

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Gordon Webster

INTERVIEWER: Nadine Mackenzie

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NM: This is Nadine Mackenzie speaking. I am interviewing Mr. Gordon Webster. Mr. Webster, thank you for having accepted to participate in our project. Can you tell me, when and where were you born?

GW: I was born September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1913 in Edmonton and then I came down to Calgary when I was about 1.

NM: So you are nearly a true Calgarian.

GW: That's right.

NM: What did your parents do?

GW: My dad worked in the railway construction business.

NM: Was he Canadian, your father?

GW: Yes, my dad was born in Orangeville, Ontario. Then he worked all around in the railway business in Ontario working on the Canadian National Railway. Then he came out to Edmonton and he was working on the Great Northern Railway between Jasper and Tete Jeune Cache. He left our mother and us kids in Edmonton, that's what he was doing when I was born.

NM: And what about your mother?

GW: My mother came from Croyden???, she was born in Croyden and she came out here in about 1906 or '07 with her mother and her dad and they settled in Kenora, Ontario. That's where Dad met Mother when the Grand Trunk Pacific was being constructed through Kenora.

NM: Where did you go to school, here in Calgary?

GW: I went to public school and high school in Calgary and then I went up to the university in Edmonton and took my chemical engineering degree up there.

NM: Why did you choose chemical engineering?

GW: I decided I was going to be an engineer of some kind. My dad had worked for Imperial Oil for quite a long time and I had worked for them in the lab doing chemical work and at that time jobs weren't all that plentiful so I took chemical engineering because I figured I could get a job with Imperial Oil. Which I did on graduation.

NM: What about your summer jobs, what did you do?

GW: I had all kinds of summer jobs. One summer I was up in the Kananaskis, the summer of 1933 surveying. The year before that I worked in a service station and then the summer of '34 I started down at the Imperial Oil working in the lab down there. I also worked one summer at the Imperial Oil as a boilermakers helper.

NM: And what was your first post after graduation?

GW: I was a petroleum inspector at the Imperial Oil refinery.

#035 NM: Did you stay in Calgary for that or where did you go?

GW: That was in Calgary.

NM: And how long did you keep this post for?

GW: I was there a little over 2 years. Then I got a job with Dowell, it looked as though it had a little more travel involved, as an acidizing engineer. The crude oil had just been discovered in Turner Valley in 1936 and they wanted people to acidize. Haliburton and Dowell were doing all the acidizing. Dowell got started up here so I went to work for them and went down to Shelby, Montana and then I went down to Shreveport, Louisiana for instruction. Then I came back in October of '37 and I started acidizing wells in Turner Valley for Dowell at that time.

NM: Can you tell me about Turner Valley in that time, how was it?

GW: Are you talking about socially or geologically or what?

NM: Both.

GW: Turner Valley of course, they started out there in 1912 to produce oil from the upper sands. Old Doc Allan up at the University of Alberta, talking to me one day about meeting my uncle who was working for Pat Burns at that time, south of Okotoks and they were trying to look for well locations I guess. Apparently Allan didn't interest Burns in doing any work down there, or vice versa, maybe Pat Burns didn't have any money to do any work down there. That was about the time of the first well out there, when Heron found that gas seep on his place. They drilled Dingman #1 and Dingman #2 and they got that oil from the upper sands. Then in 1926 they decided that maybe they could do better than that, that there was a structure out there and they drilled into the top of the structure, into the limestone. That's when Royalite 4 blew out, with all the gas, made all the great name for Turner Valley and all the smell that came out. There were 2 things about Turner Valley, one was the great flare you could see every night when you looked out your window.

NM: Yes, I was told that you could read your newspaper.

GW: Well yes, you could if you were down close to there, you couldn't read the newspaper. . . The other thing was the smell. Whenever you got within about 10 miles of Turner Valley you could smell the hydrogen sulphide.

NM: Was it bad for the health?

GW: You read about all these problems that people have around Alberta with it, at Lodgepole and Pincher Creek. The only thing about it was, if you got enough of it, it would kill you so I guess you'd say it was bad for your health. But at that time I don't remember too many people being overcome by it.

NM: Because nowadays it seems that people are developing a rash and being quite sick.

GW: Well, I kind of. . . well, I shouldn't say I doubt that, those people know whether they've got a rash or not. But when I was working out there our house was about 4 or 5 hundred yards from the tank battery and we used to be woken every morning because they used to lift the lids on the tanks to gauge the oil and when they did that there would be the hydrogen sulphide would blow out. And it would come by the house and we'd wake up in the morning with it, if the wind was blowing that direction. There was a whole bunch of people down there that lived that close to it. The only thing they ever did, well, you'd just

get away from it and the problems seemed to disappear. Although I suppose a lot of people that it affected, well, I know one fellow, Carl Paulson, he said he went out to Turner Valley and worked for a week in 1926. I said, why did you quit for and he said, god I couldn't stand the gas, I'd get sick with it, I just couldn't stand it so he left. And I imagine there's a lot of people who were affected that seriously and they just left. Those people that stayed are still living down at Pincher Creek and up at Lodgepole.

#092 NM: And they look quite healthy.

GW: And I think the ones that it affected are still there and they continue to get it. Of course, the big problem with hydrogen sulphide is that it paralyses your olfactory nerves, your sense of smell.

NM: After a time you don't smell it. . .

GW: After 2 whiffs you think that smell is gone. That's why a lot of people have been killed with it, they sniff and say, I thought there was gas here but I don't smell it anymore and they'd stay there and the gas would overcome them. What often happen was that they fell down, if it was in a closed area, in a room, they fell down in the room and they continued to get some more of it. It's just as deadly as carbon monoxide. But if you were outside and you fell out of the gas then you came to. We also had the stuff, hydrogen sulphide, down at the Imperial Oil refinery but it wasn't so much of it. That was the one thing about Turner Valley that people always associated was the smell and the other was the flare that you could see.

NM: What about the conditions of living, were you living in a house?

GW: When I was working for Dowell out there I lived in Calgary and worked the Calgary offices. It was kind of a salesman, ??? proposition. I lived in Calgary and visited around Calgary and then went to Okotoks, which is where our station was and then Down to Turner Valley. But I didn't live in Turner Valley till I started with Home Oil Co. in 1940.

NM: Why did you leave Dowell?

GW: Home looked like a pretty good bunch to go to work for and the work was a little more on a regular basis. It was 7 days a week, 8 hours a day. With Dowell you used to work 24 hrs. for 2 days and then you didn't do anything else for the rest of the week.

NM: So it was very irregular?

GW: Yes, that's right.

NM: And what did you do at Home Oil?

GW: When I started for Home I was the only engineer that was working for them. I worked in Turner Valley and we had 4 or 5 operators and then some lease gang. So I ran the field operation. They called me an engineer, you could have called me a field superintendent. But I wasn't responsible for the drilling at that time. They had a drilling contractor that did that and we had a geologist that was responsible for the geology. After awhile the drilling contractor was responsible for the geology. But I looked after the production of the oil and the sale of the oil and all the rest of it.

#136NM: Do you remember who hired you?

GW: Major James R. Lowry hired me. He was president of the company at that time.

NM: Can you give me some background on Home Oil?

GW: Home Oil Co. was organized by Major James R. Lowry in about 1926. I think he organized it in Edmonton actually. He was working out at . . . I can't think of the name of the town right now. He had been teaching school out there and then he was running a hardware store. Then he heard about this development in Turner Valley so he organized Home Oil Co. I think he was in Edmonton at the time. They got several leases out there and drilled the wells. Then they had their wells on production but then the production started to decline rather rapidly because they were flaring so much gas. They weren't selling the gas, at least they were only selling a very small portion of it. They were selling the naphtha that settled out of the gas. And the pressures declined rather rapidly so the people that were making all the money were the Royalite Oil Co. which ran the gas plant down there. So they finally sold their wells to Royalite Oil Co. I don't know how many they had, about 4 or 5 I think and they had some more leases. They sold them to Royalite Oil Co. and then they took the money and went out into the Bridge River country, out at Vancouver and went into the goldmine business. Except their mine wasn't where the gold was. So they didn't last too long at that. They Lowry still kept his hand in with the oil leases and he got quite interested in the north end of Turner Valley because R. A. Brown had found oil in the south end. So he rationalized that if you went out to the north end where it was deeper there would be oil there. So he got a lot of leases up there. He was also quite interested in the Brazeau area at that time and he got a big lease up in the Brazeau area. So then in 1937, Sanderson was his head geologist and they picked a location out there and they drilled Home-Millarville #1 this time. Millarville indicates the wells that were drilled after '37. Well, they were in the Millarville area. They drilled the #1 well, Snyder and Head were their contractors. Then the ground they were working in was fairly faulted but Snyder and Head were going to go right ahead and drill the thing. They drilled the well, finally got about 25 or 30 degrees off of vertical and they got way away from their original surface location. Finally mechanically they had to shut down, they couldn't twist the drill pipe anymore. So then they drilled the second well, about 3/4 of a mile west of there, Home-Millarville 2, which came on production in about December of '38 I think it was. Just before the war anyway. It came on production, it was the biggest

#190 well in Turner Valley and they claimed at that time they were quite proud of talking about the fact that it was the biggest well in the British Empire that produced over 3,000 barrels a day. Then they drilled Home 3 and 4 in the same vicinity. Then they leased some of their land out, further north again, to the British Dominion Oil Co., the Atlas people. They drilled another well up there further north again, and they got oil up there. Home had an interest in that well and Home drilled some more wells in that vicinity. Right after the war Imperial discovered the oil up in Leduc. Well, before that they did drill 2 wells up in the Brazeau country, they drilled one well with cable tools, Home-Brazeau #1 and then they got Shell interested and they drilled a second well with a rotary rig up there. But they never did get any production out of that. After Imperial discovered Leduc, Home, we got a quarter section up there from ??? and then we got another quarter section that we had to share with Chevron Standard and then I guess we got another quarter sections. We got 3

quarters sections south of the river, plus a half interest in the one we shared with Standard. Then we got working with Anglo Canadian and the Calgary and Edmonton Corporation bought land north of the river, in the Woodbend area. They drilled wells there and they also bought land out in Redwater, along with Anglo Canadian, we had 3 quarter sections out there with 12 wells. Then they started getting into various other oil plays around the province out at Joseph Lake and Armena. Then Brown got into the act and took over Home Oil Co. from Lowry. We drilled wells in Harmattan-Elkton and made a discovery up there and Swan Hills and Virginia Hills. The Home went on over, we drilled some wells in the North Sea. Which weren't successful. We also drilled about 3 wells up in Yorkshire on the land, which looked as though they were going to be productive but when it was all over they built a gas plant and they started to produce them, the reservoir wasn't there so they had to scrap it.

#246 NM: That was bad luck really.

GW: Yes. BP were our partners over there. Well, it continued to expand from there. We had an interest in an offshore well off of Oman which didn't amount to anything. I just can't think of any other developments right off hand that Home had. Swan Hills was the big thing. Then later on, Brown had to sell his interest to Consumers Gas and Oka??? Jones took over as president and managing director. I made a pretty brief summary of what happened from 1926 to 1980.

NM: Can you tell me a bit more about your career with Home Oil, you started in 1940 and then what happened?

GW: When I started they just finished drilling Home-Millarville 4 so we wanted to continue to drill out in Turner Valley. We drilled up to Home-Millarville 37. In that interval we drilled that stuff in Leduc also and I did quite a lot of work in Leduc. But I was in charge of their field operations. That is in Turner Valley and Leduc. I helped . . . Anglo Canadian was the operator for our Redwater stuff. Then as the company got bigger my individual responsibility got a little bit less until about . . . I was responsible for the drilling well, we drilled up quite a bit of Swan Hills. Then I got into the unitization, joint venture part of the operation. So I wasn't as active in that as I was previously. I was still in charge of the unitization department when I retired in '78.

NM: Can you tell me a bit more about unitization?

GW: Unitization is a method that you had to adopt if you're going to use secondary recovery. When you have separate leases and you drill wells each person goes ahead and produces their own oil from their own lease. It's really quite simple, if you drilled a poor well you don't get very much and if I drilled a good well I get a lot. It all depends on where our leases were. Then after a little while you decide that to get more oil out of the ground you're going to have to go to secondary recovery, which involves pressure maintenance by injecting water or gas. The question becomes, who's well are we going to put this water in. Because if you want to put the water in my well I won't be able to get any oil out of it. So the thing comes down to, if you think I'm going to use my well to put the water in I'm going to want some of your oil, this extra recovery you get because of the water that goes in my well. So then we form a unit which takes in usually, the whole of

the pool. You establish injection wells that you're going to put the water or the gas into. So you have a unit and each one shares in the production from the unit, presumably on the basis of the oil he contributed to it. You share in it regardless of whether your lease is being used for oil production or water injection. The other time you form a unit is when you have a gas field and rather than drill every lease in the gas field, you will unitize it and just drill a well on every 3 or 4 sections, which presumably would be sufficient to drain it but you save drilling all those extra wells. That's the process of unitization and as secondary recovery has become more predominant unitization has become more predominant. Of course, the whole reason for having to develop the thing unitized is because you have different companies who have bought different leases.

NM: This is the end of the tape.

Tape 1 Side 2

GW: There are different companies who have bought different leases and there's different royalty owners. Maybe the province of Alberta, the CPR or an actual individual land owner and they're all interested in their oil that comes up. So for this reason you have to unitize this thing. But in places like, well, I guess in Russia and also in the near East where they have enormous reservoirs and they're all owned by one person. So you don't have to discriminate about where you're going to inject water or inject gas. So unitization never becomes a problem in those big Arabian oilfields or in the Russian oilfields where there's only one owner. But that's basically the deal on unitization, I don't know, is that sufficient for you?

NM: Yes. So you were involved with unitization at Home Oil?

GW: Yes.

NM: Can you tell me a bit more about that, what was Home Oil doing?

GW: Well, Home Oil when I left, they had an interest in 35 different units and they were operator in about 7 or 8 of them. So we had to look after the formation of the unit and getting the unit documents executed and getting all the royalty owners to execute. Then after we went into operation we had to get the various owners approval for different expenditures and arrange to distribute the revenue from the production and get people's approval for doing all these different things. And then also, along with the units, quite often was a gas plant which processed the gas from the unit, sweetened the gas and made the various LPG products and got the gas down the pipeline and LPG products to market. Then up at Carstairs for example, we also made sulphur from all the hydrogen sulphide.

NM: So how long were you involved with unitization with Home Oil?

GW: From 1958 to 1978.

NM: And what else did you do at Home Oil?

GW: You mean on the unitization. Well, it was a matter of getting the properties evaluated so that you could set up a unit participation. Then you had to work with the legal people and the accounting people to prepare what's known as the unit operating agreement. You had to have meetings and get people to agree to all these things. Then the documents are all executed then you had an effective date of the unit. Then the unit operated. I don't know

whether I've told you really what. . .

#044 NM: Did it take a long time to have all the papers approved?

GW: Some of them you could get them approved in a month or 6 weeks and some of them you never got them approved. Like Redwater, Imperial Oil worked on Redwater for 2 or 3 years. I sat in on meetings and we were going to unitize it and going to unitize it but we never could find a satisfactory formula and it isn't unitized to this day. I don't think it's unitized yet.

NM: So that can take quite a long time.

GW: But it's one of those things that there was never a great need to unitize because there wasn't the need for all that secondary recovery in Redwater that there was in some of the other fields. In the north end of Turner Valley Lowry did a lot of the idea making just simply on the basis that, if Brown found oil deeper down in the south end of Turner Valley there must be oil in the north end of Turner Valley further down. Sanderson did a lot of geology for Home and followed the structure up to the north end. Lowry followed it too and then when they picked a location it was at an optimum location. The way it worked out Sanderson was spoiling the thing for the drillers. If he stayed out of it Home-Millarville 1 probably would have been a producer. But anyway he didn't. But then, Home-Millarville 2 was also located by Sanderson and Lowry, helped by a fellow by the name of Dingman. They got a lot of information from Imperial Oil at that time. Lowry was quite a guy to get around and get a lot of free opinions from people. So they drilled the well and finally they got to the limestone and they set casing and drilled the lime and bailed the mud out and here comes the oil. The next discovery which was at Leduc, Home didn't discover it, Imperial Oil discovered it. Then Home bought leases up there and they went and got a contractor to drill them. So there was nothing magical about it. Then Swan Hills and Inderness??? and Harmattan-Elkton, they used seismic, they were all seismic anomalies. They drilled the wells there with some geological assistance and they found the oil. There really isn't that much magic to discovering an oilfield, you just drill enough holes. If you're lucky enough to drill them in the right place you'll get a discovery every 10 or 15 holes you drill.

#088 NM: Let us go back to your career. You got different titles during your career?

GW: When I started they called me a production engineer. Lowry said that way I could work out in the field or in Calgary. Now the war was on at this time don't forget, and you got into problems with the wage controls. If you didn't get a different job you couldn't get any more money. That was one of the ways they gave you a little more money once in awhile was to give you another name, even though your job wasn't that much different. I was production engineer and then after Gillespie came along I was drilling superintendent. Then I was manager of non-operated properties and manager of unitization. I had that title for the last 20 years, manager of unitization or what did they call it, group manager. Anyway it's the same thing, a department manager. But I had that same title for the last 20 years I was there.

NM: When you started working for Home Oil how big was the staff?

GW: There were 5 operators and 2 or 3 men on the lease gang. Then there were 2 or 3 stenographers in the Calgary office, Bid Lowry was in the Calgary office, Major Lowry was in the Calgary office. George Hudson was in charge of the Vancouver office. So I don't know, there were 12 or 15 people I guess.

NM: And when you retired how big was the staff?

GW: I don't know, around about 500 I guess. By the time I retired it was getting so involved. They had the Home Petroleum Co. in the States, they had another Home company, Stored??? LPG Products in the States and I wouldn't be sure how many people are working for them then.

NM: What about the offices when you started working for Home Oil, where was it in Calgary?

GW: The office was out in Millarville. The office I was working in was in Millarville.

NM: Was there an office too in Calgary?

GW: Yes, there was an office in Calgary in the Lougheed building.

NM: Was it a big office?

GW: No, there were just 3 rooms I think. Our Millarville office I built it, I mean, I hired a carpenter and he built it. There was only 2 rooms in it so it was pretty simple.

#126 NM: You retired in September '78, what did you do then?

GW: I continued to work for Home for about 2 years, about 3 days a week, on unitization projects that they had going or new ones that came along. They were a little short on help and they wanted a little more know-how so I worked with them on those for 2 years. You see, Home had taken over Scurry Rainbow at that time and they had the Cecil Lake field they wanted to unitize and. . . up in B.C. . . . The Fort St. John field, I helped to unitize that. Then they started cutting back on help and I went over and worked for a couple of years for Canadian Superior the same way about 3 days a week. I fitted in there pretty easily because Canadian Superior had bought Almanex and for a long time Almanex was a minor partner with Home Oil Co. They developed the Swan Hills for instance. Almanex had a 12 ½% interest up there. So when I went to Can Sup I was aware of all the problems that Almanex had, although Almanex's name didn't appear but because Can Sup had brought the properties. The other property that we had quite a time developing was Pembina, I didn't mention that before. We didn't discover that, we just bought leases up there and went ahead and drilled the wells so that there wasn't all that magic about it. But we got a lot of oil out of there and Almanex was one of our partners there. So then I worked for them for a couple of years and then they started coming back on help and I did very little for about 9 months I guess. Then the last little while, the last 3 months I've been working 1 or 2 days a week with Andex??? Oil Co. They have a small interest in units and it isn't sufficient to have a unitization manager so I go in there and help them with their unit problems when they come along. I was over to Bow Valley Industries for a little while, well, just a couple of days. And I've done a little bit of work for Decob??? on the same basis, a day here and a day there.

NM: Can you compare the training of oil people in your time to what it is nowadays?

GW: For one thing you didn't have to know as much because there wasn't as much information available. There wasn't a great mass of stuff that you have to do with the government. A

lot of the reservoir techniques that are known today weren't known then. A lot of the drilling techniques, the use of mud wasn't known. At least it wasn't known to the extent it is today. Back then the business went a little bit slower so you thought about it a little bit more as you went along. Now a person, they have a lot of seminars that people go and learn at and also, well, there's just more people around to disseminate the information.

NM: Technology has changed too.

GW: Well, yes. There's things like there's drilling mud engineers now. 30 years ago you didn't have mud engineers. And you used to do a lot of things yourself, like running bottom hole pressures and you calibrated your own pressure gauges and ran the bombs and got the pressures. But there was a lot of things you didn't know enough about to ask about. But nowadays it is the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and there's a society of corrosion engineers and a society of geophysicists and there's a society of log analysts. There's all these different side things that have come up that people go and learn from.

#197 NM: Can you comment on the ups and downs of the oil business, you have been a witness to that?

GW: It's the old story, it's supply and demand actually. When I started or rather when my dad started at the Imperial refinery in Calgary, they brought crude up from Wyoming in tank cars and refined it in the Calgary refinery. Then they sold that all over Alberta as gasoline. Then in '26 when they started to get this Turner Valley going they brought that into the Imperial refinery there and blended it with the heavier crudes from Montana and Wyoming and sold it around Calgary. Then Brown got oil from Turner Valley in '26 and they kept working it at the refinery there. Pretty soon they had more oil in Turner Valley than they could sell at the refinery because some people were still bringing gasoline in from the northern states, Wyoming particularly. So then they started to cut the price back and cut the allowable back. At that time they were getting about \$1.50 a barrel for oil and then the price of oil went even cheaper than that down in the states. Some people were importing gasoline into Alberta. So it was pretty competitive and then Fisher, he set out to export his oil that he couldn't produce and sell to Imperial Oil, to take it down to Regina. Of course, by the time you added on the freight in tank cars, his oil wasn't worth quite as much when it got to Regina. So they never did export very much of it. Then the Conservation Board got into the act and they started limiting the production. Then the war came along and they could have encouraged wildcatting if they'd paid more for oil but they decided they were going to keep the price of gasoline the same, they didn't want it to go up. So they did this by keeping the price of Turner Valley crude the same, \$1.25 a barrel and all the stuff they had to import from the states, they paid a subsidy on it. So that the Canadian producer never got any benefit from the increased prices during the war. Then after the war the price started to come up a little bit, I think it was about \$3 when Leduc got going. Then Home Oil had a problem, they couldn't sell that much oil, there wasn't any place for it to go. So they bought a refinery down in Brandon and they used to ship oil from Leduc down to Brandon. Every tank car of oil that we shipped was an extra tank car we sold. Then the Redwater came along and the Conservation Board

started to restrict the production of oil all over the province and they found all the markets for it. So the market was held down and the price never shot up very high and I guess the price stayed down pretty well. . . but also we were restricted or cut back a lot in our. . . we couldn't produce at our capability for a long time. So every time you made a new discovery that meant the same market was split among more producers. Then we got the embargo on the far eastern oil in '73 and all of a sudden Alberta oil was awfully valuable through the interprovincial pipeline. The thing picked up and it's been more or less that way ever since and the price has continued to escalate. Until the National Energy Plan. Of course, we've had the same ability to produce. . . well, we've more or less had the same ability to produce. But we aren't getting the world price for the oil and in addition to that, our royalties have gone up and there's a PGRT tax. So the oil business goes up and down but it seems to be, it's a whipping boy for quite a lot of things on various occasions. Just because it looks like it's a pretty valuable product everybody's got their hand out to get a piece of it.

#292 NM: What do you think of the National Energy Program?

GW: I told you, nothing. It was a very ill conceived thing. Trudeau and his buddies down east decided that they were going to get their hand in the cookie jar too. The old story, he got so many cookies in his hand he couldn't get his hand out of the jar. They took so much out of it that there's not enough left for the producer. Then they got that idea of subsidizing all that northern stuff so that people are drilling up north there. They drill one well up there, they could drill about 100 wells. . .

NM: The cost is astronomical.

GW: In Alberta and I think they'd produce just as much oil from Alberta. Of course, one of these days we're going to have to go up north there. Maybe we'll have developed a little better techniques. We would have had the tar sands going much better by now if. . . To my mind the National Energy Plan, they just decided they were going to get in on some of that free. . . at least not free, but get in on some of Alberta's natural resources and Saskatchewan's natural resources. They didn't really care what they did to the business. Because unless you get the price up you have the problem of producing the oil from the tar sands and you also have the problem of your conventional crude, the tertiary recovery systems will never take place unless the price is up there to support it.

NM: This is the end of the first interview with Gordon Webster.

#### Tape 2 Side 1

NM: This is Nadine Mackenzie speaking. This is the second interview with Gordon Webster. Mr. Webster, you have seen many things changing over the years in the oil industry, for example the grants from the government. Can we talk about that?

GW: Those grants are a peculiar sort of thing. At first it looks as though the government is giving money to people to drill up in the Arctic where they wouldn't otherwise but when you review it a little bit closer you begin to see that it's not quite open and shut as grants. Because one of the things some of those people do up north, is to hire their own drilling

contractor or seismic contractor and I think quite often they pay them a very good rate. That money comes from their grant but their drilling contractor or their seismic contractor gets paid this extra money but he doesn't really do anything except supply equipment. So that the grant is really over and above what normal business would be paid to do that work. Dome has a drilling company, I forget what the name of it is right now, and they're the ones that got paid all the excessive rates. And I think Gulf had an American rig up there in Alaska that they hired out at very high rates because, well, they bought this rig which was an experimental rig and they were going to pay it off in about 3 years and they were going to rent it to people who were going to pay for it. 80% of the contract cost came directly from the federal government. So whether the rig cost \$1 million for the month or \$2 million for the money, the government of Canada still picked up \$800,000 or \$1,600,000. The money went out of the country to the people who had built the ruddy rig. I think Dome was doing the same thing except their money wasn't going out of the country, it was staying with one of the Dome offshoots. So people went and manipulated the ruddy things. Then in addition to that the seismic people just took conventional seismic equipment up there but charged very high rates, which the oil company immediately charged to their well account and they got 80% of it back from the federal government.

NM: But in the past companies used not to get grants?

GW: For instance I remember, this is quite awhile ago now but the people in Lloydminster were having trouble making money at about \$1 a barrel for their oil up there and they were real happy when the Crown reduced the royalty from 12 1/2% to 5% and that really wasn't very much of a grant compared to the PIP grants for example. That's the sort of thing that people were looking for. This is why the PIP grants seemed so far out of line. The government would actually be better if they did the work themselves, except I don't know how the hell they would do it because everything the government does costs twice as much anyway. I'm really not that familiar with the grants but I do know that's the way they functioned and I do know some of the seismic people and some of the drilling contractors were charging exorbitant sums for their equipment that was rented to a company and they got 80% of their ruddy money back from the government right away.

#045 NM: That's quite a lot. Can we talk now about the changes in communications?

GW: When I started with Home in 1940 we had a telephone out in Turner Valley and we thought we were pretty lucky, having a telephone. It was a farmers mutual telephone, there were 10 or 12 people on it and it used to be, our ring out there was 3 shorts a pause and then 4 shorts. The number was 916734. When you heard it ringing 3 and then 4 you'd pick up the phone and you'd know it was your turn. But this let all the farmers wives and the farmers and everybody else were on this line. Also it was a fairly primitive type of construction and it was 35 miles long, which was a pretty good stretch for a Magneto??? telephone. If you got a lot of rain or wet it didn't function very well. The phone might function all right but the bells didn't ring very good. When we went up to Leduc Home was very lucky because, we had a landman that used to work in the liquor store there in Edmonton during the war and he used to look after some of the government officers and

make sure that the Scotch whiskey, which was in kind of short supply, he would have a case or two stashed away for them. So that when they came in they could get a bottle of whiskey. Not free, they still had to pay for it but they had a little better treatment. Anyway George Hudson was this landman, we asked him if he could get a telephone out at our Leduc location. He called back 2 days later and said, where did we want the phone installed. I was talking to him and I said, George, what do you mean, well, he said, I'm in the Minister of Telephones office right now, I used to help him during the war with his whiskey and he wants to know where you want the phone. So I told him where we wanted the phone in the office. Well, that was the only phone in the field. Everybody else used to have to go into Leduc to get a phone. Then after the war, we got to the FM radio and then finally, the mobile radio telephone. We had that out on one of our Sarcee wells. That was still fairly primitive but at least you could drive around. There weren't very many stations. Then the other thing in about '53 or '54, we drilled a well up in the Brazeau country and we wanted to get a radio in there, a short wave radio. They wouldn't give us permission to run one into Calgary because it cost a telephone line. So we had to put a receiving station in at Nordegg, in an individual's house there and he or his wife had to relay all the messages from the radio to the telephone that he had in his house. Sometimes Gulf, they also had a radio station on the same frequency way up at Fort St. John and they had a Telex up there and quite often the well would be calling Nordegg and Nordegg couldn't reply to them because the shortwave would jump and Fort St. John would come on the line and they'd handle the traffic over their Telex into their Calgary office and then their Calgary office would phone our Calgary office with the message. So these were really all pretty primitive compared to all your cellular FM radio telephones that you have in every car these days. Then the other communication problem we had was out at Pembina because everybody was lined up to use the few telephones that were out there but we got a Telex into our office out there. We got it through the telephone company but it certainly was handier than standing around waiting to get a telephone. We had the Telex but we couldn't get a telephone. So we'd put the traffic on the Telex. The more primitive one still was when we drilled the Brazeau well in 1940. We had a forest rangers telephone up there, the single wire that ran through the trees. With a ground return it was always quite noisy and it only worked about half of the time. So either you got the message through or you got along without the message. The alternative of course, was to drive which was quite time consuming too, particularly on the very poor roads that we had up there. But I think that's all I've got to say about communication.

#110 NM: Can I ask you to talk about the changes in service business?

GW: By service business, there's a lot of things, like contractors. . . It used to be it was difficult to get a building contractor. We had our own carpenter on the job and with the lease gang a carpenter would do the job. The number of pipeline contractors around were rather limited. Home Oil had their own welder, we wanted some minor pipeline work done. Well, our welder got at it. We used to have a bull gang that did all sorts of work and between the bull gang and the welder, they'd make all sorts of things. But you couldn't get hold of a service company that would tailor make the stuff for you and

deliver it. It was the same way with the compressor repairs, you had to do them yourself, there wasn't a service company that would come out and take the heads off your compressors and replace them. The only service company that really gave a service comparable to today were the cementing people. There were 2 of them, Dowell and Haliburton. They used to bring their equipment out to the well and cement the wells for you. But we didn't have any wire line people at all until about the time of Leduc and Schlumberger got into the act and would log the wells. Except sometimes you had to wait a little while for them because there weren't that many of them around. The other service businesses, I can't think of too many others than the ones I've talked about so far. I guess that's all in the services.

#135 NM: Can we talk about safety on the drilling site?

GW: People always were very conscious of safety because they knew they were going to get hurt if they didn't watch themselves. Like anything else, you have to look out for yourself. One of the things about safety was hydrogen sulphide at that time. Whenever anybody thought they were getting close to hydrogen sulphide they didn't stay in a building, they were outside and you'd get on the windward side of the thing. You used to look after one another and if you smelled gas you'd tell people about it and you'd all move around. That was the one hazard, the gas but we used to get it when we were gauging tanks but operators were aware of the fact it was going to occur. The only protection they had was what we used to call what was a respirator which only had a cannister type thing which would take out a certain amount of hydrogen sulphide. It was like the military respirators. But if the concentration of hydrogen sulphide was too high the hydrogen sulphide would come through. Or if there was a lot of other gases so that there was no oxygen well you would just drown in the gas because there was no oxygen. The blower type masks, people didn't seem to see them around until. . .well, you'd see them very occasionally for cleaning out tanks or something but that was the only time they were used. It had to wait till '50 or '51 when those things became standard with a blower type thing. So that if you wanted to go into a tank you could put on a mask and a hose, or at least a mask complete with a hose and leave somebody outside who would run the blower that would blow air into you. Then there was other safety things, like the fellows got hurt with things dropping in the derrick. An awful lot of that was the driller. A good driller would look out for his crew and would keep training them until they became conscious themselves of the safety hazards of things falling or things breaking. The other thing that we were very fortunate with actually, in Alberta, was the blow out preventors. Because the blow out preventors we had were pretty primitive but with the old cable tools, they were developed so you could work around a gas blow. And if there wasn't a wind well maybe you quit work until there was a wind. When the rotary got working there were very few occasions where the pressure was sufficient that it blew the mud out of the hole and you got things like the Lodgepole deal. But practically all of the Turner Valley stuff that was completed with rotary they never had any blow out problems because they always had sufficient fluid to overcome the relatively low bottom hole pressures. You could kill a Turner Valley well by filling it full of oil so that it wasn't a

big problem. You didn't damage the well when you killed it. But since that time I guess Redwater was the first place where you couldn't handle a well by just filling it with oil. You had to start using water or something heavier than oil anyway. Then we've had a number of cases since then around the province where they actually had to use heavy muds to keep the well under control. Then the type of blow out preventor you use gets relevant. We didn't use to have sufficient room under the derrick to put in 2 or 3 blow out preventors the way they use them now. And we didn't have a high drill type of blow out preventor which would close on anything or close on nothing also. But the blow out preventors we had were all pretty primitive and a lot of them were worked manually. So that you had to get in fairly close to them to shut them off. Then the other thing we had on occasion. . . well, in my own case we were blowing a well clear with high pressure gas and we found out afterwards that they hydrogen sulphide corrosion had taken place and as a result the tubing string parted at about 1,500'. Then the tubing blew out of the hole and broke the gas line off. I was standing beside the gas line and it whipped like a fire hose and it hit me in the legs and knocked my legs off so that when I got to the hospital my legs weren't there. The other fellow that was standing beside me, Clarence Matthews, it just knocked the soles off of his shoes. But I was very fortunate in the fact that they got me down to the hospital right away and we had 2 very dedicated doctors down there and a hospital full of nurses that looked after me day and night for quite a little while. Dr. Richardson came out the first night and completed the amputation of my left leg above the knee and then he left the right leg just the way it was, which was cut off just above my ankle. Then I developed gas gangrene in that leg and at that time we didn't have all those fancy sulpha drugs to kill the gas gangrene.

#233 NM: Like antibiotics.

GW: Yes, the antibiotics. So we had to use a serum for that and then they finally killed the gas gangrene and they re-amputated the leg 6 weeks after I went in the hospital. That was about the same time that I got over the amnesia that I had suffered from being hit on the head as I was being rolled along. I stayed a total of 3 months down there in the Turner Valley hospital. It wasn't a very fancy hospital, it was a converted bunkhouse from Okalta Oil Co. and they had a very primitive operating room there which you used mostly just for childbirth. But Dr. Richardson amputated both my legs out there in the hospital. From there I went back to my home in Millarville where I learned to walk again. Well, I got my limbs about 6 months after I got injured. But there was no physiotherapy that went with it, they just gave me the legs like they would a pair of shoes and asked how they fit. Then I went out to Millarville there and they built a wooden sidewalk behind the house with handrails on it and I had handrails on the stairs and I had to work my way down the stairs and then walk back and forth on the sidewalk. Eventually I was able to get to work. The office was only at the other end of the sidewalk so I could get to work there and then eventually I learned how to drive a car again. But I never did see a physiotherapist till 1967, which would be from '43 to '67, what's that, 24 years after my accident before I met up with a physiotherapist. Which I did at the Compensation Board clinic in Edmonton. That's about all the story I guess isn't it. Well, I was quite fortunate in, the

company I was working for, Home gave me my job back even though I was incapacitated. But after awhile I got around about as well as anybody else.

#278 NM: And you went on working?

GW: Yes, I continued working for Home Oil Co. till I retired in '78.

NM: Psychologically, was it very tough to get over this accident?

GW: It was very difficult to get over it. It was difficult to learn to walk again and it was difficult to appreciate that I couldn't walk when things were slippery, like on a snowy day I would be very restricted in my ability to walk. But like everything else, time heals.

NM: Can we talk now about the land titles? They were transferred to Alberta in 1935, how did it happen?

GW: Well, my grasp of this may be a little elementary. The titles to the land were originally with the Hudson Bay Co. in Alberta and then the Hudson Bay Co. sold all the land to the Dominion of Canada in about, right around Confederation, they sold the land. Then when Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, as I understand it, the mineral titles were all kept in Ottawa. The land titles were kept, that's the surface land were kept in the conventional land titles office but Ottawa kept track of all the minerals. Then when Alberta was formed they continued to look after the minerals for the account of Alberta. At least that's the way I understand it. Then in '35 they actually brought all the titles out here. Jimmy Hamilton who used to work for Home Oil Co. was working for the provincial government at that time. He told me that they got all the land records and they put them in 4 or 5 baggage cars and brought them out to Edmonton and then they transferred them from the baggage cars to the provincial mineral titles office in Edmonton where they've been every since. That's all I have to say about that.

NM: Mr. Webster, how do you foresee the future of the oil business in Calgary?

GW: First of all, I'm quite sure it'll be up and down the way it's been since we first had the oil business.

NM: This is the end of the tape.

Tape 2 Side 2

GW: I'm quite sure it will be up and down the way it's been ever since 1912 when the oil business started in Alberta. We certainly aren't going to see the boom days where everybody went crazy like they did in 1914 and 1926. Then of course, there were the boom days after Leduc and continued and then some more booms when the great embargo went on the Arabian oil in '73. Well see, there was an embargo and then the price went up and the thing took off again. Then it went downhill with the National Energy Program and it seems to be picking up again a little bit since then. I'd like to think we're going to be able to increase our gas sales but that's going to be a pretty difficult thing to anticipate. After all, the Americans have got to get over their gas bubble. Then we're going to have a chance to sell some more gas I guess. We also are going to have to get tertiary oil recovery and are going to have to get the oil sands mining stuff straightened around and are going to have to get the oil sand in situ processes straightened

around. So that we will be able to make Canada independent of imported crude after awhile. Unless the crude oil becomes cheap again and if the crude oil from anywhere, from the near east or off the eastern coast or the Arctic oil, if they come in and the price is low enough well then our mining oil sands of course, is going to go downhill again. But I'm quite sure it certainly isn't going to be static, it's going to be up and down again.

NM: You were in Calgary at the time of the OPEC crisis?

GW: The OPEC crisis, yes, I've been in Calgary since 1914.

NM: What was the reaction in Calgary in the oil community?

GW: To the OPEC crisis in '73? Well, it didn't cause all that stir in Calgary because after all, we never had gasoline rations since the war. We continued to get gasoline and it was at a fairly reasonable price. It wasn't as cheap as it was before but it didn't go up to \$2 a gallon like it is today. On the surface there wasn't all that much excitement with the embargo other than that we were shipping, we could sell all the oil we could ship. But I don't remember any great problem with it here.

#043 NM: Can you comment on the contribution of Albert to the development of the Canadian oil industry?

GW: Well, the Canadian oil industry started basically, down in Sarnia and Petrolia before Colonel Drake made his discovery back in '78 or whenever it was. For quite awhile Petrolia supplied quite a bit of Canada with its oil requirements, which were very minimal at that time. Then as Petrolia fell off we started to import crude from other places in the United States. Then they made their first discovery of crude oil in Alberta in about 1912 and there would be little dubs and dabs of oil produced after that time. Then Turner Valley came along in '26 and we got all that natural gasoline out there, which actually, it certainly didn't supply all Alberta's needs. Then Lloydminster came along and we started to get our heavy oil requirements from up there. But Alberta really hasn't contributed significantly till Leduc. I think up till that time oil or gasoline was still being imported into Alberta. Then since Leduc and since Saskatchewan has got oil and even some oil in Manitoba and British Columbia, Alberta has been supplying the major portion of the oil requirements. We can only supply Canada now by exchanging oil with the Americans because there's no way we could expect to supply Canadian crude to Nova Scotia and be economic about it at all. Because their market is rather limited and it's such a long ways down there. So it would look as though for quite a few years yet Alberta is going to supply the lions portion of the Canadian oil requirement. The Arctic stuff and the stuff off the east coast is going to take quite a long time to develop and it will only be developed if the price of imported oil stays up as high as it is.

NM: The cost is astronomical too, to develop.

GW: Yes, this is what I was trying to point out, that the east coast oil will only be developed when it can be sold for \$30 - \$35 a barrel. Anything ever happens and the price of oil drops down to \$20 or \$15 all that offshore stuff and the Arctic stuff is going to be in trouble. Although I can't really see how the price can drop that low because it would also put the North Sea out of operation. The political implications of that are enormous.

#088 NM: What is your opinion on nationalized companies?

GW: Sometimes it would seem that it's necessary to nationalize a company, an industry, in order to give them sufficient funds to go ahead with the work. The first thing that comes to mind is the Canadian Pacific Railway, which wasn't a national company but the government gave them so much to go ahead with the work that it was practically nationalized. This is one of the reasons why you nationalize it is so that the company can have a monopoly so it can have sufficient funds. The Canadian government did this by giving the CPR land, which they could colonize to put business into. They also lent them money. If we compare that with Petro Canada, the government of Canada certainly gave one hell of a lot more to Petro Canada than they did to the Canadian Pacific Railway. A lot of the stuff they gave the Canadian Pacific Railway, people said, they gave them all those natural resources. Well, nobody knew they were giving them any natural resources. At the time Canadian Pacific Railway couldn't get any money in England or the States so that they had to give them the land and this unknown natural resources to make the thing viable. But in the case of Petro Canada people knew what they were doing, at least they should have known what they were doing. They had to get American funds to buy the shares of Petrofina for example, or the shares of Pacific or the shares of Atlantic Richfield. They went at this with their eyes open and they bought these companies with American funds and as a result our Canadian dollar is worth 75 cents today, instead of \$1. So that I can't see any reason at all for nationalizing any of these things. They say they want control. Well, we've got all the control of the Canadian oil industry before they had Petro Canada. The Conservation Boards and the governments directed how to drill the wells, where to drill the wells, how much oil to produce. Then on top of all of that the federal government went ahead and taxed these people. If their taxing programs weren't correct, so that there was too much money going out of the country they could have done it at that time by changing the taxing methods. Instead of that they let these guys continue to write the stuff off. But there's no reason to nationalize the oil industry. Well, the prime example of it is the Petro Canada building in Calgary which they got all fired up about and built twice as big as they needed it and it's still empty. Imperial Oil makes mistakes but they've never pulled a boner like that. The American companies haven't taken that much money out of this country but compared to nationalization, no. Nationalization is like the liquor stores, they can just raise the price wherever they want. And make the customer pay for it, there's no competition there. This is the way we're going to have it with Petro Canada. If Petro Canada was such a good idea, it was going to be so good for all the people, why do Imperial Oil and Texaco sell gasoline to the Canadian customer at the same price as Petro Canada does and then in addition to that, Petro Canada has never paid a dividend, which Texaco and Imperial and these other people, they all pay a dividend. So they must make them money. Petro Canada, all they do is keep digging our money out of Ottawa. And they don't pay any taxes. The other thing about the national company, we get all mixed up, in addition to being very expensive to operate then they go and put the gasoline tax on top of that and they put the petroleum and natural gas production tax in there. So that makes it harder for the companies to operate. They should, instead of charging the PGRT, they should be just charging them an income tax.

#159 NM: Do you think Petro Canada is going to stay?

GW: I don't think there's a politician in Canada big enough to shut it down. It's like the baby bonus or the old age security. Economically they may serve a social purpose but they've been so politically warped that they cost about twice as much as they should for the social benefit that comes out of them.

NM: Let us go back to your career, who were the most influential persons in your career?

GW: I won't go into personal things, like my family, my wife and my children but I presume you are talking about people in the business. The most influential person I guess was Major James Lowry who hired me at Home Oil Co., which is the longest time I've been employed by anybody. Prior to that the person that influenced me was Bob Fotheringham at Imperial Oil and then Bill McCormack at Dowell Inc. But I saw more of Lowry, I was with him for a longer period of time. Then I also worked directly for his brother, Harold Lowry and then I got under the influence of a lot of people, like Charlie Nolan who was a drilled that we had all the time. Then there were a large bunch of people around Calgary who worked for other companies that I worked with, like Sam Coultis and Grant Spratt, Jack Webb. A lot of people that you have on that list that you've already interviewed. All those people had a little influence on me and I guess I had a little influence on them. But of course, as time goes on you forget the person that had the earlier influences on me. I think that's all I've got to say on that.

NM: What were the most exciting experiences in your career?

GW: There's a lot of them and as time goes on they fail in my memory of them as being the most exciting. One of them I remember was when we got our first production up at Leduc. Because we had overshot the mark and we'd set the casing too high, set it up in the gas zone and when we put the well on production we had about 50 million feet of gas and rushed out our flare line. It was a real flare, you could see it all the way to Edmonton. But it was a mistake. They had the pipe 20' too high and that was really exciting when you saw that flare leap up in the sky there. And some of the other, I don't know exciting, memorable things, one was when we were drilling up at Nordegg there. We brought in some tank cars of diesel oil to run the rig with and we were trucking them up to the location and the train crew came in to Harley, that was the station, the siding, and when they were spotting the cars in Harley they went off the track at the switch and then the crew didn't know what to do. They couldn't get it back on the track so they took off and went back to Red Deer that night and then Bill Hughes and I came in there and we decided that the car that was across the switch, we wanted to get the oil out of it so we went ahead and opened it up and pumped all the oil out. Then about a week later the Canadian National Railway guy got hold of me and he threatened to put me in jail because we'd taken a car that was still on the track and opened it up and broken the seals and taken the load out of it before it was delivered to us. He practically accused us of stealing the stuff, even though it was consigned to us. Then another time I got quite a thrill was when I went into our London office. I felt that I'd come a long ways from being their field superintendent, when we had 6 people working in Turner Valley to when we had an office in London and we were drilling in the North Sea and we had production in quite a number of locations in Alberta. But to go to the London office kind of gave me

quite a thrill. I don't know what else.

#249 NM: What do you consider your achievements?

GW: First of all, I'm going to 71 the day after next, on Thursday of this week, so I consider that's quite an achievement, to have got to 71. A lot of my friends haven't made it that far and I'm still in good health and I've been able to earn my living as I've gone along. After all I haven't missed a payday since 1935, what's that, 49 years. I don't have any particular mechanical accomplish achievements that are exceptional to me. Sure we put different things on production, but I wasn't unique at all, a lot of other people had done the same thing. But I don't really know of any other achievements as such.

NM: Looking back at your career in the oil industry, is there anything you would do differently now?

GW: I think that's kind of a catch 22 question because all the thinking I would do about what I would do different if I had another go at it gets pretty theoretical because I know I'm not about to get another go at it. So no, I don't know anything I would do different other than I wouldn't have gone to work March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1943 if I'd knew about it. That was the day I got smashed up. But you can't live those things over so there's no use talking about it.

NM: Do you have any plans for full retirement?

GW: Actually, the way I am right now is just about as fully retired as I'd like to be for another 8 or 10 years. I am restricted. A lot of people retire and they buy a farm and they raise horses or they play golf all day or they do a lot of these things that I am prohibited from mechanically because of my handicap. If I bought a farm for instance, all I would be would be a load on a lot of other people, getting supplies back and forth and doing this and doing that. This doesn't appeal to me at all. But if I can continue the way I am for another few years and go to Hawaii when the snow gets deep in January and February, I think Calgary has about as nice a summer climate as anyplace I know. Some of my grandchildren are here and it's nice to see them growing up and to see my son and his wife here. As far as fully retiring and sitting in the chair and watching TV, I don't have any desires in that regard. I like to go, my needs are rather simple, for instance on Sunday afternoon I like to go out to the gun club and take my shotgun out and shoot it at clay pigeons. A lot of people think that's kind of a stupid. . .

NM: No, it's a very good sport.

GW: But it's about as objective really, as playing golf and trying to put this ball in a tin cup out at the end, 4 or 5 hundred yards away from you. I get quite a kick out of it and I meet a lot of nice people out there. Once a week is enough, I wouldn't want to retire completely and not have anything to do. Your questions are quite difficult to answer because we never know how limited we're going to be physically because I've got friends now, they're limited by stroke, another guy is limited by cancer. So I'm quite happy just to be able to move around

NM: This is the end of the tape.

NM: Before I ask you the last question is there anything I've forgotten to ask you or anything else you would like to talk about?

GW: The only thing I would like to talk about, maybe I misunderstood your question was for all the people in Canada, in spite of Trudeau, to think of our freedoms we have compared to the problems they have in Russia and the problems that they had in England at the time that my dad's folks came to this country. My uncle was born in England and then the family migrated to Canada before my dad was born. But his dad was a house painter and obviously he didn't have a lot of privileges in England, which is the way it was with millions of people in England. It was all of their class structure and all the rest of it and obviously that's why they left. I'm just glad that we don't have those problems in Canada or at least if we have them they're to a very minor degree compared to what they're having in Russia today and what they had in England when my dad's folks left there and when my mother's folks left there. My mother's father was a jeweller by trade and obviously he felt he was restricted in England so he came out to this country. Although he got quite a discouragement because he set up his jewellery business in Kenora and he couldn't make a go of it when the railway construction people left so then he went out and took a job with, Kenora was called Ratportage at that time, and he took a job with the police there as a policeman. He died of wounds that he received when he was bringing some drunks in. So you never can tell how it's going to turn out. Obviously he would have been better off if he'd stayed in England but he came to this country and that's the way it goes. But I think it's the freedoms we have here compared to Europe and Asia.

#031 NM: And this is the last question, on the whole what do you think of the oil business, would you recommend it to young people?

GW: One of my sons is in it now and when his boys grow up, if they're interested in it, I certainly wouldn't tell them not to go into it. My other son is with the Canadian National Railway down in Montreal. He never attempted to go into the oil business so I never guided him at all because he left home after he had his bachelor's degree and went over to England on a ??? scholarship and he stayed there for 2 years. Before he came home he had been hired to go to work for Canadian National Railways so the question of him going into the oil business never came up. But I would certainly, if the particular work appeals to you, sure go ahead in the oil business. But after all the oil business isn't unique. It hires accountants and stenographers and bookkeepers and all these other people. Really, there's very few of them that actually stand there and open the valve while the oil is rushing out.

NM: Mr. Webster, thank you very much for this interview, I've really enjoyed interviewing you.

GW: I don't know if it's of value to you, you're the person that's the best judge of that.

NM: It was very good.