

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Ray Paterson

INTERVIEWER: Betty Cooper

DATE: February 1982

BC: This is Betty Cooper at the home of Mr. Raymund Gordon Paterson and his wife Joan. It's February 3rd, 1982 and the address is 1024 Sifton Blvd. in Calgary in the southwest. Mr. Paterson, I'd like to start just by getting some background on your family and your early life. Could we start right back at day 1, when were you born and where?

RP: I was born in Australia way back in 1903.

BC: On the date?

RP: June 27th, 1903, in Melbourne, Australia.

BC: And what did your father do, what were you doing in Australia?

RP: My father was an accountant with a law firm. I did a number of things in Australia. I first of all went to elementary school and . . .

BC: Let's not go too quickly, did you go to school in Melbourne, was all your education in Melbourne?

RP: All my early education in Melbourne. That is, elementary school, then to college, a well known college, Scotch College in Melbourne.

BC: When you say college would that be the equivalent of our high school today?

RP: It would be the equivalent of the so called English public schools, Eton, Harrow and whatnot.

BC: So it would be like the junior high, high school age group, prior to going into university?

RP: Junior and senior high, yes.

BC: Were you the only one in your family, the only child?

RP: No, two brothers.

BC: Could we just talk, what were their names and when were they born?

RP: Oldest brother was Dudley, a year and a half older than I, younger brother was Harold, about 6 years younger than I.

BC: Are they still alive in Australia?

RP: No, both dead.

BC: Now you went to Australia and then to junior, senior, well, the equivalent at a college, the junior college. What was the name of that Australian college, do you remember?

RP: Scotch College.

BC: Scotch College, interesting name. Why would they have Scotch College?

RP: I haven't the faintest idea. But most of these colleges, about half a dozen of them in Melbourne, had religious connections. Scotch College was Presbyterian, Saviour was Roman Catholic, Melbourne Grammar was Anglican and so on.

BC: When you had finished that part of your education, you then had to make a choice as to what you were going to do as an adult. Was there any influence from people in, was there

any teacher, instructor that you were particularly impressed with that guided you in that choice?

RP: No, no, it was all my own idea that I'd like to be a sailor and see the world. Preferably as an officer and gentleman of course.

#038 BC: So to become an officer and a gentleman, what steps did you have to take?

RP: I had to spend 4 years at the Royal Australian Naval College.

BC: Was that difficult, was it difficult to get into the college?

RP: One had to pass competitive exams, they only took in a certain quota each year. I managed to get into that quota after sitting for the exams and studying for them for some time.

BC: So when you went into the naval college, how did they go about teaching you to be an officer and a gentleman, what courses did you study?

RP: Much the same courses as you would get in high school and university, with an accent on naval and maritime subjects. Such as navigation and all the mathematics that went with it.

BC: So your background would be mathematics and science?

RP: Oh, and gunnery and torpedo, that involved a lot of electricity and engineering. There's a lot of engineering in that.

BC: So actually, by going to a naval college, you had the grounding in really, several professions?

RP: Oh yes.

BC: Which is why you, as we'll get to as we go through your story, you were able to move from one profession to another to another.

RP: Yes, I found I knew quite a bit about several things.

BC: What year did you graduate from the naval college?

RP: 1920, the end of 1920.

BC: Did you then go, were you assigned to a ship?

RP: The usual thing was to send us over to Britain to join the Royal Navy and see how a real navy worked. So we got a first class passage there and back and I spent a couple of years on the or I should say in, the ???.

BC: Did you go to England from Australia, on an Australian naval craft or did you go by steamer?

RP: By passenger ship.

BC: What was the name of the ship?

RP: Orama.

BC: Orama?

RP: Yes, that line has since gone out of business. The Orient line. It merged with the P & O.

BC: This would be quite an experience to be leaving Australia for the first time.

RP: A very enjoyable experience I assure you.

#071 BC: How long did it take you to get from Australia to England in those days?

RP: About 5 or 6 weeks. Went through Suez, on the return trip, came back round the Cape. That's the Cape of Good Hope of course.

- BC: So really, by the time you got back home to Australia 2 years later, you'd had a chance to see quite a lot of the rest of the world.
- RP: Those 2 years that I spent in England of course, were cruising around. Didn't get that far from England but cruised around Spain, the western part of the Mediterranean, the North Sea and all around Scotland.
- BC: Were you happy in the Navy?
- RP: Yes, very.
- BC: Why did you leave?
- RP: Well, because there was a big peace on earth, good will to men movement going on. There wasn't going to be any more war you see. The League of Nations was going to see to that. So they were throwing out Admirals and cabin boys with about the same frequency. I don't know how they picked them. I was one of the ones that they suggested I might like to leave.
- BC: How long had you been in the Navy at that time?
- RP: 2 years at sea and 4 years at the Naval College.
- BC: So it was very shortly after you got back from your 2 years duty in Britain then, that you left the Navy?
- RP: Oh yes.
- BC: This would be then, what year would that be?
- RP: The end of 1922.
- BC: So then what kind of a career did you decide that you would like to go into?
- RP: I'd always been attracted to the electrical business. So I thought I would like to be an electrical engineer. I managed to get a job with the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, which was a utility company supplying electricity to the city of Melbourne.
- BC: Interesting that your first, quote, civilian job, was with a utility company and you later went to another utility company in Canada, a different type of utility.
- RP: That's right.
- BC: When you worked in this utility company, were you able to enrich your background in electrical areas, did you study?
- RP: Oh yes, I started off as an apprentice with them, I spent about 7 years with them.
- BC: Was this the practice at that time, in order to be an engineer, that you apprenticed much as a chartered accountant apprentices, or did?
- RP: Yes, yes. You worked your way up to being a junior engineer, an engineer.
- BC: Can you remember how much money you were paid as an apprentice?
- RP: No. It was something like 6 shillings a day I think.
- #112 BC: That would be not very much money, then or now.
- RP: Not really much. But I was living at home at the time.
- BC: Then from there, during that time, the 7 years, you would gradually get more responsibility and so your salary would go up?
- RP: Yes. Not at a very great rate but yes, it went up.
- BC: Yes, in addition to that you also were studying and having to take exams periodically?
- RP: Yes, I went to technical school at night and took a 3 year course in electrical engineering.

That is to say, the last 2 years of it because I'd done more than the first year with the Naval College and at sea.

BC: So when you graduated, or when you became a fully fledged engineer, this would be about 1929, would it, if you started in '22?

RP: Oh, the late 20's, yes.

BC: Not a very good time to be starting out on a new career? How was Australia in 1929, 1930? The Depression was certainly upon the people in this part of the world.

RP: I hadn't noticed any Depression, there wasn't any particular Depression in the 20's, not up until the very end. About 1929. . .

BC: It did hit Australia just the same then, in 1929, as it did North America?

RP: It was sort of delayed of course. I had then decided to come over here to get a bit more experience.

BC: What date would this be, that you decided to come to Canada?

RP: About '29 I suppose but I didn't actually come over till 1930.

BC: Why would you decide to come to Canada and not to Great Britain or to the United States.

RP: Well, partly because I had a friend who was with General Electric here and I had been in correspondence with him and so it would be a matter of going some place where I had a friend.

BC: And what part of Canada was that?

RP: Peterborough, Ontario.

BC: So you left Australia in 1930 and came over to Canada, to hopefully get more experience at a time when it was very difficult to get experience I would think, to get a job. What did you find when you came here to Canada.

RP: Ship.

BC: No, but I mean what did you find when you came over here, as far as employment opportunities were concerned?

RP: I just caught a train, went straight to Peterborough and turned up at General Electric and said, how about a job ??? test course. And they said, sorry for this year we're all full up, we've been around the universities and picked out our quota of people for this course.

BC: Is this a special course that General Electric gave each year?

RP: Yes, each year up to university graduates.

#158 BC: Could you tell me about it?

RP: It's called the test course and what they do is test practically all machinery that's made by General Electric. That way they get pretty conversant with the products of the company. then, as a general rule, General Electric gives them a job, as an engineer.

BC: You had heard about this from your friend.

RP: I'd heard about that from my friend, who had got in himself.

BC: Yes, what was his name?

RP: Williams, Irish Williams.

BC: So when you didn't get into that year, what did you do?

RP: They gave me a job as a draftsman, and said they'd let me in the next year.

BC: You were fortunate to get a job at that time I'm sure you felt.

RP: Yes, the Depression of course, lagged a little bit in Canada from the States and it lagged further in Australia. Naturally we'd read in Australia about these stock brokers jumping out of 20 story windows but that was the sort of thing you'd expect these hysterical Americans to do. They got over excited and all that, about little things like that. But it did turn out that they were not unduly excited, there was a Depression coming on.

BC: This must have been a bit of a shock to you. Just as you were hoping to begin a new and bright career.

RP: Well, it was, I mean when you have a job you don't think too much about the economy of the country. As long as your own economy is okay. But when they say, we're sorry, we're laying off a few hundred or a few thousand people and you were one of the last to arrive and I'm afraid you will have to go, well, then it makes a difference.

BC: Is this indeed what happened to you at Peterborough?

RP: Yes.

BC: How long were you there before you were without a job?

RP: Only a few months, 3 or 4 months. But I had some friends in Calgary and I had been in correspondence with them. They'd been telling me about the wonders and the glories of the Rocky Mountains and all that, so I thought I'd take a little holiday. I'd picked up a tentative job in St. Catherine's, I'd been around.

BC: What kind of a job would that be?

RP: Again, drafting. With English Electric Company. The Chief Draftsman was getting a better job and it looked as though I could get his job. So I came out here for a holiday.

#204 BC: You obviously stayed out here a little longer than a couple of weeks holiday, what happened?

RP: Well, the Chief Draftsman's potential job at the English Electric never turned up so he hung on to what he had in St. Catherine's and I was out there in the Rocky Mountains so to speak, or to Calgary to be exact, without a job.

BC: Had you brought all your possessions with you or did you just come to stay a couple of weeks?

RP: I brought all the possessions that I felt I needed.

BC: So what did you do when you found that you didn't have the job coming up in St. Catherine's?

RP: I started looking around for a job.

BC: In Calgary?

RP: Yes. Just in the meantime I sold some Fuller Brushes and things like that. I found that didn't bring in too much money so I started looking for a job more seriously and happened to turn up at the gas company when the chief geologist, Stan Slipper, happened to need a little work done. The job that he figured would take a couple of weeks.

BC: How long did it take?

RP: Well, it took me about 35 years.

BC: So this is how you first came to the gas company?

RP: Yes.

BC: What year was that?

RP: 1930.

BC: You were very fortunate to get a job at that time.

RP: I was. But then again, as I say, when you have a job everything looks rosy. And I didn't get a raise in pay, I started off at \$100 a month and I stayed \$100 a month until about 1938, 1937. That's when I graduated from Colorado School of Mines, a Masters degree and they bumped the salary up from \$100 to \$200 a month. I was a geophysicist then.

BC: My goodness, you must have felt that you were floating on air, double the money.

RP: I was on cloud 9.

BC: Tell me about Mr. Slipper, he was the Chief Geologist at the gas company and he hired you, you were hired by Mr. Slipper?

RP: Chief Geologist and in charge of what is now called, the Inter Company Gas Supply division, for both Canadian Western Natural Gas and Northwestern Utilities. That of course, included exploration, drilling, development, testing, reserve estimates, looking after the land. I did a little bit of all that.

#258 BC: This is something that has changed through the years. At that time the gas company was very active in the exploration field, looking for their own gas fields right?

RP: It was relatively active, it was certainly active for those times, yes. Because nobody had too much money to spend. In fact, I think we were next after Imperial Oil, in the amount of exploration that we did.

BC: Do you remember what the budget was at that time?

RP: No, I couldn't give you any figures on that. Mainly of course, we were looking for gas supplies adjacent to our main transmission line, which ran from Bow Island field, and Foremost, through Edmonton and up to Calgary.

BC: Tell me about Mr. Slipper when he hired you, what was your impression of him, your first impressions? What was he like?

RP: He was an officer and a gentleman for giving me a job. As I got to know him I got to admire him very much. He was a very clever chap, had a very active brain, was always willing to try something, anything new.

BC: Can you think of any instance that you can remember, of where he was adventurous.

RP: I believe that he employed, as a regular staff, the first full paid geophysicist in these parts. That was a chap by the name of Ed Duncan. Ed was a Winnipeg or Manitoba boy anyway, but he'd been engaged in geophysics on the Gulf Coast, mostly refraction shooting at that time. He came up here and started doing some electric surveying. Ed left a couple of years, somewhere around 1932, '31, '32, and I took his place. I was assisting him right from the start and as I knew a bit about magnetism, again, from the navy and the electrical business and the technical colleges and all that, I knew enough about it just to step into his shoes.

BC: So you really became one of the very early geophysicists then?

RP: Yes.

BC: And this would certainly reflect on Mr. Slipper's giving you that opportunity.

RP: Yes.

BC: Now, as the geophysicist, this would be 1932, what did you do, what were your duties?

RP: At that stage we were engaged in magnetic exploration. Stan had decided to try it out. In those days we were just looking mainly for geological structure, instead of pinch outs and all this sort of thing. And it so happened that, probably by coincidence, several of the geological surveys coincided with the magnetic geophysical surveys. Or at least enough, there was enough similarity to make it look as though the magnetic method might be of some use, certainly for reconnaissance.

End of tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

RP: Now where were we?

BC: We were talking about using this magnetic system and how it tied in with the Geological Survey people.

RP: Yes. Later on, as we used it more, it appeared to be that it wasn't too quantitative at any rate. It might have been qualitative to some extent but it took a lot of interpretation. So in 1934 we hired a contract seismic company, Heiland Research Corporation, from Denver, to come up and run a survey for us.

BC: What was the name of that company?

RP: Heiland.

BC: Oh Heiland, oh yes.

RP: At that time it was Heiland Research Corporation.

BC: And who headed up that survey?

RP: Dr. Heiland.

BC: He was there himself. Did you meet and work with Dr. Heiland?

RP: Oh yes, that was the reason why I went down to the Colorado School of Mines, because he was professor of geophysics there.

BC: So this was a very prophetic meeting with Dr. Heiland coming up, as far as your career was concerned.

RP: It definitely was, yes.

BC: Can you recall an incidents with Dr. Heiland and the work that you were doing in '34? Where were you doing the survey, the seismic survey work?

RP: In the High River area, just east a short distance from High River. We drilled one well as a result of that survey in collaboration, partnership with Imperial Oil, Calgary and Edmonton Corporation, Nanton Land Company and possibly one or two others.

BC: What was the name of that well?

RP: Arca.

BC: Was it successful?

RP: No, it was a dry hole. You may have heard of the consulting geologist by the name of . . . Joe Irwin. He wrote a little poem about it and I only remember the first line and the last line. The first line started off '*Arca, ??? you'll sing*' and the last line was '*No well, no well.*'

- #040 BC: Very clever. Did this make a difference to the gas company's optimism in drilling and working with the geophysics, was it a setback?
- RP: Oh no. A couple of years later we had the SSC up, for some seismic work in the east of the country, around Oyen way. That was sufficiently uninteresting that we never drilled any holes.
- BC: Were those the only two occasions where the gas company, in those days, used geophysical survey work?
- RP: By themselves, certainly, yes.
- BC: They were still pioneering though weren't they? Because there weren't many other people that thought much of geophysics in those days.
- RP: Well, it was a new thing. People like to see it fairly well proved before they stick out their neck and spend too much money in a time where there isn't too much money around.
- BC: At the same time, although the well was dry, you became very interested in geophysics. What sparked your interest in geophysics with Dr. Heiland, that indeed sent you to the Colorado School of Mines? What was it that excited you?
- RP: It was just that it seemed to me that this was probably a coming thing. And that if I got a degree in geophysics it might be a good thing for me.
- BC: Was it difficult at that time, first to get into the Colorado School of Mines, to get admitted?
- RP: No, it wasn't difficult to get in, to get admitted, provided you had the money to pay the fees. And they gave me graduate standing immediately on the basis of the work that I had done, except that they wanted me to take some extra geological subjects.
- BC: This was a post graduate, really Masters that you were going for?
- RP: Yes. Which I got a couple of years later.
- BC: What about going back to school with a secure job? Did you get leave or how did you manage to keep your connection with the gas company?
- RP: I took 2 years leave of absence but came back during the summertime and worked for them.
- BC: This was unusual in those days, for companies to do that too.
- RP: Probably, I don't know.
- BC: Who did you have to go to, to get the leave of absence?
- RP: Just Stan Slipper. He was a pretty important fellow in the gas company in those days, in addition to being Chief Geologist, he was Director of the company and pretty well thought of.

- #081 BC: When you first approached Mr. Slipper with the idea that you wanted to go to the Colorado School to study geophysics, what was his reaction?
- RP: It was fine with him. He was in favour.
- BC: Did he have geophysical background himself?
- RP: No, just geological.
- BC: By this time, this would be 1934, how many others were in your department?
- RP: Not many at all. There was only, the department just consisted of Stan Slipper, Harry Hunter who was assistant geologist, myself, who was sort of unconfirmed geophysicist

- you might say, and 1 or 2 draftsmen and stenographers.
- BC: So your leaving there would leave a hole that would have to be filled. Who did your job while you were away?
- RP: Except that all the exploration in those days was done during the summertime and I'd be back here during the summertime to help with any of that.
- BC: What had you normally been doing in the winter?
- RP: Catching up with records and doing drafting and this and that. And helping with the land situation, I was sort of more or less landman, in addition, in those days, but not on the scale that landmen go in for these days.
- BC: What did you do as the landman, what was your job?
- RP: It was more a matter of keeping track of all the lands and leases that the company held. Notifying the secretary of the companies when lease payments became due and things like that. I didn't have much to do with the negotiating, that was done higher up.
- BC: Would that be Mr. Slipper, one of his concerns would it?
- RP: Yes.
- BC: So when you decided to go down to the Colorado Mines did Mr. Hunter, he didn't go with you?
- RP: No.
- BC: No. Let us talk, just before we talk about the Colorado Mines, could we talk about Mr. Harry Hunter. Had he come into the gas company before or after you?
- RP: Before me, around about '27 or '28. He was a mining engineer, he had done some work at Nickle??? Mines in Canmore and he joined as assistant geologist, assistant I mean, to Stan Slipper, in the search for more gas and in the general production of it.
- BC: When you came, there would be Mr. Slipper then, and his assistant Harry Hunter and you were sort of the helper, an extra draftsman really?
- RP: Yes, I'd be quite a step below them when I first joined of course.
- BC: What was your impression of Mr. Hunter and can you tell me what it was like working for him in those early days?
- RP: He was a very hard worker, and a very conscientious chap and a very able man at his job. He had a few good ideas himself too.
- #133 BC: Such as?
- RP: I can't be too specific about that. But just in the way he went about his work.
- BC: Can you think of any particular incidents that happened, I know it's going a long way back into the 30's, but could you think of any incidents that happened during those early days, anecdotes that would involve Mr. Hunter or Mr. Slipper or the both of them?
- RP: Not particularly, no.
- BC: Okay, maybe we'll get back to that a little later, you might recall as we're going on. Let's talk about the Colorado School of Mines, you went in '34 was it?
- RP: '35. Spent the school years, '35-'36, '36-'37, graduating in the spring of '37.
- BC: Was there any other Canadian down there at that time, that was a schoolmate of yours I mean?
- RP: Norm Christie got a degree there, somewhere around the same time but I've forgotten

right now whether it was before or after.

BC: Did you know Norm . . . ?

RP: Oh yes, he did part of my work. I mean he took my job at the gas company one year at least.

BC: While you were down at school?

RP: Yes.

BC: For goodness sake. He was involved with Dr. Heiland's survey group.

RP: Well, not so much with the survey group. When he graduated he got a job with United Geophysical and he was in the States with them for quite a few years before he came up here and started his own company.

BC: So you knew Norm Christie, you didn't know him at the school though?

RP: We weren't at school together.

BC: No. Can you recall any anecdotes about Mr. Christie at the gas company, at the time you were there?

RP: No, not offhand.

BC: How did you find he did your job while you were away, kept it up to date?

RP: I think so, oh yes. Norm's a pretty efficient type also.

BC: Right. When you finished, you finished with a Master in geophysics. Now really, at this point, you were an engineer and a geophysicist, one of the first geophysicists I would think, in western Canada.

RP: Apart from, as I say, Ed Duncan, who was here when I got here.

BC: And Mr. Christie, who was not really working in this part at that time?

RP: Yes.

BC: So it was a little early for you to be starting an organization of geophysicists but I would think when they did organize later on, were you part of the founding group for the geophysical association?

RP: Not exactly. Because after I'd graduated in geophysics the company practically gave it up. It was a pretty expensive business for a relatively small company like the gas company, or the two gas companies, to go into seismic work. Or even gravitational surveys, magnetic surveys by airplane or the sort of things they do now.

#188 BC: Was this a disappointment to you?

RP: Yes. To some extent. But I had my degree, I had my money, I didn't care that much. I was doing the same sort of work, apart from the geophysics, that I had done ever since I had joined the company.

BC: You didn't get much opportunity though, to apply your geophysics at that time?

RP: No, I was sorry about that of course.

BC: Did you subsequently have an opportunity to use that training, that study?

RP: There was one occasion when Joan came with me as my assistant. Mr. Millner, who was President of the gas company, was also President of Anglo-Canadian Oil Company. They needed some geophysical work done on a couple of reservations of theirs. One up near Holden and one up near Elk Point. So we still had our old magnetometers and Mr. Millner gave me leave of absence from the gas company, took me on temporarily with

Anglo-Canadian, along with my wife as assistant and we spent a few nice weeks doing some magnetic exploring on these reservations that they'd taken out.

BC: What year was that, do you remember?

RP: '47, yes.

BC: This is jumping ahead because we haven't even got to when you and Joan got married, but that's all right. So you stayed doing the same work, which involved some drafting still I presume, did it, or were you out of that all together?

RP: No, I was out of that part, we had a full time draftsman.

BC: What area was the gas company really concerned with as far as the exploration at that time, this would be '37, '38, '39?

RP: Still finding more supplies for both Canadian Western and Northwestern.

#231 BC: Still on the same lines or had you branched out?

RP: We were still sticking to the area mainly, tributary to the company's main lines. In the case of Canadian Western, that was the line from here down to Lethbridge and of course, to Bow Island. In the case of Northwestern, it was Northwestern to the Viking field.

BC: Were you doing very much west of. . . like the Turner Valley area, were you involved in there, or the foothills?

RP: In the foothills but not in Turner Valley itself. Both north and south of Turner Valley.

BC: Why were you not in the Turner Valley area?

RP: It was all taken up by oil companies.

BC: You hadn't had a chance, the gas company didn't have any leases in that area?

RP: No, and of course, by that time there wasn't much point in exploring there because the field was on the decline. That was why we were keeping up our exploration, looking for new supplies of gas.

BC: West in that area, in the foothills, is now considered to be gas prone, as the say. So did you find that you moved more into that area to look for discoveries?

RP: Not because it was, as you say, gas prone so much, as just because ??? too far from our lines and our systems and our main markets.

BC: This was very necessary for you to have the wells within that, economically at that time they felt?

RP: Oh well, we'd sooner look for gas close at hand first of all, rather than go a couple of hundred miles.

BC: Yes, because that would be very expensive to put new pipe in.

RP: Yes. Now mind you, we did at one time, have thoughts of supplying gas to Saskatchewan. In 1932 we were surveying around Lloydminster, on the Saskatchewan side of the border.

BC: What made them decide not to go ahead with that plan, do you know?

RP: The fact that we drilled 2 or 3 dry holes I think.

BC: Since that time has there been gas or oil discovered in that same general area using more modern equipment?

RP: Yes, but it is pretty spotty and it's pretty difficult to devise I think, any geophysical or geological method that will find gas or oil, with any accuracy at all.

- #288 BC: You stayed with the gas company, well as you say, many years, but 1939 came along and having had the naval training, would you be subject to a call-up at all?
- RP: No. As soon as war broke out of course, I just went along to the local naval place and volunteered and they said, oh yes, we're glad to hear from you but don't call us, we'll call you, we have an awful lot of applications. So it wasn't until the next year, 1940, that I started reminding them and by that time I guess the applications had fallen off a bit. So I got an immediate answer, report to Halifax forthwith.
- BC: So that was interesting, do you think your file just got lost somewhere?
- RP: Well, you know how it is with governments.
- BC: So why did you have to volunteer forthwith, what was it that they wanted you to get busy with?
- RP: I suppose they wanted officers for the Navy.
- BC: You had hoped that you would, as an officer, you would be in charge of a vessel I presume, is that what you were looking for?
- RP: Yes. But they found out, in taking all my particulars, found out that I knew quite a lot about electrical engineering and magnetic prospecting in particular and they grabbed me and said, oh, Commander Peers is just setting up a decalsing??? department, I think you better go along and see him first. So when he got his claws on to me, that was, I'm afraid, the end of my seagoing career, apart from short forays into the Atlantic or Pacific, as the case may be, testing equipment.

End of tape

Tape 2 Side 1

- BC: Was it a disappointment to you, Mr. Paterson, to not go to sea? You've really been trying to go to sea since 1922.
- RP: Yes, as I said, I had applied to the English Navy, the Australian Navy [for a transfer]??? but I couldn't get out of this anti-mining, electric magnetic mining business you see.
- BC: What did that work entail, what did you do?
- RP: First of all, there's the protection of ships against magnetic mines. They called it decalsing. You had to fit the ships up with coils of wire and generators to generate a magnetic field that was equal to and opposite to, the ship's own magnetic field so it could pass over a magnetic mine without setting it off, without the mine noticing.
- BC: Did you have to help design this apparatus?
- RP: Yes.
- BC: This would be quite a challenge.
- RP: And then install it.
- BC: And you mentioned about testing it, that would be a bit hair raising.
- RP: Well, they had what they called decalsing ranges. I was sent out from my . . . I'd been working on this in Halifax and I was sent out to the west coast to install a range in Vancouver. All the merchant ships had to go over this range to be tested to see if their decalsing equipment was functioning correctly.
- BC: Did this save many ships during the war?

RP: Oh, it undoubtedly saved many. It was the British that invented the idea in the first place.

BC: Did you have to modify it or were you mostly in charge of the installing of it?

RP: Mostly the work was installing it on ships that didn't have it. If ships had it installed but not very well then there would be some modification required.

BC: While you were in the Navy you had to do some training I understand too, could you talk to me about that?

RP: Yes, well, as I say, when I was sent out to the west coast it was to set up this range and the decalcing business there. Naturally, none or I think I can say none of the officers that ever were appointed to the decalcing section had ever had any experience in this or knew anything much about it. So I had to give some courses. They used to facetiously call it Pat's kindergarten.

BC: Why do you think it got that name? Because you had to start them right at the beginning.

RP: Partly perhaps but just somebody being funny mainly I think.

#040 BC: You stayed with the Navy throughout the war years, but you did, at the end of the war, there was some consideration on your part I understand, that maybe now that you were in the Navy you would make it your career at last?

RP: There seemed to be the possibility that I could stay in the Navy if I wished.

BC: What was your rank when you went into the Navy, what rank did they give you?

RP: Lieutenant.

BC: But you rose up.

RP: I finished up Lieutenant Commander. I thought of going down to Ottawa which is where I would have been if I'd stayed in the Navy. But partly I didn't like the idea of sitting at a desk in a government office for the rest of my life. Partly the gas company here started trying to get me out and saying they needed help.

BC: Did they ask you first, if you would come or did they just start. . . ?

RP: Oh yes.

BC: Who was asking for you?

RP: Harry Hunter. He'd come back just ahead of me and had to start up this production, geological department again, which had been shut down during the war. Except that they had called Stan Slipper in from time to time for advice and for drilling new wells, which they needed. . .

BC: So during the time you were away at the war, Mr. Slipper left the gas company then?

RP: Yes, he left about 1938 or '39.

BC: Oh, before the war?

RP: Yes.

BC: Oh, he left before you went away?

RP: Yes.

BC: Why did he leave? You say he had a very responsible and high position.

RP: Yes, I'm not quite sure. It may have been because he was a bit too rich for the company's blood. He was too high priced a man, he went into consulting after that.

BC: He was very vital to the gas company in those early years though, was he not?

RP: In the early years, he certainly did them a world of good.

- BC: What were some of the accomplishments that you feel that he gave to the gas company during the time that he was associated with them?
- RP: He was responsible, I think, for the discovery and the development of the Kinsella part of the very large Viking Kinsella field, which supplies Edmonton or most of Edmonton's needs. And he general organization, he was a very efficient organizer and as I say, a very brilliant thinker.
- BC: When you say he was too rich for their blood, would that be because of the salary or because of his ideas or exploration?
- RP: I'm only guessing but probably partly because of his salary.
- BC: They were still active in exploration at that time?
- RP: Yes. But maybe they thought that Harry Hunter could carry on just as well.
- #083 BC: Before we get to your coming back and Mr. Hunter who was now, his position would be head of exploration?
- RP: He was Chief Geologist, or really, the only geologist. Except they changed the title and made him production engineer when he came back.
- BC: Now between when you went away and when you came back to the gas company we have to look into your own personal life because that is the period in which you met and married.
- RP: Yes.
- BC: So could we talk a little about Joan, your wife, when you met her, when you married and a little of her background. I'll talk to Joan later and get some but I'd like to put it in at this point.
- RP: Well, I met her in Vancouver when I went out to Vancouver. I stayed in the boarding house there and it so happened that Joan was staying in the same boarding house. She had come out from England as an exchange teacher, had put in a year in Montreal teaching and then moved on to Vancouver.
- BC: This was before the war or during the war?
- RP: No, she came out in 1938. Then when the war broke out they weren't too happy about unnecessary travel you see, so Joan stayed on in Vancouver and I met her there about '41 or so and we were married in '42.
- BC: And the date of your marriage, are you one of these that remembers?
- RP: Yes, as a matter of fact we got married on my birthday so that way I wouldn't forget my wedding anniversary. The trouble was I always forgot my own birthday anyway.
- BC: Did you live in Vancouver then, after you were married, this is where you were stationed?
- RP: Yes.
- BC: Then after the war you came back here. Did you have any children by that time?
- RP: No.
- BC: No, you didn't have children till later.
- RP: That's right.
- BC: How many children do you have?
- RP: Two.
- BC: And their names?

RP: Janet was the #1 child, Julie #2.

BC: And do you remember their birthdays?

RP: 1944 and 1948.

BC: All right. So you and Joan came back to Calgary, where did you live when you came back?

RP: Well, we started living at the Palliser Hotel.

BC: That's an auspicious beginning.

RP: Oh yes. Got a little uneasy you know, at the cost of it.

BC: Were you paying for that, or was the gas company paying for that?

RP: I thought I was paying for it you see. And then later on, Ernie Bowness, who was. . . let's see, he would be General Manager or Vice-President, I've forgotten which at the time, of the gas company here, he said, no, of course, the gas company will pick up the cheque for that. In the meantime we'd been frantically looking for an apartment which of course, in those days were pretty few and far between. So we naturally stopped looking for an apartment so frantically but happened to find one anyway.

#132 BC: Where was your first apartment then, in Calgary, whereabouts did you live?

RP: It was the old Sills??? apartment on 14th Ave. S. W., which has since I think, been torn down.

BC: When you got back to work at the gas company, Harry Hunter was now the production engineer. Was there a particular reason why they changed the name, was it a change of direction for that department?

RP: In a way I'd say yes. Because during the war the American and other oil companies had flocked up here looking for oil for the war effort. And in the course of looking for oil they'd turned up lots of gas. So there didn't seem to be much point in the gas company keeping on an exploration program in competition with these major oil companies. So our work became more production, land, exploration, not exploration, exploitation, drilling up the lands that we had and the fields that we had, taking the odd joint venture with another company. It was more production than exploration.

BC: This would affect your job then, coming back, what was your title when you came back to work with Mr. Hunter.

RP: Well, then mine became assistant production engineer.

BC: Why was it so important that the gas company get you back as quickly as possible from the navy, what was happening?

RP: Just that after the war, and of course, during the war, the demand for gas had risen and was still rising and there was a lot of work to be done in drilling new wells to keep up with the demand. Testing the wells each year in all of our own fields, making reserve estimates.

BC: And there weren't too many experienced people in that area around I presume.

RP: That's right. In our company there was only Harry Hunter. And he needed some help.

BC: So as his assistant, as assistant production engineer, how long did you keep that position Mr. Paterson?

RP: A few years, I've forgotten the exact year but the general superintendent, Fred

Hoopman??? had a heart attack or something and so they drafted Harry to take his place. So that left me as production engineer.

BC: Yes, I have down a note here that this was 1947, so that was very shortly after, you hadn't been back very long before. . . the following year after coming.

RP: Thereabouts, yes.

BC: Right. So then, Mr. Hunter. . . at that time, had they expected both positions to be temporary and the gentleman would get well, was this the idea?

RP: I don't think so, Fred Hoopman was pretty sick, I don't think they did expect that he would get well. Harry had had a lot of experience with the company and while he didn't have that much experience in the distribution and transmission end of it, still he was pretty bright and could pick things up pretty well. So they thought that he would make a good man to replace Fred Hoopman.

#191 BC: Coming in to Mr. Hunter's job, what qualifications did you bring to it or perhaps areas that you had to quickly bone up on, as Mr. Hunter obviously would have to do in his distribution area, were there areas that you were not as familiar with?

RP: No, nothing particular, because I'd been doing that work, as an assistant to Harry, during most of the 30's. One thing that I was a little shy on was experience in well drilling. But I'd been out enough with Harry in charge to pick that up.

BC: When you were drilling wells, you hired drilling companies, you didn't have any of that sort of thing in the gas company?

RP: We had 3 diamond drill rigs of our own. They were our own type rigs and these were kept busy on the north, all through the 30's. They did some shallow diamond drilling to see if they could reflect any structure from that and are capable as drilling to as little 2,000-2,500 feet. So that was deep enough to drill a producing well in the fields like say, Viking or Bow Island, Foremost. But after the war and of course, before the war, if we wanted a deeper well drilled we had to hire a drilling contractor.

BC: When you moved up to your position as production engineer, then who came in as your assistant?

RP: It was a bit of a job getting assistants in those days. Because all these major oil companies were lining up at the universities and offering any geological people better deals than we were prepared to give them. So the first two assistants that I had, I had to settle for civil and mechanical engineers and then teach them some geology, or try to.

BC: What were their names?

RP: The first of these was Andy Potter. He was a graduate of Edmonton University. He was a civil engineer and he later joined the ministry and later again, dropped out of it and went back to the oil patch. The second one was Harry Palmer, a mechanical engineer who now I think, has his own business.

#245 BC: His own oil company or engineering company?

RP: No. Manufacturing irrigation equipment I believe.

BC: So he's really gone out of the oil patch too?

RP: Yes.

- BC: Now you said you had to teach them. Did you have to have like, sort of short courses, is that what you developed?
- RP: Oh, just tried to teach them as we went along.
- BC: What things were lacking that they had to know?
- RP: They didn't know a thing about drilling wells or estimating reserves or testing wells.
- BC: So they would really come in as trainees?
- RP: In a way yes, except they did have at least, a technical education. But it wasn't in the direction that we wanted because I was looking for geologists then.
- BC: And how long did they stay with you?
- RP: 2 or 3 or 4 years, I've forgotten exactly.
- BC: Then you had some other people come into . . . your department expanded?
- RP: Finally I managed, yes, to get a couple of geologists. There was Dick McReary and John Newman.
- BC: Are they still with the gas company?
- RP: No, no, they both left. Dick McReary is, I believe, still consulting. John Newman took a job with Ranger Oil and went over to the North Sea to look after Ranger's operations over there.
- BC: During this time, were you living in Calgary and working in Calgary?
- RP: Yes.
- BC: You did do some field work though?
- RP: Yes. But as soon as I got a couple of competent geologists, like Dick and John, then I did less field work and got stuck more behind the desk.
- BC: When we talk about field work, did you and your family live out on location on the field?
- RP: Only for a few weeks at a time, in a trailer.
- BC: Whereabouts was it that you were working?
- RP: Oh, various fields that we worked in, that we were drilling wells in.
- BC: Such as?
- RP: Viking-Kinsella, Bow Island.
- #293 BC: What was it like, being out in the field in those days, with a family?
- RP: It was pretty comfortable. We hooked up the thing to the drilling rig. Most of the drillers and tool pushers and that had their trailers too. And they plugged into the drilling rig generator so . . .
- BC: You all had light.
- RP: Fuel and the modern conveniences of home
- BC: Now tell me, did you have to provide your own trailer or were these trailers that the gas company would haul on to the site?
- RP: The gas company provided the trailers and most of the time the haulage.
- BC: What size was the trailer that you had?
- RP: We had 2, the first one was perhaps smallish but the second one was a good size.
- BC: Would it be self contained, you'd have a bathroom in it?
- RP: Didn't have a bathroom, no. We plugged into the rig's generator for electric light.
- BC: So it would be fairly comfortable for short periods of time. It was still working, it was

still summer work, not winter?

RP: It was still summer work, and there was a heater in the trailer, an oil heater.
End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 2

BC: Mr. Paterson could we start today looking at the 1950's. There were a lot of changes looking at the oil and gas industry here in Alberta in the 50's and the gas company was certainly in the middle of it. As we had talked before, your job changed because it became more production and exploitation rather than exploration. But there were other changes and part of it was the Conservation Hearings regarding exporting of gas.

RP: Yes, during the 30's, there weren't many companies going in for exploration at all. Imperial Oil, perhaps the biggest and the 2 gas companies together, Northwestern and Canadian Western came after them I believe. There were several consulting geologists like Pete Sanderson, Russ Johnson, Con Hague, Joe Irwin, who did odd jobs around the place but nobody did go in for exploration very much. Well then, during the war of course, everybody started looking for more oil. We had a lot of American companies up here, Shell, Gulf, Imperial expanded their efforts. As a result they turned up firstly, a lot of gas, and then secondly, starting about 1947, with Leduc and Redwater, a lot of oil. So they quickly became a surplus, an apparent surplus anyway, of gas and there was no point in the gas companies competing with these major oil companies in exploration. So our role then changed to become more developers of what we had and purchases from the already discovered fields.

#050 BC: Where would be the fields, for instance, the first fields that you weren't really involved with the discovery of, where you started to buy gas and pipe it out?

RP: I'd say the first major field was Jumping Pound, which was discovered during the war by Shell company in its drilling. Now that was pretty expensive stuff.

BC: Why was that?

RP: Well, those wells were 10-12 thousand feet deep. The structure in the foothills there was very complicated. The wells cost upwards of a million dollars each and a million dollars in those days was a lot of money. It doesn't seem to be as much now.

BC: So because it cost them so much to find it, did it cost you more to buy it?

RP: The cost certainly was reflected yes, in the price. When it costs a lot to discover gas or oil you have to put up the price to make a going concern with it.

BC: But it was still more economical for the gas companies to buy rather than drill their own?

RP: Yes, because all or most of the easily discovered gas, shall we call it, stuff that was fairly apparent from surface geology and simple geophysics, had of course, been found. Then you had to go in for extensive seismic, gravitational surveys and aerial surveys, which cost money. There was no point in us spending all that money as well as the majors, when there were fields that were sitting there with no market.

BC: When you went into the exploitation of the gas, did you also go into the pipeline business or again, did you buy the pipeline service?

RP: We laid our own pipelines to wherever the source of gas was that we were going to connect up. Later on, that was perhaps just a point on the Alberta Gas Trunk Line system, now the Nova system, otherwise a field. For instance we laid our own pipeline out to Jumping Pound from Calgary and extended it up to Banff. Similarly. . .

BC: In extending it up to Banff, what did this do? This was your way of getting it to the market?

RP: It provided a larger market and made it feasible to get gas at a more reasonable price. Cheaper by the dozen you know.

#091 BC: During the 50's, as you say, with all this exploration during the war and then as the companies, there were many more companies exploring as a result of Leduc and certainly staying in Canada following the war, then a lot of gas was being discovered. You mentioned that there was a lot of gas sitting there with no market. Now that led to another situation in the 50's that you were concerned with and that is, the export hearings and the Conservation Board. Could we talk about the general feeling during the 50's and why the hearings were held and the position of the gas company?

RP: Yes, the first set of hearings I think, was the Dinning Commission, it must have been around the early 50's. It was just generally looking into the reserves of gas in the province.

BC: For what purpose?

RP: It was set up by the provincial government and just for the information of the government. It was a commission to determine what reserves there were around.

BC: Why would they need a commission rather than just looking at the records that the companies turn in to the government?

RP: The records that the company turns in to the government are normally just the factual data concerning wells and production but not necessarily their own estimates or anybody else's. There would be a lot of stuff, geological and geophysical surveys that would be held confidential. They weren't expected to divulge this confidential information so that everybody else could use it against them.

BC: But with the Dinning Commission, did they then have to divulge this information?

RP: They did produce a certain amount of course, of evidence shall we say, sustaining data for their argument. But mainly it was a case of giving their own estimates of how much gas there was and what fields they knew of and a professional opinion on how much more gas might be found, what the chances were.

BC: Why was the commission formed, was there a pressure from the petroleum industry that they wanted to start selling their gas outside of Canada?

RP: Yes, I would say that was the beginning, that was the reason for the commission. Naturally, these oil companies that had found gas all over the place wanted to find a market for it and almost the only market in Alberta was provided by the 2 major gas companies, Edmonton and Calgary.

#140 BC: So the gas company would be opposed to export or certainly to unrestricted export I would think.

- RP: To unrestricted export, we wanted to have it made clear that there would be enough reserves to protect our own customers for the foreseeable future. Now that foreseeable future started off at about 30 years. They wanted a 30 year supply in sight before they allowed export. That came down a bit later to 25 and 20 and I don't know what it is.
- BC: Why did it come down?
- RP: Because people kept on exploring, finding more gas and they figured there was a reasonable chance that as long as a market existed people would keep on exploring and keep on finding more gas.
- BC: You were involved in these hearings were you not and had to travel up to Edmonton quite often?
- RP: Yes, I started off with the Dinning Commission, more or less as an observer for the 2 gas companies. Attended hearings in Medicine Hat, Calgary, Lethbridge, Edmonton.
- BC: You were not testifying at that point, you were just there to monitor it for the 2 gas companies?
- RP: At that time, yes.
- BC: Did you take notes or did you have a legal type secretary there?
- RP: No, I just took my own notes and made a report to the President.
- BC: What was your feeling about the Dinning Commission, can you recall?
- RP: In what way?
- BC: In the evidence that was being presented, re: the export of gas, vis a vis the gas company's more conservative presentation.
- RP: There were of course, the two sides. The local gas companies, our own, the Medicine Hat gas company and one or two small outfits that supplied their own little community, they were concerned about the continuity of supply of the gas. They didn't want all the gas exported for the benefit of the oil companies. They wanted to have a supply, an assured supply for themselves and not have to go back to coal or wood.
- BC: When you say an assured supply, do you remember how many trillion feet that they felt it was necessary to have in reserve at that time?
- RP: I've forgotten now, I've forgotten the actual number but as I say, they looked on a 30 year supply, meaning 30 times the last year's consumption all over the province.
- #190 BC: Assuming too of course, that consumption is going to go up because the population is going up.
- RP: Oh yes. Yes, they assumed a percentage increase. Various people of course, assumed different percentages in the increase.
- BC: When the oil companies were presenting the facts and figures on reserves, were you surprised at how many trillion feet of gas they really did have in reserve because this had been privileged information up to that time?
- RP: No, I wasn't particularly surprised. Naturally there was not that much drilling that had been done on that many reserves that you could say were proven. I know that I thought the estimates were not unreasonable considering that the companies that wanted to export gas would certainly not minimize their reserves. They'd tend to exaggerate them if anything and in the same way that we would want to take the most conservative look at

our requirements.

BC: What was the result of. . . was the Dinning Commission. . . was it set up to bring about a decision re: export or just findings?

RP: Just findings I think. The Commission made its report to the government.

BC: What did they recommend? That we had lots of gas or not enough?

RP: I don't recall now that they recommended anything much, other than I guess, that the various estimates of the amount of gas that there was around Alberta.

BC: From that report, would it seem that there was enough for export?

RP: Barely at that time. And considering that at that time, as I say, people were thinking in terms of keeping enough gas in reserve for a 30 years supply for Alberta.

#230 BC: So after the Dinning Commission, what was the next hearing that was held to determine export?

RP: There were various gas export hearings. I've forgotten what order they came in but if I remember right, the first export pipeline that was granted was by . . . oh, I've forgotten the name of the pipeline company but it was associated with Montana Power. The line went from the Pekowckie??? Lake area, Manyberries field, in southeast Alberta, into Montana, to augment the supply of Montana Power Company.

BC: Can you remember what year that was?

RP: Offhand, no. It would be in the record somewhere.

BC: Yes, but would it be in the mid 50's would you say, or later than that?

RP: Middle or late 50's, just at a guess.

BC: Did you protest this, did you protest this application?

RP: No. It appeared to be no menace to us. The amount of gas that was approved for export was limited to that area around Pekowckie Lake and that was not a tributary to our system. We wouldn't have gone after it anyway for ourselves.

BC: So it might just as well go somewhere else and be making money?

RP: Yes.

BC: What about some of the other fields that you did want to tap into, that they also wanted to tap into for export? Were they any particular fields where there was that conflict?

RP: Not so much particular fields. You see, the Alberta Gas Trunk Line was formed to connect up all fields that could be used for export of gas. Naturally some of these fields were near enough to our pipelines.

BC: So this would necessitate your going before a Board and suggesting they couldn't export from there?

RP: Well, giving our views on the subject, yes.

#277 BC: How sympathetic was the Conservation Board to the needs of the gas company, when you appeared before them or when the gas company appeared before them?

RP: Well, they were careful not to appear to take either side, to be quite impartial, to be making an honest attempt to decide whether it was in the public interest or not.

BC: Did you feel at that time, that exporting the natural gas hurt the gas companies here in Alberta?

- RP: Not in the early years, but we could see that it could encroach on to that 30 years or less supply that we were happy to see reserved for Alberta.
- BC: They did reserve that?
- RP: In the early days, as I said, it later came down to 25 years and 20 years. I don't know what it is now.
- BC: Also, besides exporting gas out of Canada, there was also the move to export gas out of Alberta, going west and east. How did that affect our company?
- RP: Well, it didn't matter to us which direction it went, whether it went to the States or to the east or to the west. While the first export line as I say, went to the States, it was a relatively small amount of gas, it was only from that one field, that one area. It didn't compare with the West Coast Transmission to the coast or the Trans Canada pipeline to the east.

End of tape.

Tape 3 Side 1

- BC: The establishment of the West Coast and the Trans Canada Pipeline, you were in your position as the production manager during those hearings too.
- RP: Yes, in an advisory capacity. Those hearings, the rule was that we had lawyers ask all the questions. And we had to advise the lawyers what questions to ask.
- BC: What types of questions were you asking the lawyers to ask, do you remember?
- RP: Anything that would questions, or throw light on assertions made by what we liked to call, I suppose what we would call, the opposition, the people that wanted to export gas. In general we had to take the opposite view to them, within reason.
- BC: You were not able, obviously, to stop the construction of the two pipelines because they certainly went ahead. What concessions were you able to gain for the gas companies in Alberta, in those hearings? Or were you able to gain any?
- RP: We weren't able to gain much on the whole, it meant that we had to pay pretty much the going price. But there were a few concessions I think.
- BC: Can you think of any of them?
- RP: Largely it boiled down to a matter of Alberta first. If the supply seemed to be running out then it would have to be the export gas that was cut off rather than our customers go without. And there were also a couple of concessions in the way of ??? gas. We got that at a rather cheaper rate, perhaps once or twice.
- BC: I was going to ask you about the rates because you surely wouldn't have had to pay the same for the gas here as they would when it got down to the eastern markets and to the western markets?
- RP: We paid pretty much the same price at the wellhead or the pipeline connection, down east or in Vancouver. They would of course, have to add on the cost of transmission which meant the carrying costs of building a 2,000 mile pipeline to the east or the 1,000 mile line to the west.
- BC: When they were discussing the pipelines one of the fields that was very prominent in the discussion of endless supply or almost endless supply, was the Pincher Creek field by

Gulf.

RP: That's right. That was one of the largest, if not the largest single reserves at that date in the province. It was the anchor man so to speak, of most of the major pipelines they wanted to tie into that.

#048 BC: Subsequently they found that Pincher Creek, they'd been overly optimistic and the field was about half the size they thought it would be. How did this affect your concerns in the gas company, re: endless supply for Alberta customers?

RP: Things like that wouldn't concern us until it seemed as though it might make Albertans short of gas. That point has never been reached so far.

BC: Were you surprised, was the gas company surprised when the new estimates came out and they found that Pincher Creek was not what they had optimistically hoped it would be?

RP: No, because as I say, most of the oil companies, the sellers of gas, were not going to be pessimistic about their own supplies, they tend to be optimistic in their reserve estimates.

BC: All I'm meaning is when you were on the other side, on the conservative side of it and when suddenly this huge field is not quite so huge, did this cause any concern, were there any other commissions set up, anything like that?

RP: No, because people were still going ahead and finding gas and we hadn't reached the point where we were too concerned.

BC: In retrospect, do you feel that the gas company perhaps, was too conservative at that time?

RP: No, I wouldn't say so. After all, it's first obligation was to look after itself and its shareholders and its customers. And the customers of course, were all in Alberta. A large number of the shareholders at one time, more than 50%, were Canadian.

BC: Looking at the other side, who was the major speaker for the oil companies in the Conservation Hearings for Export, do you remember?

RP: Of course, any company that had any gas to sell naturally, got up and said so. But not always through its own personnel. They hired consultants, such as DeGualier and McNaughton of the States, and our gas company used to hire Ralph Davis of the States, also a well known gas consultant.

BC: Who would Imperial have speaking for them, did they have anyone in particular?

RP: I don't remember. They had a big enough staff that they could have done all their speaking for themselves.

BC: That's what I wondered, if there was someone from the . . . ?

RP: No, I don't remember.

#090 BC: While all this was going on, other things were happening of course, in the gas company. You were expanding and your job would obviously have been expanding too.

RP: It was just normal growth. A fairly fast growth, all things considered. Because of course, during the war there had been no expansion much and there was a big population increase after the war which had to be looked after. Plus a few commercial and industrial concerns.

- BC: What about the joint ventures. You did mention that you did go into joint ventures with some oil companies?
- RP: Yes, we still wanted to keep our finger on the pulse of the thing as it were. We also were interested in finding sources of peak gas because when you buy gas from a field like Pincher Creek or Jumping Pound, they want to sell that at a fairly high load factor. 80% or more. And naturally we couldn't take gas at that rate, either on a daily or a yearly basis. I mean a daily basis, people would get up in the morning and everybody would switch on their stoves and their furnaces and everything else about 6 or 7 or 8, whatever it was, in the morning, and you suddenly need a great wad of gas to look after everybody. In the wintertime, naturally, with temperatures down to 30 or 40 below Fahrenheit, well, you were going to use 10 times as much gas as you would on a nice hot day in the summer.
- BC: This would be quite something to keep ahead of, the estimate. When Alberta was expanding so rapidly, the major cities that you were supplying were really, new houses and new people were coming in at such a rapid rate.
- RP: We tried to keep our projections. I mean, we'd make projections for budget purposes and all that every year, in other words to try and look ahead and get some gas reserves before we needed them. Because we would have to decide whether there was enough and lay a pipeline, decide what size pipeline and all the rest of it. So we did go after the peak load gas. Often in conjunction with other people and as a result, turned up and developed the Carbon field say, for Canadian Western, Beaver Hill Lake, Fort Saskatchewan, ???, Bon Accord for Northwestern. Or for both companies we just had the one geological department. We've always had just the one geological department for the 2 affiliated companies.
- #139 BC: What oil companies would you have worked with?
- RP: Oh, sometimes large ones, sometimes small ones. Sometimes it was just a one shot venture, say with Siebens Oil Company for a small field. Sometimes we'd go in with Canadian Pacific or Imperial or Shell.
- BC: Did you do the direct dealing with these people to set up this joint venture?
- RP: I helped, I was in on it, yes.
- BC: Who would you be negotiating with for instance, with Siebens? With the President?
- RP: Usually the top people, the President, Vice-President, Chief Geologist. That's for a start until we got to the point of coming to an agreement and making out the contract. Then of course, the lawyers got called into it.
- BC: Can you remember Mr. Siebens, Bill Siebens I believe it is?
- RP: No, I don't remember him particularly.
- BC: Can you recall any of the people from the other companies that you were dealing with at that time which you had quite a lot of work to do with?
- RP: Oh, we ran across quite a number of them, but frankly there were so many that I . . .
- BC: There weren't people that you did continually work with?
- RP: Not on the whole. Unless it was in the case say, of Turner Valley people or Jumping Pound people and then it would be less my concern than the engineers. They'd keep in touch with the people there.

BC: When you were, if I can just jump back into these hearings again, for just a moment, there was one question I meant to ask you and I didn't. And that was, getting the evidence to support your point of view, how would you go about getting that when the oil companies were so secretive about what they were going to let you know?

RP: Well, as a general rule of course, we didn't have any direct evidence. But they would have to produce data on let's say, the Pincher Creek field, if you like, on the area, pay thickness, porosity, ??? water, pressure, all the things that go into making up a reserve estimate. And on the basis of similar fields or reservoirs or rocks, we'd question, the best thing we could do, all we could do, was to question their assumptions of these factors. There was a lot of them had to be assumptions.

#186 BC: They would have to prove, rather than you to have to disprove?

RP: Yes, but naturally if we thought they were laying it on too thick we'd try and cast as much doubt as possible.

BC: You stayed with the gas company until what date?

RP: 1965.

BC: And you continued in that same position until 1965?

RP: Yes, I was senior production engineer at that time, and chief geologist for both. . .

BC: Really chief geophysicist too because you had that in your hat too.

RP: Yes, but we didn't do much geophysics at that time. And that is a thing that you really have to keep in touch with because it moves pretty fast.

BC: Yes, geology, subsurface geology, the rocks aren't going to change unless you have a big disruption.

RP: No, that's right.

BC: But finding that through the geophysical data has changed quite a bit. Did you work very much in that field at all, the growth of the geophysical data gathering area?

RP: At first, when I first joined the company in 1930 we were doing some magnetic work and I continued that for several years. Also during the 30's we had to contract geophysical companies up, Heiland Research Corporation and SSC, from the States. Well, I worked with them and checked computations and all that.

BC: When you decided to retire from the gas company, you took an early retirement.

RP: Yes, I did.

BC: Why did you decide to do that?

RP: I felt I'd had about enough as it were. That I didn't want to go on until I was too worn out to do anything else. We liked travelling and wanted to retire early enough to see a bit more of the world.

BC: So you retired in '65. Mind you, you'd been with the gas company for how many years at that time?

RP: Well, since 1930, about 35 years.

#226 BC: So you would have a full pension?

RP: No. Retiring early in those days, I had to take a bit of a penalty. I retired 3 years early you see. The retirement age was 65.

- BC: But you really only retired from the gas company, you didn't retire from working, although you did take a holiday. You worked in Australia did you not?
- RP: Well, I did a little there. The first time of course, was on business with the gas company, or to be more exact, for its parent, International Utilities, who were interested in investigating gas possibilities in Australia. So a gang of us, about 5, went down to New Zealand. The Directors of International Utilities had been approached by this company in Australia and asked if we'd send out some experts to make an appraisal.
- BC: What year was this?
- RP: It was 1964, the year before I retired.
- BC: So you went down there first with the gas company?
- RP: Yes. And after I retired we took a trip, a slow trip around the world, very slow and I spent a little time in Australia, wrote some articles for the Australian Gas Journal.
- BC: Did you work for a company down there at all?
- RP: No, not for a company.
- BC: You actually retired from the oil patch for about 5 years then, until you came back to Calgary?
- RP: Oh, for the rest of my life as it were.
- BC: Haven't you been down in Barbados?
- RP: Yes, but that was with CESO, Canadian Executive Service Overseas.
- BC: What year was that?
- RP: About '72 or . . .
- BC: But that was in connection with your expertise in the oil patch?
- RP: Yes. Believe it or not that little island has a natural gas company. They drilled some wells there looking for oil I suppose, and found some gas and the general manager of Northwestern Utilities, Julian Carrot???, when he retired from Northwestern he went down to Barbados, got a job as a sort of a one man Conservation Board as it were. I don't know what he is called, Commissioner for Oil and Gas or something or other. At that time they had a natural gas system, sorry, an artificial gas system in operation and he organized this natural gas company to use that system and tie in these couple of gas wells that they had.
- #287 BC: Is that what you were down assisting with?
- RP: Yes. For general advice, instruction of their personnel. . .
- BC: Instruction in what?
- RP: All manner of things. Just the natural gas business generally.
- BC: Was this a fairly new company?
- RP: No. It must have been going at least 10 years, probably more.
- BC: But the people who were in a position of running it, some of them were not too familiar with it?
- RP: I thought they did a very good job really. They were not too familiar of course, with a larger scale natural gas operations and believe it or not, their biggest load was for either cooking or water heating, I've forgotten which, not house heating.
- BC: No, not in Barbados.

End of tape.

Tape 3 Side 2

#026 BC: How long did you stay in Barbados, Mr. Paterson?

RP: 5 or 6 months.

BC: This was our winter?

RP: Yes. It was rather nice.

BC: So it worked out rather well didn't it?

RP: Oh, it was splendid.

BC: Looking back over your career in the petroleum industry Mr. Paterson, could you recall perhaps, what you would think of as a particularly important or interesting time for you, the most interesting?

RP: I don't know that I would pick out any one particular time or phase as being more interesting than the others. I found them all very interesting. As I say, our department worked both the Edmonton and the Calgary gas companies and I found the geophysics interesting when I first started there. And the other exploration. I had a couple of years leave of absence going down to the Colorado School of Mines, to get a post graduate degree in geophysics. Well, that was interesting too. The new geophysical business I found very interesting, it was coming into its own. Then later on there was always something different, well drilling, the exploitation of our own fields, development of them and of new fields. Negotiating for gas supplies with other companies, hearings about gas export and such. It would be hard to pick out one time that was better than the others.

BC: What would you say was the biggest change that has taken place, from when you entered in 1930 up to, well, up to now actually, but more particularly perhaps, in the time that you were directly involved, what was the biggest change?

RP: Well, most changes of course, were pretty gradual really. There were increases in technology coming along all the time. What you might think of as one of the major changes was the change in ownership when Atco took over from International Utilities. But that was not really noticeable as far as every day running of the company and the employees were concerned.

#059 BC: It was more to make it more Canadian owned?

RP: I don't know what the . . .

BC: Or just because they had the money?

RP: I don't know what was behind it all. That was after I retired of course. Now Atco I think, was always looking for something to invest in, something that looked reasonably sound and a good sound utility company I suppose they thought, was up its alley.

BC: What about the people that you've met, some of the people. Could we perhaps have a reprise of some of the people that you've worked with? Starting right back with Mr. Slipper was one of your first people wasn't he?

RP: Yes. You mean. . .

- BC: A little bit about him or any anecdotes you might remember of your time together? Maybe we could start as I say, with Mr. Slipper.
- RP: As I think I said before, I always had a great admiration for Stan Slipper. He had a rather inventive mind, he was always willing to try something, anything, almost, once. Harry Hunter of course. . .
- BC: You and Mr. Slipper, before we get to Mr. Hunter, you and Mr. Slipper both liked to sort of do a bit of inventing. Can you think of any of the inventions you were looking at?
- RP: There was a thing called a dead weight pressure gauge that we worked on jointly. And Harry Hunter with us if it came to that. He wanted a gauge that was more reliable than the ordinary spring pressure gauges in use then. So he wanted somebody to invent a dead weight, portable dead weight pressure gauge that would always give the right answer. I had a bit to do with that.
- BC: Where did you do all this inventing, down in your basement or down in the. . .
- RP: Mostly in the office. Occasionally Mr. Slipper would come around here with some idea and we'd talk it over.
- BC: Were some of your inventions, did you get this particular gauge designed for instance?
- RP: Oh yes. And it or if you like, an improved version of it, is now used by every oil and gas company I imagine.
- BC: Is that right. It wouldn't be something that you would take a patent out on though?
- RP: It would be pretty hard to patent I would think because there were already dead weight testers to test the spring gauges. And it was a matter of just adapting these to make them portable and make them gauges instead of testers.
- #100 BC: What about Mr. Hunter, Harry Hunter?
- RP: He was known for hard work and also. . .well, he was most conscientious. He was certainly not without brains himself.
- BC: He was enjoyable to work with then?
- RP: Oh yes, certainly.
- BC: Can you think of any particular incident that might reflect the kind of thorough man he was, with lots of grey matter?
- RP: I can remember one time shortly after he was made general superintendent, or general manager, I've forgotten which. But he was still interested in, we were still testing wells and all that ourselves. He was turning over as it were, to me. We were driving down I think it was to Brooks, one of those fields and he just had me drive and he sat there in the car reading a book on balance sheets and all the different aspects of the job that now came his way as general superintendent or whatever, instead of production engineer.
- BC: Right. Peter Bawden worked for the gas company, did he work for them or was he contracted to them?
- RP: We contracted him. He started off in a small way with 1 or 2 or 3 rigs. We were some of the earliest ones that he worked for I think. He grew in stature and lord knows how many rigs he's got now, and they're all over the world. We ran across him and his rigs in Australia.
- BC: Can you think of anyone else that we should put on the end of the tape here?

RP: There are lots, I mean, H. R. Millner was an outstanding figure. He was the head of Millner and Steer???, who were lawyers for the gas company. When C. J. Yarnath??? died. . . oh, early 30's, about '32 or 3 or 4, H. R. Millner was made President of the company in place of C. J. Yarnath. Everybody sort of raised their eyebrows and made cracks about having a lawyer as head of the gas company but H. R. Millner was a pretty good business man. He ended up being Director of more companies than you could shake a fist at. And he did a great deal for the gas company.

#145 BC: Is there anyone else you think we should mention?

RP: There are so many people. In my 35 years there I've run across quite a few characters. Some of the early ones are Harold Timmins, of the gas company. Also Mike Francis and it's only the old timers that would know those people.

BC: Were they part of the gas company too?

RP: Yes.

BC: What were their positions?

RP: Mike Francis was a purchasing agent. Timmins was in charge of utilization.

BC: That's utilization of the gas?

RP: Yes. Gas stoves, you know, how to use gas and . . .

BC: Without blowing yourself up.

RP: Yes. And rather of course, promoting the sale of gas rather than electricity. Say a stove, if one can do the work of the other.

BC: Have you anything else that you'd like to add to this tape Mr. Paterson?

RP: I'd just like to say that I have certainly enjoyed my time at the gas company. Not only when I was working there but since I've retired. We have a pensioners association, the company gives us a couple of free dinners every year, we get invited to the annual company bash and I certainly have nothing but good to speak of the company and its treatment of its employees. It's always been a very happy company.

BC: From when you retired in '65 till now, certainly times have changed and so the fact that you have kept in touch, do they also readjust pensions from that time as the cost of living changes?

RP: A small amount. The first 6 or 8 years after I retired we had no cost of living bonus built into the pension. So I was on a fixed salary. After that, they have once or twice made adjustments in the salary and given us a modest cost of living bonus. And they have been very generous at Christmas time with a Christmas bonus and a lump sum cost of living bonus.

BC: So retirement has been really a pleasant experience for you?

RP: Oh, it's been a very happy time, yes.

BC: I've appreciated your taking the time with me to talk about your role, not only in the gas company but in the Navy too. It was very interesting to listen to and I do thank you for your time Mr. Paterson.

End of tape.

Tape 4 Side 1

BC: I'm talking now with Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Ray Paterson, Joan. Can I have your full name Joan?

JP: Kathleen Joan.

BC: Kathleen Joan, oh, called by the second name.

JP: Yes.

BC: And you were born in England?

JP: Yes.

BC: Would you like to tell me where and when and a little bit of your family background?

JP: I was born in Darbyshire and we lived in the north of England for awhile and I went to high school in Lancaster Grammar and Manchester High. I have 3 sisters and 1 brother, 2 deceased.

BC: Were you the youngest in the family?

JP: Next to the youngest. There were sort of 2 families, 3 and a gap and 2 more. I went to London for university and college studies and mostly throughout the years I was interested in dancing and kept that up, along with a teaching certificate and I also took a course at the Royal Academy in Dramatic Art and retained my interest in dancing and drama and put it into my teaching career.

BC: So you taught drama and dance as a teacher?

JP: Well, what I was fortunate in doing, I usually got into a school where the principal was interested in productions and where there was a theatre. The best was in Vancouver during the war where we had a beautiful stage.

BC: Where did you teach in Vancouver?

JP: Mackenzie School most of the time.

BC: Whereabouts in Vancouver is that?

JP: South Vancouver. I put on productions into which you could bring the dancing and the drama, such as scenes from a Midsummer Night's Dream, Toad of Toad Hall, and Wizard of Oz and these kind of things where you could introduce ballet and dancing as well as the speech.

BC: They must have been lovely productions to see.

JP: Well, I have happy memories of them.

BC: Right. What grade did you normally teach?

JP: Junior High School.

BC: Oh yes. That's an exciting age. Now you met Mr. Paterson in Vancouver and you were teaching at Mackenzie School then. You had to stay and teach, although you probably, in normal events, would have gone back after your exchange time.

JP: Yes. I had a 2 year stint. My first year was in greater Montreal, the town of Hamstead, where I also had a good auditorium and stage and was able to use all my facilities. My second year was in Vancouver. So I took a freighter south through the Panama and just got to Vancouver on Labour Day, the day before school opened in Vancouver.

#029 BC: And very shortly after that of course, war broke out.

JP: Yes. That was why the 3 of us that were there didn't go back. They put us on the permanent staff of the Vancouver School Board. We went over to Victoria during one of the breaks and took a 2 week course and wrote a paper and got British Columbia teaching certificates.

BC: Well, you obviously had a very good background in teaching if you could do that in 2 weeks.

JP: You don't get abroad like that without an inspection. In Britain one of her majesty's inspectors follows you around for about 2 weeks, listening to your teaching and examining you. Mine had a gammy leg that went thunk, thunk, thunk as he went round the corridors and the youngsters would say, Miss, he's coming and they were very cooperative, they all sat up straight and gave good answers and helped me a lot. He later told my brother, who was the principal of one of the schools, that his daughter did very well. So my brother didn't give away that it was his sister.

BC: So after the war, with Mr. Paterson in the Navy, you continued to teach I presume.

JP: Off and on, yes.

BC: Then following the war, when he went back into the gas company, then that was your first introduction to the oil patch, was it not.

JP: Yes, my first introduction to being away from water. I'd been near a sea as a child and been in Vancouver and been near the St. Lawrence River. I thought Calgary was rather a barren place and so we bought a lot close to the Elbow River on which to build our bungalow.

BC: This is where you live today.

JP: Yes.

BC: When you bought it there wasn't much out here.

JP: It was countrified.

BC: Yes, can you tell me just a little about Calgary at that time?

JP: The Elbow River was the boundary pretty well and the street cars circled around at the end of Sifton Blvd. and turned around to go back along Elbow Drive and there was no transportation across the bridge, over the river. Sifton Blvd. itself was very countrified. Ours were the first new houses, ours and the neighbours, the others were old houses that had been farms and the horses were still tied up around on the grass on the hill behind and alongside. Twice we put in lawns and the young girl down the street, her horse broke his tether and made foot marks in our lawns. One occasion father came and filled up the holes but it was all very nice, it was countrified and . . .

BC: How long after you bought the lot did you build?

JP: Right away pretty well. We had to because it was hard to find anywhere to live after the war.

#061 BC: As we look across now you can see the water but that wouldn't even have been developed at all.

JP: There were a few horses on Riverdale, quite a few on Riverdale but behind Riverdale there were all hills and trees with horses grazing on them. The youngsters did their riding

around these parts and the road was just a country sort of gravel road.

BC: The one in front, Sifton, was a gravel road too?

JP: Yes. It wasn't made up for some years.

BC: What was it like, being involved with the petroleum industry? Those were rather exciting years.

JP: I found it very interesting, I enjoyed it. I enjoyed going out into the country up north and being in a trailer part of the time.

BC: Tell me about living in a trailer. You went out in the summers quite often.

JP: Yes, early summer several times.

BC: This would be in the 40's.

JP: Yes, right after the war. I enjoyed it. We had good facilities in the trailer, we were hooked up to the rig and so we had electric light and a little stove. It was quite a long drive into Viking and some of the towns to get some groceries, but we made friends with the local people, like the lawyer and the post master. The post master's wife were great friends so I used to go in the day that the post master's wife was having her tea party, playing cards. I didn't go for the cards, I did my shopping and went for the tea. And it was nice, we . . .

BC: What about the little oil patch community that was all plugged in to the . . .

JP: They were mostly the drillers you see.

BC: Were the families there?

JP: My husband and his assistant were in charge and then the drilling companies were drilling. Yes, there were children, there were dogs. We had the dog with us and the little girl part of the time.

BC: One of your children was born by that time?

JP: Yes.

BC: So what was it like having a child out there in the trailer?

JP: Oh, they played together.

BC: What about the older children that would be around the rigs?

JP: There weren't any older ones, no. People left them behind with sitters and things if they had any. I think they were all young families.

BC: Was there much mixing out there between management and the hired men, shall I say?

JP: No, no, only just hello and how are you.

BC: This would be a rather difficult thing for someone like yourself who's a very friendly person?

JP: We were all spread out you know.

BC: Oh, you were not in the same locale?

JP: Well, I had cups of tea with the chief drillers wife.

BC: And then when you came back into Calgary you didn't go out again?

JP: No, I didn't go out after about '48 I guess.

#094 BC: Did you get involved with any of the Oil Wives Association's, that sort of thing?

JP: Yes. I still belong to the Engineers Wives, Geologists and Geophysicists.

BC: Yes. How important is that kind of an organization to someone whose husband is in the

petroleum industry?

JP: Just social I think. They do some quite nice things. They divide into groups, I belonged to the Discover Calgary group and we'd go out once a month and go to places around town that you don't normally go to on your own. And I belonged to the antique group one year and we went to lectures on what was a good antique and what wasn't and visited a few antique things. I don't belong to any group this year. And they make up parties to go to things. They made up a party to go to Chicago Exhibition but I didn't go on that party.

BC: But did you find through the years that this was a good contact for you to keep in touch with the oil business that your husband was so involved with?

JP: Not really, no. Only in the fact that his friend's wives were my friends, like Flora Hunter, Harry's wife and Joyce Dale, who's one of my great friends, her husband's an electrical engineer. So only the group of friends that I would have coffee with and that sort of thing.

BC: But they would have been your friends whether you belonged to. . .

JP: Anyway, we just. . .

BC: It didn't open you up to contacts with other people in quite the same way.

JP: Just that when you go round town a bit, somebody will say, Hi Joan and you'll say that's a professional engineers wife, you don't know them. I'll tell you first, ??? got into things in those days, I was Social Convener and got up the production and things, actually Civic Theatre, to which you belonged, put on a show for them once and our nephew Michael, who lived with us for awhile, he organized this and brought them along. They used the Christ Church auditorium for that. I had a good 2 years being Social Convener because I enjoyed getting things to happen.

#122 BC: You were very involved in other things in the city too though, because you were very involved with dance.

JP: I got involved soon after we got here, I wondered whether to take an Alberta Teachers Certificate. While I was pondering this the chief inspectors of school came to Calgary and came for dinner one night and said, I met some people today, they are getting together to start more things up at this Cost??? House, they're opening it as an art centre. They're interested in getting some children's activities, such as drama etc. I said, I told them they'd got my best teacher in town so you might be hearing from them. So I did hear a little bit later, asking me if I'd be interested in doing some Saturday morning work. So I got really involved in that and was in it for 10 years, working up a children's theatre and a ballet group. We put productions on nearly every year and I was on the committee which arranged the productions for the opening of the Jubilee Auditorium. I had the 2 children's matinees, one was mostly dancing, I got different groups around town into that one. And the Saturday afternoon I put on fairy scenes from a Midsummer Night's Dream, which I had done before in my life, and it got quite a good, what's the word, a lot of praise.

BC: Acclaim.

JP: Yes, acclaim.

BC: This would be very exciting because it would be probably the first time you had the children involved in Midsummer Night's Dream.

JP: This particular group. I had with my school children, done it in Vancouver. But we put on

a production almost every year in school auditoriums, like Central and Earl Grey. What amazes me now is that I've got those, they were teenagers, I took them from 8-18 and the teenagers didn't leave. They enjoyed it so well, there were some boys, a large group of boys, and these youngsters were doing classical things and the younger ones were doing sort of scenes from Hans Andersen and we were doing bits of Shakespeare and these children liked that. I feel that nowadays they'd want something more pop you know, more. . .

BC: Maybe they liked it because you introduced it to them so then they enjoyed it. If they don't know about it they can't enjoy. With is tremendous.

JP: Yes. We did the Little Matchgirl and we did tales from Hans Andersen and we did bits of Shakespeare. I adapted them for their age group you see.

BC: So you became a bit of a playwright too then.

JP: Yes. And I enjoyed it. It was hard work because we got up to children coming twice a week, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings but they loved it. These young mothers now stop me and say, we wish we had that for our children now. But you see, they got everything pretty well for free, they just contributed for their costumes a bit. And the mother's helped but. . .

BC: The rest is. . .all they had to do was go you mean, there were no fees charged.

JP: Just a little bit to cover scripts and things, but nothing to speak of, \$2.50 I think something like that, a term. And they really got a lot out of that. And then Gertrude ??? came up and took the singing. I couldn't do any singing. Then those who wanted to do ballet, we had some ballet classes. We had a choreography group. I think it was one of the first actual little ballet groups in Calgary. We went around, we danced in hospitals and put on shows just with the ballet. But it was the beginning of something you know.

#171 BC: Yes, well this is it, that you were busy contributing in that sort of life, which I'm sure made Calgary seem very much like home to you.

JP: Yes, it did. And I never did get the Alberta School Teaching Certificate. I had 3 already, I had a British one and a British Columbia one and a Quebec interim one. So I felt a bit annoyed. . .but I would have probably got it if I hadn't got involved with this children's work. I like the Cost House, I was sorry to see it move away. That's when I gave up.

BC: A lot of people gave up at that time.

JP: I partly like the old house, to go there. But one thing about it which tallies in with the geophysics, I took an interest in the well drilling and learned how to read the magnetometer that they used in early days. I once went as paid assistant when Anglo Canadian borrowed my husband. I sat in my spot and read the magnetometer while he went around. What they discovered on that site, I don't know whether he told you when he was talking, was salt. There was something there and now there's a big salt factory up there. We went back, traced our own roots by car one time and we went into this salt factory and he told them who he was, that he'd surveyed that land and they gave him a great armful of salt. I say that I got interested in the fringe of this sort of thing. He also got interested in the ballet etc. He made all the tapes and sometimes in these productions, where you introduced dance and music with some speech and then there's a small interval

of music and the dance, then there's a pause, and there's another interval of music, and he did all this, taped all this. He actually got interested in the ballet movements. I went downstairs one day and he was teaching one of our daughters to do ??? turns. She hadn't quite got the mathematical sequence. So it was enjoyable that we each took over each other's interests which I feel more people should do.

BC: Yes, indeed. When you went to Australia and Barbados you had a chance to see . . .

JP: Visited schools and that type of thing.

BC: And did you get involved again in the drama at all, down in Barbados and Australia?

JP: No. I went to the school quite a bit. I've done bits of choreography since and bits of judging.

BC: Well, certainly you demonstrate that when your husband is as involved as Mr. Paterson was, that you have to become part of the community too, otherwise you can be left very lonely while they get so involved with exploiting and exploring for oil.

JP: Yes.

BC: Thank you very much for your recollections too.