

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Kathleen Taylor

INTERVIEWER: Nadine Mackenzie

DATE: June 1983

NM: This is Nadine Mackenzie speaking. Today is June 27th, 1983. I am at the home of Miss Kathleen Taylor, situated at 432 - 49th Ave. S.W., Calgary. Miss Taylor was the first trained librarian to be hired by Imperial Oil Company in Calgary. Miss Taylor, first thank you for having accepted to participate in our project. Can you tell me about your family?

KT: Surely, what do you want to know?

NM: I would like to know, where were your parents coming from?

KT: My mother and father both came from Lancashire in England. My father came out in 1911 with his father and then he brought out his mother and the rest of the family and they came out 1912 or '13, somewhere around in there. Then mother and dad kept corresponding, so finally she said yes and so he sent her her ring and she came out during the war, a month after the Lusitania was sunk, which I thought was pretty spunk of her actually. Because she hadn't seen dad either, from what, '11 till '15, that's quite awhile. Anyway she came out in 1915 and they were married here in Calgary. Their first little home was in Sunnyside. Then they moved later, I think I might have been born at their home in Sunnyside.

NM: So you are a true Calgarian.

KT: Oh yes. I was born at the Scottish Nursing Home in 1916, the next year. So then we moved to a home on 3rd Ave. and 7th St. It belonged to the Rochon??? family, which used to make chocolates in Calgary. It was a really old home, it had stables in the back for the horses, before they had cars you know.

NM: It would have been very nice.

KT: Yes, it was a nice old home. The only problem was that it was very big and mother and dad were very social types you know and they'd find people knocking on the door and they'd be bringing the food and everything because theirs was the biggest house. So they would have a party, until finally mother decided that she wanted to get into a smaller home. So when I was 6 we moved to 20th Ave. and that's where I started school, at Holy Angels School. Then after that, we moved, in 1928 to Rideau, we were on 5th St. in Rideau. So I grew up there. It was from there I left Calgary for my first trip east alone.

NM: How old were you at the time?

KT: I was 20 something, it was after university. What was I, about 25 I guess, when I left home. When I see the young people working right away, of course, I went through the Depression you know, and we couldn't get jobs in those days, or if you could get one you didn't get one because you were taking somebody else's livelihood away from him you know.

NM: Yes, that was a problem.

KT: Anyway as I say, I didn't really get any work until the war started. I went down east to the Inspection Board of the United Kingdom and Canada. Is there anything more you wanted to know about my mother and father?

#032 NM: I wanted to know, what brought your father to Canada?

KT: Dad was a reporter on a paper in England. I think they felt that, I think there was a lot of advertising at the time in England. I think you could come out to Canada for about \$5 if you would come. Because they were wanting people to emigrate from England to Canada. He also had known of families from his own home town who had come to Calgary and so that's why they decided. As I said, they had a family of 8 and it was pretty tough, they were in a coal mining area and it was depressed and they decided they'd come here.

NM: So they decided to come to Calgary.

KT: Yes. And they never turned back when they got here, all the children did very well.

NM: And so they liked Canada straight away?

KT: Yes. Most of them, Dad had got a job right away but the rest of the family still had to go to school. They finished their schooling here in Calgary. Some of them went into the Wheat Pool, one was an accountant and the others, the girls got married and they all did very well. I think their standard of living was higher than it would have been if they had stayed in England.

NM: So all your secondary education was done in Calgary?

KT: Yes. Elementary and secondary was in Calgary then I went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

NM: What did you study there?

KT: Well, I took household economics. One of my problems was I couldn't get French, and that was the only course I think you could take which you didn't need French for. It seemed to me that it was a 50-50 chance whether it was female or male as far as a noun was concerned and I was always wrong.

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

KT: I spent 3 because I already had my first year university in Calgary. In those days grade 12 was first year. So I went up and took my 3 years in Edmonton after that.

NM: And after Edmonton, what did you do, did you come. . . ?

KT: Well, I came back to Calgary and it was pretty much Depression still here. That was in '39 and war had just, well it started in September. I went to the Holy Cross Hospital and I was in the diet kitchen there for about 6 months, which I hated, just hated. I don't know why. We had to be there at 7 in the morning without breakfast and then after you had made all the breakfasts you had to go and have your own. By this time I was turned off.

NM: No more appetite.

KT: And also you worked Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Christmas Day, New Years Day, you know, it's very much of a what do you call it, when you take turns.

NM: Shift.

KT: Shift work you know. Except of course, as far as the meals were concerned. You were finished about 5 in the afternoon but still, then you had to prepare all your menus and orders and order your food and so forth.

#066 NM: It doesn't sound very exciting.

KT: Well, it wasn't, I hated it throughly.

NM: Then what did you do after that?

KT: So then after that I really didn't do very much for a year or so. Then they advertised for science graduates down east for the Inspection Board of the United Kingdom and Canada. So one of my friends showed me this advertisement and I said, oh, that sounds pretty good. Somebody said, well, why don't you try so I applied, I think his name was Colonel Ivory of the Inspection Board of the United Kingdom and Canada and they paid your way down. Then you had to pay for it in your first pay cheques. So I went down in August of 1942 I guess it was. Then I went straight to Peterborough and at Peterborough they had a plant, the Canadian General Electric where we were trained. What we inspected were guns and carriages. These were being made in Canada at this point, it had taken about a year to get our factories ready for it. So we had to learn what a micrometer was and height gauges and so forth and so on. I think the first day they set us down printing, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, so that we could print correctly on blueprints and so forth, how to read blueprints and so forth. Some of us had already had some of this, a little bit of training in other things and a little bit of surveying and so forth.

NM: And how long was this training?

KT: The training was only 1 month. But it was very intense and of course, there was nothing else. Like when you go to university you take 7 or 8 subject, this was just 1 subject, and it was all day long. So it was 9 hours a day practically and I remember, it was 48 cents an hour on a 48 hour week and boy was I ever wealthy. The first month I was able to save enough to buy an Omega watch and oh, I was so delighted.

NM: Just a present to yourself.

KT: Just to present to myself, yes. I didn't ever have a real good watch up until then. But anyway, after that I was asked to stay on another month and take another month's training in inspecting fire control instruments. These were the instruments that they used to control the firing of the guns. Some of it was for anti-aircraft. This was most interesting because we got into mag slips and all sorts of electronic, well, almost the beginning of computers really, because they were able to, well they were like an analogue computer. They wanted to know how fast an aircraft was going across and by the way you moved this thing you could find out what the angle of it would be when finally the bullet reached the height of the aircraft you see. So there was a time lapse here so they had to know what that lapse was going to be. But they weren't too successful because of course, the plane had to be on a straight line and none of them flew on straight lines I gather. But it was just really, very shortly after that, that radar came in and of course, that took away that problem.

NM: Took over completely.

KT: Yes. And that sort of thing. Anyway I stayed with the Inspection Board in the fire control instrument section, and that was in Ottawa when I was there. I was there right up until '45. It was interesting, the girl Betty Jacobs who had given me the ad, the first application to this job, her cousin was the librarian at the National Research Council in the mechanical engineering section. It was through Betty that I met Ruth and Ruth asked me

if I'd like to come over after the war was ended and after all my work was cleaned up and go and work with her for 2 or 3 months.

#116 NM: As a librarian.

KT: Well, more or less as a technician. We were called a technical assistant actually, that was our classification. She was a cracker-jack librarian, very, very good. I really enjoyed her and I thought the library work was very, very nice. I was just on as temporary help to start with and then they extended my temporary employment for another year and another year until finally, they gave me permanent employment. So I stayed with them 7 years and I really enjoyed that. It was most interesting. Most of it was in, well, we had the aircraft jet engines and structures for the aircraft and then we had a hydraulics lab and all these things. And of course, the library reflected the interests of the laboratory.

NM: Was it at this time you were interested in gliding?

KT: Yes, this was when I started gliding and we joined the Gatineau Gliding Club.

NM: Why did you do that?

KT: They had this club. That's another thing, this Betty, she's sort of been in and out of my life all my life, she and her husband belonged. They said, Kay, you should come and join, it's really lots of fun. So I went and I joined it. At first I was a big shaky on whether I'd like to or not but I was very interested in flying, I always have been. I've thought of flying as just the greatest thing of this age.

NM: Did you take a lot of lessons?

KT: Yes in a way. We were taught by the members of the club. The gliders belonged to the club. Most of the men were pilots from the Air Force and so forth. You were put into the glider first of all, on the ground, and if there was a decent wind they would face you into it until you were able to keep your wings steady in the wind. This gave you a very good feel of your wings because you'd have to keep the ??? going and so forth, balanced. Then after that, this was at an airport and you would be attached to a wire, which was a couple of miles long I guess and a winch at the other end of the runway. At first they would just take you up until you got about 20' high and then you'd glide down. They left the wire on all the time. So they would do this until you got a little bit higher and a little bit higher and a little bit higher. So that you were always landing and there was really no fear of landing because that's what you were always doing right from the start.

NM: What were these gliders made of, was it plywood?

KT: Yes, a plywood and they had that aircraft skin, you know, it's sort of a plastic rubberized sort of material. We did our own repairing too. Then every month or so we'd have a meeting and we'd have a meteorologist come and give us some lectures on meteorology. It was called micro-climatology. In other words, on top of an airport you wanted to be able to catch the big clouds that were coming over that were causing thermals. So that some day you might have enough nerve to go up in one. I never did get to that stage.

NM: But you were the 3rd woman in Canada to receive the D??? certificate for gliding.

KT: Yes, that's the first time you go up and are able to make a figure 8. You go up to about, oh. . .

#166 NM: Loop the loop.

KT: Yes, you go up to about 800'. Well, no, you don't loop the loop, you go this way, you know how to fancy skate, you know how you make an 8. It's like that. But this way you're always coming down, so then you land. And when you've done that they feel that you have enough experience to control the glider. Those are the movements you have to do of course, if you are going into thermals and so forth. But that was, as I say, I was just 3rd on the list, it just happened I was 3rd. I'm probably proudest of that of anything I've ever done.

NM: Can you tell me about the National Research Council in Ottawa?

KT: The National Research Council is the council for industrial research for Canada. They also do basic research. They have research in chemistry, fabrics, food, I think they even have medical research now. The one I was in was the mechanical engineering section on the Montreal Road. This was interested in structures, they had a building research lab. There was an engine laboratory for jet engines etc., hydraulics, which were interested in dams and rivers and so forth. They had almost like a swimming pool in which they tested boats and so forth and it was really quite fun to go and see that. The building that the library was in had the wind tunnels, both vertical and horizontal. They were fun to watch too because all the models would go into these wind tunnels and of course, they would put a certain air flowing through at a certain speed, to see whether the air foils were going to lift the plane or not. It was very interesting, I enjoyed it very much.

NM: And from there, then you went to Toronto?

KT: Yes, I went to Toronto in 1953 and got my library degree. I was acting as a non-professional in the National Research Council so I felt that if I was going to go on in library work I wanted to have. . . another thing too, I wanted to know a few things that I didn't. . . in other words I knew what I wanted to know. I think this is a very good idea when you go to university, what you want to know. It's unfortunate, so often we go to university and you're so young, really you haven't any idea what you want to know and you're fed a lot of things that maybe you're not really interested in. They just go in one ear and out the other sometimes, although they do come back I know. But going to the University of Toronto and knowing what I wanted to know and they were very astute at that time also, because science was coming to the forefront and they knew that most librarians were English graduates. I had a very nice reference from Miss Gill who was head of the National Research Council libraries at the time. There were more than one National Research Council libraries, they have one big main library and then they had libraries in every one of the different departments. So the small libraries were able to have material that was classified as far as government, for example, some was confidential, some was restricted and some was secret. These were because of the different kinds of military aspects and so forth that were available to some of the research that was going on. Not only that they had a very good liaison office and we were able to get information from the different countries. But we would not be able to have it unless we were secure in these different classifications. We had a big vault in the library in Ottawa where material was kept at night and so forth and just brought out. And only certain people could use it, you had to be cleared to use it. Mind you it was nothing for me because I couldn't understand half of it anyway.

#230 NM: But even so, they were being careful

KT: Oh very, oh yes. We were fingerprinted and your picture was on, you couldn't get through the gates without.

NM: High security.

KT: It was high security, yes.

NM: And how long did you stay at the University of Toronto?

KT: Just the one year. We were able to get a Bachelor of Library Science in I guess it was about what, 8 months, September till April, somewhere in that, well, 7 months.

NM: Were there a lot of students?

KT: There were 60 of us when I went. You see, this is another thing that happens when you're going into specialized training. You can really learn something in a year, which if you were taking it with all the rest of the subjects would take you 4 or 5 years. But what they have you see, you couldn't go into that course without a bachelor's degree to start with.

NM: So they are concentrating just on one subject.

KT: Just on the library, yes.

NM: Did you enjoy your studies?

KT: Yes, I enjoyed it very, very much. I enjoyed the University of Toronto especially. The atmosphere was very interesting. Of course, being in a sort of post-graduate situation you were a bit more mature than the other students. I think that I had got myself into so many things in Ottawa you know. I was into the gliding club and I was into the University of Alberta alumni and I was into this, that and the other thing, until finally you get bogged down. So I was able to say, sorry everybody I can't be a president or a secretary anymore of this, that or the other thing, I'm going to university. And I just let the whole world go by and I went back. So it was really most pleasant to go back.

NM: At this time were librarians mostly women?

KT: Yes, very much so. We did have about 6 or 7 men. The reason for that of course, was the salaries were very low. But even so, most cities had men as their head librarians. Many of them were scholars and had come from England or other areas and had come to Canada and started libraries on shoestrings practically. Well, Carnegie was wonderful, he just put buildings all through Canada as you know, and smaller towns and in the United States. But mostly, and not only that, it's a very, very nice situation. You're what shall I say, I can't help but sound snobbish and I don't mean to be, but you know, you could either be a teacher or get married or a nurse. And a librarian was sort of in those categories. It was a service type of work and I don't know whether you were brainwashed or not but I was told that women are always much happier or satisfied with life if they are helping other people. Whether this is true or not I don't know, but it seems to me I have always enjoyed things if I could help people. I'm sure men are the same way, if they are helping other people they probably enjoy it too.

#288 NM: And after finishing the University of Toronto, what did you do, did you try to go back to Ottawa?

KT: Well yes, I did have my position back at the National Research Council library. But what happened was just before my exams started, my father had to go into hospital and be

operated on. Mother phoned and we didn't know whether it was touch and go and I felt, well, even if he did die I can't help being there and I had better finish this course, because there was nothing left if I didn't. So they agreed and so I stayed on and Dad came through fine and so forth. So as soon as I finished my exams I came straight back to Calgary. Then mother said, why do you have to go back to Ottawa, why don't you stay here.

NM: She wanted you to stay?

KT: So we went around to the libraries and mother would say, she has her degree in Library Science now and oh, you're very much needed here in Alberta, you'd better stay here. So I thought, what would I do, and I said, I'm not going to stay, we'll have to get a larger house if I'm going to stay. Of course, Dad was the last of the chauvinists I guess and I wasn't allowed, well, I couldn't afford to get an apartment yet anyway, I was only getting \$150 a month.

NM: Things would have been very tough.

KT: Of course, that's worth about \$1,500 now, I'd say.

NM: End of the tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

NM: So your father would not let you have your own apartment?

KT: No, so we started house hunting and we found this house on 49th Ave. and we thought it was a very good buy. Of course, that's another thing I think helped my mother to move, it was a nice idea to come up here. 50th Ave. at that time was the end of the city, it was the city limits then. And Britannia hadn't been built or any of that. However the houses around here had been, this house was built 2 years before and it was built by the builder and we thought we'd move here so that's what we did. So we moved in here in '54, in September. Mind you, I had a job with the Calgary Public Library and I'd started it in July, no I started the 1st of June I think. I was on the desk for about 6 months, the circulation desk. The first thing you have to do when you're going into a new library is you have to find out where things are.

NM: Familiarize yourself.

KT: Yes. There's no way you can come in on top, unless of course you're going to be the top and have everybody else know where everything is. But if you're going to work in it you have to know where things are and it was really a good start for me. On Saturday mornings I used to be in the reference section and it was there that I met Miss Georgina Thompson. Miss Georgina Thompson of course, had been a neighbour of mine in Rideau so I had known her and she sort of took me under her wing and she was a very, very wonderful person.

NM: There is a library in Calgary which has been named after her.

KT: Yes, that's right. She always went on her bicycle you know, a very strong person. And half of the research or the reference material was on a sort of little mezzanine floor in the old Memorial Library there. So we had to run up and down those steps about 2 or 3 times an hour. It was quite a good workout all day long. As I say I was there all that summer. Well then, Louise Riley, there's another library named after her, Louise was the assistant

library at that time, with Mr. Castell, her sister was married to Dr. Gishler. Dr. Gishler had been one of the research men at the National Research Council when I was there. It was he, who when they had an open house, brought Louise and her sister to the library and I happened to be in the library at the time to show them around you see. So Dr. Gishler had another, or at least Louise also had a cousin I think, who was married to Cam Sproule. So you know how these things work, ????. Cam Sproule had asked Louise if there was any chance of the public library starting a section for the petroleum industry. They took it to Mr. Castell and he wasn't too pleased about it but however, after all, the public does support . . . And then the petroleum industry was making enough money that most people would have thought they could have got their own. However there were a lot of consultants that were not making the same money that the big companies were and a lot of the companies did have libraries, or small collections of books, you'd hardly call them libraries at that time. So anyway we decided that we would start a section for them. So we started that, let's see, those came in sometime in the fall. I was in the library and what they did was they had to get a place, they got it on 8th Ave. and then we had to choose all the books we needed to take over. So it was about a 6 month job just getting everything ready to be sent over. And I stayed there all the time and we worked from 9 till 5:30 everyday except Saturdays. Of course, the oil business didn't open on Saturdays either so. . .

#059 NM: Were there a lot of books on oil at the time?

KT: You'd be surprised how many there were. But this library was meant more as a technical library so we decided to move over even the electrical books and books on mechanics. There was quite a lot of science material that was moved over, I can't really remember now. You'd think I'd never forget. And there were some early ones, in '39 there was a 4 volume set. And then of course, you have all the Geological Survey of Canada material. The reports and then of course, they also published some books. The library was about twice the size of this room. It was divided in two, half this size would be just for periodicals. I think we had a complete set of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy material and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Those were the 2 big collections, then the Geological Society of America, we had a Geophysics. These were the big periodicals that were published by the big associations, American associations you see.

NM: Was it the first library of this type in Calgary?

KT: Well, it was the first public library of this type in Calgary. It was the first time they had actually made a special section.

NM: Were you working alone in this?

KT: I was alone. But I had the backing of the cataloguers in the main building. Also the classifiers. But one of the problems you find, in the public library your subject fields are very broad, you'll have agriculture and engineering and chemistry and physics and so forth and so on. And everything gets under that. Well, with the explosion of knowledge that was coming out at that time after the war, those headings weren't good enough. So very fortunately there were many men who would come in and help. One of the biggest

helps we had was the indexes to the Geological Survey for example, because they would break down, an index of course is almost like a subject heading. So we used those and tried to keep some kind of a, what do I want to say, a form, be consistent in the words we used. So we started, I'm saying we here because at this time I was able to get a group of the librarians from the oil companies to come in on Thursday nights and we started working on subject heading. So that we were all helping one another.

NM: The team approach.

KT: Yes, but because I was in the public library, there was no worry about my giving secrets away or anything. Of course, all my material was open, I didn't have any secret or confidential material or proprietary material at all. It was all quite open. I remember the Nickle map people let us have all the maps they had. Nothing went out of the library, it was just kept in there. You could work in it, we had 2 great big tables and. . .

NM: You didn't not let people borrow material?

KT: No, the only thing you could do, if you wanted something and it wasn't copyrighted, I could take it to some of the copying places. I would take them on Saturday morning and get them copied and then the copy would be sent directly to the company that he was in and then I would bring my book back. So that the books were never out, they were always there, they were always ready for consultation. Which was a great thing. They knew that they could come to that library and it was going to be in. So it was kind of fun in that way. Well then, one day I was taken out to tea by Mr. . . Oh, I should tell you about how interesting it was how the library got working together. They had a member from the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists, a member from, what do they call them, electrical engineers, it was more than that, then the chemists, ???, and from the Oilfield Technical Society and . . . was there an accounting society too. Anyway, all these societies had one member appointed to a library committee. They would come and say what they needed so that we would have requests for purchasing books because naturally a library always has to keep purchasing all the new material. Well these men were marvellous because they were able to give us the expertise of what books to buy. Then the public library said they would buy such and such an amount, then the societies also put in money to buy books and periodicals, especially these very specialized periodicals. They gave us money for that and they were put into the library. And it was because, J. W. Young his name was, was the member for the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and he was on my committee. So he came over one day and said, I'd like to take you to tea you see, and I thought, oh no. At this point I was able to go to tea because I had a very, very nice girl by the name of Vivian Templeton. Vivian was a Chinese girl who had taken geology at University of Alberta and had been at the. . . when Leduc #1 I guess, blew in 1947 their class went down. Anyway Vivian had wanted to do some extra work, she was married at this point, and so she came in as half-time with me and she was a great help because being a geologist she knew the subject field which I did not know. I was able to give her my expertise on how to file things and keep things in order and subject index and so forth. So when Mr. Young asked me if I would like to have a look at the Imperial Oil research sections, this was the production and research department had a research lab on 50th Ave. He wondered if I would like to have a look at it and if I would like to come

they were going to advertise for a librarian. So I said, it sounds very nice and this is really what I would like. I had been in the Research Council and I enjoyed that type of research library and a special library was what I was most interested in. So I took a trip and went down to have a look at the lab library and it was a very pleasant, brand new building, just been built in '56. So it was just completed and everything seemed to be so nice and they had lots of shelves and books. Not only that Mr. Young was very enthusiastic. So I said to him, now if I'm going to come to be your librarian I want to have the authority to run a library. I don't want to have to be under a filing clerk or under a section in which I'm going to be considered with the paper and that type of tool. So he said, if you come over I'll give you the authority to run your library. So I felt this is great, I'm going to be able to do it. Well, this was fine and so I joined them in November '56. And I felt very, very sad at leaving the public library. I'd had a baby there if you know what I mean. It was just really beginning to grow nicely. I had hoped to have left it in hands, Sandy Pertz was one of the librarians who had got married from one of the oil companies and I suggested that she join the public library and see if they would put her in because she would be a perfect person to take over. But public libraries don't work that way. She did join but she got put on the book-mobile. So instead of having a person like her we had, I think one of the girls from the Fine Arts department, something really screwy you know, to do and I think that section went down. But there was a lot going on there because they were wanting to get a new library. We were still in Memorial Library at that time. So they moved all the offices and the technical reference library on to a warehouse on 9th Ave., 6 something 9th Ave. They had the staff then of course, to look after the questions and so forth that were coming in. And we got more help, they got some more librarians in, so it was really quite all right after that. But it was sort of sad for a little while, I felt as if I had really let my place down. But that was more or less the end of that era.

#182 NM: Who was looking after the library at Imperial before you started working there?

KT: A girl by the name of Jean Gregg. This was another problem in joining the staff because I didn't want to. . . I knew Jean quite well because she was one of the friends that came with the oil company girls to do our indexing and so forth. She seemed to be quite pleased that they had asked me so that was nice. Not only that I was going to be in the research section anyway and she was downtown with the geologists and the 2 libraries did not mix more or less. I did have the palaeontology section though, out at the lab. But this seemed to work very nicely. There were lots of breaks and not too much overlapping in the subject fields. So we got along very well together and she was a really great help to me because she knew the people, she knew the company. This is another thing you have to learn, I knew the subjects, the books by the time I went to Imperial but I didn't know the set-up of how to buy a book for example, you have to go through purchasing departments and so forth.

NM: So you had to learn.

KT: So I had to learn a lot of that. And it was at the time when things were starting to be efficient shall we say. We had, I presume in some respects it was before you started going into the computers, they started having efficiency ways in which, how many forms have

you got, what does your form say and so forth. So we had to take courses in that, we had to know about what else was available in Imperial in the way of reproduction department, what they could reproduce, what colours, how the maps were done and all the drafting. What they could do for us, what we could do for them and then of course, on top of that you had your men who were coming in to want the information that was in the library. All of a sudden of course, you get into proprietary material and it was sort of the same as at the Research Council, we had to have a special room that had special material in it. This was always a hassle because you would have material on the same subject field, some of it was proprietary and some was not. So that some people could get that but they couldn't get this. It just makes another step altogether all the way along.

#221 NM: When you came to Imperial and to your library, was it a big library ??? or a small one?

KT: Yes, they asked me, this is what was awfully interesting and I feel very privileged to have been able to do it, as I planned in a way for the public library, the little one that I started with and then as soon as I got to Imperial they decided to build another floor and they asked me how much space I would like. So I was able to say how much I thought I would need, I was able to put my 2 cents worth in for wanting steel shelving in instead of wooden, we had an interior decorator come so you had the chance to decide what colours you wanted. So it was very nice. I had just myself and I was only there about 2 months before I was able to get help and I got a lovely girl. Her name was Pat Strong. The problem was if you married a man in the same department as you were in the woman had to leave, move into another department. They recommended her to me very highly so she came over and she really was a lovely, very efficient, good head. Everybody just sort of loved her, she was really a nice person to work with and easy for other people to come and ask questions and so forth. She caught on very quickly. But anyway, what I was saying was that we had to make arrangements for work areas for herself and for me. I think only once did I have 3 in the library which was always what we needed but we never really accomplished it. But we were always able to get extra help when people went on holidays so that was good. We got that from downtown. I was there about a year or so when they decided to have a technical information department and they brought in a person by the name of Jack Cherry from Edmonton, he was a geologist, to start it up. They patterned it after the technical information services that were in Houston, no, they were in Tulsa at that time. I think it was called Carter Oil Company and it was a branch of Standard Oil of New Jersey. Anyway, these, Dr. ??? and . . . there was another doctor came up and gave us some ideas of what they thought we should do. We would be exchanging their technical reports and so forth and they had indexes for these. One of the silly things that happened was that they were indexing open material, like the Oil and Gas Journal and a number of these magazines. Well, they didn't seem to know that there were already published indexes that were used in libraries that indexed these journals. Now they index a lot more than these journals but these were included in.

#276 NM: So it was a waste of time.

KT: It was a waste of time for them. I don't know why they didn't seem to know about it. Anyway they made little cards and brought them up and they were being pasted and put on to forms. Then they had to be filed and so forth and so on. I just looked at it and said, look, this is absolute stupidity and I'm not going to do it. Anyway I went away on my holidays and I came back and Pat said, well, you're going to have to lick and paste or something and I said, what do you mean. So it was a real battle, you have to battle these things out and try and show people. I had some abstracts at the time and I was able to give Jack a real good idea of what was there and I said, you know, that isn't hard to get but you've got all the accompanying material that isn't touched and this is the part of the stuff that is being asked for all the time. This is the part that we must get indexed before we really go into anything else. So anyway, they came to me, I'd only been there about 2 years and they said, that they wanted to have a regional librarian and they would like me to be the regional librarian but if I did not want to move they would be bringing somebody in to be a regional librarian. They more or less, I couldn't do anything else, I wasn't going to be put under somebody that was just started. So I went down to the 9th Ave. where the main offices of Imperial were at that time in 1960. They had been moved from a small area and were just moving into a much larger area so I had another chance to design the library and I had very nice offices and I had my own desk with a nice beautiful white tabletop. It was kind of fun, we did, I think, quite well in that little library. You just had to plan for 5 years because you knew that in 5 years time you were going to be either doubled or else you had to be moved into a new building. And this is what happened, they started the planning. . .

NM: Imperial??? was expanding all the time.

KT: Oh yes. We were in 3 buildings on 9th Ave. and it was very, very inconvenient. So almost immediately they started planning their new building on 6th Ave. We moved into that in '64, on Valentine's Day, I'll never forget it. It was really very nice, to go into these new buildings, new plans. Then I had the chance again, I had to plan the library for the east and for the west and for the north. Then I was asked which one I liked the best and I told them and they asked me my reasons, I told them and they said, all right, you can have it. So it worked out very nicely. What we did was we had technical information officers and that was like, Jack Cherry and we had Frank Dolan and oh, what was his name. . .

NM: End of the tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

NM: And Dr. Rolf Pallet, he was a geophysicist and Frank was a geologist and they were really wanting to get an engineer to be a technical officer also but I don't think we ever did get one. And then that was sort of separated from the rest of the library. At that time I had, I think Loretta Miller was down by then, she was a professional librarian. We had 2 or 3 others, Shirley Mooney was another one. We also had an awfully good girl who was a geologist and then had her library degree on top of it. She was so good because she was able to, if a geologist came in and asked her a question she was almost able to make up the maps for him and send him off. And they really felt that that was a wonderful service.

I'll try and see if I can remember her name.

NM: When you were ordering books where did you get them from?

KT: Well, this is another interesting part. When I moved over to Imperial Evelyn DeMille Bookstore started. She was very anxious to get customers of course. I don't know whether she really thought she was going to go into technical books at that time but anyway, Mr. Young said that he thought it would be a good idea if we used her and that's what we did. What we did was we gave her a purchase order for example, and at the end of the month she would just tell us how many books we had purchased. But it was wonderful for me because I could just telephone her and say, I would like this book and I would make a note of it and she would make a note of it and then when they came in I'd know who the book was for etc. and they were paid for very easily in that way. So we stayed with her for most of the time. I pretty well ordered all my books through here. But the librarian that went over to the lab after I left, and there was a Vern Larson, who's manager there now, and he felt that it wasn't fair that we should give all our business to one bookstore. I felt, well, that's fine but when Evelyn started she was the first bookstore that started that didn't have to sell doilies and paper notes and candles and all that sort of thing. She was just selling books. She got a very good staff and she really did well. And she had a technical section and nearly all the oil companies I think, especially the men anyway, because she was able to, I would help her, I'd tell her, this is a good book coming up, you better order lots of copies of this and she'd do that. Nearly all the time when I ordered something she'd usually order more than one copy so that she would have them there when the others came. And I felt that this was all right because it was she who was giving me such good service. She even had, there was an old retired gentleman that enjoyed books and he'd go over help her and he'd deliver her books for her to the places. He just enjoyed doing that instead of you know, sitting at home. I imagine she would take him to lunch and things like that but I don't think he took a cent from her. But this was another service that she was able to, if a book came in I got it almost that morning, it was all processed and through. So the point is always, a person who wants to read something really does want to read it very soon. And if you can't get it to them quickly then it's over. The interest has probably passed and the urgency is gone. So that we were always under stress trying to get things to people as quickly as possible. That's how we used to get our books anyway when we ordered them. Now the periodicals were a different matter, they had to be purchased every year. We went through every department and asked them, saying, you are receiving so many copies of this and so forth. The idea of our information services was to take over all the processing of the materials, such as printed material. Some people even got the Financial Post and things like this, so we would still buy that for them. And we had the Nickle Daily Oil Bulletin that came in, I think it was \$120 a year and I think we were getting something like 50 copies of that. It had quite a big expense and yet they were terribly important and everybody had to know what oil wells, how far they were down and whether they were sputting, whatever, keep up to date on that information. So we did that work for them. It's really more of a clerical job because you had to check to see how many they were getting, how many more they want and it had to go to a committee that was in management to more or less look at the budget

for it to see whether they should have that many or not. Most of the time it was in a boom time and we were very seldom ever cut at all, until the 70's. The 70's came along and we had that depression and that was sort of the beginning of the end of my term at the library.

#060 NM: Where were most of the books published at the time, in the States or Europe?

KT: Most of them were in the States. I should say, as you probably know, that the formations that start down in Texas and come all the way up are much the same. It's the land that really causes the similarity of the knowledge that must be gained. So if they found material or salt domes or so forth in a certain area and they think, well, they have them in this area, you have to have the same kind of information on them. Then of course, they started doing the offshore in the Gulf. I think they started doing that in the early 60's, I don't remember. But it seemed to me that the technique for that in many of the oil and gas journals was in the water offshore. I think one of the most fabulous questions I got was when Glen Mayman came into the library and just sort of looked at me and said, Kay, have you got anything on how to build an island in the Arctic.

NM: Just like that.

KT: Just like that. I hadn't a clue you know, it was mind boggling because you can imagine, in the Arctic itself, in the ice and the cold, to try and build an island and an island cost an awful lot of money and you need an awful lot of earth. I just sort of looked at him and I think he was most amused by my expression on my face. But anyway there they are, building them and building them and building them.

NM: Did you find you were learning a lot about oil and gas ??? ?

KT: One of the things I think you probably realize, there's so much that nobody can know. And there are some people that know an awful lot about a little. So here you are trying to be, I think what you are is sort of like on the top you know, and you have an idea where the subject is, you know where you go and get it and this guy comes in, oh yes, it's over here, in that section and so forth and so on. But we started putting our index on computers in '64. We started it off, we had an IBM and they had down time and of course, they always say, oh well, the library can use this. So we got the time and we were able to index right on to, and then they were key punched you know, on to these cards. So we went through 2 or 3 different kinds of systems. It seemed to me an awful lot of it was a waste of time but then in a way it wasn't. But you'd just get a system going when there was a new one that came out that was a lot better. In fact we got almost to the point where we had, we thought really a good one when something new came on. There was a new program and we did turn everything over.

NM: So does that mean each time you changed completely?

KT: Yes, but fortunately the computer could do some of it so we didn't have to do it all. But then of course, everything had to come back to be checked to see if it was right or not. That's where the technical, Rolf Pallet was the best person I ever knew for being picky. He could find a mistake anywhere. Actually this is the kind of person you have to have. I know some of the people found him difficult to work with but you have to have a person like that, to get that right. And I think we really did have, I would say, about 96%, you can't be perfect, ever but we tried. Then in about 1972 they decided to put it on

microfilm. We did a lot of microfilming, we did a lot of microfilming of our magazines, this kept the space down because we were growing out of house and home, we couldn't get anymore space. So we had a lot of the older material microfilmed. One trouble was that you can't microfilm maps. So this was done in another section and kept. The illustrations were always a bit of trouble when you wanted to get them on microfilm. And a lot of people don't like reading microfilm so you had to blow the things up when they wanted them back. But those are little things that were hazards in the library work at that time. But one of the things I really did feel was very, very good, our index was by subject and author. Then you got into the subject and it gave you your complete title and its classification and its call number so that you could find it. So that every time this particular book had a subject it was all, we'd print it all the way along as you would, instead of having cards. Like sometimes you'd have 4 cards for a book, well, we would have something like 10 entries. Our books when we got them printed out were over 7,000 pages long. You know those great big printouts and oh, they were heavy. We lugged them from one place to another and you had to ???, to find the information. However, when I left in '76 everything was on the computer pretty well. They would have the computer print-out put on microfilm and you were able to get, I think it was 164 pages, well, it was probably more than that. Anyhow it came out that we only needed 35 of those microfilm, fiche, they were microfiche we called them. Then of course, all you had to do was put them in a microfilm reader and you just zoomed in.

#130 NM: And you would get all the information.

KT: And it was on the screen. Then if you found exactly what you wanted you pressed a button and you got the copy. So then you went to the library and you said, this is what I want and it had the call number on it. Actually I did myself out of a job in a way because once the thing. . .

NM: Technology was taking over.

KT: Well, the clerical could go and get the book off the shelf you see, pretty well. So that was fine. Another big problem in libraries of course is, material coming in has to be recorded. This is a clerical job too. But if there's an awful lot coming in the mail. . .well, sometimes we enjoyed a mail strike. Because it let us. . .

NM: You could catch up.

KT: Well, we got caught up before with the other stuff so that by the time the new came in you were pretty well able to stream it though again. I think it's very difficult when you have a backlog. Backlogs are hard on everybody.

NM: Did you have a certain budget for ordering books?

KT: No, it was open-ended. It was more or less, what you want to say when you have to buy paper and so forth and so on, it was like supplies, it was open-ended, there was no budget for it. I don't imagine though that we could have spent millions. You only bought what was requested and approved to be bought. The biggest budget of course, went to magazines and journals. We were getting 120 or 130, sometimes up to 200 journal titles coming in per month. So it was quite a large business just opening mail every day. But a lot of our material came in automatically. We had automatic reports coming up from the

States, from Carter and Esso Research. Then we would send them our reports, and that was another thing we had to do. The men would write a report, the report would be typed and so forth and so on and then they were brought to the library and we did the distribution. And we'd have a distribution list to maybe New York and Houston and where all it was supposed to go. This was because we had an inter-company research agreement and if we were going to do some research on Arctic material and they said, well, we want to buy into that, then they would get that sort of thing. So each person who wrote a report would know who it was supposed to go to so they would give us the distribution. And if they were classified material then of course, it was important to know where they went and they had to be acknowledged. And if they weren't acknowledged you had to phone and find out why they hadn't got them yet.

#170 NM: Did you have contact with other library companies?

KT: How do you mean, other library companies?

NM: For example, another oil company that has a library, did you contact them too for material. . . ?

KT: Oh yes, oftentimes. Especially in the early material. None of us had all of it and of course, my library was the largest one and they were always phoning me for material you see. So every now and again I couldn't find something and I'd have to phone, like Fran Drummond or one of these girls and, oh Kay, can we help you, I'd be so glad to after all you've done for us. Oh yes, there were certainly, we called that inter-library loan. But it was always on open material. And it was getting a bit tricky at the end because some of the companies had had to reduce their budgets and we hadn't. And they would be coming for some material that was really, so on inter-library loan you're not supposed to loan anything out that's within the year. You would be better to go to the National Research Council in Ottawa and get an inter-library loan from then than to. . . But sometimes it was so urgent you couldn't wait, so you'd have to ask if someone would please. . . There were other libraries that opened up of course, there was the library with the department of Mines and Mineral, you know, from the federal government, what's it called now? Anyway it's the earth sciences building that's up on 33rd Ave. North there. That was very interesting to have that library start up because it's the Geological Survey of Canada really. The university wasn't going you see, when I first started here. So they didn't have a university library. It was very difficult at first, I was the only librarian in Calgary that had a science degree at that time. And I think there were only about 7 or 8 trained librarians in the city at the time. So it was pretty difficult, even if we had an association. We were with the Edmonton group of course. We had to wait another 10 years and then it was just, boom. Then a lot of men came into the field and then of course, the salaries started going up. The salaries started going up and then the men came into the field, I should say it that way. But I think that a lot of people have enjoyed it, I know I certainly have enjoyed my time with the library.

NM: How many years did you stay with Imperial?

KT: 20. I started in November 19th, 1976, that was Diane Loring's??? birthday. Diane came into the office and said, you're my birthday present. So then, I left, I wanted to stay and

get my 10 years in, you see, 1966 was the time when we started with the Canada Pension Plan. And of course, when I started women were supposed to retire at 60.

NM: Oh, earlier than men.

KT: Yes, men went 65. Then I think when the feminist thing came in they decided they had equalized the women to the men and so we could. . .

NM: Everybody at 60 or everybody at 65?

KT: Everybody at 65. However, I had to pretty well retire because I was looking after my father and he wasn't too well. I found it was. . .you have to have your priorities and he was my priority.

#222 NM: You are a member of the Desk and Derrick Club, can you tell me about this club?

KT: I can't remember, I don't know when it was founded but when I was working with the public library, the Desk and Derrick was very, very high profile because so many of the secretaries and so forth were doing quite good, a lot of work. It was a club in which you studied and had social things too.

NM: For both.

KT: It was for both. They arranged field trips, so the geologists were very kind and would come and give talks. They would also write papers for us, so that when we got on the buses we would know a little bit of what we were doing and give us a very nice trail guide wherever you wanted to go. What do you call those. . .anyway they would give you a description of the geology. We would go from here to Banff, we went up to Spray Lakes. I also went on a field trip where we came down and watched the Camona??? Pipeline being laid.

NM: You were learning quite a lot about geology. . .?

KT: Yes, you learned. I always tried to take the easy way out and have some fun at the same time. We had some nice field trips. But after that, when I got into Imperial I found that I was, well, that was the year, in '58 I was president of the Alberta Library Association. So I couldn't do both so I stayed with the Library Associations rather than go with the Desk and Derrick group. But I think the girls have always enjoyed it and they made very good friends there too. It was very rewarding.

NM: You are the author of The Second Front, what is it?

KT: This is an article I wrote for, I think it was the Alberta Library Association. Have you got the full reference on that one?

NM: No, I don't.

KT: Anyway, we had listened to a librarian from the east come through, who was telling the Library Association, all the librarians that it's all very well to get their libraries to everybody in the city, but there is a 2nd front he suggested, that we also had to serve and that included the professional group. They were the doctors and lawyers and scientists. This was the 2nd Front, it was the service to the intellectual section, professional section of the city, which is really the section really, that causes the jobs etc. in many ways. My thing was to describe the library that we had started in the public library, the technical reference section, as having started our 2nd Front. If we were going to be giving service to our geologists, our geophysicists and our engineers and how we had started it and who

had instigated it, that was Cam Sproule of course, who sort of started it with the different societies. So this was the description of that public library at that time. So that's what my 2nd Front was.

#275 NM: Cam Sproule was very grateful to your for starting this library was he not?

KT: Yes, he was very pleased that it had started. Actually I imagine he should have been more grateful to Louise Riley and Mr. Castell, but however, he was very happy that I had been able to come and stay in the library. One of the things I enjoyed about it was, he was so open to anything. If I needed something I could phone him and if I didn't understand what some of the words meant, like for example, there was a formation called Albertite and I thought that should be a formation that should be in Alberta but I couldn't find it anywhere. So I phoned and he said, oh no, that's in New Brunswick. I said, oh, that's fine. As I said, I feel very brash when I think that in my ignorance I could phone the best geologist practically in town and get such kindness and never any putting me off or anything. Very often he would come over in the library and say, how are things going and so forth.

NM: So he had enjoyed helping you?

KT: Yes, he enjoyed it. Of course, his influence I think was so great. Everybody would help because he wanted it done you know. But one of the things that happened to me in '68, just after the election, Cam and I sat together on the plane going up to Edmonton. I was taking a little trip up to Inuvik you see. Anyway we had to stop in Edmonton and I had to get the CP the next day. Of course, the results of the election were out and Trudeau had got in. I don't remember seeing anybody ever, so irate and so . . . he just was sick that Trudeau had got in.

NM: ???

KT: Oh yes. And of course, I couldn't understand then what the problem was but he must have been very farsighted. He must have known that there would be something, that it would be very difficult on the oil business, as it turned out to be.

NM: Thank you very, very much Miss Taylor for this very interesting interview.