his blessings but he wasn't a shareholder but I knew that his 2 brothers-in-law were the McMahan brothers. I went and applied for the job and I went over to talk to Jack Browning and Les Clark. Mr. Clark figured with my newspaper background I'd be a great reporter or a great scout. Of course, I was in the mechanical end at the Albertan, as a pressman. At any rate they hired me and just prior to my coming on they'd had that Atlantic blowout up at Leduc and reading the history of that, it was like a book, it had to be 2 or 3 ???.

SB: Did you read it when you started at Pacific?

JO: I did, you know, within the first year, as soon as I probably knew what I was reading about. At that time they'd had a geologist would always go to scout check, they had no one as a scout as we knew scouting to become, to spend time in the field, checking rigs out. I went there and I think I hadn't been there 6 months, maybe not even that and they sent me up to Fort St. John to check a well Jack Abrams was sitting on. I went out to see him and I'd only met him around the Legion in Calgary and he hadn't seen any scouts, maybe he had never seen a scout before, I don't know. I asked him how they were doing, he said, I don't know I'm lost, I said, well give me a handful of samples and I'll take them back to Les Clark and he'll tell you what you're in. So I took them back and Clark looked at the samples, he thought I was the smartest thing in the world, he thought that was just great getting the samples. Anyway I got in my car, I drove back to the guy and told him that they were in the Blue Sky, whatever it was and they wouldn't be down for the sale and that was the name of the game, that's what we were trying to find out. So it kind of gave Pacific a little. . .well, in knowing that the next guy didn't have more information on the well than they did, or on that area.

#030 SB: And who was that well for, who owned that well?

JO: I think it was for Chevron but I can't remember, it was that long ago.

SB: Oh yes. Was there anyone that you could get training from for being a scout in those days or was it just sort of go out in the field and learn what you could?

JO: As a matter of fact, I was sent to Fort St. John several times for them but when Pacific would be testing I'd go half a mile away in the bush and listen. He had told me that they were going to be blowing, or it was blowing at 6 million cubic feet per day, I'd go and hear what that sounded like. You know, different sounds meant different gas rates of course. I can remember after that there was a well up there at Clotcho???, it blew 60 million, it just shook the ground, you couldn't believe the noise, it was deafening. And that's the loudest I ever heard. Normally wells would blow, maybe 12 million was a pretty good gas blow. But I got so I could guesstimate it pretty well, after a few years.

SB: So there weren't very many other scouts in the field then, that was sort of the beginning of the scouting, whatever. . .?

JO: Yes it was. There were scouts but nobody had more than a year or two experience prior to that. And we all really helped one another. One guy would find out about . . . in fact we used to have speakers, we'd meet in Red Deer every Wednesday, we'd have a speaker from a logging company or a perforating company or a testing company to show us what they did and how they did it. They didn't realize how much they were helping us, they figured it was just general knowledge but really it was helping us scout them on the next well you know.

SB: So do you remember the names of any other scouts that were around at that time?

JO: One of them was John Rudolph who became President of Banff Oil. I've got the roster here, it's from 1955 roster.

SB: Oh, is that. . .?

JO: Well all the scouts, we put this book out for all the scouts got this book. Dave Adams for instance, at BA and his picture and a little bit about him. That guy now, he became, he's a cartoonist and he's in Hollywood, he does cartooning for movies, he's just really doing well I guess. Jack Aynes??? with Amoco, he died. I expect there's 35 guys there but of the 35 only about half of them would spend any time in the field. A guy who worked for Imperial or Amoco, they had so much activity and so many geologists to look after, it made them almost indispensable, they just couldn't leave the office. Whereas I worked for smaller companies and I spent more time in the field, which gave you a more rounded experience I think.

#061 SB: Yes. So was it sort of free lance or did you usually work for just one company?

JO: No, at that time I worked for Pacific or whoever. I worked for Pacific until the middle of '52 and then I went to work at Amerex???, Murphy Oil, then I went to work for Texaco Canada and from '56 to '61 I was at Plymouth Oil. And each time I moved I'd get about \$100 raise or \$50 or whatever, it was a darn good way to get a raise. Because my first job paid \$225 a month and my expenses for the week would be \$6. But my last company got sold, Plymouth Oil got sold to Marathon so the scout at Marathon was making about \$150 a month less than me so there wasn't much doubt in my mind what was going to happen to me. So I was walking down the street just trying to figure out what to do and hoping I didn't have to go back to work at the newspaper and I met Dick Anderson who was

running the Canadian Stratigraphic Service and he said, why don't you go out and do this on a contract basis for everybody instead of just one company. At that time there were 30 companies in Check and 30 scouts but anybody who wasn't in Scout Check had nobody they could send out to check a rig for them. So I thought that sounded pretty good. The first week I made \$800 and I thought, wow, how long has this been going on. So it went on from there, I went out and it got busier and I hired people and finally there were 8 or 10 of us and then I quit going out, I was supervisor sort of.

SB: And is that how TIX started or was that later on?

JO: No, it's in that same time. Shorts Merano??? had started TIX in about '49 I expect, maybe '50. I'm sorry, not that early, '58 it would be that he started, '58 or '59. So he'd had it going a couple of years when I went out on my own. Then Jim Seymour, my partner and 2 other guys, Mac Buffman??? and Jim Thompson approached me and said, why don't we buy this TIX and we can incorporate the whole thing. So that's what we did and the first year and a half I spent most of the time in the field, paying the payroll, incidentally. That's the only income we had because we only had about 16 clients at that time.

SB: Were the other guys all scouts as well?

JO: Yes. One had been Union, Jim Thompson was with Union and Mac Buffman had been with Richfield and Jim Seymour had been with Phillips. So we'd all had the background. You know, I say I did the hard work and I was in the field but I had the fun because they were doing all the slugging and putting all these cards together and all the detail stuff that I hate.

SB: What other kind of activities was a scout involved with in the field, like you mentioned you'd be able to tell what a well was doing just from the sound of it but what other ways could you tell what was going on there?

JO: I may have misled you there, you don't tell what they're doing by the sound, you can tell how much gas is flowing when they're testing. But what we did is have binoculars and you'd just watch them and as they pull a stand, they break off the stand, they hit it with a wrench to see if there's any fluid in it. Because if it's a wet one, as they call a wet one, they put up their kind of shield, a mud shield they call it, a mud can, and as they break the stand this mud splatters out but it's stopped by this can. So as they bonk this you know that it's an empty one but when you hear it go thunk, you know that it's full of fluid, then you have to look at it as they break it and determine if it's water or mud or oil.

#103 SB: And you can tell that from just looking through the field glasses?

JO: You can. Well, one way you can tell is the oil fluoresces in the sun. but at night time or overcast of course, that doesn't work. But you can tell by the reaction of the crew. If they're 9' high and elated and laughing and giggling you know they've got oil in it.

SB: You mentioned also sometimes you see the number of feet that . . . I guess the amount of drill pipe that they're putting down the well, does that tell you anything as well?

JO: Oh yes. You make their connection, they run their bit on the bottom of the collars, because the collars are heavier than the drill pipe, that's for weight. And you pick up a stand and you make the connection and you go down and keep making these connections

and you wind up at 10-12 thousand feet. So as they're coming out they break them off 3 at a time, 90' lengths. So you count each stand as 90' and it winds up we used to get counters, have a clicker in your hand, you know, to count. Because you missed the count lots of times. Or sometimes they'd go down and come back with an empty one and that would foul you up. So if you made an idea that your count started up every time they made a connection, you'd hear a clunk, it's something the same each time, then you were pretty close. You'd get a prognosis on the well in the area and the main target area let's say would be Slave Point, if it's shallower than that there's no way they're testing the Slave Point. You'd know they've still got 5 days drilling or whatever, to get to their target. So if you were after what the results from the Slave Point it would kind of give you a little leeway, you didn't have to stay there looking at them all the time.

SB: Oh right. And are there any wells or any locales that you were at that really stand out in your mind that were particularly big find or anything like that?

JO: Yes. Sturgeon Lake, I wasn't on this well but a scout for Gulf, named Don Postelwaite???, he's not the Land Manager at Amoco, but he drove on the lease just as they were testing and that well was flowing oil all over the place. He just turned around and drove off the lease and phoned back to his management and told them that this well was serviced and was really a big discovery. So his company went just and bid like crazy in the coming sale you know. But that's the first time, as a result of scouting that another company got in on a real hot play. Because if no one had come and seen that, nobody would know for a long time. Take that west Pembina play, that Chevron discovery at west Pembina, that's only a year and a half or two years ago, maybe longer, my memories gone. Nobody knew about that for a year, it's just remarkable that they kept that confidential.

SB: So usually the outcome of your scouting was to decide where to go in and buy land?

JO: Yes, most times. Most times when I'd do it on a consulting basis, the company would be going to bid on the land that's posted for sale. Company A is drilling offsetting the posted lands because they want to know what's in it. If that becomes a dry hole, that's as important to my company as whether it's gas or oil. Because if it's a dry hole they can forget it. So it's really critical but it's when you get to the. . . okay, they're down, the sale is in 2 days, they're running in the drill stem tests and you know all the money's on the table, it was just, you know that you're not going to sleep for 2 days until this is finished because you know, it's so exciting for one thing. But you just eat and sleep that well. I can lots of times remember going to sleep and wake up in half an hour just because I had a feeling. Didn't pan out all the time but lots of times you'd think, you'd really have to be on top of it, that's all I'm trying to say.

#150 SB: You didn't have shifts, like there weren't ever 2 scouts on a thing or. . .?

JO: No. Well, I say no. I never had another guy go with me. Occasionally you'd meet another guy from another company in there. I remember the very first well I did, and it was, it seems like it was near Wimborne, southeast of Red Deer. But I rented this horse and it couldn't have been more than a mile and a half I had to take this dumb horse in but I figured that was what the big scouts did. Took the horse in, tied it up and I went to see

what the rig's doing. What do you think, came out, I lost the bloody horse, I must have looked for 4 hours for that dumb thing. And it didn't run away, I just forgot where I tied it up. So the heck with the horses.

SB: Was it dangerous at all doing scouting?

JO: Yes, we more than once had our camp tore up by grizzlies. The grizzlies at Swan Hills area were just something else. We had a guide, as a matter of fact he was one of the guys I hired on when I had 8 or 10 scouts in the field, Laurie something. He's a guide up in the Northwest Territories. But he'd put the camp together and he was the executioner for these darn bears that would come and kill the camp, come and tear the camp up. But he'd have us. . . we'd have two tin pans or a pan and a spoon and walk down the trail hitting this pan so you're not going to startle a bear and you know. Never did have any problems. But I have some pictures that these guys had taken in the field, of a camp that they had torn up. I don't think I've got the picture here but he's got. . . a helicopter has the bear by the foot and he's taking it over to the bear cemetery that they had started.

SB: Were they mostly grizzly bears, there weren't any problem with black bears there eh?

JO: Well, black bears, if you get near when they have cubs, they were a little bit. What was spooky to me was this rutting season for elk. To hear an elk bugling it kind of makes the hair on the back of your neck stand out.

SB: I guess it could be dangerous if you got in their path too.

JO: I don't know. But the heck of it is you see, we would wear khakis or whatever in the field and all these darn hunters around Whitecourt, there was a lot of guys went hunting up there. Whatever.

SB: You didn't want to be spotted by the people on the rig.

JO: by the hunters, that's right.

SB: Yes, I guess the hunters too. Did you ever have any trouble, encounters with people from the rig that were. . . ?

JO: By the thousands. I can remember once, they had . . . I'm trying to think who it was. But anyway, the guy that was a tool push was a gun freak and he had 2 pistols, he loaded and made his own shells and cartridges. He came out of the bunkhouse at noon, just shooting, bam, bam, bam, every which way. We were laying behind a log there, just terrified, that you know, if he was shooting at us, we would have a chance to get away maybe.

SB: Was he doing it. . . ?

JO: No, he didn't know we were there, he just shot at everything. Leaves and anything.

SB: You never got run out of an area because. . . ?

JO: Oh yes, I was thrown in the sump. In fact, that was a picture of that was in Weekend Magazine. I'd gone to the Scout as well and the geologist was a guy who used to scout for City Service named Steve Reddon. So I was in just looking in the rig and I'm trying to see in the sump if they tested. I hear a bunch of hollering on the rig floor and I thought, I'm going to take off but I can hear them yelling and ah, they're trying to make me run, heck with them. So ??? they caught me. You know, they run in. . . Anyway they turn me around and they walk me back towards the rig and I said, I wanted to see in that sump anyway I wanted to see if there was any oil out from a drill stem test. As soon as I said that I knew it was the wrong thing, this guy gave me a push and anyway, I swung this 22 I

had, I was using it like a club, anyway they threw me in this darn thing. I was up to my armpits and it's sticky and claustic and oil and diesel. So my car was about 3 miles away so the tool push said he'd put me in his truck and he would drive me to my car. So I'm going to leap in the front seat and he wouldn't let me, he said, get in the back, in the bed. So I get in my car and put a tarp down, a slicker to sit on and I went into Bentley to get some clothes. Of course, the guy in the store, what on earth happened to you, and I wasn't about to go through a long story telling him what had happened. So I got some clean clothes, I drive to Red Deer where I was staying, we were having Scout Check the next day. But they didn't have any showers in that hotel. They had bathtubs. Every time I'd get in that tub, I'd wash, get the stuff off, I'd stand up in the tub, I'm slick again. I had 6 baths trying to get clean of that.

#218 SB: You never encountered any people that were really hostile though, they didn't threaten to. . .

JO: Oh yes. You see, they used to have to do extra work. If the scout was in the area they'd have to make dummy trips, like make a trip without anything in the stand or make it back up and down once or twice or put up canvas around the rig or lots of things. So the odd time they'd pull your distributor head off and it's 30 below zero and a guy could be deader than a mackerel you know. To me it was dumb. But that would not be the drilling people or it wouldn't be the oil company, it would be the young guys, the farm boys they had on staff. All they knew, the scouts were there and they were the bad boys. And yet we'd see them in town and if I wasn't scouting their rig we were buddy, buddy. Lots of times I was going to get beat up and one particular time at Edson, a guy named Jack Vanstone was a tool push for the Lofton brothers and he was a tough monkey. These three guys were going to start roughing me up one morning and Jack came over and he said, how you doing pal and that was the end of it, they didn't do anything further.

SB: When you were at Pacific, was the office here in Calgary at that time?

JO: Yes. They had an office in Fort St. John too, and one in Edmonton too. Roland Prather was in Edmonton as a matter of fact, he played with the Edmonton Eskimos. Edmonton was the other end of the world for me, I'd never been to Edmonton at that time.

SB: Was there an actual department that you were working out of, like was there a Land Department for Pacific.

JO: Oh yes, but I worked for geological at that time.

SB: Oh I see. And who was your immediate supervisor there?

JO: Les Clark.

SB: Oh I see, yes.

JO: And I'd gone, I'd changed jobs maybe once, maybe twice and he came and asked me to come back. I said, you know, you've got a company policy and he said, we'd like you to come back. So I went to the personnel guy, he was a Limey and he had told me, he asked me what I was getting paid and he said, we couldn't match that and I said, you tell Les Clark that and that's when I just left. I couldn't believe that. So and so was going to undertake to tell Les how much he could pay. At any rate, I didn't go back.

SB: Were Frank and George McMahan very much involved with the operations here in

Calgary then?

JO: Well they were but they were, it was really high powered. They were in the finance end and at the time they were trying to get a gas export permit in I guess, West Coast Transmission. That West Coast pipeline, I think they got that in '51. We had a big company celebration at the time. I remember it was a Wednesday night because I came back from Scout Check and a big party was on. George was an easier guy to talk to than Frank. I had just started there, I started around Christmas and I had been there 2 weeks in '51 and the only people I knew on the staff were the geologists that I worked with and there were 4 or 5 or whatever. We're standing around telling jokes and this older guy comes over and he's just laughing like everything. I said, you know, I don't know who you are Mac, you seem like a hell of a guy, I'll introduce you to my friends and I introduced him around as Sam Bahan and so on and so on. I said, who are you and he said, I'm George McMahan, who in the hell are you. I near had a fit, I couldn't believe it. So he chuckled about that for a whole year, he told all his friends who would wind up telling me, or at least a couple had. Next year at the Christmas part I get off the elevator and he???, the same story of course, who the hell are you. But he's a character, I really enjoyed him.

#277 SB: Who were some of the other geologists . . . ?

JO: Sam Bahan, Dr. Bahan he was, he went to Sun. John Onco???, he went to Plymouth Oil, Cam McFeely, he's President of Peregrine Petroleums. Don Guthrie, he's the computer head at Amoco.

SB: What was Jack Browning at that time?

JO: He was Chief Geologist.

SB: Oh I see. And you said, he was the one that hired you when you started.

JO: He and Les Clark had interviewed me. I didn't realize what. . . as a matter of fact, after I'd finished talking to the two of them I walked out and Jack Browning was behind me and I remember asking him, did I get the job and he said, yes, when can you start. I said super, just a couple of weeks and he said, yes.

SB: That's a good way to start. So then after you finished with Pacific you went on to Amerex, Murphy?

JO: Amerex, yes. Murphy Oil Company, they called it Amerex at the time.

SB: Oh yes. Who owned that?

JO: Charles Murphy, he's from El Dorado, Arkansas. But a friend of mine, who had been scouting, Jeep Hall, was their Land Manager there, so it was through him they hired me. And I had a couple of car accidents and. . . things just weren't going all that great for that company but racking up 2 cars didn't help much either. I guess it was mutual, they didn't fire me but I started fishing around for a job and I got a job at Tex Can and that very afternoon I got a call from Shell, they wanted me to go talk to them. So I really felt it was the end when you got the job, but if you're doing a good job, you know, come on people.

SB: Yes, there's always something that comes up. When did you start with Texaco?

JO: I started there in '53, with Dr. Howells. I was there. . . as a matter of fact, the Chief Engineer, Jack Sparks, just retired as Chief Executive Officer for Texaco, of the whole

caboodle. I was there a good 3 years I guess, 2 ½ years.

SB: And you were still scouting for them?

JO: No, there I was scout and landman, I was doing leasing for them too. As a matter of fact, I started leasing at the previous company, at Amerex. So I was doing leasing and I would do scouting but when you do both you don't really do justice to either. When you go on a lease play, you've got to get the leases but then Wednesdays I had to drive to Red Deer for Scout Check. So it got a little rougher. That's what my title was, was Scout/Landman but it's not an easy job when you're doing both.

SB: How big was the Land Department at that time at Texaco?

JO: There was just 2. There was a guy named Mark Burchell???, who went down to run the ??? operation in Oklahoma City and the next. . . what do you call him, junior landman I guess, was Jack Beakham, he's now Vice-President of City Service, of the Land Department.

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Tape 1 Side 2

SB: So you were working at Texaco starting from 1953. Who were some of the other people that you worked with, this was in Texaco Canada operations?

JO: Right. It had just been changed over from McCall Frontenac. And the President was Dr. Billy Howells and he had worked for Anglo-American, for Sam Nickle. The Chief Engineer, I expect he would be, was Jack Sparks, who wound up President of Texaco, Art Burchell, Jack Minchin, Chief Geologist was a guy named Fred Hamilton, whose brother was Alvin Hamilton, an MP in Saskatchewan. I can't remember that many others, Fred Cummer was an engineer.

SB: This wasn't really a company that was involved with exploration then was it.

JO: Well, they were but they didn't do that much. They had development and stuff at . . . oh, west of Catherine there, Bonnie Glen and Wizard Lake pool, but that had been found before by Texaco and Texcan had got in on the lease play, that's how come they had the land. And they had terrific income from it but it hadn't been any of their doing really the finding of it, it was found by Tex Ex. But for some reason, I think that being under the thumb of Texaco, they weren't really permitted to do too much exploration. I think probably that was mostly the reason.

SB: So did you stay on there for very long?

JO: I was there a little over 2 years. As a matter of fact, I had forgotten this but I was President of the Oil Scouts Association this particular year and Plymouth Oil were wanting to get in at Scout Check. So they called and wanted to talk to somebody about it. So the guy I was talking to was a guy I had gone to school with, Gordon Hawkins and he was their Land Manager. So he asked what the criteria was to get in the Check and what scouts made and such and such. So after about 2 days he called me and he said, would I go to work there. And I said, I never thought about it, so I said, how much would you pay and he said, how much would you want. So I said, \$600 and he said, okay. I just about fell over, I was making \$450. So I told Doc Howells, I said Doc, this is a fantastic raise

and he said, I'll tell you this, here you'll get about \$50 a year if you're lucky, no way I can meet that, I recommend you take it as much as I hate to see you go. So right away, you know, I had a new job and a new car and a bigger expense account by far. Plus a damn good salary, that was a lot of money at that time. I expect that would be in '55.

#049 SB: Scout Check, was that the name for a type of organization or what does that. . . ?

JO: Well, each scout worked for a different company but one guy couldn't cover the whole province. So each scout would be assigned an area, it would be let's say from Calgary to Nanton and a square, east or west, whichever way, a square, maybe 50 miles x 50 miles and each scout had all the activity in that area was his responsibility. So when we'd go to Scout Check we'd have all our wells in the same order, everybody had them in the same sequence, starting at the south and the bull Scout would call out the first well and whose ever area that was, it had been assigned to him, he had to tell what the well was doing and the depth and whether it was cased. So after his area was done then it would become the next guy's responsibility and it would work that way. That's for company's not in Scout Check, guys in Scout Check you had to give your own wells out too. So that's why the guys with Imperial or with Gulf, Amoco, they had so many wells of their own that they didn't get assigned a field area mostly, because they had so much to do in town. A guy with a company like I was, with Amerex or whatever, they had maybe 2 wells. I would spend Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, out in the field.

SB: When you say they were on their own wells, does that mean if they were hired by Imperial they would be looking at Imperial wells?

JO: Oh no, wait a minute now, this is not. . . no, they'd get back the drilling report that comes to their office. Every morning, every company has a drilling report and gives all their rig activity for that day, each day. And maybe there's 10 rigs. So all the formation tops and the depths and the tests. So on this report he puts down. . .and on the Tuesday he'd put the last depth they had so it would be up to date information on each well as it went. Well, that's okay for a guy at Imperial looking at his drilling report but if it was a company like Newmac that was drilling and they're not in Check, I'd have to find that out in the field. You see, that's why they didn't have to go in the field, they just got their own information from their drilling report. So it's a little bit different getting it from your own people than getting it from a stranger you know.

SB: Did you have meetings regularly, like Scout Check meetings?

JO: Yes, every Wednesday in Red Deer. And the reason it was picked was because it was central and guys that. . .well, you see, Imperial and Gulf had scouts in Edmonton, and Shell too. But if a guy was a scout in the Fort St. John area, or Grande Prairie, he'd come to Red Deer and the guys doing Bow Island or Lethbridge would come, it would save one bunch of guys going all that way. Plus it gave all the other guys an opportunity to get together once a week and raise Cain out in Red Deer.

SB: Do you think that scouting came about when, I guess more companies started competing with each other for territory and information, did it come about as a result of that?

JO: Oh, I think so. It didn't start in Canada of course. The first International Scouts Association, what they used to call it, was started in 1924, way, way back. That's the days

of the teapot dome and all that in Texas, the discoveries. But it is a way for a company to find out what is happening in a specific area and what to expect on the price of land at a coming sale.

#086 SB: Right. So after Texaco then you worked for Plymouth was it?

JO: Right. I went to Plymouth, I was there till they were sold in '61.

SB: And where did they come from and who owned them?

JO: They were from just out of Corpus Christi, Texas, at a place called. . . Sinton, Texas, I nearly forgot, Sinton, Texas.. But I remember I went down there to the head office and it's just a little wee peanut of a town. I don't expect there was more than 2,000 people there but they had about 1,000 wells in that area which is astonishing how many wells they had. Incidentally the whole staff, the whole executive staff were killed in a plane crash, their head office was Pittsburgh. Not the head office, they were tied in with Banadam???, Mike Banadam and they were at a meeting with them in Pittsburgh and the plane crashed and the whole top echelon of the company were killed, it was a dreadful accident.

SB: How much interest did they have in Canada?

JO: Their first move was to get into Pembina, the Pembina play was just getting underway then. First they wanted to get production to pay the bills, the day to day bills and it worked out pretty well for them. They started fracturing wells up there, Mobil had found out how to do this. The sand is quite tight and not much porosity. You drill a well, you put water and sand in the formation under pressure, 1,500 lb. maybe, the formation cracks, sand goes into the crack of the formation and a lot of the oil can flow freely. So this guy came up from Sinton, Texas, he'd just jumped off the airplane from Sinton to Calgary, to Pembina. Slats Baker, a tall, skinny guy. So he'd just got into town, he had a bottle of whiskey, was going to have a shower and the phone rang. And the hotel had just been built at Pembina then, at Drayton Valley. A guy says Mr. Baker, my name is whatever, I'm going to fract??? your well. So Slats says, come on up, I'm going to have a shower, pour yourself a drink. So Slats come out of the shower and here the guy that was going to fract the well was a black guy. Well at this time, 1956, or '7, for a guy just come from Texas, this was, he just. . . he said, you black son-of-a-bitch, what are you doing in my room and the guy said, well, you told me to come up and have a drink. He said, I'm going to fract your well and he said, you're not fracting my well, get the hell out of here and blah, blah. So we got in pretty big trouble with the gunmen??? over that, you know. If we'd had a minute for the guy to know that it was going to be a black guy do the work or whatever. But it was such a shock for him.

SB: How did they get it fractured in the end?

JO: Well, they did it but the black guy didn't do it. It was a darned shame too, because he was really a good hand, really a good man.

#121 SB: So did you continue working with them for a few years?

JO: Yes, I was there till '61 and then they got sold to Marathon. The already had a scout, they were a member of Scout Check, Ohio it was called then. The guy they had scouting there

was named Bob O'Keefe, and I think he was making a couple of hundred dollars less, he didn't have the advantage of that big jump I got and there was no doubt in my mind who was going to get the job. So at any rate, I got severance pay, I think I got 8 months pay. And I was just trying to figure out what to do and Dick Anderson, who was with Canadian Stratigraphic Service, I saw him on the street and he said, what are you going to do and I said, I don't have any idea. He said, you could try that scouting in the field on a contract basis. I thought, by god, that sounded like a super idea. So I'd only been a . . . I put an ad, not an ad, an announcement in the bulletin and that day I got a phone call and this guy sent me up to Wimborne. I was about 3 miles in, I rented this horse from this guy, went about 3 miles in, tied the horse up, went to the rig and spent a few hours there and come out, I'd lost the damn horse. I had to look for 3 hours for that danged thing and it hadn't got away, I just didn't remember where I'd tied him up. So I didn't take horses in anymore. But I went from there to . . . well, I can remember a lot of places about that time that I went to. At any rate, there was about 6 or 8 of us out in the field and I wound up I didn't go out that much anymore. But I'd been out enough that when some job came up I'd know if they could do it or not and how long it should take and how much it should cost. Which I think was a plus, I'd hate to have guys on staff, or I'd hate to be working for a guy who didn't know what I was supposed to be doing. It would be kind of hard.

SB: Can you remember the names any of the other guys you had working for you then?

JO: Well, a guy that comes to mind first is Jay Bray. He'd scouted with Shell for years and years, Don McGregor, Don ???, Al Betker???, Danny Johnson. Danny now is Chief Scout at Petrocan. There's been so many it would be hard to remember, Don McGregor, Bernie Alexson, Bernie is our Vice-President now, he's still with us.

SB: You said that you got involved later on with drilling, was that around that time or. . .?

JO: Well, I didn't mean I'd got involved with drilling but in ??? phase of it. You see, I didn't have to attend Scout Check any of the time I was on consulting, we didn't go to Scout Check because we weren't members, so I'd spend the whole, well, however long it took to scout a well in the field. I'm trying to think of the time, one time I had to go to Slave Lake, there was a well, an Amerata well north of Slave Lake and they had the road blocked off. So I didn't know how I was going to get to the other side of the lake, so there's a little Indian settlement on the south shore of the lake and I went the priest there and asked him, if there's an Indian that's reliable that can take me over there without doing anything to me. He said, yes, so he introduced me to this guy and we talked and he was going to take me the next morning. So that afternoon I stood around watching, he was cleaning fish and they'd caught a ton of whitefish out of there. I had my golf clubs in the trunk and was hitting golf balls in the water and these little kids had never seen a golf club before. So these kids are 6 and 7 years old, I had them hitting golf balls, they had a great time. At any rate the next day the guy was taking me across and it was going to be a scorcher of a day. And he took me. . .by god, he took me the afternoon before to find the rig, that's what he had done, that's why I was still there through the day. So we walk in and he turns in and we walked and walked and by god, we come out right at the rig, I couldn't believe it, how the hell he found his way like that. So anyway we come out, walked down the tracks and he come out and he had an old putt, putt of a boat, ????. Next

day we're going to go out, he's going to leave me for the day and I said, pick me up at 4:00. So he agreed and oh, it was some kind of hot. So 4:00, 3:00, it started to rain and it rained, lightning and come down in buckets and I'm drenched and I didn't have any matches that were dry for a fire. Anyway, I thought this guy hadn't shown up and I thought he was going to leave me here. So about 6:30 he came. By now I was raging you know. I said, where the hell were you, I've been here freezing, ???, couldn't tell what time it was, he had no watch. If I'd known that I'd have given him my watch.

#181 SB: So how big did that. . . your kind of consulting outfit get?

JO: That got pretty good, that did well. I ???, it's hard to figure, I can't remember now. But as I remember we were only charging 12 cents a mile, now they charge 45 cents a kilometre, which should work out to probably 80 cents a mile.

SB: Did you charge the companies extra besides mileage. . . ?

JO: Yes, we charged them \$100 a day and expenses, which included camp ??? or helicopter or whatever. I would give the scout \$60 and I would get \$40. And having 6 or 8 guys out, it worked out pretty well you know. At that time, it doesn't sound big now. Well, helicopter cost, you'd wind up paying \$400 an hour for a helicopter, you know when you figured we were getting \$100 a day, you started to wonder about the values in the whole thing. At any rate it worked out okay for us, it worked out okay for the scout because he came in and get cleaned up, change his clothes then I'd send him out again. They were making good money. I would help in town because if the well was drilling I would find out a depth most times and help them out as you'd go along. So we both worked at these wells. But I can remember having a lot of. . . well, being on call all the time. If something happened, the rig blew out, somebody called, the rig's on fire, car accidents, there's all kinds of things happened.

SB: Was that well at Yo-Yo, was that on fire when you were there during that period?

JO: Yes, that was sour gas. That was a chemical well, Bill Daniluk??? was their Production Engineer. They were blowing this gas and these guys standing on the floor end to hold it down, otherwise the equipment. . . they staked this flare line down on the ground with stakes of wood. Anyway these guys were standing on the ??? to give it added weight and it started whipping and flipping and crushed both of his heels. I could smell the sour gas. If you can still smell it, it's not that strong, but once you can't smell it, that sour gas deadens your olfactory nerves and you can't smell it. That's when it gets dangerous. So I took off and I phoned the Mounties and they called into the company and told them that this rig had blown out. It's darned dangerous at that time. Anyway, the fire ???, the mast fell down. Once it caught fire of course, you don't have to worry that much about the sulphur. But that ??? sulphide is just dynamite. You die like that. There was a guy, just north of Crossfield, they were testing, this guy was walking through this field with his dog and it was like walking through water, it would be hip deep to him, only you can't see it or smell it of course. He walked and his dog conked out, he bent down to see what happened to his dog, he knelt down and it was like him putting his head under water and he died. It's really scary. We've had more schools, in fact I told you earlier about having those testers and perforators giving us lectures we had on safety. The first thing you worry

about is that sour gas.

#231 SB: Have you found that safety precautions have gotten better over the years?

JO: I would think so. But you still hear guys, they put a spin chain on to tighten the one stand on to the other and that's still a physical thing to do and guys still get their fingers caught in there. My nephew's brother had his foot cut off by a stand. They laid the pipe down and the pipe jumped and ran right across his instep. And they used to tell a joke, the guy would say haul it up, my foot's under there and the guy said, don't bother just pull it away. And really that's just what it does, it cuts it off just slick as can be. But it's still very dangerous.

SB: And you carried on with the consulting business until about what time?

JO: We quit doing that about '75, '76. They were using electronic stuff, the new scouts, stuff that I had been away from scouting, field scouting for 10 years and I didn't understand and couldn't keep up with anyway. But I still had several guys in the field and the stuff that they pick up, I couldn't believe it. They have a thing like a phone fax that you transmit a picture from one city to another, you transmit the logs like that, down from the well to. . . You could buy a small unit, or rent a small unit from Radio Shack that would intercept that and you could get a copy of the log sitting there in your car. And the pressures on tests and all kinds of things that my guy's started coming up with and I couldn't figure out how on earth he got it because you can't get that legally. If you get something by looking at it, good for you, but if you've got to do something dishonest to get it, like break into a guy's car or his shack or whatever, you know, we draw the line there. Anyway things started deteriorating and I had our guys. . . anyway I just said, enough of this and we quit field scouting.

SB: Was that tied in with TIX or. . . ?

JO: Yes. That would be in about '74 or '5 I expect, that we quit doing that.

SB: Did you do a lot of work up in the Peace River area? Was there very much going on out there?

JO: One big play we were in on was the Rainbow Lake play of course. Another one was that north slope of Alaska play. But it's so expensive. As a matter of fact I went down to Los Angeles to talk to the head guy from Mobil, the head people from Mobil about going up and scouting up there for them. But it's so dangerous and so scary and so expensive. You know, an orange was \$1.50, we had no way of projecting what a thing would cost or how much we should charge them you know. So just prior to that big sale when they did this, \$2 billion or whatever the number was, I had a guy up there, as a matter of fact, it was Jay Bray and another guy. But Jay he spent a lot of time on that north slope checking wells to see who was drilling, who was this, who was that. And we didn't do any more up there, it was just too remote and too dangerous. If that helicopter goes down in that cove???, they're not going to find a guy. It's not like there at Baffin, if a guy was with BP or ??? or one of the big companies up there, they've got a huge camp. We weren't welcome in any of those camps so it was not a matter of. . . So it gets a little dicey even going to a place like Pembina when it's really, really cold because you're not welcome. You go and ???, you get in your car and you go home.

- #287 SB: Do you want to go a bit into how TIX was formed. I understand it started out in the States was it, the original company?
- JO: No. Well, the company down there was called PI, Petroleum Information and they started in. . .oh god, I don't know, '35 or '36 probably. But we started out in '61. They were totally divorced, no tie in at all. In '60 we sold out to them and stayed on in a management contract. The reason being, we weren't making enough money. I think we were making \$14,000 a year and we were hard pressed to make that, to make it pay.
- SB: That was between 4 people was it?
- JO: No, each, that was our salary each.
- SB: Oh right, but still, yes.
- JO: But we were hard pressed to make it and we had 2 or 3 girls and a printer and so on and so on. So these guys said they'd buy us, they were going to show us how to do this and they had already been this route and they knew how to do these things. And they did and it really worked out. I expect it would have worked out for us at any rate but we'd have made a lot of mistakes that we didn't have to make.
- SB: So did that kind of stem from the idea of Scout Check or where was the original idea behind forming it?
- JO: Theirs or ours?
- SB: Yours?
- JO: Well, you see, Scout Check at the time, or when I was there, there were 32 scouts or whatever, 32 companies. But there would be maybe 200 companies active in the oil patch. The only guys that had any access to all these well records and all the field data were the guys in the Scout Check. So we formed this to service all the other 200 or whatever, that were not in Scout Check.
- SB: Oh, I see, yes.
- JO: It worked out okay. You know, it started slow but once the idea of what we were trying to do and what we could provide, it really did make a difference. Even now we get calls from all over the place from guys wanting to know about such and such a well in Texas or such and such a well in Alaska. Got a call from Husky and they wanted to know what happened on a well in the Philippines, that's kind of far out when they would call to ask you about something that happened there. And as it happened I had a buddy in Singapore who knew a guy, blah, blah, I phoned him. Another one, they wanted to know about a well in Tehran, just out of Tehran in Iran. So I phoned a friend of mine in Tehran. And over the years you get to know so many people, it really is interesting and I tell you, it's a really good feeling when you come up with something like that you know.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

- SB: This is the second interview with Jack Orman. Mr. Orman I wonder if we could just start by going back to talking about scouting specifically. Do you know anything about how scouting started or why they decided to start scouting?

- JO: Well the discovery well was drilled in Leduc in 1947 and that's when all the activity started. At that time it was Imperial and Shell, plus some operators who drilled in the Turner Valley area but most of the wells were being drilled by those 2 majors. '48, '49 there was quite an influx of activity here and companies moved in. There was enough wells being drilled that they had to keep on top of what was happening, what the competitors were doing. So they'd hired scouts, it wound up that it's impossible for one man to cover Alberta, you'd be driving all the time, you can't drive that far. So it worked that they'd have, let's say, 10 or 12 scouts when they first started and the province would be divided into 8 blocks and each guy is responsible for all the drilling and seismic activity in that area. So he would go out on Monday, or Friday, depending, check all the wells in his area, check all the seismic rigs, see who's buying land. Go to Red Deer on Wednesday, Red Deer was central for all the guys coming in from all the different areas in Alberta and information was exchanged. They had what they called a Bull Scout who has . . . the wells are all kept in order, in sequence starting from south going to north, the Bull Scout calls this wells out and everybody has the wells in the same order. So all the wells in my area I would have to report on and then once they're out of my area I would just write what the next guy's area had. I started in 1950 - '51, there were something like about 26 scouts I think. 26 companies, more than 26 scouts because Imperial and Shell had 5 or 6 or 7 scouts.
- SB: And so the companies had to more or less have a scout in order to have the best opportunity to get land?
- JO: Well, if they're looking to buy at a land sale they have got to know what happened on that well that's being drilled next to the sale let's say. If I request lands to be posted at a sale I might drill a well next to it and see if what I think is there, is there. If this well becomes a producer I may be the only guy that knows what that land is worth. So it behooves everyone to find out what happened on that well because they'd be bidding without any information.
- #032 SB: Were there any criteria for belonging, this was Scout Check that got together in Red Deer, were there any criteria for belonging to it?
- JO: No, there weren't. We had geologists, we had engineers, guys that worked on rigs. Guys like myself who had never seen a rig, I didn't know anything about it. But we'd have speakers come up, let's say a man with Haliburton or cementers or a test company and we'd have seminars every week. So it upgraded the class of people or the education of the people within the Check at any rate.
- SB: So each company would be quite willing to have their people tell everybody else about what had gone on at their wells, they wouldn't have any. . .?
- JO: Not really. There were rules there. You're committed or obligated to give the information out on all your well's been drilling. However if a well is being drilled to a sale, they have what they call a [kite hole]??? status is granted and they don't have to give that information out. Now that wasn't started until '55 or '56 I expect. As a matter of fact at that time I was on the executive and Gulf were looking for a gas contract to export their water and gas production. And they weren't telling us what had come out on these wells

that they got. And it appeared we were going to have to suspend them. So I went over and talked to Stan Pearson, who was our Exploration manager and I told him what my problem was, I said, I'm right in the middle on this, I've got to do something. And he said, they'd have to withdraw from Scout Check if we couldn't give them any special dispensation to withhold it. So we had an executive meeting and decided, we'd better go along with Gulf because the other companies are feeling the same way too. So that's when it started, allowing tight hole status. But on all other wells drilling, and on a development well, it doesn't matter who finds out anyway, there's no secrets.

SB: And did they have to pay anything to belong to Scout Check?

JO: Yes, but it wasn't very much, it was, I'm going to say, \$25 a month or something like that. Really, all it paid for was the rent for the hall we hired and coffee and buns when we'd have our coffee break in the morning. We'd start at 8:00 in the morning, have a break for 30 minutes or whatever at say, 10 and go, sometimes you had to go right through but most times you'd have lunch and finish by 3 or 4, depending on the activity. And we'd all drive back to Calgary or, depending where you're from.

SB: And when they went out into the field, what kinds of information would they be looking for?

JO: Well, initially in the date I'm talking about was about the time of the Camrose discovery and they wanted to know, well we had to report on the depth on each drilling well. Camrose at that time, they had just had, I can remember having their 100th well being drilled in that area and that wasn't in very long a time. They'd drilled them in 2 weeks but they had 8 or 9 rigs in that area. So whoever had the Camrose area would have to go to each rig and get a depth, hopefully for Tuesday. Ideally they would get Tuesday's depth.

SB: And the work that you were doing in the office, information that you got from just records, how would you get access to that?

JO: What we did, have Scout Check would drive back to Calgary and make up reports on all the wells drilling, with highlights and in the highlights we'd put, near acreage wells was the way we referred to it. It's wells drilling near lands owned by my company, which was of prime interest to them. So and so had a discovery here and so and so is testing gas here. So we'd get the reports done, we'd try to get them done by Wednesday, Thursday I'd do all my leg work done for our geologists. They'd have logs they'd want to try and get hold of, core analyses on this or whatever. So I'd phone my buddies and I'd say, can you get me a log on that, sure, and later on he would be phoning me wanting the same thing from me. But it was kind of a scratch my back and I'll scratch yours deal. As a matter of fact we didn't really let the company know how much of the company information we gave out but at the time they got something that was important from another guy, they didn't really care.

#080 SB: And is that still going on, like, do you still have as much freedom as you had in those days?

JO: Well, I'm not in Scout Check any longer. When I got out of Scout Check in 1960-'61, for instance, I wouldn't want one of our geologists to give information out on our well because I'm planning on using that information to get something for my other company

and if he gets it for nothing, he won't have to give me a log or the test chart or whatever.

SB: When the companies got this information back how could the information be used?

JO: When we arrived, I normally would go in the office on Wednesday, you know, we arrived sometimes quite late but a lot of times geologists would be sitting waiting for it, to find out what was happening in specific areas. Or I'd phone in from Red Deer. The next day I'd put all the well data on cards, on all wells completed, on a card and started up a card file and at that time there would be probably 40,000 wells in it. I expect now there's 120,000 wells. Drilling's been going on. At any rate the geologists use all the geological data to contour maps and they would work their land plays, or their geological plays out on it and we would buy land on the strength of the geological maps provided.

SB: So you'd be looking for things like, would you be looking for drill stem tests and things like that as well?

JO: Yes. Well, we'd find a potential horizon, it could be a Viking or whatever, it could be a good potential producing horizon, they'd want to know what the well tested. Did it test maybe water, it tested gas or what. They'd use that on their maps, they were looking for where the pools went.

SB: And did all companies keep records of their production, well, production records. . .?

JO: Oh yes, they still do in fact. But that's another things. That's a little different from what we're talking about. Their production records is like history of the producing wells. And after x number of years and the wells start depleting, they start pumping water in or gas to increase the pressure so they'll produce more oil.

SB: Oh yes. So that wouldn't really tie in with that, yes.

JO: That's not what we're talking about, no.

SB: And how were the scouts hired, were they usually real veterans at scouting.

JO: No, at that time there were no veterans. A couple of companies had American guys come up here, Ohio had a guy named. . .whatever. Shell had a guy come up from the States, there were a couple of guys who kind of, when the Check was first formed, kind of showed them how they did it down there. But when I started, it was about a year and a half later, by then all these Americans had gone back.

SB: And how was Scout Check organized, was there say an executive, you mentioned you were the President?

JO: Yes.

SB: How was it set up?

JO: Initially you mean?

SB: Yes, initially, and then. . .?

JO: Well, the guys would meet and maybe within a coffee shop within a motel here or whatever. And they'd swap information but then you start to realize that you're not getting as much as we could get if we split it up and people went and did specific areas. So my company might have been interested in an area that I wasn't sent to, so I really had to count on the other guy to provide the data that's good enough, it's going to cover me. Because I'm doing something that may do him some good. But they'd have a President, at any rate they started to have a President and a Bull Scout, which as I said is the guy who

calls the wells and says, that's not good enough, go to the phone and get something better or get out for 2 weeks or whatever. And it was quite a penalty to be excluded for a week or two because all this drilling activity and you'd go back and you're lost. You didn't know, what do you tell your company for one thing. So a guy really kept his head down, he had to work hard.

- #128 SB: And the companies that belonged to Scout Check had to have a scout hired full time, they couldn't be just a company trying to get the benefits from the Scout Check?
- JO: Well, it's changed. At that time you had to have a full time, as a matter of fact, I think the words were, a full time qualified scout but qualified was in quotation marks because not that many people were really qualified. I think that precluded using a draftsman for instance, which they do now and they have done for 20 years probably. As a matter of fact now, there's quite a few gals go up. But they don't do the field scouting that used to be done, so the girls are fine, they're working in just great.
- SB: And you mentioned that each of the provinces had, well, an extension of Scout Check.
- JO: Yes, we had what we called, the Canadian Oil Scouts Association, which covered, it didn't cover Ontario. There was so much drilling there that nobody knew much about from out here. But Manitoba, Saskatchewan was one Check, that was called Central Canada Oil Scouts Association, Alberta was Western Canada Oil Scouts Association and B.C., which was formed in '55 or '6 was the B.C. Oil Scouts Association. So each, at one time, the guys who worked out of Regina were in the Saskatchewan Oil Scouts Association and people didn't commute at that time. They lived in Regina or they lived in Fort St. John, initially. But the only company with offices in Fort St. John was Imperial and Shell and I think probably Gulf. So later on they had quite a few guys would commute, they'd go up in an old DC-4 or DC-6 or whatever, an old clunker of an airplane anyway, fly up from Calgary every week.
- SB: And they'd come down every week for the Scout Check meeting.
- JO: No, they'd come back to Calgary to their office, they'd go to the Scout Check meeting in Fort St. John from Calgary. Anyway, after that, they had to have. . .the B.C. Scout Check is held in Calgary so I didn't have to go through that white knuckle flying.
- SB: And then with the Scout Check you could stay or you could be covering several companies at once. Did scouts change companies very often or did they usually stay with the same company?
- JO: You had to say that. I started at Pacific and I'd been in 4 companies by 1955. But each time I was getting a pretty good raise. When I was leaving Texaco Canada, I'm going to say I was making \$400 a month and I told Dr. Howells who was the Manager, just a super guy. I said, Doc, I've got a chance to get \$100 salary increase, I was the President of the Oil Scouts Association, that's why I'd gone to Plymouth Oil because they wanted to know what they'd have to do to become a member of Scout Check. So I went over to see them and then the guy offered me \$100 raise and I couldn't believe it. So I went back to Doc Howells and I said, Doc, you know, I really like it here but what would you think. So I told him about the \$100 salary raise, from \$400 to \$500 and he said, you have to take it,

I hate to see you go but it would take you 5 years to get that much of a raise. At that time a \$20 salary increase was a good deal. I digress there, so you don't have to stay at the same company. And a lot of guys did move around. Mind you a lot of the guys stayed at the same company they were at, you know, 30 years later.

#173 SB: But you didn't really have to stay, you still got the same information no matter who you were working for?

JO: Yes. Well, your contacts remained the same you see. But you see, some companies, and one that comes to mind is a company called Sharples???, a small company out of Denver, and the scout they had is a guy named Mickey Laynoff??? and he's the Vice-President of Dennison in Calgary here. They never drilled a darned well that I can recall but he used to work so hard to compensate for his company not doing any drilling. He would work so hard in the field that everybody was happy to have him. It was a good trade off.

SB: So did you notice any changes in the technology. I guess, you had to kind of face those as you were working scouting. Like, to begin with, how did you send signals from the field, when you were out in the field how would you transfer the information back to the office?

JO: Oh, I'd phone back. The rigs used to report in, 8:00 normally, between 8 and 9. And at every hotel lobby there would be 3 or 4 or 5 pay phones and there was always 3 or 4 tool pushes at each phone, waiting in line to phone his well report in. And I'm standing there waiting to phone a well report because I'm listening to what they're saying besides. So at sometime in the morning I would try and phone them and tell them what had happened overnight.

SB: So you'd be able to keep check of all the wells in the area?

JO: Well, when I say what I just said, I'm talking about, normally it's just scouts, field scouting. What I was talking about was specifically scouting one well. This is not to do with Scout Check now, this is when I was scouting contract for other companies, a company. I didn't really care much what happened to all the other wells, just the one that I zeroed in on and when they were testing I was there.

SB: At some point you were sending things by radio signal were you or did that happen. . . ?

JO: No. From the rig they did, they started sending with . . . well, mobiles on a car. But that wasn't all that satisfactory because you could hear the conversation on the other end, if you have a mobile. So the guy who was in Calgary taping reports was very cautious not to repeat anything. There was a guy named Don McGregor was out scouting for me one time, at Swan Hills, and he had a short wave radio and he was listening to Russian radio transmissions and whatever, late at night in the north country. And by god, he picked up the transmission from the mobile, from the other end, from the truck end. So now with his mobile radio in his car he could pick up both ends of the conversation. And this is how all this intercepting on radio started. It just was a fluke, these guys just happened to be transmitting while they were turning the dial.

#214 SB: So did they have to change their style of transmitting?

JO: Yes, they put scramblers on, they did a lot of things, the put scramblers on primarily. But anything critical they would go and use a land phone. And that may mean that they've got

to go and drive 50-60 miles in the morning, which didn't really please them, to phone in on a land phone. Then they started putting bugs in the pay phone, there were a lot of things that went on that were. . .

SB: Did you feel that scouting, was it sort of cloak and dagger, to some people it may sound like it in a way, when it first started out?

JO: I think probably it was. I don't think any of us, it occurred to us that it was cloak and dagger. You'd go and say you were somebody else than who you were though. I can remember a guy, he wanted to find out what was happening on his rig, he took a camera, by golly it was at Camrose as a matter of fact, to took a guy from the Camrose paper, a photographer there and told the photographer he'd give him \$20 if he'd have him get a picture of all the guys on the rig floor. So he went and told them he was a reporter, now he gets all these roughnecks arm in arm with big boots, big grins, this guy is taking pictures while he's going through the knowledge box finding out what the well was doing. So there's all kind of stories like that, that are true.

SB: And has that changed, is there still a need for a scout to go out in the field?

JO: Oh, definitely, absolutely. They're still drilling, they're still drilling to sales. So you still have to know what that well's got before you make your bid really.

SB: End of the second interview.