

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Tony Vandenbrink

INTERVIEWER: David Finch

DATE: March 2004

DF: Today is March 22<sup>nd</sup> in the year 2004 and we are with Mr. Tony Vandenbrink at his home at 59 Belaire Place S.W. in Calgary. My name is David Finch. So can you begin by telling us where you born?

TV: I was born on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1928 in Enschede, Holland, a city of about 100,000 people during the war years and when I was born and presently, about 160,000.

DF: What did your parents do?

TV: My dad did a number of things, he was quite an entrepreneurial type. He came through the hard times you know, we had the Dirty 30's there as well. When he first got married he was an upholsterer and if you want to put a fancy title to it, interior decorator. He did sort of make curtains and that sort of thing. When that dried up he eventually became a coal dealer. He bought a coal dealership from somebody who had retired and he ran a coal dealership from about 1937 till 1949, and migrated to Canada in 1950.

DF: What do you remember about your childhood?

TV: Quite a bit. We knew that things were very difficult, I was the eldest one of thirteen children. Church was the number one thing in our lives, everything sort of had to do with the church and the church life and what have you. By today's standards we were dirt poor but we were no worse than 90% of the population of that city. I can remember, my first memory is when I was probably about 8 years old, one of the businesses that sold chocolate, they had a special brand they called Tjoklat. If you bought 7 of them you would get a free one. My mother would buy one every Saturday to be handed out to the kids on Sunday and I gathered up the wrappers??? you know, and saved them until I had seven to buy them. After I had six I went to the grocer and I explained to him that I would give him the seventh one of the chocolate bar I was to receive and he said, no, no, we don't do it that way, you have to get the seventh one. By the time I got the seventh one I remember going to the grocer across the street and I had carried them around in my pants pocket for seven weeks, six weeks and the lady looked at them and said, I can't recognize them, I don't know what they are. The grocer, I still remember, Mr. Lindt saying, he came from behind the counter and he said, for gosh sake, give that kid his chocolate bar. And to me, that was a great deal because now you know, next Saturday and the following Sunday I was the big hero because twice the usual ration. But that gives you some idea how poor we were in those days. Nevertheless, I can't say that we ever felt that way. When the war broke out my dad was called up, he was in the Army and my mother was trying to get by with some hired hands, trying to run the business as well as she could. I was 11 years old when the war started for Holland, as far as that's concerned, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1940 we were invaded by the Germans. We were occupied for the next five years until April, 1945. We watched the war unfold but it went slowly. At first they weren't too bad and then the next

thing you know, they got tougher and tougher with the people. Then the next thing we knew all our Jewish friends had to wear a yellow star and then we saw them disappear.

#0046 DF: What did you think happened to them?

TV: We knew they were in concentration camps, we didn't know they were killing them off. We didn't learn that till after the war. There were some rumours here and this and that. I can still remember wagon loads, carloads of them, in cattle cars going by and you could hear them holler and people tried to give them some food and this and that, it was just awful. But, don't forget, these were the war years, we were subjected to air raids, the city I lived in, I can show you a book that tells you about every air raid we suffered in Enschede. When we were young kids, when I was 12 years old we were digging people out of the dirt and carrying them away on a door instead of a stretcher, that sort of thing. We grew up very fast. As a matter of fact I like to tell people, when I came to Canada I was 21 years old, going on 45. But on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1944, we got bombed out. It was an air raid by the Americans. The target was Munster, this was all researched and established after the war. Munster, a German city, was about maybe 40 kilometres east of us, we lived near the German border and they got confused and they bombed us instead. But we got bombed a lot of times because this was a textile factory city and the textile factories were working for the German war effort. They were manufacturing textiles, clothes for uniforms and this and that and the other thing. And these targets they were military targets and they tried to bomb them out. But anyway, we suffered a lot of air raids during the war. The official count is in the hundreds but they count one where they drop three or four bombs which really didn't have much damage. But the one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, it was very fortunate for us that they used fire bombs because fire bombs they just set everything on fire and unless you get hit directly by one of them it really doesn't do that much damage. Actually it's kind of like a big blowtorch after it goes off that sits in the house. We could throw them out, grab them on one end and throw them out but if they rained them down you can't get rid of them fast enough. We lived on a street called the Borneo Straat, this is an island in the Dutch East Indies, Borneo, Borneo Straat, that's where we lived. On the one side of us was a big church, the Christian Reformed Church that was also burnt down at the same time. On the other side of us was a commercial high school that probably had about 1,000 students in it but it was also damaged but didn't burn down because it was mainly brick and there was nothing there to burn to speak of. Anyway, we got through the war okay, these things you know, my dad was very active with the church to try and get food because people were starving to death. We would go to the farmers in the area and we had horses and wagons and he would collect food, maybe get some potatoes and this and that and someone would go to the church and hand it out to all the people that were on the edge of starvation. We were not as badly off as they were in western Holland, we were in the east and it's more of a rural community. But nevertheless, people weren't getting enough to eat. As a matter of interest, the incident of heart disease in Holland during the war went down probably by 50-60%. Because people were, you know, when I grew up, I can still remember, a guy that we really thought was a strong man and that's the way we all wanted to be was a fellow by the name Homma. He

#091 was a cheese dealer, he sold cheese to the people and this guy had a gut on him, he probably was 50" in diameter but that was something you wanted. There was nobody around that was fat. They have the same obesity problem we have here today. Anyway, we got through the war again. I can sit here for the next two hours and talk about the war years but I don't think that's the intent of this. It did leave us with, you know, it marked us. We were different, we became more serious earlier. I remember this friend of mine that just died, he still talks about it. My dad, we had a couple of trucks before the war and again, after the war, we got some of these army trucks that were surplus, after the war, of course, there were lots of them around. But before the war we had those trucks hidden so the Germans wouldn't get them but of course, when we got bombed out they were gone as well. This friend Ben Bangen, he recalls that we got a call that we had to deliver some caskets to an emergency mortuary. This mortuary was actually part of the textile school, they just had cleared out a room, the gymnasium probably, and that's where they took a lot of the victims that had died after an air raid. So now we have to go down there and deliver these coffins, we had about 25 of them on the cart. We got there, the Germans were in charge, along with some Dutch people, but the Dutch people worked there, the Germans were in charge. They just told us, okay, the ones that have a tag on their toe, put them in a casket, put the lid on, put the tag on the lid. We were 14 years old. He still talks about it. Well, not anymore, he's the guy who just died of cancer. He says, Tony, that's the first and the last time I went for a ride with you. But we got through the war, 1945, we were liberated by Canadian soldiers. I can still remember, well, I remember it very well of course, it was one of the main events in my life and my family's life. We were bombed out in '44, we took the bricks of the old house and chopped the cement off and built a temporary house on the outskirts of the city. The reason we moved to the outskirts of the city, as the city was being destroyed, and by the end of the war, 25% of it was gone, the city fathers were also sort of doing some planning. Don't forget, the city is 800 years old. If you were building it today you wouldn't build it like that. You wouldn't have a coal dealer between a church and a high school. Further more the coal dealer would like to be near the harbour where a lot of his produce came in and near a railroad siding where a lot of his coal came in that came from the mines in Limburg in southern Holland. So they told my dad, okay, we will take your property downtown and we'll give you a piece of industrial land on the edge of the city near the harbour. So that's where we moved to and built this temporary house. The good part was, we had a spur going right adjacent to our warehouses, we built a few small warehouses as well, to hold the coal. It was all rationed during the war but nevertheless some of it was coming in. We no sooner had moved in, in October than the Germans moved in. Moved in, by that I mean, they had four flat cars and on these flat cars they had mounted a 37 mm. anti-aircraft gun. That was standard  
#137 equipment for that and they moved them into areas that were right behind the front lines. At that point we were about . . . the front offensive had stopped at Nymegen, you've heard that word I'm sure, this is near Arnhem, where the great parachute drop took place that everybody's heard about, A Bridge Too Far, that Arnhem. Anyway, of course, when you're 30 miles behind the front lines there's a lot of transportation, troops are moving around, supplies are being brought up and that sort of thing and they were protecting or

trying to protect against the planes coming in and dropping bombs on them and strafing them and that sort of thing. So the next thing we know we have four of them in our back yard along with a cookhouse and another railroad car that they slept in, a crew of about 24. Mostly guys that were not fit for infantry because they were not physically well enough. One of them I recall, had only one eye, but they were mostly Austrians. When Austria was annexed by Germany, they called them Reich-Deutsche, in other words, they weren't Germans but they were very close so they would say, okay, we are sort of the same and they called these guys up and they fought in the German Army during the war. But they were not near as fanatic, Nazi, they were less fanatic as the rest of them, than the SS for instance. And not only that, these guys, most of them hadn't been in the First World War. These guys were 25 years old, well, the Second World War started 22 years after the First one was finished. So these guys were there and they were telling us they didn't like Hitler and this and that and the other thing. Of course, the first thing they told us, dig yourself a trench in the shape of an E because we're going to get attacked. And you are going to be in the line of fire. So build that trench in the shape of an E, about 6' deep so no matter where the fighter planes come from you can always be against the fire because they always attack with the sun in their back. If they were in the morning they would come from the east of course, and if they were in the afternoon they would come from the south. But at any rate, I can still remember, we dug that trench and my mother came out of the kitchen which was 10' away and looked at it and she said, if you think you're going to get me in there you're crazy. The first time they started strafing those anti-aircraft guns she was in there, up to her knees in the mud with the rest of us and liking it. We improved on that. My dad got hold of some great big cement storm sewer pipes, you've seen them here, they were probably about 6' in diameter. He had about maybe 5 or 6 of them, they were about 4 or 5 feet wide so we had a thing that was about 20-25' long.

#180 We buried that into the ground, halfway down, then we covered it with dirt, about 2' dirt on top of it. At each entrance it was protected by a sod wall that was supported by planks, it was about 2' thick. So unless you had a direct hit you were as safe there as you were in your mother's arms. That's where we went into on April 1<sup>st</sup>, when we heard the fighting coming closer and closer and we thought that liberation would be fairly close. I remember standing there, and actually it had been quite an interesting Easter for us, because my dad had come up, at that time there were only 12 of us. . . wait a minute, 1945, maybe there were 11 children at that time, but he had come up with a half a dozen eggs and everybody got a half an egg for Easter and that was something that was unheard of. Anyway, we no sooner finished breakfast we went into the shelter. I was standing there watching behind that wall at the entrance and I see a British tank come up, one of these scout cars, rubber wheels but reinforced and it just came up the street, across the railroad track, turned around and went back again. We knew they were very close and it wasn't more than two hours and the tanks came in and the infantry right behind it. British on the one side of town, Canadians on the other side of town. We got liberated by them, I still remember, we were, as I told you, we were sitting on this crossroads. . . By the way, the Germans had left about 4 or 5 days before that. When the front moved too close they moved further

back again so they were out of the way. We were maybe, half a kilometre from the harbour. There was some fighting around there, there was a bridge across the canal that was also blown up. There was a little fighting where we were at, at the farm next to us, there was an old farm there. There were a few soldiers there but it only took a couple of shots with the tank and it was all over, they came out with their hands up. And really, they were worried about a counter-attack, because it was a sort of strategic area where we lived with the railroad and the harbour and all that sort of thing. I still remember, we were digging the foxholes for the infantry and they were giving us bread. White bread was like angel food cake to us. And they gave us this mixture of tea and milk and sugar, it was all premixed and all you do was pour hot water on it, we had tea and they had tea and we were working away and they were laughing there and having fun with the girls and what have you. They were our liberators of course. Tons and tons of people around there. I remember in one spot there, a few hundred metres from our house, my dad was wandering around and there was a tank and a lot of people around and there was a wounded German soldier. He was lying on a Panzerfaust. A Panzerfaust was an anti-tank gun and the

#230 literal translation is armour-fist. Anyway, this wounded soldier, he was trying to get this Panzer faust into position to blow up the tank that he was maybe 30 yards away from. My dad noticed it and he kicked it out of his hands. That's one incident I remember. I remember another one, myself and some friends headed for a German warehouse because we needed clothes, we hadn't had any leather shoes, we spent the last two years in wooden shoes in Holland. We knew there was lots of good stuff there, we went into a textile factory called Rigsterbleek. The Germans were gone by then and we went in there and started stealing supplies. I remember amongst other things, I ended up with five sets of paratrooper boots. Those paratrooper boots, they were beautiful, they were high boots, the same ones that the paratroopers wear here, beautiful leather and they were wine coloured and black. When I got home, on the way home we stole some uniforms that my mother could remake into clothes and this and that and on the way home we got caught in the crossfire between the Germans and the Canadian soldiers and we spent a couple of hours in the ditch. We were not in danger or anything because as long as you kept your head down nothing would happen. But when that quit we carried on and got home and lo and behold, when I got home I came to the conclusion that I had four pair and two left ones. I must have spent two weeks scouring the city looking for the guy that had the two right ones, which we never did find. But anyway, that was the liberation. After the liberation we got to know the Canadian soldiers really well because it took at least a year to get them all back home again. Because transportation was limited of course, and it was first in, first out. The ones that had come overseas first they were the first ones to go back. A lot of them came and visited us for days on end. These guys had nothing to do, they were killing time, we were telling stories, they were teaching us English. We were taking English in school anyway and we got to know them quite well and they told us about Canada and what a great country it was. About the gold in the streets. I found out when I came here it was black gold and most of it was a few thousand metres below the surface but nevertheless, they were nice guys and they kind of made us consider Canada as a

place to go after the war. There's one thing you have to remember about Holland. When you go to school they teach you three languages and there's a real need for it and it works because, if you want a job in Holland, like your job, my job, even a porter in a hotel, if you travel, if I'm a salesman for instance and I travel 100 miles east, 100 miles west, 100 miles south, I have to speak either French, German or English. These guys that you want to do business with are not going to learn Dutch so they can do business with you. So it is a given that if you want to be anything but a labourer you better learn these languages. So consequently when you go to Holland today you'd be hard pressed to find somebody, particularly the younger generations, well, you can go to Amsterdam and you won't find anybody that doesn't speak English. I tell you, you'd have a tough time. I remember taking four of my directors over there, on the way to Nigeria where we were dedicating a new building and they were surprised, they couldn't find anybody that they could talk to. Anyway, we are now at the end of the war, Holland, the Dutch colonies, the Dutch East Indies was occupied by the Japanese, after the battle there in 1942. The Japanese were still there, in May and they were recruiting people to go over there and recover the Dutch colonies from the enemy. Then of course, they dropped the bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima and that was the end of the Japanese conflict. But the Japanese were still in Indonesia because there was nobody there to accept their surrender. They had really treated the colonials, the Dutch people that worked there very badly, they were in Burma, they were in prison camps and on and on and on. So it was very urgent for us to get over there and get control of that. Louis Mountbatten finally got there in 1945, probably August, probably 6 weeks, 2 months after the war was officially terminated. The Indonesians, they want their independence and they got a lot of their weapons and what have you, from the Japanese army, because they all were prisoners of war, they all left and the weapons were left behind and of course, they had two months to get organized because there was nobody there to keep it. . .and the Japanese knew it was over. One thing about the Japanese, they liked the Indonesians, who were Asians, a lot better than the whites, than the round-eyes. After the war Holland started sending troops over there and I was called up towards the end of 1947. The way it worked in Holland, if you got called up, you were called up into the Army but you could volunteer for the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps had always been a volunteer army, it was a professional army. In Holland, when you were down and out there were probably two options left for you if you were a young man. One was to go into the French Foreign Legion or one could enter the Royal Dutch Marine Corps. They were both the same, they were very tough, there was the discipline. Because a lot of the guys that ended up there, they weren't exactly the stars in the community. The discipline was very, very tough and they made some very good marines out of them. The reason I joined them or asked to join them was pretty simple. They paid 56 guilders per month, the army paid 30 guilders per month. I found out later on of course, why they paid more. You had to do more. And you were the first ones in on a landing and that sort of thing. Another thing, they had nicer uniforms, they had dress shoes for instance instead of the usual army boots and the girls liked them a lot better. So I became a Marine. After my basic training in Bergen op Zoom, a little city in the southern part of Holland on the west coast. We got our basic training there and I was

shipped off to Indonesia and was in Indonesia in '48 and '49. In '49, towards the end of '49, December '49 I came home. That was when they signed the Armistice. The battle there was over and the Indonesians got their independence. The war over there, it was guerilla warfare really. You never had a defined front line, you might capture some area and then the next thing you know, they're right in behind you again. It was a war much like the Vietnam war, that really couldn't be won. And furthermore, which Holland didn't know but the rest of the world, but learned very quickly, that the colonial period was over. It was not only Holland. Holland was one of the first but it was India, it was all the colonial areas in Africa, they all became independent. A lot of them, the people in many of those colonies were better off under their previous masters than they were under the new regimes. Because I've spent a lot of time in Africa.

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Tape 1 Side 2

TV: I've spent a lot of time in Africa and frankly, I think it is a doomed continent. That is an awful thing to say but from what I've seen in Africa, there's not a single democracy that works, the country doesn't work, it never will work. Because their culture is so different from ours. The golden rule, and their golden rule is whoever has the gold rules. I don't think that will ever change, I don't know, maybe it will, maybe I'm too pessimistic. I've worked there and done business there for 20 years, we worked in virtually every part of Africa. We had offices in Nigeria, in Lagos, in Joss???, which is the central part of Africa and in Kano, the northern part of Nigeria. This is all Muslim, that part of the country. Around Lagos there are quite a few Christian people there, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, that sort of thing. We worked there for years and years, in 1985 I pulled the company out. We just could no longer function, the corruption, we couldn't deal with it anymore and we just had to get out, it was chaos. That's Africa.

DF: So how did you end up in Canada then?

TV: I got back in December 1949, got my discharge from the Marine Corps about mid-January. My dad had already decided to go to Canada and in order to kind of look things over and see what was going on here he sent my younger brother, Jake, he's a year younger than I am, to Canada and he arrived here in December 1948. He started out working on a farm, \$45 a month, because at that time, what they were really looking for here was farm labourer. In Holland he went to the farm and learned to milk and this and that and the other thing so he could present himself as a farm labourer. He was 18 years old, he came to Edmonton, he worked on the farm there for about 3 months. He eventually ended up in Whitehorse. He had been an apprentice baker in Holland and he became a chef for the Air Force in Whitehorse in the Officers Mess. When we arrived in February, at that time he'd been here about 14 months, he had managed to save \$1,200 which was a tremendous amount of money. Because we were only allowed to bring in \$100 each because at that time there were currency controls. To back up a little bit. . . So he is in Canada and he's writing back and forth. My dad says, okay, I know a carpenter can make \$1 an hour and all that good stuff but tell me, what can you buy with it. So he sent him an Eaton catalogue to give him some idea what the purchasing power of the

dollar was so he could compare it. So when I came back from Indonesia, in December, just before Christmas 1949, my dad said, look, we are going to Canada and the way we're going to do it is Max, my third brother and Casey and I are going for sure and if you want to come along you're more than welcome. We'd like you to come but we know you haven't thought about it so decide whether you want to come or not. I had worked in a factory in Holland for maybe 6 months or so and I was working in that factory as a sort of cost-price accountant. I worked in the textile factory where they did the printing of the textiles and I had to calculate what it would cost for labour and paint and all that sort of thing, to print a yard of cotton so to speak. When I came back the veterans could get their old jobs back. So here I am a veteran, 21 years old. I come back to Enschede, I go to the factory, yes, I can go back. We've got another guy there, he was 4-F, couldn't go into the army and we are very happy with him but we know we have to hire you back. I looked at that and said, god, I don't want to work in that factory for the next 50 years and that's the way it was in those days. You go to that factory, 50 years, gold watch, good-bye. I decided I would go to Canada with the other two. So the four of us, my dad and three sons, left Holland on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1950 and arrived here, we got to Red Deer probably around the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, roughly, within a few days. The reason we stopped in Red Deer is because we had some friends that had migrated before us, that were living there. In Red Deer, another thing, Red Deer had a Dutch community not too far away from Lacombe, these people had come 20-30 years earlier. A lot of these people were prepared to help and get the new migrants settled and help along and steer them in the right direction and that sort of thing. When I came to Red Deer, you had to have a job before you could go, and another thing about immigration that you have to remember in those days, it was a lot different than today. Our family had to go to the Hague, to the Canadian Embassy. They all had to be checked out from a health point of view, make sure they were healthy, they had to bring along their report cards, their scholastic records, they had to bring along the certificate from the chief of police that you were an upstanding citizen, that sort of thing. All this sort of documentation that you needed, membership in the church, birth certificates, all that sort of thing because they wanted to make sure that when you came to Canada you were going to contribute to society rather than live off it. We passed all that. Since I had been in the Marines I could go very quickly. When I was in Sura Baya, ready to go home I had an option to go to Australia, right then and there, right from Indonesia. This is a very short trip but of course, I wanted to go home and be with my family. But some of them that had no family back home, they took that option. We went to Canada, we arrived in Red Deer, I had a job in the Yukon driving a truck. My brother had arranged for that. But when I got to Red Deer it was about 30 below, I had just come back from Indonesia. The lapsed time was a couple of months from the time I came from Indonesia to the time I'm sitting there in 30 below. Another thing, I had been on Atabrine. Atabrine is a medication that you take to make sure you don't get malaria. You have to take one of those pills every day. I don't know whether they stopped the malaria, I think they did but one thing they did do, they turned you yellow. You couldn't tell that because you were always sunburned and brown so it was covered up. The minute you turned normal again and the suntan disappeared you looked like you had yellow

jaundice, like you were on death's door. That's the way I looked in February 1950. I decided that rather than go to the Yukon I would like to find a job in Red Deer. And I wanted to get into the oil field. Because on the train from Halifax to Red Deer, which took five days, immigrant train, wooden benches, we lived on milk and cheese and bread for five days with the exception of Winnipeg, we had a couple of hours there and we stopped in and got a warm meal and we ended up in Red Deer, mind you, no great hardship for us, that's the way we were used to living anyway. . . I decided that I'd like to work there because this conductor on the train had told me, if I was a young man like you I would get into the oil field. Leduc had just been discovered a few years before. He said, that's where the opportunities are and I decided I was going to get in the oil fields. So I figured, the oil fields are in Alberta, I don't want to be in the Yukon, I want to be in central Alberta if I can find a job here. Now here is Red Deer, 1950, middle of the winter, cold as can be, probably 50% unemployment. In 1950 we hadn't learned yet how to operate effectively in the winter. For instance, construction of houses shut right down, none of that happened. And by and large, a lot of the people, particularly the labourers and so on, they worked for six months and then went on the pogy for six months. So I went to a place called the PTS, the Provincial Training School, which is now called the Michener Centre. Which also one of the main buildings that I knew at the time was burned down here in a fire about six months ago. I was going to go to the Provincial Training School, I went to the Provincial Training School to see if I could get a job there. I managed to get an interview with Dr. L. J. LeVann, who was the medical superintendent. So I go to see him and I get an interview and I tell him I'm looking for a job and he said, what have you been doing and I told him. He decided to hire me. He told me, when you report for work next Monday you go and see the matron, her name is such and such and he pointed out the window, and that's where she is, in that office. Okay. Matron, what is a matron. I thought a matron was, from my limited English at the time, although I could get by quite well, was an old lady, a kind of upscale old lady, if that's the right expression. But it turned out to be she was the head nurse. And she will give you the keys. I figured, now what do I need keys for. The reason I needed keys, this was a home for mental defective children, they had no doorknobs on the doors. You went in, opened up with a key and it locked in behind you because they wanted to contain them, they didn't want them running around loose. These children, they varied but their IQ's were from about 20 to about 85. They had them categorized in three categories, idiots, from 0-30, imbeciles, from 30-60 IQ, morons, from 60-90. That was the population. They were all in different wards and anyway, I went to work there. That is where I met my wife, she was a night supervisor, which means that she was the supervisor on the night shift, relieving the regular supervisors and what have you and also working as a nurse, she was a mental nurse.

#139 DF: And her first name?

TV: Kay, but Kathleen Rose Archibald.

DF: So how did you get into the oil industry?

TV: I kept writing letters and writing letters. I didn't really know how to go about it but I kept

writing letters of application. It didn't get me anywhere, I never got a reply. Then one of my nephews, no cousin, Max Vandenbrink from Rocky Mountain House, that's where he lives now, he got a job with Seaman Engineering. Seaman is Doc and B. J. and Don Seaman, that was their first company, Seaman Engineering and then they had another company called Sedco, which was Seaman Drilling Co. He went to work there and my brother Jake found a job there and they told me about it. So I got in touch with them and I got an interview with B. J. Seaman, a good friend of mine, known him for years. I know all the Seaman's, they're good friends of mine. He interviewed me in Calgary and I got a job working for Sedco, Seaman Drilling Co. They were running some smaller rigs that were doing stratigraphic testing, drilling wells to about 2,500', on the Indian Reserve in Gleichen. The job that I got paid \$175 a month, I had to pay \$75 for room and board. When I was working at the Provincial Training School, after tax, room and board, everything paid for, I would have \$113 net. Now a Dutch custom that we followed of course, when we first came here, when you went to work in Holland you gave all your money to your parents and they would give you some pocket money for spending. Really, you did not keep the money you earned until you were about ready to get married, maybe the last year while you were engaged before you got married you could keep your own money. So of that \$113 I would send \$80 home. My brothers and sisters all did the same thing, which really helped to get the family going of course. Because when we first got here, about 4 of them were working, 9 of them were at home. And by the way that \$1,200 I told you about that Jake gave to my dad bought a quarter section of land in Rocky Mountain House, had a 700 square foot house, is maybe an exaggeration but it was a swelling on there and we fixed that up and when my mother showed up in July with the other, let me see, 9 children, that's where they moved into and that's where they lived. Three miles from town, my dad walked back and forth to town to work in the creamery. Six months later he got himself an old Ford and he was driving to town, the kids were walking to school and what have you. Another interesting thing that happened, the children and my dad, I mean, don't forget they used the language very quickly, this was total immersion, you spoke English or you had to somehow make yourself understood so they learned very quickly. What was starting to happen in our home, they kids would speak English amongst themselves, when my mother addressed them they would speak Dutch to her and she would speak Dutch to them. My dad at a certain point said, your mother is getting to be a stranger in her own home, from now on we're going to speak only one language in this house and that's going to be English. So my mother had total immersion. Six months later she was writing letters to my girlfriend Kay, and those letters were pretty good, I wish I still had some of them. Sure, they had some mistakes but I'll tell you I know a lot of grade 12 students would make mistakes just like she did. That's a little aside. So I went to work in Gleichen and I worked for a fellow by the name of Jim Bergum. I'd worked there about six weeks. . .

#201 DF: What were you doing?

TV: I was a driller's helper, they called it, on this little drilling rig. Here's a picture of me when I worked there. You see, here's the kind of rig it was, it wasn't much of a rig you

know. But Jimmy Bergum was the driller and we were right on the baldheaded prairie, one day a car drives up and friend of his by the name of Bruce Gilbertson shows up. He was a driller for Arrow Drilling, on what we called a big rig, in other words a rig that was drilling for oil and gas as compared to one of those exploration type rigs. He went to Jim and said, Jim, I've got an opening, I need a roughneck, do you want to come roughneck on a big rig. Jim said, what does it pay, he said, it pays about \$1 an hour but there's all the overtime, you can easily make \$300 a month. Jim said, well, I want to think about that, can you come back tomorrow and I'll let you know. On the way home that night in the company pickup I asked him, Jim what are you going to do. He said, Tony, I've been with this company for 2 years, I've got 2 years seniority, I make \$225 a month, and I really think I'm better off to stay here. I said, Jim, I've been with the company 6 weeks, I make \$175 a month and I would love to have that job. He said, Tony, you stay with me, you'll do all right here and on and on. I said, well Jim, I would really like to have the job. So we got to Gleichen and a few beers later I had him talked into it, that he would recommend me. So the following morning, while we were working Bruce Gilbertson shows up and he says, Jim what have you decided. He said, I don't want to take the job but I've got this Dutchman over here, he would like to have the job. Bruce comes over and talks to me, he said, can you be at the Royal Café in Bassano at 11:00 tonight, I said, yes, I think I can, I'll be finished here at 4:00, we'll drive back to Gleichen, I'll pay out the boarding house lady, pack my clothes and have to hitchhike to Bassano, which was, what was it, 20 miles or so, yes, I can be there. He said, okay, you've got the job if you're there at 11:00 tonight. I said, what do I need, he said, the only thing you need is a pair of cotton gloves. I've got the, anything else, no. So I went to the Royal Café, this was right part of the Royal Hotel there in Bassano, I got there about 10:30 or so, hitchhiked down there. They didn't have a boarding house or anything, I found that the next day, and I went to work on the midnight shift. In those days you know, we didn't wear hard hats, we didn't have hard toed boots. Safety was very elementary, not a high priority. Even the records those days. You never filled out an application form, they wouldn't know your next-of-kin or anything. What you did, you put your name in the tower book, you've seen those sheets, the driller goes and asks the derrick man, the motor man and the two roughnecks and you just put your name in there and every two weeks a cheque would show up with that name on it. And they wouldn't know anything about you, they wouldn't know how old you were, they wouldn't know whether you were crippled, whether you were black, white or green, that was the way it was those days. Another thing, in those days, a driller was responsible for his crew. He hired his crew. They didn't have a human resource department, they didn't have anybody to hire, if a driller got fired his crew was fired. You were one unit. The driller, derrick man, motor man and two roughnecks. So I went to work there and we worked there through the summer. One incident through the summer that is probably worth recording is that, apparently I was very fortunate that as things turned out, that I didn't get deported. We had finished the well and were getting ready to move to the next one. But trucks were hard to get those days so we sat there for about three days. The first day we painted everything inside, the next day we did a little more but the rig was painted from one end to the other, everything is done, nothing left to do.

Just sitting there waiting for trucks to show up. Finally, about 2:00 one afternoon somebody says, why don't we go and have a barbecue. Some of the crew were staying in Brooks and some in Bassano and we were working out of a place near Gem, a little village out there. The decision was made to have a party and a barbecue there. So what they were going to do is one crew would go to Brooks to pick up the girlfriends they had there, another one would go to Gleichen and do the same thing and Gleichen had a liquor store, and pick up some booze. The third crew, which was Bruce Gilbertson and the derrick man was Jake Enns and the motor man was Harry Laferty and I forget what the other roughnecks name was, that worked with me, they would go out and get a steer. So we went out to a fence rider that they knew, you know, he's the guy that looked after the cattle and checked the fences and all the sort of things that a fence rider does, a cowboy really. Went to him and asked him to borrow his rifle, he said, yes, but what do you want to do with it, he said, we're going to shoot a colt. Lots of wild horses out there. We'll shoot a colt, we're going to butcher it, we're going to have a barbecue, the guys will never know the difference. And they probably wouldn't have, I've eaten lots of horse meat during the war and they probably wouldn't have known the difference. Anyway, they go out and shoot a calf. They butcher the calf but only take the two hind quarters and leave the rest lying there. They come back to the rig. . . Okay, I'm getting a little bit ahead of myself. So now our crew is supposed to get that calf. The reason we were elected to do that, because the car that he had was a Chev and it was called a salesman's car. The reason it was called that, it had no back seat in it. The back seat was kind of a floor where the salesman could put his samples in and so on and so forth and that's where we would ride, sitting on a bit box. You know what a bit box is, the carton box that drilling bits come in, and we would sit there. Seat belts hadn't been invented either you know, that was just the way it went. But he said,

#318 now we have to have room for the calf, so Harry Laferty, Jake Enns and Bruce were going to go over there and get that steer and you guys go ahead and start building a fire, use some wood, planks around the rig and what have you, on the pipe racks and when we come back we'll put a stake through it and hang it in the fire and turn it with pipe wrenches and cook the meat. So I was not there when the dastardly deed was done. Anyway, this fence rider, the following day, back on his travels, he comes upon the remains of that calf. He reports it to the RCMP of course, so the next thing we know the RCMP is on our doorstep. It didn't take them long to figure out what had happened. Plus the fact that these little towns, the girls there talked, the story had come out. Anyway, we were going to make restitution fast and we paid that farmer or rancher about \$250 for that calf, which was a fortune. \$250, in today's money, would be like \$3,000. 1 to 2. A roughneck was getting \$1 an hour, a roughneck is now getting about \$20 an hour. We paid that but the thing had to go to court. Mind you, meanwhile there's another issue starting to develop, there's a steel strike, companies can't get casing, we can't get tubing so drilling is virtually shut down. But there's a new company starting up called Trident Drilling. Trident Drilling is looking for crews. One of the guys, a fellow by the name of Louis Yoast, is rigging up a brand new rig in Didsbury. We have, our crew that is, Bruce Gilbertson, you know he's hired to go to work there. And of course, when Bruce

Gilbertson is hired we are hired. So we're going to go and work on this brand new drilling rig, except there is one little thing that has to be dealt with and that is this court case. We have to go to court but you know, we've made restitution and we're pretty guys and it will probably be a suspended sentence, at the worst. Anyway, we're sitting in the Royal Café waiting for these guys to show up so we can go to Didsbury and lo and behold, here the guys walk in, all three of them, handcuffed to an RCMP officer. They all got six months in jail so they all went to Lethbridge. Here I am, I'm a landed immigrant, I've got my papers. If I would have been in that car. . . this was just a draw, you know, I mean, if they would have told me I would have been in there, what the heck, that's what you do here, what do I know about that. Anyway, I wasn't there and I stayed in Canada. These guys all went to jail. I was looking for a job and I found a job out of Edmonton. I went to Edmonton and in Edmonton if you wanted a job there were two places you went to get it.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

TV: Either you went to the Commercial Hotel on 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., talk to the bartender, he kind of would keep track, a list of fellows that were looking for people and another one was the Pig and Whistle. The Pig and Whistle was a restaurant on Jasper Ave. in Edmonton and about 107<sup>th</sup> St. Sure enough I went to the Pig and Whistle and the waiters there told me, yes, this guy Hughey Acheson is looking for a derrick man. So I found Hugh Acheson, hired on and I became a derrick man and we went to work for Trident Drilling who were rigging up a rig in Busby. Busby is east of Legal, just about maybe 40-50 miles out of Edmonton. We stayed in Edmonton, we met every morning or afternoon or evening, whatever shift we were on, at the Pig and Whistle restaurant and from there we went to work and came back and that's where they dropped us off and we found our way to our respective boarding houses. Anyway, we went to work there, it was Trident Rig #10, the tool pusher was Ben Geary. The rig was brand new, we rigged it up brand new and we started drilling and we were on a dirt road, probably about 4 miles from the good road and before too long the road became practically impassable. So we got in for awhile with a 4 wheel drive, then when that no longer worked we got a farmer with his horse and wagon to bring us in and out again. Then when it got so bad the horses couldn't get through, we had to walk in and out. So we would leave the restaurant, we'd take a ride up there which was a little less than an hour, we'd walk in which would be an hour and a half, slip and slide to the drilling rig and then we'd work out 8 hour shifts and do the same thing going back. So it was 12-13 hours to get an 8 hours shift in. So that wasn't going to work, so what we did instead, we decided to work 16 hours shifts and that way we only would have to make that track half as often. So that's how we finished the well. After that well we went to, where did we go next, Camrose. While I was in Camrose. . . no, sorry, I have to back up again. . . from there we went to Farintosh. We worked in Farintosh for Shell Oil. We had a very bad fishing job there. A fishing job is when you lose tools down the hole and you have to fish them out. It took us about 70 days to get that out, it was the

worst thing in the world, it almost bankrupted the company. What happened, we were there in

- #039 October and this well is supposed to take about 3 weeks to drill. Now we get into this fishing job and it goes on and on and the rig had not been properly winterized because we were supposed to be finished before it got to be winter. Consequently it was cold and miserable and on and on and on and for awhile, I was the only derrick man there. I would sleep in the tool pusher's shack and they would bring me food from town and I would just sleep there and when the trip had to be made, pipe had to be pulled out of the hole, I went back up the derrick. And for about a week I got paid 24 hours a day. I didn't work 24 hours a day of course, but I probably worked 12-14 and slept in between you see. Whenever they needed me, back up the tree. In early April, I'm sleeping in my boarding house in Farintosh and Ben Geary comes along, he wakes me up about 11:00 at night. He says, one of the drillers quit and I'd like you to be a driller. I figured, man alive, now I've worked on a drilling rig for 17 months. I knew that rig quite well but I didn't know anything about drilling. But I figured, well, I can always go back working derrick so I'll give it a try. So I started as a driller. Every now and then we would go to the beer parlour for a drink and that's where I would get my education. I would steer the conversation around to, how do you unball a drilling bit, how do you keep from getting stuck, how do you do this, how do you do that. And there was always 15 different ways to do everything and arguments would develop but I was picking it all up and learning. I continued to work for Trident Drilling as a driller. Next we drilled some more wells in Farintosh, I got married when I was a driller. My wife at that point was working at Edmonton at the Charles Camsell Hospital, in the lab, as a lab assistant. When I was working in Farintosh I would go, on my long change, you know how the system worked, we only got 32 hours off every three weeks, that was it, you worked every day the rig worked. So I would drive to Edmonton, pick her up, she would drive from Edmonton to Red Deer where our parents lived and her dad, her mother had died, I never knew her, she died very young, 1949, she was 45 years old. Anyway, we would drive to Red Deer where our parents lived and I'd get some sleep in the back seat and that night we would have dinner and go out and do whatever on Saturday, that was Saturday morning 8:00 till Sunday afternoon 4:00. Sunday morning we might visit, we might go to church, whatever, at noon she would go
- #073 back to Edmonton, I would go back to the drilling rig. When we got married, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1953, we were living in Ponoka. We had an apartment rented, we had paid a months rent in advance and we had been on a short honeymoon into the United States. I wasn't even a Canadian citizen yet, I'd only been in Canada at that point, about three years. You had to be here for five years before you could apply for your citizenship. But we got across the border okay, came back, my car broke down. I had a 1952 Pontiac, virtually new, it only had 11,000 miles on it but there was some transmission problems. We got it fixed, it cost a lot of money, we got back to Red Deer, we limped back to Red Deer, my cheque wasn't there, it was supposed to be there from Trident. I had to borrow \$5 from my father-in-law so we could buy some groceries and go to Ponoka, the car in the garage getting fixed. I'm sure that he wasn't too sure about his new son-in-law at that time. Anyway, we got that squared around. Then the rig got shut down, I got laid off of course, you always do when

the rig shuts down and I went to work for Reading and Bates as a derrick man again. Reading and Bates was a well known drilling firm, one of the few that survived all the ordeals that the industry has gone through in the early 80's and what have you and is still very active in the United States, it's a very good company. I worked for a driller, he was about 60 years old, he was from Oklahoma, a nice fellow for about 3 weeks until my old rig started up again. My parents lived by then, on a farm in Sylvan Lake and I was boarding with them while I was working at a rig near Eckville, which was fairly close. So I worked there for about three weeks so you might say that shortly after I got married I went back to mother again. They pulled my leg about that a number of times. Our rig started up again and I worked on various drilling rigs for Trident in Camrose. When I was in Camrose I was drilling, I got a derrick man that. . . no, an old farmer that went to work for me as a boiler man. His name was Charlie Meketsel. He was very good and he was very pleased to get the job because he was a farmer. What happened about five years later, by then I was pushing tools, he couldn't read or write but that didn't matter, he knew how to fire that boiler. He had learned that because these boilers were the same that they used from the old thrashing machines in the old days.

#114 DF: What was the fuel on those boilers?

TV: Coal. Later on, we switched around, when they became automatic, to ??? and diesel fuel and that sort of thing. But those days they were coal and Charlie Meketsel, he really liked his job and he was a good guy, I mean, this was the best job he'd ever had. By then it was probably \$1.25 or \$1.50 an hour. Lo and behold the boiler inspector comes out and now Charlie Meketsel has to write an exam because they've decided that these guys have to be licensed, they have to be 4<sup>th</sup> class engineers, steam engineers. Well, Charlie couldn't write. So I went and talked to the boiler inspector and said, look, why don't you give him his exam and I'll go down to visit him and I'll do the writing for him, I'll give him the questions, he'll give me the answers and then you can do the verbal one, they did a verbal one as well. If he can pass that way fine, if he can't we'll have to do something else. He said, okay, we'll do that. He passed and he got a certificate that he was a 4<sup>th</sup> class engineer. He framed it, it was always hanging in the boiler house and every night when he went home it went home with him. It was his proudest possession and he worked for us until he was 70 years old.

DF: Great.

TV: To carry on. . .

DF: What was the next major step in your career?

TV: When I became a tool pusher. I was working north of Grande Prairie. I had gone up there in October. My oldest son was four months old, when I came back again he was eight months old. It was too far away, not enough time to go home on your long change, your 32 hours off. One day Ben Geary, who was pushing tools on that rig as well, we both had worked by then, I had drilled on 10 or 12 different drilling rigs for Trident and he had pushed a half dozen of them and he had asked for me and I was working up there for him. Of course, those days, you didn't say, I don't want to go up north, I want to work near Red Deer. I was working on a rig in Red Deer, 10 miles out, it was going to last all

winter. No, when the company wanted you to go you went. Anyway, he came up to me and he said, Tony, you've got to check with Edmonton, another guy is coming up here to replace you, they're going to set you up pushing tools, on Rig 10, the same rig that I started off on when I was brand new as a roughneck. By now, I've got 3½ years experience, I'm going to be a tool pusher. A tool pusher normally takes 8-10 years so I was very fortunate, very inexperienced but I managed well and kept it going. Anyway, I get back home to Red Deer, my wife is living on Michener Hill in a little basement suite and that is a real misnomer because it was just . . . it had no water, it had no sewer, it had no telephone, it had an outhouse in the back and that's where she lived with her baby, working at the PTS. My sister, who also worked at the PTS, would look after the baby when she was at work. She would go to work with the baby in the car, my sister would grab the baby and go back home again, that's how they lived. That sounds tough but that's the way it was those days, everybody lived like that. I went pushing tools, bought a trailer, 26x8 and a few years later I got a bigger one, 35x8, and we lived in that until I became a superintendent for Bawden Drilling and could live in Sherwood Park. But I pushed about 10 different drilling rigs for four years and four years later, 1959, Trident was sold to Peter Bawden Drilling. When Peter Bawden took over Trident Drilling they let all the superintendents go, they had C. P. Jincks there, Louis Yoast, Tex Cleveland. Louis Yoast was the same man that was pushing tools on that rig that we were going to go to in Didsbury, Trident Rig 6. They let all these guys go and they promoted me to superintendent. I suspect they did that because, the company hadn't done all the well and they had put a new manager in there, a fellow by the name of . . . it's in here but I can't think of it right now. He was only there for about six months, he was trying to turn the company around and they couldn't get it turned around so they decided to sell it to Peter Bawden. The reason the company never prospered in my view is simply this, it was owned by Baillie Selburn. Baillie Selburn was the last independent oil company, owned by Alex Baillie, or he was the principal shareholder. When things didn't go well he sent Buzz Emory to Edmonton, but what was really wrong with the company was this, they had one client, Baillie Selburn because they were the owner of the drilling rigs. When you have a captive client you don't remain competitive, you don't have to be competitive, you're going to have to work anyway. That's the same reason that oil companies got out of the drilling business. Their own rigs could never compete with the contractors because they always had work. They didn't have to be the best, they didn't have to be good to their customers, they didn't have to please the customer and that's what happened here. So here, the rigs were, by and large, working for Baillie Selburn. Furthermore, Baillie Selburn is the owner, another small independent needs a drilling rig, who's going to get the profits of that job, my competitor. It doesn't work. So it was basically, the wrong structure for a company to succeed. Anyway, I'd worked with this Buzz Emory for six months and he no doubt, recommended me to Bawden Drilling. So I worked for Bawden Drilling for a couple of years as a superintendent, I looked after the deep rigs and I worked after the

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#199 northeast B.C., Grande Prairie, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, that area. I had about 10 rigs to supervise. As a superintendent, it's always the same old thing, in the drilling business it

comes down to one thing, the faster you drill a well the more money you're going to make. Those days, as opposed to now, most of the wells were drilled ????. You've got 1,000', \$12/ft. you know, 10,000' you've got \$120,000. You can take 20 days to earn that, you can take 40 days to earn it. At 40 days you're going to lose your butt, at 20 you'll make a fortune. As a matter of fact, in most cases the difference of a couple of days is the difference between a profit and a loss. So in that business you're always driven by time, time is money, time is money, time is money. Get with it, get things going, do it as fast as possible. Have no accidents, have no turnover in crew. Turnover in crew is expensive. Those days, you only paid compensation the first \$6,000 a man earned and that was 7% of his salary. So on the \$6,000, 7%, \$420. If you had a guy there and replace him after the 6,000 was done, the next one cost you another 420 and on and on and on. I learned the economics. When I first went pushing tools, the first rig, Rig #10, it was drilling four wells, again for Baillie Selburn, the captive customer. The first well they lost \$5,000, it was a fortune in those days. They let the tool pusher go, they put me in charge. And this rig was going to drill the four wells, it was really run down and they were going to park it, that was the end of that rig, I knew that. The second well I broke even, the third well I made \$5,000, the fourth one I made \$5,000. Now they come to me and said, hey, we're drilling 4,800' holes in Joffre, can you drill to 5,300'. Of course, I could drill to 10,000' because if I couldn't I'd be back drilling again. That rig, in the next six months, made \$63,000. It made more money than any two rigs combined in Trident Drilling. So what they did, they traded that rig off on a new rig that they gave to me, the GB350 Amsco rig and that rig, on trade-in, for that old rig that had made \$63,000, they traded it in for \$34,000. The mud engineer on that job was a fellow by the name of Lawrence Hetherington. Lawrence Hetherington was a graduate from the University of Oklahoma in Petroleum Engineering. He was working for Baroid Mud Co., they sold drilling fluids, big, big U.S. corporation. He said to me, Tony, if you can make \$63,000 with a rig that is worth \$34,000 in six months, that's the business we've got to get into and that's exactly what we did 9 years later. I carried on, drilled various rigs, now I'm working for Bawden Drilling. I'm there for a couple of years, worked with some very nice people, still very good friends of mine. I look after that area. . . there's a story there but I don't want to tell it, it's an off-the-record thing and we don't do off-the-record stuff, right.

#260 DF: Right.

TV: But that contributed to my leaving the company.

DF: Okay.

TV: I was approached by a fellow by the name of Ken Jennings. Ken Jennings had a drilling company here called Jennings Drilling that had been run by some people that he had hired but he was an absentee owner, he lived in Hobbs, New Mexico, just in the ??? basin there, west Texas, Hobbs, NM, right next to it. Anyway, Ken Jennings had come to Alberta and talked to a friend of his that was a senior executive with Hudson Bay Oil and Gas. The guy's name, I'll think of it in a minute. . . Anyway, he came down here and he talked to his buddy and he said, look, I made some money in west Texas, we drilled some wells there that were successful, I think Canada is going to be a growing country and I'd

like to go in business here. This guy told him, he said, look Ken, the last thing we need here is another drilling contractor, we've got lots of them. But what we do need is a good service rig contractor. So Ken went back and started over and he came back up here and he went in the service rig business. He built a number of rigs that were Bethlehem equipment. The reason they were Bethlehem equipment, Bethlehem Steel Co. who sold those rigs, they were not the most popular rigs but because they were not, you see, the #1 supply company with the best equipment was National Supply, the next one was probably Amsco, the next one Oilwell, the next one Cardwell and then the next one would be Bethlehem. But one thing that they did, they provided very good financing, in order to sell their equipment at all. Anyway, he got a half dozen of these rigs going and these rigs were all built like about 5,000' drilling rigs but with certain limitations, small pumps and this and that, because you didn't need big pumps for service rigs. But you had to move them with trucks. He went to work in the Sundre field doing a lot of work for Hudson Bay Oil and Gas, bringing in the wells after they had been drilled, doing remedial work, this sort of thing that service rigs do. And as long as his buddy was here he was quite okay, they did all right. But then he was transferred to Australia.

#311 DF: Okay, so who was this guy?

TV: Smoky Shaffer with Hudson Bay Oil and Gas. When Smoky Shaffer was transferred to Australia he sort of lost his sponsor. Not only that, what happened in the intervening period, they were building service rigs that were highly portable. You could get a 10,000' service rig that was all mounted on a big truck and it could move from one location to the next in a couple of hours instead of a day, day and a half. So the economics didn't work. So he decided to take these rigs and go into the slimhole drilling business. Well, the slimhole drilling business really never worked out, it never was competitive. So then he decided to go to the regular drilling but the rigs were really bad and they had a bad reputation and he phoned me up, I said, Ken, you're the last company I want to work for, you're the worst company in Canada. As a matter of fact, I came by one of your rigs this morning that was drilling out of Eckville and we are drilling in the same field as you are for a different company but I expect we're getting about the same amount of money, which is \$2.30 a foot. The wells are about 6,500' deep and I know that while we drill three wells you drill one and I know you're losing a ton of money. Furthermore, you have lost some money you don't even know about yet. He said, what is that, I said, you've got one rig there, he said, yes. . . it was called the. . . no, not the Wimburn field, anyway it doesn't matter which field it was, I said, Ken you've got another problem you don't know about, it's worth about \$15,000. He said, what is that, I said, you've got a rig down there, it's got four Jimmy engines on it, GM diesel engines, it's shut down. He said, that's right, Rig #, I said, yes, it could be, I don't know that but the radiator caps are sitting 6" above the radiator. He said, how can that be, I said, they were not drained and they were full of ice and they are frozen solid and there's an ice column holding up the caps for everyone to see. And I can tell you right now, you've got cracked blocks in every one of them, to get those things overhauled is going to cost you a minimum of \$15,000. So in addition to the money you have lost, because you know, while we take in roughly \$60,000 per well

you take in 20 and our profit is a couple of thousand dollars a well, you're losing your butt. He said, Tony, that's exactly why I want you. I said, well, I'm not going to do it, I work for a good company now, I'm not going to go to work for an outfit like that. He said, do me a favour, and meet me half way ??? and let me at least talk to you about it. So I went down there and he offered me 10% of the cash flow to get it turned around and work there. I agreed, I left Bawden Drilling on April 1, April Fool's Day.

DF: What year?

TV: That was 1961. I went to work there, the first rig I went to was Wimburn, we were supposed to go and drill a well there for Gulf. I got to that rig, I looked at it, they were drilling a service hole, I couldn't believe what I saw. It was such a mess. Glen Hanigan was a field supervisor for Shell. He was an ex-tool pusher when Gulf still had drilling rigs and I knew him from my earlier days when I worked in the Stettler field. He was now the supervisor for Shell, I said, Glen, this rig is never going to make it, I said, I know that Tony. I said, we're going to have to shut it down.

End of tape.

#### Tape 2 Side 2

TV: So he agreed with me, so we went to Stettler to talk to his boss who was Ed Lakusta, who you probably remember. He later on became president of Petro Canada, retired a few years ago, maybe 10 years ago. He gave us permission to shut the rig down for 5 days to get it overhauled. We overhauled three engines, or exchanged them for other ones, we got some different drill pipe, we ??? drill with 3½" drill pipe, we finally had a rig that would work. That was the same as all the others. The first year we didn't make any money but we broke even, the second year we made about \$300,000. Then we expanded the company and we. . . I said 10%, it was 5% I got of the cash flow, then the third year we added a couple more drilling rigs and the fourth year I left to go on my own. I turned it over to a guy called Bill Pelensky. Bill Pelensky became the superintendent. He's probably as good a drilling man as I've ever seen.

DF: So what did you do to turn that company around? What were the main things that you did?

TV: First of all we had no credit anywhere because they hadn't paid their bills, they were way behind on the bills.

DF: And the name of this company was?

TV: Jennings Drilling. So the first thing I did was I had a big set-to in a Calgary house when I found that out. We had water haulers accosting the tool pushers saying, when am I going to get paid, I haven't been paid for three months. The tool pusher would have to get a generator fixed in Red Deer and he would have to pay cash or they wouldn't do it. So I went over to see them and I said, look you guys, we can't operate like this. I cannot get decent people to work on these drilling rigs if the company doesn't keep up its end because nobody wants to work for a company that is not going to pay their bills. So here's what we are going to do and we had a big shouting match in that office because they told me later, they said, we were never going to get you back in that office again. I mean, I

#039

went to the secretary, the girl that was sitting in the front, the receptionist and I said, look, what is that door right next to your door, she said, I shouldn't be telling you this but if it gets too tough out front here then they can sneak out the back door and stay away from the creditors. Anyway, what we did, we wrote a letter to all our suppliers on their stationary and told them, here's what's going to happen. From now on, we're going to pay you everything on time, what we owe you will be paid as soon as we can but you will be paid. Thirdly, here's what the payment terms are going to be, small companies, small guys like welders, little machine shops, water haulers, people that almost have to look at a cheque as a pay cheque, they're going to get paid every month. The larger companies, like trucking companies and so on, so forth, that have working capital to work with, they're going to get paid in sixty days. Supply companies, the large steel companies, Oilwell Supply, United States Steel, all them, they're going to get paid in ninety days. If you can live with those terms please let us know, if you can't live with them, let us know as well, we will never bother you again but you will get paid. I sent, I think 104 letters or something like that. We got two back that refused to go along with it. And they went out on my signature. One of them was Rick Wren???, with Wren Cartage, who hauled a lot of their rigs and Rick was a good friend of mine because he knew me from the Bawden days you know. He came to me and he said, Tony, nobody will ever get that company turned around, I just as a businessman, could not support that idea. I'm sorry about that, you're a good friend but that's the way it is. I said, okay, Rick, fine, we won't use you, we'll find somebody else. That was the first thing. Then, I had to get the right people. In the industry, you develop what you call a following. When you're a driller there are roughnecks and derrick men that here about you, that know you, this is a guy that doesn't get drunk, he's on time, he won't kill you on the drilling rig, that's the guy you want to work for. He treats you right, he's a mean son-of-a-bitch but he will do things right. When you're a tool pusher you get drillers that want to come to work for you. When I went to work for Jennings Drilling I had all kinds of tool pushers from Bawden Drilling that offered to come to work for me. I wouldn't take them. I said, look guys, I don't know whether this company is going to make it or not, I don't want to bring you in here because we might not survive and then I have. . .you know, I'm only going to hire guys that are looking for a job and I can find them. And I hired some very good people. And those guys is what made it happen. There was one guy, Bill Pelensky. He had been a superintendent for Cantex Drilling and when Cantex was just bought by Gerry D'Arcy, who by the way, his wife still lives across the street. Gerry died here about a year or two ago. Gerry D'Arcy had bought Cantex Drilling and it was a rundown company. He had two superintendents and Bill Pelensky was one of them. He helped to get all of these rigs back in shape again and then Gerry D'Arcy came to him and said, look Bill, we don't need two superintendents now, I want you to go pushing tools again because we just can't afford the overhead. Bill said, Mr. D'Arcy, I'll go pushing tools again but it won't be for Cantex Drilling, that's the guy that I got. And his wife was a lot of help, she was a great woman, she'd do anything for the company. Another one, Red Gegg???, Frank Dusso??? and on and on, I got all the right guys and we just worked on those drilling rigs. I used to go around with an overshot, this is a fishing tool, in the back of my car because I would call

#076 home and there would be another one stuck in the hole, or twisted off. But we turned that into a very good company and I'll tell you, I had a call from Ken Jennings here about six years ago, he left Canada about twenty years ago, him and his wife Essie. . . as a matter of fact, they were so broke, I didn't know it at the time, the company car I got was his wife's car. They had \$900,000 of debt and I mean, that company wasn't worth \$300,000. Anyway, Ken Jennings called me one night and he said, Tony, Essie and I were sitting here tonight and talking about guys that were very important in my life. We decided that you were one of those guys. But he treated me well. When I left him to go on my own. . . first of all, when I quit Bawden Drilling to go to work for him, Bawden brought me into Calgary and they promised me all kinds of things. They would send me to Harvard, to the business school, they would send me to France to observe the drilling that was going on that was still not done here, with bottom-hole drilling motors and that sort of thing. I said, gee whiz, why didn't you tell me that before, I didn't know that, I quit. When I quit I stay quit. So when I quit Jennings to go on my own he says to me, Tony, there's no sense me trying to talk you out of it, Bill and I talked about making you a partner but I guess we're a little late for that. I know you won't change your mind. He owed me \$12,000 but the books weren't audited yet but that's about what my bonus was going to be. I said, Ken, can you give me a piece of paper that says you owe me the \$12,000 because I need \$25,000 to have my part of the acquisition, to get going on our own. He said, sure, and he did it. He treated me very well and it was good for both parties, like any good business deal should be.

DF: Why did you want to go out on your own?

TV: Because the opportunity was there and I felt that I could run a company and we could make it go and we could make some real money.

#102 DF: Good. And what year was that?

TV: 1964. So Lawrence Hetherington, who we talked about earlier, he was the mud engineer, when we talked about the \$34,000, the rig making \$63,000 in six months. Lawrence and I over the years, had talked about this and I was very interested in drilling fluids anyway because to me, drilling fluids are going to determine how fast you're going to drill a well. We were very, very good at one point, we were the best, even though I say that myself. When you drill on footage it makes a tremendous difference. Lawrence Hetherington came to me and he said, we can buy six drilling rigs, three of them are Petrolia Drilling, they're owned by a couple of guys, Bob Stanhope, George Bourque. George Bourque was an old Turner Valley hand, first class guy. He was the first guy that Bawden Drilling hired when he bought his first drilling rig. But he left there after a few years because he thought he was a partner in the drilling company, not in one drilling rig. That gave them their falling out. Anyway, Bob Stanhope and George Bourque, they were both 65 years old, they wanted to sell these three drilling rigs called Petrolia Drilling, named after Petrolia in Ontario. And then there was another company called Hunter Drilling. Jack Hunter, who was the owner of that company had been killed in an airplane accident. Jack Hunter was a guy that I knew because he worked for Sedco the same time I did, he was an executive, a drilling superintendent, and I was the low guy on the totem pole. Jack Hunter, he had an

illustrious career, he was also in the Canadian Army during World War II, he was a major or a colonel in the Tank Corps. My friends tell me that when he was standing, he was a small man, when he was standing in the turret of the tank he looked like a 16 year old boy and he was a major. Anyway, he worked for Sedco, started on his own, got killed coming back from Saskatchewan in an airplane accident. He had three drilling rigs as well or his estate did, we bought them. The rigs were a total of \$750,000. We had \$25,000 each saved up, Lawrence Hetherington and I. This is a significant amount of money if you consider that that would buy two homes in those days. When I started on a drilling rig I started at \$1 an hour, a driller was getting \$2 an hour. And I figured if I ever made driller I'll have the world by the tail on a downhill pull. When I got to be a tool pusher I made \$650 a month, a month and you get that whether the rig works or not. Now you're on the payroll, now you're really somewhere. Now we're going to go on our own, we've got \$25,000 saved up, each of us, the working capital. Now we've got to get the \$750,000. We've got the rigs, we've looked them over, we know what we want to do. How are we going to get \$750,000. Banks aren't going to give it to us, no way. And 750 doesn't sound like much today but if you put a multiplier of 10 or 12 on it, then it becomes real money you know, and that's what we're talking about in economic terms. So we approached Doc Seaman. Doc Seaman had branched out and he had gone from his little rigs to the bigger rigs and he had a company called Hightower Drilling. He had also recently bought a supply company called Cardwell Supply. Cardwell Supply of course, wants customers. Customers are oil companies and drilling contractors. But which drilling contractor is going to buy from another drilling contractor. We borrow equipment back and forth, we do all these things but that is beyond the pale. You don't buy from your competitors. So we went to Doc Seaman and said, look, if you will sign the note at the bank we will buy all our supplies from you for the first four years, 50% of our supplies for the next four years. The worst thing that can happen to you, you'll end up with six more drilling rigs at a good price, because these are priced right. He agreed with that. The reason for the 50% in four years, captive customer, you might not get the discounts, you might not get the deals that somebody else would get and so on and so forth. As it turned out, they treated us so well that we bought virtually all our supplied from them for the next 25 years. That later on became ??? Drilling and on and on and on. So it was a very good relationship and Doc Seaman and I, we're still good friends today. B. J. Seaman and I are, Don Seaman, his other brother. And we've done deals together, we've started another drilling company here, 10-12 years ago, when the heck was it. Yes, it's about that long ago, Tetonka Drilling, made a lot of money with it. We'll get back to it again later I suppose. So now we've got that all arranged, we get started.

#173 DF: You've got six rigs now?

TV: Six rigs, right. We get going. . .

DF: And the name of this company?

TV: Is called Petrolia Hunter Drilling. For maybe a year or so and then we dropped the Hunter and it becomes Petrolia Drilling. We're doing well, we're moving ahead, we're making money, we add a few more rigs, now we've got eight rigs and things are going very well

for us. Now we decide to become a public company. So the way to become public is to find a company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange that we can buy and get listed that way. Which is what happened. I'm telling you but it took months and months to do. We did a reverse takeover. In other words, Kenting Aviation bought Petrolia Drilling and a few others that were in the consortium, like Accurate Exploration and this and that and the other thing. When it was all said and done, we had 65% of the company. They bought us but we ended up with most of the shares, that's what they call a reverse takeover. We carried on with Kenting. We got into all kinds of businesses. As a matter of fact, you should probably, if you have time, read this book.

#195 DF: I'd like to, yes.

TV: We had some good times, some bad times. Lawrence Hetherington left, some other people came in. What really happened, this happened in about 1968 we did our deal with Kenting in 1968. Kenting at the time, the total revenue in 1968 was \$13 million. It was a very cumbersome company, it had all kinds of little businesses, helicopter, fixed wing, oilfield, construction and pipelining, petroleum exploration, mining exploration, drilling. And another problem that we had is that we had all these entrepreneurs and they all felt that they had to buy another company to make this thing go you see. What really happened that got us into trouble, and the bank stepped in in 1973 and they said, we are going to withdraw our support unless you do two things. Get new management and \$1 million in equity. At the time, Kenting had 700,000 shares outstanding and the shares were trading in the \$5-6 range. So the market ??? of that company was \$4 million. It was a nothing company. The bank said, you're going to have to come up with another million dollars and new management. So the board decided that I should be the new management, I should become the president of the company. And the reason they thought that I guess, is because the only division that had made money consistently was Petrolia Drilling Ltd., which we later changed to Kenting Drilling Ltd. It had made money year after year after year. And really, it was sort of wasted by the other divisions and everybody that was there. We had little companies that didn't. . . that had 3, 4 hundred thousand dollars worth of revenue. They were family companies, they didn't belong in an organization like this. So anyway, here we are, the directors need new management, and a million dollars or you're going to be bankrupt. So the board decided I should be the new president, now how are we going to raise the month. We're going to do a rights issue. We're going to go to every shareholder and say, look, we'll give you the opportunity to buy another share of Kenting at \$6 a share. That's fine and dandy but are they going to buy it. So you need somebody to support that rights issue in case the shareholders don't want to pick up the rights, who's going to buy them. I got a phone call from John Scrymgeour. John Scrymgeour, who just passed away was the head honcho and owner of Westburn. Scrymgeour asked me, he said, Tony, when he heard that I become president, would you mind if we took a position in Kenting Ltd. I said, no, John, the shape we are in, even if you had horns we would let you take a position, I have no problem with that. Mind you, it didn't matter anyway, he could have done it in any case. Anyway, he underwrote the rights offering and when it was all said and done, John Scrymgeour now has got 40% of

the stock, of this new Kenting Ltd., not the new, the same company and I'm the president of it. I'm starting to rationalize the thing, first of all, I'm going to get rid of anything that flies. You never make any money with it, had done nothing but lose money.

#264 DF: Why?

TV: Because it was mismanaged and the flying business is the toughest business in the world. Because most people that fly, flying people, there are exceptions but you look at the flying industry today. Who's making money, Westjet? And they've got management. And there's one other company in the States and that's it. That's by and large it, there are a few smaller companies that make money. But anyway, these guys, I think they're literally and figuratively on Cloud 9 all the time, they can't think straight. I remember, to go to our manager in . . . well, I'll give you an example, we bought a company in Resolute Bay. It was called Atlas Aviation, it was bought before I become president. It was run by a well known aviator, an Arctic hero by the name of Weldy Phipps. This guy, he ran that organization with himself, his wife. His wife would cook for all the crew, they had a camp there in Resolute Bay. He didn't have a hangar, he had a nose hangar that he could put over an engine if he had to change, he did it all himself, he was a good mechanic, he was a good pilot, he was a good everything, worked like a dog. We buy that bloody thing, the next thing we know we've got six guys in Toronto that are running it and we've got another, we've got triple the staff in Resolute and we can't make any money. So guess why. So anyway, I sold all that stuff. We got the company to making money. As a matter of fact, somewhere in here I can show you how dramatic the change was.

#297 DF: What were some of the other things you did that turned it around?

TV: First of all, we got rid of all the small stuff. We only got into businesses that we knew well and that were managed well and that were big enough to where they could compete. We got some different people, we got rid of some, the big spenders and so on and so forth. I got an excellent vice-president of finance, this guy right here, Tom Jones. We really started doing well because we were back in the businesses we knew. The problem with businesses you don't know, it's always the same old story. They give you trouble and you start wasting your time on a little company, that even if it did well, might make you \$50,000 a year. It is losing you \$100,000 and you're spending more time on it, you should be spending the time with the company that's making money, that's making a million and get it to make a million and a half. That's a hell of a lot easier than to get another one turned around. And we stayed in the business we knew best and we expanded it. We for instance, bought Keen Drilling. We couldn't get any money, the banks weren't going to lend us any money. We bought it, it had seven drilling rigs. I got it financed by the Alberta Opportunity Co. This is when all the rigs were moving to the States, they were leaving here and Alberta Opportunity Co. was a lending institution supported by the Alberta government of the last resort. When you couldn't get money anywhere else you got it from them. There was only one problem with that company. It could only lend \$500,000 and I needed \$4.1 million. I made my presentation to the board, they happened to have a board meeting here in Calgary, it all had to happen in a hurry because the

company was for sale and somebody was going to buy it. More than likely, whoever bought it would take it to the States. I made my pitch to the Alberta Opportunity Co. and explained to them, you finance this, I want the financing structured so when we have high activity levels I make big payments, we have low activity levels I make smaller payments. In other words, finance us so I can handle it. They liked that part. And I think you'll have a good loan, it will get paid back because this is one business we're good at and I could show them what we had done in the drilling business in the previous ten years on our own. And they went along with it, except for one problem, they can only lend \$500,000. How can you change that, that takes an order in council. That means you have to get somebody in

#347 the government to do that. So I went over to see Don Getty, the same guy that decorated me when I was inducted into the Petroleum Hall of Fame, I've got his picture right here, I just happened to see it. I went to Don Getty and I said, look, here's what's going on, all these rigs are leaving the county, here are seven rigs that are probably going to join the parade and if we keep these rigs here they're going to drill holes in the ground, they're going to produce oil and gas and you're going to get your royalties so I think it makes a lot of sense for the Alberta government to do this. So they did. And we got those seven rigs which helped us tremendously in our numbers and we started to make very good money. As a matter of fact, the stock got as low as \$3.80. When the company was sold to Trimac Drilling, Trimac made an offer for it, the stock was \$21.25. And that was a period of three years. What happened earlier, John Scrymgeour called me one time, the company was doing well, the stock was around \$20, and he said, Tony, I'd like you to come to Bermuda, that's where he lived. I went down and he said, Tony, I'd like to sell my share in the company. I got about, he put \$1 million in three years before, he said, I've got about \$6 million profit in the stock that I bought, and I'd like to get it out because I have some ideas what I'd like to do with the money that has nothing to do with business. I like art, I want to buy some art and this and that, I'm retired and this is my passion. It's got nothing to do with the management of the company, I think you've done a great job and everything else but that's what I'd like to do and there are two guys that would like to buy it. One is Ron Southern, with Atco, the other one is Bud McCaig with Trimac. But he said, I don't think Bud has the money so Ron Southern is probably our best chance to sell it. What I'd like you to do, to get them the information that they need to make a decision, in other words feel free to talk to them.

End of tape.

Tape 3 Side 1

TV: So that's what I did. Atco decided not to buy it because they felt they wanted to stay in the business they knew best. They bought a drilling company a few years later and Ron Southern came up to me and said, look, there's no need me telling you that we should have bought Kenting instead of what we just bought, now it's a lot more money and not near as good a company. But anyway, that's another story. You see, what had happened when John put his first million dollars in and ended up with about 40% of the company through that rights offering he was entitled to become a director and bring another

director in. He brought in Bud McCaig, Trimac. Bud McCaig knew the company well and he liked what he saw. He made an offer for the . . . he got 40\$ from John and then he raised more money and he made an offer for the other 60% to the Kenting board. But with one proviso, he wanted to make sure that I was going to stay, so therefore he would not buy my stock he would put it in trust. I would sign a five year management agreement and he would, after five years I could take the choice, I could either take shares. . . at that time, the way it was set up, it was a share transaction, you get three of Trimac for one Trimac share and Trimac was selling at about \$7, plus half of warrant??? with each share, which would entitle you to another half a share at \$7 price for a period of, I forget about two or three years. Well, I was the last shareholder in Kenting, not all that big a shareholder but I had quite a bit of the stock. And the board agreed to the deal, we got the price up to, I think it was \$21.25 was what we got for the stock, plus we had paid a dividend of 50 cents before that so. . . And from the time. . . Scrymgeour sold at \$20 a share, our shareholders effectively got \$21.75 and they got it about three months after Scrymgeour had done his deal. The deal I had with Trimac was, based on certain performance, it was a performance based earn-out, in other words, the better I performed the more they would pay me for my stock. Or I could always go back and get the same deal as the other shareholders had, get three shares for every Trimac share, plus the warrants. So after three years it became evident that I was going to take the stock. I mean Trimac stock had exploded. We had split three for one, twice. So you know, my one share, first of all, I would get three shares for one Kenting share. Three for one made that nine, three for that was twenty-seven. So one Kenting share was twenty-seven. I had 56,000 Kenting shares so guess, you know. And not only that, Trimac was a very good company. I mean, we had our ups and downs, we went through the National Energy Program and the downturn in the drilling business. The years when, one year we were running with 5,000 drilling rigs in North America, 5,500, next year we had 1,500, the year after that there's 1,000. The industry was devastated. There are very few companies left today that were in business 20 years ago, they just all got killed. And that is really the way the business is. When I first became president of the company I had a look at the United States. Okay, we are just like the United States except we got going about, 30, 40 years

#041 later than they did with our Leduc discovery. All these guys came over here, they showed us how to drill, how to run an oil business and they're back home, what happened to these guys. When I looked at them I found out there were very few drilling companies that had survived 30 years. The reason for that was, because it's a boom and bust business. They can handle the boom but they can't handle the bust. Because when the boom is on they need more and more equipment so they finance it, the money's readily available and then everything goes in the tank and they can't handle the debt that they have. But the ones that survive, and there's three good examples of that, are Reading and Bates, because in addition to their drilling business they also had an oil and gas business. Another one was Noble Affiliates, they had a trucking business because Noble Drilling and Noble Affiliates, same company, they had a trucking business as well as an oil business, and of course, the drilling business started it all. Another one is Helmerick and Payne. They are a

very successful drilling company and oil company combined. But they all started in the drilling business. Look at Sedco, that became Hightower and then they had Bow Valley Drilling, the offshore drilling rigs off the east coast. They were doing great. But they had five year contracts with seven year payout. They went bankrupt. But one thing that survived was their oil and gas business, Bow Valley Industries. A great independent oil and gas company. But Doc was smart enough to diversify so I knew we had to diversify. For that reason Trimac appealed to me, because the trucking business is like a utility, always making money. They don't make as much money as we do. In the years that Trimac stock multiplied like crazy we made it in the oil and gas business, we made it in the oil business. I also started to diversify when I asked Frank Vetsch, one of the best oilmen ever, to join us. Our commitment to him was, okay, we're going to start from scratch, we're going to provide \$3 million a year and we'll find a partner that will provide \$3 million a year. That way you'll have a \$6 million budget that will give you an opportunity to get a small start and not have all your money spent in overhead, have some money left to go in the ground. That thing was paying its own way in five years and eventually, by the time it merged with Shauvco and Shauvco expanded and sold out to Pioneer in the States, it probably contributed \$200 million to Trimac. And Trimac, from the time they became a public company, which I think was 1971, until they privatized which I think was around the year 2000, give or take a year, they delivered 90% return, compounded, year after year, to the shareholders. So it was a very successful company, although there were lots of ups and downs, like in any company. But you know, it's like the chart behind you, lots of ups and downs in the market too but you know, if you buy on the one spot and sell here, yes, you're going to lose your butt but if you stay with it. . . and Trimac stuck with it and Bud McCaig was a very fine guy to work with. Because what happened in 1980, three years

#085 into the merger, I decided to take Trimac stock, it was as obvious as the nose on a pig. So I took the stock, and at that point we were running the company separately, because that's the only way we could measure the performance of Kenting Ltd. So we said, we might as well merge the companies, I'm going to take stock anyway. Bud says to me, why don't you come to work for Trimac. I said, I really don't like the trucking business, I'm an oil guy, that's where I've been all my life, I know the people, I understand the business or I think I do and I can get along much better in that business. He said, we'll do a deal, I'll be the chairman and CEO, you'll be the president and Chief Operating Office, you look after everything to do with oil and gas and I will take care of the transportation business and we'll together, plot the course that this company needs to take. And that's what we did. I worked there till I was 60 years old, 1988. In 1988 I retired, I was 60. My wife will not agree that I retired, I had an office downtown until a year ago and then I moved up here. I've got a gal that comes in a couple of days a week, her computer at home talks to the computers here so she can do a lot of work at home. I keep on trucking. I've got some interest in real estate, some oil and gas, some various technological start-up companies, I've been involved with a lot of young guys that got started from them and what have you. And I'm having fun. But I keep on working of course. Well, if you call this working, sitting here and figuring out what to do next. I like that. Play some golf, see my old

friends and that's what I do. But I've had a very good run, I was very fortunate. I took some awful risks along the way. I can remember one of the early ones, we got a call, and you'll find some of these stories here, you might find them a lot more interesting than what I've told you so far, but. . . For instance, we were approached by Stampeder Oils, this in 1966 probably. They wanted to drill a well in Strachan and they're going to drill that well to about 14-15 thousand feet and they're hoping to find a salt water well that has a lot of sulphur in it. Because sulphur was worth a lot of money then, today it's a drug on the market. This well would cost a lot of money. Vancouver Stock Exchange company, we

#116 weren't too sure they could pay us, we were concerned about that. We said, well, the only way we'll drill that well, if you pay us up front and we'll turnkey it. Turnkey means we take all the risk. Footage, you take most of the risk but there are some risks that operators don't take. Well, you're logging and running casing and that sort of thing, that's day work. . . You know the difference between footage and day work? Okay. Anyway, we said, we'll do this turnkey. That's what we did in the Arctic Islands. We'll do this turnkey, and we'll do it for \$900,000. The well that we were looking at, to figure out how long it might take, you always look at some surrounding wells, you know, the nearest well was 7 miles away but it ??? strike, geologically speaking, so we knew we would get about the same thing. My partner, Lawrence Hetherington, had been the mud engineer on that well so he knew exactly what had happened there. They drilled it with what they called those days, a lime mud. That is a mud that tolerates a lot of solids. Again, you can get mud weights of up to 11.5 lb. per gallon, and what all these solids do, they really slow down your drilling. That well took over 300 days to drill. We were going to drill this one with low solids. We had just finished a seminar where we had a guy by the name of Preston Moore, you'll see some of his manuals there, the blue one is one of them. Preston Moore was a well known professor that specialized in drilling at the University of Oklahoma. He used to come up here and give lectures. We brought him up here to talk to our tool pushers and us about drilling, how to drill best, how to figure it out, what to do here, what to do there, that sort of thing. We had him for five days at the Juniper Lodge out of Lacombe. We had all our tool pushers there and we spent all day in the classroom so to speak and at night we'd sit around with a beer and talk about what problems you can get into and how you can out of them and how to do this. I told him about this project, he said, gee, that's a risky one but you're on the right track, I think it might work. I'd really like to know how that is going so keep me informed. Anyway, we drilled that well in 56 days. Lo and behold, we discovered the Strachan field. We had a big gas well on our hands, I mean, a dandy. The Strachan field, one of the best gas fields in Canada. We stumbled onto it, these guys were going to drill what we called a dry hole and just recover the sulphur or the salt water that they're going to get. So here we got this gas well. Anyway, on the way down, at about 6,000' the well starts to cave. We're in there with the low solids mud . . .

#153 DF: How far down are you going?

TV: About 15,000'. The well is caving and we can't keep it cleaned up and. . . you know what

a kelly is, a kelly is a hexagon or square piece of pipe on the top that drives the rest of the pipe and it's 40' long. You drill it down, you pull it up, put another length of pipe in and continue drilling. We drilled that same kelly up and down straight for four days. Everybody, the drilling engineers, the mud engineers, I'm on the job, they keep telling me, that Dutchman is crazy, he should be committed, we should stick him in Ponoka. He keeps on drilling here, he thinks that this is going to clean up, it won't clean up, we're going to have to weigh up the mud, we're going to have to hold it back with increased hydrostatic pressure. Of course, the minute we did that, it wouldn't be 56 days, it would be 200 days and we would be broke. So I stuck with it and finally, after four days it cleaned up. They said, well, that won't last long, it will cave in again before you get to bottom. We got to bottom, we got it logged, we got the casing in the hole, we got this big gas well. Made a ton of money on it. This thing is described in this book but you know, the next well was drilled at \$18 a foot. The well was a little over 14,000', so you take 14. . . we probably provided about \$300,000 worth of casing and drilling mud and what have you that you wouldn't buy on day work. So let's say, we netted \$600,000. Now we're going to drill the next one, 14 x 18 is \$252,000. Okay, we make good money on that one. The next one was drilled for \$11 a foot. That's the way it goes in this business. The minute you publish that bid record, everybody sees it, and says okay, that's what it took and the price comes down. Competitive as hell. Anyway, we got the well down, now we have all that extra work because we got a discovery, we can't just walk away from it. We've got to complete it, we've got to put tubing in it, this and that and the other thing. We made a ton of money anyway, but they gave us stock instead. Well, Stampeder, they start announcing the well and they get some action in the stock, we sell the stock. Holy cripes I tell you, we made money like thieves, it was like a bank robbery. But we earned every penny of it because boy, we laid awake at night. We turnkeyed wells in the Arctic Islands for \$4.1 million. In 1972, '7e, with Real Arctic that I showed you earlier where we were at Depot Point. They were sort of a modified turnkey but what we would tell our customers basically came down to this. Okay, you pay \$4.1 million for this well. If we get in trouble and we can show you that we've lost over \$1 million then you have to cut back in again, but the first million dollars is our loss. That means that we are going to lose a lot of sleep before you lose any. We are going to be on top of it. I made a proposal to Esso and one to Pan Arctic. Pan Arctic took the contract from us, Esso said, look, we like your proposal, we like the program, we like everything about it but we need to learn how to do this ourselves and we think that we can do it for \$4.1 million. We hire the contractor, we take him up there, we get our own people to supervise it, we need the experience, we need to learn how to do this. They went over there, they were into the job about six weeks. . .

#204 DF: What's the name of the well that you drilled?

TV: That was the one at Depot Point on Ellesmere. Six weeks into it I get a call from the production vice-president exploration from Imperial. He knows that I bid on the job, he knows that I'm drilling the other one. As a matter of fact, we're so close together we're sharing an airport. I built the airstrip and they pay half the costs and both our planes are

going in. They are going in every week, we are going in every 10 days. Their people fly in our aircraft if they need supplies, we'll take them for them, they do the same for us. So really we helped each other. And we had a good relationship with these people anyway, we did a lot of work for them over the years. I'll tell you another story about Esso after this one that's an interesting one because it's got some personalities in there that are well known in the industry. Anyway, six weeks into the job, call from this vice-president of exploration. He said, Tony, how are you doing on your well at Depot Point, I said, fine, he said, are you on budget. I said, yes, we were stuck in the ice for five days and that cost me an extra \$50,000 because the ships re-chartered, they were ice reinforced Danish ships from the Dan??? Line. They were stuck in the ice for 5 days so two ships, \$10,000 a day, \$50,000. But I had \$100,000 contingency in my budget so I'm covered on that and for the rest, I'm pretty sure I'm right on budget, everything is working out like I had figured on it. This is taking the equipment up there, there's a story in there, Logistics in the Arctic, that I published in a magazine at the time that you might want to read. The logistics to get everything up there and the crews and what have you. He said, I just got a supplementary AFE here for a billion dollars. I said, oops. He said, they tell us they need another million dollars, they're going to go over budget. So Bob Teskey, who's departed now, a good friend of mine, him and I had talked about going up there to see our respective operations. Catch one of those flights up there, look around at his rig and mine and see how our operations were going. Man, I couldn't wait to get up there, I had to figure out, gee, are we going to lose our butt here and I don't know it, what the hell is the difference. So I get on the plane with Teskey and we go over there and we go to our rig and we've got about 36 people there, cat skimmers, guys that bring in the snow, the snow melters, the camp staff, roughnecks, drillers, the whole works. Now we go to his rig and I'm laying awake at

#247 night, I mean, I've got to make a million dollars on this thing, a million cash flow, so I'm \$2 million behind the eight ball as far as they're concerned, where the hell is it. Get to his rig, gee, they've got 72 people there. 36 people, okay, that's \$150 a day, that's roughly what it cost you in wages and to keep them there, food and so on, so forth. 36 x 150, \$5,000 a day. Well, the length of ??? 20 days, \$600,000. Then I said, how did you get the rig here without ???, he said, we turnkeyed it, somebody did it and he gave me the number. Holy, they paid \$750,000 more than we did. By chartering our own ships instead of getting somebody to do it all for them. So that was saved. Then they are flying an Elektra in there every week, I do it every 10 days. I make 3 trips a month, they make 4. One trip is \$30,000. They had a stand-by aircraft at \$30,000 a month, one of our, you know, the company that we had bought up there and I was trying to get rid of, at \$30,000 a month. I figured, what in the hell. . . here we are, sure we're up in the Arctic, for safety reasons we should have a standby aircraft. But when we work out of Fort Nelson where you can't get in with an aircraft because there's now even an airstrip we have to take a guy that gets hurt on the drilling rig into town, it takes us 8 hours to get there. If somebody gets hurt here I can call up an aircraft on the radio and have him into a hospital, or into a facility, a nursing station in Resolute Bay in 4 hours. So even though we're way up in the Arctic there's no justification to spend another \$30,000 just in case

something goes wrong. Luckily nothing ever went wrong but even if it did, we would have been better off than we would have been in Fort Nelson. We never thought anything about it down there to operate like that. When I added it all together, by god, there's the difference. So I could sleep again. It's just unbelievable, in this business, by doing it right and doing it wrong. One day, the number 2 guy in Dome, that little pot-bellied lawyer, what is his name. . . he walked back with me from the Petroleum Club. He said, I know you've got Jack Gallagher in your pocket, I said, why in the hell are you saying that. He said, you've got these contracts with us where you pay off a drilling rig in four years. I said, so what. He said, why shouldn't we buy them ourselves and pay them off in four years. I said, first of all, you can't pay them off in four years, he said, why is that, I said, when these rigs go down I can put my men to work somewhere else, what would you do, you'd have to keep them on the payroll. It would take you at least six year. Why do you think every oil company sold their drilling rigs years ago. You're never going to do it like we do and secondly, after we pay that rig off, what is our profit, it's the drilling rig. What's that drilling rig going to be worth at the time, is it going to be worth \$4 million like we paid for it. It could be if everything goes up in price and on and on and on, or could it be worth \$300,000, like the ones we bought during the depression in the oil industry. I bought a rig one day in Oklahoma that had cost \$6 million to build a year before, had drilled one well. The business just collapsed. I bought it for \$600,000, 10 cents on the dollar. A year later I couldn't sell that rig for \$300,000. And I asked him, what was his name, Stewart or Edwards or something. . . anyway, I said, look, that's where we're at, you guys do your business I'll do mine. But people are always jazzing you. I was in the drilling business for 51 years. From the time I started as a roughneck until I sold my last share in the last drilling company that I was a director of. It has been wonderful for me, I've really enjoyed it, I've had a good time, I've had a lot of bad times too.

#317 DF: Tell me about some of those. What mistakes have you made?

TV: What mistakes? One mistake we made, we went into the United States and we bought a company there called Cactus Drilling. We paid about \$100 million for it, it had about \$30 million in the bank, it made about \$30 million a year. It had seven platform rigs that worked out in the Gulf, it had about seventy land rigs. We were coining it.

DF: You were what?

TV: We were coining it, we were making our own money. But the boom was on, the demand was there, we were spending that money on new equipment, upgrading present equipment, we were doing all these things. I had a call one time from the president down there. . .

DF: What year?

TV: We probably bought it in 1978. I had a call from the president down there ???, he said, Tony, I have an offer for the seven platform rigs at \$7 million apiece, \$49 million. Dick Rundle was his name. I said, Dick, what are we making with those rigs, he said, we're making about \$18 million a year with them. I said, if we pay them out in less than three years we shouldn't be selling that, best part of our business. He said, I agree but I felt I

had to tell you. So we turned it down, two years later we were cutting them up for scrap. Those seven rigs didn't bring us more than \$500,000. Seven of them for \$500,000 that could have been sold two years earlier for \$49 million. That's how fast that business collapsed.

DF: So that's in the early 1980's in the States?

TV: Yes, late 70's, early 80's.

#360 DF: And what created the collapse?

TV: Price of oil I suspect, more than anything. But we were up to 5,000 rigs, everybody was in the business, they were building rigs all over the place. Places like Midland were devastated, all the banks went broke. They had a Rolls Royce dealer one time there for heaven's sake.

DF: In Midland, Texas.

TV: In Midland, Texas, yes. Well Midland, Texas was the highest per capita income in the United States. That's where George Bush was operating an oil company there. I mean, there was money being made like you wouldn't believe, that's the time of the takeovers. These guys would take a run at Phillips Petroleum and what have you and it was just unbelievable how much money was being made, including us, and then all of a sudden overnight it turned. There were companies had been in business for thirty years that went broke.

DF: What happened to Cactus?

TV: Cactus, we got in trouble, we had to put more money in, we put another \$10 million in the thing. We kept it going and kept it going and eventually sold it all off. After it was all over we had a pretty good sized loss, I can't tell you exactly how much. There are so many variables in there, tax related and on and on and on, but it was a bad move. It looked like a brilliant move at the time. If we would have sold that company two years after we went in, that's the big if again, we could have sold it for 200. . .

End of tape.

Tape 3 Side 2

DF: So why didn't you sell?

TV: Because we were greedy. And we're not in the training business, we're in the operating business. This was our business, it was a great opportunity, everything looked great and nobody but nobody expected a collapse like that. As a matter of a fact, Fortune Magazine had an article on this and said, never in the history of business have they seen asset values diminish like this did during that period. And I can tell you examples. There was a company called Delta Drilling, owned by a couple of. . .one Italian immigrant and his son that was born in this country and what was his name, Joe Zeppa, private company, Delta Drilling. Good company, 50-60 drilling rigs, well known, good people, excellent reputation. The boom is on, they're going to go public. Investment bankers are knocking the door down. Joe, you're sitting on this big asset, let's realize on it, let's get some

money out, get some money you buggers, get some other shareholders in there. So they go ahead and do this. Joe Zeppa, over the year, for Christmas bonus and so on and so forth, he's given a little bit of stock to his superintendent, to his secretary, to the financial guy and this and that, to some of his key employees, so they've all got a little bit of stock. All of a sudden they go public. Holy mackerel, his secretary is now a millionaire. Except there's one problem. She can't sell the stock for a year, it is locked in. It is not unusual that those conditions exist, security regulations and so on and so forth. So on paper, she's worth a million dollars but she can't cash in for a year. By the time she can cash in, a year later, that stock is worth \$1,000, not a million, a thousand. Probably not even worth that. It's not worth anything. There's another problem. Internal revenue in the United States says, hey, listen lady, you had a million dollar gain because her cost base was zero, you owe us \$200,000 in taxes. But I never had a million dollars, I had a piece of paper that said I did but it never materialized. It doesn't matter, you had that profit, you owe the money. Now eventually they got that straightened out but it took about a year but can you imagine, that's the sort of problems that people got into. Banks that had been around for 30 years, they all went broke. There must have been 100 banks went broke in Texas, you know, the little banks, all involved with the oil and gas industry. So we all got fooled and we paid the price and we learned the lesson one more time. Don't have all your eggs in one basket and of course, we didn't. We had our trucking business, we had our oil and gas business and that's why we survived.

DF: How did the NEP affect your company?

TV: Very badly, very badly. The business just dried up overnight. And we were lucky, we survived again but you know, today. . .

#035 DF: How did you survive?

TV: Because we had income from the trucking business. It wasn't affected the same way, and the oil and gas business. We made some money in the oil and gas business, although the prices were depressed. But you see, the NEP did in a number of friends of mine that had started in business, got there at the wrong time. One got into a situation where he had to buy out his partner because things happened that he couldn't live with, you know, these things happen in business. He had to take on a bunch of debt to buy him out. This same guy went ahead by the way, well, I can mention names here, the fellow was Red Geck, he was a partner with Gordon Gilles in a company called Red Arrow Drilling, both these guys worked for me. They had a conflict and Red Geck left and Gilles bought him out. Red Geck went ahead and bought another drilling company for \$23 million from my ex-neighbour here, Frank Garnett. It was called Garnett Drilling. That company was broke a year later. And the only reason he got the money from the bank, because the bank had seen what had happened to the previous company that he was a partner in, Red Arrow Drilling and he got the credit for that. The real fact of the matter was that the guy in Edmonton that did the work, Gordon Gilles, he was the real man behind all this. But here's what happened now, the company was debt free, this guy, he gets rid of his wife, he married his psychologist, I mean, it's a big mess. They both worked for me, so I know them well, now they have to take a bunch of debt to get rid of him. So they get rid of him

and he takes that money, gives some of it to his ex-wife I'm sure, who by the way, is a lot better off than he is now, he's died since then of cancer. Anyway, this guy, all of a sudden, this company has a lot of debt, which is fine, because they could handle that under normal circumstances, they'd pay it off in a couple of years. But the NEP falls on top of them. It became a real problem. They have to eventually sell the company at a very low price because of that. So the NEP. . . I mean, if you really look at it, you look at the drilling contractors that have survived the NEP, I don't think . . . there is not a single independent drilling contractor that have survived it, as far as I know. There are a few that have some oil and gas income, there are a few that were diversified in some other businesses.

#065 DF: But not straight drilling.

TV: By and large the straight drilling ones, they all went broke, every one of them. I was going to tell you one more story about how different the business is today than it was then. Roll the clock back to 1965. We've just started in business, we're drilling a well into a land sale, this is very important, to Imperial Oil, in Mitsui, which is around Slave Lake there. It's a new field, there's a land sale coming up, we were drilling into that land sale. That means that they hope to get the information on the offsetting acreage that they want to bid on to see whether they should buy it and if they're going to buy it, how much they're going to pay for it. So it depends on how good a well we're going to drill, if we're going to drill a dry hole they won't spend a cent. If we drill a good well they might be paying \$2-3 million for that next 640 acres for all I know. So we're drilling into a land sale, very important. We have 14 days to drill a 13 day well so nothing can go wrong. So guess, when I get a call in the middle of the night from the Gordon Gilles that we just talked about that later went on his own and was the partner with Red Geck in Red Arrow Drilling, I get a call in the middle of the night and he said, Tony, we just pulled the derrick in. That means the derrick is no more, it's hanging, keeled over like that. I said, oops, that's bad news. I said, well, we can't repair it, get the rig off the location, we'll have to bring another rig in, we'll have to find one somewhere. I phoned my partners in Edmonton, Lawrence Hetherington and Don Fleming, I said, go and find a drilling rig, this is what's happened. They get on the phone in the middle of the night, find a rig of Hightower's, one of Doc Seaman's, I said, can we rent that rig from you, we have a problem here, sure, you can rent it. We pulled that one off the location, I go out there; Gilles talks about that issue in the book here because he was interviewed by Aubrey Kerr. Aubrey Kerr, you'll see the list, he interviewed about 40 people about this thing. Anyway, we jerk out the location, we put another rig on there, we have a mechanic on that rig 24 hours a day so if anything goes wrong, normally we don't do that, we want to make sure that it's going to keep going. We latch on to the pipe that has dropped in the hole, we pick it up, ??? it's not stuck, we get it free. We drill the well, Esso get the information with two hours to spare. And it was a dry hole so it was an easy decision, we're not going to bid on that land sale. Otherwise they might have said, well, if it's dry or not, we might put a lower bid in, a million dollars or something like that. Anyway, they didn't bid. I get a

call from Vern Hunter, Vern Hunter, Dry Hole Hunter, everybody's heard about him. He's the manager of drilling, he said, Tony, I want you to know something. First of all, we are very pleased with your performance, I don't mean that we like the fact that you pulled the

#102 derrick in but how you responded to that emergency and got us the information that we needed. We know you guys worked like dogs around the clock, I didn't know that but Gilles claims that he and I were awake for 52 hours straight, I don't know whether that's true or not, that's what he says. But he said, and I'll tell you, I know you lost your ass on that well, we don't want you to make any money, I don't want you to lose any money, just send us a bill of your cost. I sent him a bill, they paid it, they never audited it, they never wanted to see any numbers, they just paid it, that was Imperial Oil. There are so many instances of that in the business. I had a guy come into my office in Calgary, you know, we'd do anything for Imperial Oil, when they treat you like that. I had a trucker come into my office, I knew him from my days in the field. He said, Tony, I need to talk to you, I'm in a hell of a bind, I said, what's the problem, he said, I can't meet my payroll, I said, hmm. But he said, I just moved a rig for you and I've got the bills right here, they're not typed up, it's not an invoice, they're just the trucking bills, they're all signed by your superintendent, Al Nicholson and it's \$47,000. I would be eternally grateful if you could pay me right now. I said, let me see the bills, I looked at them, give them to one of the bookkeepers, I said, add them up, see if the numbers are right. She went to the vice-president of finance, Graham ???, said, give this guy a cheque for \$47,300 and some. He said, Tony, we don't have to pay them right now, 30 days or 60 days and that money is worth something because when it's sitting in the bank it's making us 1 or 2% per month. Those were high interest rates then. I said, that might be right but write the bloody cheque because I'm going to pay him. I said, when I do him this favour I'll get paid back ten-fold. You wait, next break-up, when trucks are hard to get and everybody is screaming for trucks, you think he's going to turn me down. We'll pay it. But so often, that's a bookkeeper's view of the world. And you know, when you can help somebody and it doesn't cost you very little, or even if it costs you a lot, you'll get it back. That's the way we ran our business and that is why we had good relations with everybody. Even today, my lawyer that works for me today, I said, well, we'll a little late paying because we were out of town, he said, hell, you were two weeks, you're the best paying client I've got. But when I phone he's always back to me in five minutes as well, so it works both ways. And there are still, even though they say everything has to be documented today and on and on and that is true and they say the accountants have taken over, there are still a lot of the stuff I'm talking to you about. I mean, time and time again, when I was the president of Kenting, my lawyers would come to me, or president of Trimac, and say, Tony, you just do too much without documentation. I said, have I ever been caught. The audit committee would come to me and say. . .the internal auditors, Price Waterhouse, this contract hasn't been signed, that contract hasn't been signed, I said, look, this contract is Esso, it's probably a two year contract, we're into it three months, they've paid us every month. The bid letters are there, we know what the terms are, they have confirmed the terms because they're paying me. Yes, but you don't have a contract, I said, I'll get a contract,

when they are ready, not when I am ready. They are customers. Remember, we're in the service business. We're just like Queen Elizabeth, you know what it says, what her motto is, it's German, [Eich Dien]???, "I serve". I said, that's what we are, we're a service company. We can nudge these guys but we can't push them. And you know, I've never been caught and I've done a lot of verbal things, commitments that were made verbally to me and that I have made to other people. I don't think that you should encourage it but sometimes if you have the right people, yes, you can do that. I mean, when I've done business with a guy for 30 years and he's always treated me fair and I've treated him fair and he needs something done, why can't I do it. Maybe he is waiting to get his ??? approved for gosh sake, but he's going to buy and he knows if he doesn't get going this week it's going to be spring break-up before he's finished. So I don't need paper, I just need him to tell me that he'll get it done. So that's the way we run our business. And yes, you talk about the bad time, look at this picture, I'm a young tool pusher, I'm 25,6,7 years old or something like that. Somebody's just dropped the blocks, the only good thing that happened, they didn't kill anybody. The pipe is in the hole, the blocks are on the ground, I've got a big disaster on my hands. I might well be awake for the next two days.

#168 DF: Do you have any regrets?

TV: No. I've been so fortunate. If I had to do it all over again I'd do exactly the same thing, I wouldn't do anything different. And that goes with everything, that goes with my wife, I've been married for over 50 years, my kids. Actually, I have been blessed. And we really enjoy it because we know the difference. We've been there in the mud and everything else, we've seen every side of the street. The European experience, the Indonesian thing. I told you earlier, when I came to Canada I was 21 going on 45. By the way, my dad was 44, my mother was 44, they had 13 children and empty pockets, you could bring in \$100 a person. And I'll tell you, today, well, they had 50 grandchildren, the grandchildren are all married again now, we have our annual reunions, we might have anywhere from 125-150 show up, but there are probably 200 people now. Because when the Lord said, go forth and multiply, that's exactly what they did. That family, sure, everything is not always roses, but I can tell you one thing, by and large I don't believe that anyone of them ever were on the pogy. You see, this is taken in 1943, just before we were bombed out. This is in the yard of that high school beside us, we lived over there, this is the house we built out of the bricks of that other old house, the railroad track ran right along here. It's all got now. This book is called, from the Dumb Corner to the Corner Office, you know what a Dumb Corner is on the drilling rig.

DF: Yes, explain it for us.

TV: That's this guy. You see, the greenest hand on a drilling rig, who's also always considered by oilfield philosophy, the dumbest guy, is in the dumb corner. And that's where you start. This is the guy in the dumb corner, that's the back-up tongs, here's the lead tongs, he's #5 on the crew, this is #4, and here is when I was a driller. This is the motor man, this is the guy in the dumb corner. Aubrey Kerr wrote this thing, I tried to do it but it became a biography. Here's the four oldest sons when we just came to Canada. Look at that, we're all smoking at the time. Here is my mother, she was killed when she

was 56 years old in a car accident coming back for a graduation of my brother who's a lawyer in Red Deer, in the States, at the university there. Here's where they lived in Rocky Mountain House, look at that shack with 9 kids. Here's my dad on a bike looking over his adopted country. Here is all 13 of us. I'll show you another one that's interesting. I was in Indonesia.

DF: Let's just end the formal part of the interview at this time, we're running out of tape. So on behalf of the Petroleum Industry Oral History Project, I'd like to thank you so very much Tony, for inviting us into your home and sharing part of your life with us. I appreciate that there are all these other written materials but you telling your story in your own words is very important, thank you very much.

TV: You're more than welcome, thank you.