

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIPT

INTERVIEWEE: Don Wilkin

INTERVIEWER: Aubrey Kerr

DATE: July 1983

AK: July 30<sup>th</sup> and I'm Aubrey Kerr and I'm up here in Rm. 757 in the Foothills Hospital visiting an old friend, Don Wilkin, who is one of the probably best known iron peddlers. Can I use that term Don?

DW: Yes, you can.

AK: In western Canada, well known and he knows a lot of people. So I'd like you to start off Don by telling me whereabouts you were born, when and a little bit about your childhood, your family, your father and mother.

DW: All right. I was born in Calgary in 1915 at my grandparents home on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. East. My grandfather came west in 1903 on the same train as Dr. Kirby, to take the job on as the first station master in the City of Calgary. My mother was the first woman to work for the CPR in Calgary, she started in 1906 and worked up until the time that her and my father were married. He came west as a travelling auditor for the CPR.

AK: Where was his home?

DW: He came from Prescott, Ontario. My grandparents came from St. Thomas, Ontario.

AK: Right, a real railroad town.

DW: Yes, and after my father died my brother went to work for the CPR. I had already started out working out there and then I went to Sunalta Cottage School, then to Sunalta and then I went to Western Canada Tech, which was a 3 year course.

AK: What year was this when you went to Western Canada?

DW: God, I'd have to figure it out. That would be what, 1930, somewhere around there. I played hockey and football. The last year in school I hadn't paid too much attention. I'd been usher in the theatre down in east Calgary at nights, and all I was doing was playing hockey and football. Came time for exams, I figured I'd be better off if I quit then the old man couldn't raise too much hell about my exams because I wouldn't have any to take home. Then I went to work, I worked for the Maytag Washing Machine Co., I worked sweeping out the garage for old Harry Forrester over there on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. W.

AK: Now, Harry Forrester had his garage on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. S.W.

DW: Oh, that's way years later, his first one . . .

AK: Oh is that right. And what cars did he sell, was it Studebakers or Packards?

DW: No, it was a parking garage, and I think, I can't remember that he had an agency but it was a garage that had a tow-truck and it was a Texaco. I don't really think he had an agency at that time but he owned that building there and we parked cars. Max Bell kept his car there and what was the name of that fellow that had the refinery down at Hartel?

AK: Oh, I can't remember but . . .

DW: He owned a packing plant in Calgary?

#037 AK: Burns?

DW: No.

AK: Oh, Mayland.

DW: Mayland, he kept his car there. Walter Mueller kept his car there. And that's how I got to get into the oil business. I went to work for him in the office and he was in the brokerage business then.

AK: Now who was that, Walter Mueller?

DW: Walter Mueller.

AK: What was the name of his brokerage firm, do you remember?

DW: I can't, I think it was just Walter Mueller.

AK: Right. And where was his offices?

DW: A truck company on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., across the street from the Lancaster Building, there was an old dining car, it was right next door to where the dining car was.

AK: Oh, I remember that.

DW: Where it was tore out and James Richardson built a new building there, when they tore out the dining car, they moved the dining car to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> St. on the corner there.

AK: Yes, where the Toronto Dominion Bank . . .

DW: Well, it was just east of that block. We were up there and there was a trust company, I can't recall. Then I went to work for him.

AK: What were your first duties and how much did you get paid, do you remember?

DW: I can't remember, I think it was about \$38 a month or \$40 a month. I worked in the office and helped with the books then I went and worked the telephone down at the stock exchange. That's where I originally ran into Gordon Mackay and some of the other fellows that were in the brokerage business in those days.

AK: That's right, Gordon was in the investment business before he got into with Frances Reeves.

DW: Oh no, he was working with Reeves then. Reeves had a company.

AK: That's right, he used to have an investment business, that's right, yes. So Gordon was kind of his 2IC.

DW: That's right, he was at that time. And what's his name was there, tied up in the brokerage business too, was it Walker, George Walker's father.

AK: No, I don't know him.

DW: You know Walker with Imperial, George Walker that was at Devon for awhile?

AK: No, I can't say that I do. But anyway, you continued to work for Mueller for. . .

DW: Well, I just forget how long it was and then things sort of died off. I went to work for James Richardson and Sons for awhile.

AK: Were you kind of a clerk in there?

DW: No, I was working on the telephone down at the exchange, trading stocks. Buddy Laycroft and myself, we worked the exchange. Either one of us or the other would be on the telephone, the other out on trading and then we'd have to check our stocks back, our sheets, fill out our sheets at night.

AK: Was this for the Toronto Stock Exchange?

DW: No, that was the Calgary Stock Exchange.

#065 AK: That was when there was a Calgary Stock Exchange?

DW: There was a Calgary Stock Exchange then, that's what I'm talking about. But then they had the Board at the office. . .

AK: They did the Board with the chalk and. . .

DW: That's it, but they also had a Board and they were connected by telephone to Toronto on the . . .

AK: They would have the Toronto quotes.

DW: Quotes and all that. And then Mueller got back into it and called me one time and asked me if I wanted to take an apprentice welders course up at Tech and I said yes. He was going to start a machine shop in the valley. Then I went back to work for him and I worked in town, putting papers together and books and then we went out to the valley when he built his shop. It was on the back road in Longview there, the road went to High River and then you trucked down to the Anglo camp down at the bottom of the river. Then Anglo, once we started a shop, built a camp right up on top. There was an old Chinaman's beanery there, old Tom Kee had the restaurant there, a few bunkhouses out behind.

AK: Can you tell me Don, just for the record, was this before Bob Brown Sr. hit oil at his famous well in 1936, or was this after?

DW: That was after, that was just about the time.

AK: Because that's when a huge boom broke out.

DW: That's when things broke out. And then when the boom broke out and everything, that's when Riverside Ironworks built a little shop across the street for us. Then I can't really recall, I think it was '38, I got a chance to go . . . I was getting a little sick of that welding half the night and going climbing under the beam ??? structures, under those steam rigs. Then only sat on 24" beams.

AK: What kind of welding were you doing Don?

DW: Welding in the shop.

AK: Did you have to go out and weld too?

DW: Well, I had to go out. . . our welder was away and Gene Denton come up and wanted a welder to go down to, what the hell was the name of that well, was it Frontier, down on the river bottom. It was about 50 below zero and they'd just finished with a steam rig and they had it set on timbers and you had to crawl on your belly underneath and then they always had the cellar in those days, which ??? and had a board stuck across there and then you had to climb up on the board on your stomach. They'd just washed it off and it was wet unbeknown to me but when I got there, I had to cut off the flow nipple and then cut off the drill nipple then cut the Dutchman up.

AK: It was a Dutchman in there eh?

DW: Well, when you cut off the drill nipple you had to cut that out and . . . [tape stopped]

AK: Okay, go ahead.

DW: Gene Denton was hollering down through the hole where the table fits, telling me that he didn't want no damn apprentice, which I was, cutting it out because I'd lose some of that iron down the hole when I was trying to take out the Dutchman.

AK: And you were going to put a casing bowl on afterwards, when you got the . . . ?

DW: Yes, the Dutchman had to be cut out of there. What you did is you made 3 cuts down through it and then just gently pushed it in and then turned it out by hand so that none of the pieces would drop down the hole.

#104 AK: Right. So he didn't like you being on there.

DW: Yes, but Gene Denton was that type of a guy, he was a nice guy but he was like old Bill Henderson and Gene Denton, they liked to sound a little tough once in awhile, but they weren't that bad.

AK: Now this is before Gene Denton got mixed up with Cody and Denton and Spencer, was it?

DW: Yes.

AK: So Denton was doing what when he was here. . . ?

DW: I can't recall.

AK: Was he a drilling contractor?

DW: I can't recall. He had just come up from the States.

AK: So you successfully removed the Dutchman and then you got the casing bowl in.

DW: No, then I was through. Then I went to get out of there and I found out I couldn't because I was froze to the boards and then I had to take the cutting torch to cut the front out of my overalls and part of my jacket in order to get off.

AK: You were froze right to the board underneath?

DW: Yes. In the cellar.

AK: And who helped you with that?

DW: You did it yourself. And I'd had enough of that kind of stuff so when I heard about this job opening in Okotoks. Joe Murray had got killed in a highway accident, he worked there in the office and so that left an opening and so I went and applied for it. Believe it or not Walter Mueller was a friend of Ed Keenan who was the division manager for Oilwell and he spoke for me and I got the job.

AK: Now this was Oilwell Supply Co. in Okotoks and this was about what, 1938?

DW: I believe it was 1938.

AK: '38, right. At that time there was I believe, a National Supply Store there.

DW: No. They had a yard, they didn't have a store, just a yard.

AK: They had a yard, all right.

DW: And Russ Wilson's father took care of the yard for National Supply. Continental had been there but Oilwell had bought them out and then I think. . .

AK: That was Continental Ensco was it?

DW: Yes, then I think Swede Hanson took over that account and he had a place out in Black Diamond at that time.

AK: And you signed on with this outfit and it was primarily oilfield supplies?

DW: Oilwell Supply Co.

AK: And what were some of the things you'd sell?

DW: Well, they'd sell everything. Mostly they'd sell rock bits, all that kind of stuff and all of the equipment, spare parts to their own pumps and pumping units and all that. Well, we didn't have pumping units in those days but for the mud pumps and the engines and the

steam engines. Even old cable tool parts, we had bull wheel cants in stock and the whole ball of wax.

#136 AK: Well, there were still some old cable tool. . .

DW: Yes, but I think about. . .they were on reserve list, the bull wheel cants. Then we got a letter from Dallas and we were suppose to burn them. They discarded all the old stuff. I burned a few but I took the rest home and made a fence on the walk of the house I lived in in Okotoks, out of bull wheel cants.

AK: Now what's a cant, just explain it to me.

DW: It's a piece of wood, it's rounded, oblong but rounded and cut on a slope on either end and you fit them all in together to form a circle. You could get them for different wheels, you could get them for the 10-12-14 foot and they were shaped different. Then you just laid them together, nailed them together and you came up with a wheel and you made it the width you wanted it. When they were nailed together they were like 2 x 4.

AK: Would this be like rims on the wheel?

DW: No, they just made the whole wheel, you just nailed them together, pieced them together and then you nailed them together and you could make the wheel. Then they had the hub and they had the spokes that went out.

AK: So this was something that you took home, it sounds kind of interesting. Now at that time, had you settled in Black Diamond to live?

DW: Yes, I used to live. . . no, this was in Okotoks. I used to live above the store, they had rooms up above the store. When I first went there, there was the manager, Clayton Burgess, he lived up there and myself and then they hired a new boy, Frank Fenessee and he moved up there. Across the hall there was an apartment and Johnny Miller and his wife lived there, he was quite a famous engineer of Oilwell, had come up from Pennsylvania. He was a service man for oilfield equipment out there and was pretty well renowned in those days. I got married, I can't remember whether it was '40 or '41 and I got the chance to rent a house on Main St. down towards the Imperial warehouse, before you cross the track. If I'm not mistaken I think Straw Bannister was there then, in the Royalite yard there where they looked after the pipe. They had a pipe yard there. I can't remember back that far.

AK: Royalite did have a yard there.

DW: They had a yard there and Straw Bannister was looking after it.

AK: Was Straw a relation of Chick Bannister?

DW: Yes, he was a brother, a younger brother than Chick.

AK: Well then what was the relationship between the Bannister that worked for Haliburton, Burt?

DW: They were all brothers, there was Burt, Chick, Straw and Ron and Jack. Ron Bannister owns Bannister Construction, they're all brothers, there was 5 of them.

AK: Ron is the one the pipeline outfit. Well, we have to get at him too. Okay . . .

DW: Then while I was there, I forget what year, my young kid brother came out of the service and I got him a job with, I think his name was Dr. Knox with Phillips. They were drilling a hole with cable tools out at Savannah Creek. There was a fellow up from the States with

Phillips Petroleum, I can't recall his name. But they were using Glen Boulder's rig. I got him and I can't remember the fellow's name, he's still in the oil business, he's a landman, has a business of his own in Calgary now. I got them jobs as apprentice cooks to go into the north with Dr. Knox the following year.

#188 AK: Is that right?

DW: And they went up there. . . wait a minute, I can't remember whether they went to work for California Standard, driving a car on . . . doing geological work where they have that, oh, what's that instrument that they set down on the ground.

AK: Oh, a gravity meter.

DW: A gravity meter when he was working with Jack Trowel, that was when. . .

AK: Well, Jack was with Royalite to start with, Jack Trowel, and then he went with Chevron.

DW: I can't remember if it was before. . . he spent his summers in the bush, getting enough money together and he put himself through school. He went through the first petroleum class. . . that would be '45 because. . . yes, they graduated in '50, it was a 4 year course, it would have been '46 he went.

AK: Yes, right.

DW: I can't recall where I was then but the fellow that was with Phillips went back to the States and Bill Derrick came to Calgary and took his place with Phillips Petroleum.

AK: Bill Derrick he stayed for awhile didn't he?

DW: Yes, he stayed for quite awhile, he was well known around Calgary.

AK: Right. But just going back to Okotoks for a minute Don, you were mentioning about driving down to Taber and driving out to different parts, Princess. Who were the, apart from the Imperial Oil rigs, I was on one of the Imperial rigs at Taber but apart from them, like the Newell and Chandler and the Snyder and Head and some of those other outfits. How do you recall Snyder and Head say?

DW: I knew Jakes very well.

AK: Where had he come from?

DW: I can't recall where Jakes came from. I got to know him quite well because his wife was a sister of Leila Anderson and she was a wife of Wilbur who worked for Imperial, a drilling foreman for Imperial. You probably recall Wilbur Anderson.

AK: Wilbur Anderson, well. . . the reason I'm asking about Snyder and Head in particular is that I believe Betty Nowers is a relations of one of them, or was it Vern Hunter's first wife, Jean. Was it Jean Hunter?

DW: I can't recall that. But that's why I got to know Jakes so well because he was down in Okotoks visiting Leila and they had. . .

AK: What happened to that drilling company, did they sell. . . ?

DW: It broke up, I think they sold off. I don't know what happened to the rig.

AK: Did they sell it to Pappy Will?

DW: No, I don't know, I'm just wondering, I'm trying to remember if maybe Calmont didn't take that rig over. I can't recall. Then there was Bill Ferris at that time. Ferris Drilling, Bill Ferris had a rig.

AK: Yes, then there was Young Drilling, that was later on I guess.

DW: Yes. There wasn't too many rigs around in those days.

#235 AK: No. Well, tell me something for the record here about Newell and Chandler. Was there a Mr. Chandler around or was it just old Matt all the time?

DW: That was Matt Newell. And then there was Shorty Chandler.

AK: What happened to Chandler?

DW: It was the 2 brothers, Shorty and Ross. Ross was the younger one and he was as miserable as hell.

AK: Had they come up from the States?

DW: Yes. Ross came up, Shorty was up here and then Ross came up. They pulled a derrick in and Shorty got his leg broke and he was in kind of bad shape for awhile and Ross came up to take part of the field work for Matt. Matt wasn't up on the field work that much. He was smart but you had to have somebody out around the rigs and that wasn't his forte. He was in town, putting deals together.

AK: Well Matt, had he started to get this problem of drinking?

DW: If I can remember Matt was, I think he was a millionaire before he was 30 ????. He went through about 5 wives and 2 or 3 fortunes I guess. Matt can tell you that. He's not adverse to telling the story. It was quite an experience there, what's his name, Paul Bowen and his partner came through there to buy supplies on their way to Lloydminster with the first rig.

AK: Was it called Regent then?

DW: No. Bowen and I can't remember the name. One of the old timers, his son's still. . .Paul Guthrie.

AK: Oh, Paul Guthrie. And he set up, was it Guthrie, McLean or McLaren.

DW: No, that's the son.

AK: Oh that was the son set up Guthrie McLaren.

DW: Yes. He was with Regent and then he and Paul Bowen broke up. I don't know, it so often gets so jumbled and all these things.

AK: Well, it's just a matter that you did know these people.

DW: And then Paul Medhurst came in there one day wanting a rock bit and he had a water well out and he got a deal to drill some holes. He'd heard about rotary rigs, he had a little shothole rig that he was running, going for water and he had a cable tool that he was drilling for water. He wanted to set up a rig and he'd got it set up but he didn't have a rock bit and he wanted a 4 1/4 rock bit, which we had, we kept them in stock for Imperial Oil. We had 3 7/8 and 4 1/4.

AK: And these were for seismic?

DW: Seismic. So I let him have a line of credit. I damn near got fired over that because the store manager didn't think that Paul Medhurst had enough credibility to be given a credit for a rock bit and I think it was all of \$87.

AK: Who's were they, were they Hughes or Reed?

DW: There was Hughes and Reed both at that time. The small ones were all Hughes, the 3 7/8.

AK: Yes, the tri-cone bits.

DW: The tri-cone bit, they were the 3 7/8 and the 4 1/4. The Reed were, we didn't have any of the real small ones then, they weren't into the small bit, they were into the larger size bit.

- #287 AK: Well, speaking of bits, didn't Claire Nabors come up as a bit salesman?
- DW: Yes. ??? '38 and '39. He lived in Calgary. They hired Red Miles and Red Miles worked the field.
- AK: Yes, and Red was Neil McQueen's brother-in-law.
- DW: That's right. And there was another bit outfit come up and the guy's name was Charlie Burgess. I damn well forget the name of the rock bit but he. . .
- AK: Was it ???
- DW: No. Crumbranard.
- AK: Never heard of it.
- DW: I think the name was Crumbranard or something like that. Then when he left the country Kenny Miller took over the agency, or Kenny worked for Charlie I think, and he sold bits.
- AK: Well then Claire, he kept on selling Reed bits through the war then, he sold Reed bits did he? Claire Nabors.
- DW: No, Claire went back to the States. He was a Navy pilot. When the United States got into the war he was called up and he was quite high in the Navy.
- AK: Then he returned to Canada?
- DW: After he got out of there he returned to Canada, with Reed Bit Company.
- AK: He was still with Reed.
- DW: Yes.
- AK: And how was it that he met old Parker, where did he meet Parker?
- DW: I think when Parker came up. Parker used to drill way up north. They'd had a bunch going up and they used Noble Drilling up north.
- AK: Where was that, up in the Territories?
- DW: In Norman Wells.
- AK: Oh I see, Noble was drilling up there.
- DW: Yes, and then Parker got mixed up in the deal some way with Noble and I don't know the ins and outs of it. But I remember him, he made some deals with Oilwell and he was going up in there. Now just what happened there, Claire could tell you better, I just don't recall it all.
- AK: Did you have any occasion to supply oilfield equipment to Norman Wells?
- DW: Yes, we sold equipment there.
- AK: How did you get it up there?
- DW: It went up by truck.
- AK: You never visited there?
- DW: No. I couldn't get away, we were short handed in those days. It was during the war and there was nobody around. Bill Lineham and I were the only 2. Bill Clements came up in 1943 and spent 1943 there. He was division manager and he went back to the States and he ended up forming Sedco Drilling. Then he later set up his son up and became governor of Texas but he got voted out last year.
- AK: That's okay. I think actually we've done pretty well here. We're at the end of this tape and I think we'll just leave it there. One thing we didn't get on tape here is your marriage to your wife in '40, '41. Her name was?
- DW: Sarah Cunningham. Her brother used to work for Dominion Bridge and he ran the

Dominion Bridge shop in Longview.

#349 AK: Right. And then you had children, you had. . . ?

DW: 2 girls.

AK: Wendy?

DW: And Susan. We got divorced or separated in 1964 I guess and got remarried in '69.

AK: And your present wife's name is?

DW: Be. Her real name is Edwina.

AK: Well, I think we'll probably stop the tape here Don and thanks very much and we'll resume when you've moved from Okotoks, you moved your office from Okotoks to Calgary then.

Tape 1 Side 2

AK: Okay, today is Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and I'm back in the hospital here with Don Wilkin. Okay Don I'm sorry I made that boo-boo but maybe you could just give a brief rundown of that earlier experience with the whore houses, if you could just summarize that for me.

DW: When I was about 15 years old I delivered meat from the City Hall Meat Market, which was on 7<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E. and one of the prize routes, there were 3 or 4 of us delivering meat, we delivered all over the city, the prize routes were the whore houses. They were about the only people that could afford much meat in those days so it was a full days work delivering meat down to the whore houses. Which we got \$1 a day for plus a ham sandwich at lunch time. All of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. east of 4<sup>th</sup> St. were whore houses, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Part of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. was whore houses, the rest were legit, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> were legit and on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. E., east of the iron foundry there were 5 row houses that probably had been built for the foundry there, they were all whore houses. That was the district. The cost in those days was \$2, I managed to wing a few deals where I could get it for \$1, I got to know all the madams.

AK: You were saying that there was a fellow that you ushered with at the Empress Theatre that. . .

DW: He was the younger brother of Bill Oakes who ended up as a mechanic for Imperial Oil in Edmonton to show you what a small world it is. That was the Empress Theatre on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. east of the post office, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E.

AK: Right. That's all torn down now.

DW: Yes. That was the only place where they had chorus girls and the chorus girls were ???, unbeknown to myself at the time we were doing a little pimping because we used to get notes to take down backstage and we got two bits for taking a note back which we really liked because we only got \$3 a week, for working every night, 6 nights from 6 till midnight.

AK: You'd make more money carrying notes than you would working as an usher.

DW: Then on Sundays Pearl Miller used to, everybody's heard about Pearl Miller, the famous madam, she used to run a band concert and we ushered for her and we thought she was a queen because she used to give us \$3 for just working the one afternoon and evening.

Also we had to take care of her young daughter while we did the ushering. She was about 5 or 6 then. The police finally closed her down after about 10 Sunday band concerts, she called them.

AK: They were band concerts. Where were they held?

DW: At the Empress Theatre. That was with the chorus girls, they used to call it Goofy Denton and his line I think it was, or his chorus. This guy was a comic and he had 6 or 7 chorus girls, they were all putting out.

AK: That's something that maybe the era of. . . actually it's coming back a bit probably with some of these nightclubs.

DW: Maybe so. In those days, Penny Jack, I think everybody knows Penny Jack ???, his paper route was down there. He lived over on 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. and about 1<sup>st</sup> St E. I believe, or between Centre and 1<sup>st</sup> E. He used to deliver papers down there in his younger days when he was a kid.

AK: When you were doing this sort of work, were you still living on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.

DW: Oh no, we moved into Sunalta, on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 17<sup>th</sup> St. W. in 1918. In fact, my sister just sold that house 2 years ago. She lived there.

#048 AK: 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 17<sup>th</sup> St.

DW: Yes, 1732 - 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.

AK: And you mentioned in yesterday's interview that you attended Sunalta as a child and then went on to Western Canada. Right. Okay, let's go on to a name that was on the tape yesterday, just to clear up a point. It was Bill Lineham who worked with you with Oilwell Supply in Okotoks. What was his relation to Fin and John, could you explain that a bit?

DW: John Lineham who went to the B.C. government, Bill Lineham was his father and he was Fin Lineham's uncle. I think in the Lineham's there was Bill, Tom and Jack. If I can remember rightly, Fin and Jim were Jack Lineham's boys.

AK: Right. And Fin is retired in Edmonton. Were there any other brothers. . . ?

DW: Jim Lineham's retired in Calgary and he's a consultant now. He's retired from Imperial and he's consulting now.

AK: Yes, were there any other brothers that were in the oil patch?

DW: Yes, there was Jack Lineham who was a welder. That's all I can recall.

AK: Okay. As I mentioned before we get to where you're going to the States and you were not sure whether it was 1945 or '46, I thought we should spend a few minutes talking about Ralph Will. Ralph really is larger than life, he's one of the real, you might say, drilling hands of western Canada. If you could just give me a few excerpts from some of the things that you remember about Ralph? How he came up here to Canada?

DW: There was somebody in Calgary, I don't know who it was, probably Bill Grayburn. . .

AK: Bill ???.

DW: No. And that bunch. I think they heard about Ralph Will, probably through Bill Ferrett who came from Oklahoma, Ralph was from Oklahoma. Graduated out of Oklahoma and he'd been over with and was working out of Casper, Wyoming with Manning, drilling. If I'm not mistaken I think that Gene Denton was working as an engineer for Manning, Ralph was drilling superintendent and I think Cody Spencer was either a push or one of

the head drillers. They paid quite a chunk to get Ralph in those days, which wasn't very much but they thought they really had something and they brought him into Calgary where they expected him to stay and go to the field during the day. But Ralph took off the next day out to the field and it's my understanding they couldn't find him and wondered where they hell he'd gone, they thought maybe he'd gone back to Casper. They never thought of going out to the field to find out where he was. But he believed in being in the field and to hell with the city. That's why Anglo Canadian built that beautiful home that he had down at the Anglo Canadian camp down on the river bottom.

AK: That was at Little New York?

DW: That was at Longview or Little New York, whichever you want to call it. It was termed Little New York but actually it was Longview because they had built that little town on the hill coming down from Hartel, that Little Chicago. That's where Hector's Machine Shop was, run by Sam and Morris Hector. That's where the . . .damn, I forget the name, most famous machine shop man in the country. . .

AK: Richter?

DW: No, lived to be so old and worked for Ralph when Ralph retired. I'll think of it sometime later.

#094 AK: But you were mentioning Richter wasn't it?

DW: When I left the apprentice job at Mueller's machine job to ??? for Oilwell Supply, Harold Richter who took my job, Harold finally became the most noted oilfield welder in Edmonton years later and he owned Richter's Welding. While I was in Okotoks, the auditors we had to come audit the books, one of the auditors was Johnny Blankenhorn who I ran into while I was working in the States in Rangely, Colorado and he was working there at Brinkerhoff. Then finally he moved to Canada with Brinkerhoff and he's still in Canada, I think he's retired from Challenger Drilling.

AK: Right. But let's go back to Ralph just for a few minutes. One of the things you were saying that Ralph insisted upon was that he be on the brake when they ran long strings.

DW: No, the cathead, not the brake.

AK: Oh, he was on the cathead.

DW: Yes, he ran the cathead. So many fellows had been losing their arms and everything and had been killed on the cathead, he would work the cathead.

AK: Well, he'd snake the casing up from the . . .

DW: From the cathead, snake it in and spin it in with the cathead. Snake it in and then spin it in. Ralph always operated the cathead. ??? that came on later. I forget who developed that but somebody did.

AK: Could you describe that terrible accident that you witnessed on a rig, you don't know where it was but. . .

DW: It was ??? hotel, I think it was a National rig and I think they had, if I'm not mistaken, a yard out in front there. I think Lyle Caspell had a home right out there. That was out in front of where the rig was and it was drilling in behind there. I think if I'm not mistaken Lloyd Stafford was the tool pusher, and I think it was a National rig. I believe the fellow's name was Slim, he was a driller and when I drove up the derrick man was coming down

the ladder as fast as he could come. I didn't know what was going on so I just walked in and went through the cat house and went to step out on the floor and I pretty near stepped into the rib cage of the driller who had got wrapped up in the cathead and took his arm right clean off and pulled it out of the socket and took all the flesh off of his back. All that was showing was his rib cage from behind. I pretty near stepped into it. Get a little sick thinking about it.

AK: I would think so. So the other accident that involved Ralph was how he lost those fingers, could you just give us a little. . .

DW: I'm not positive of it but I think he was packing dynamite trying to blow something up and I think maybe they'd either done some welding or something on the pipe or whatever it was. I think maybe the heat set it off prematurely while he was packing the mud around it. And blew his hand off but he didn't seem to . . .

AK: That was his right hand or left hand? I think it was his left hand wasn't it?

DW: I know him that well, I see him all the time and I can't tell you. I wish you hadn't asked me, it makes me feel foolish.

#133 AK: But you were the subject of a pinch, I remember getting pinched by him.

DW: Oh yes.

AK: He had a very powerful pinch.

DW: He really did.

AK: Even with those 2 little fingers that were left.

DW: Oh boy, I tell you, that was strong. He could hook that in to pick up a rock bit like nothing.

AK: Oh yes, he could pick up things with it. I guess he taught himself just to get back and use it. But he was an extremely hard working person.

DW: He was, he drove himself mercilessly. He had an old Packard and he used to trade those Packards in, I think he traded them in every 6 months. He used to run them through the mud in the ??? we were drilling out over around Brooks and all that, there was a gas field out there where they had a wild well out there. I can remember flying ??? for that one, and hit the ???, the derrick came down and somebody lost their arm over there, I forget who that was.

AK: Yes, well now, can you name some of those people that were involved with Ralph right at the beginning there. Some of them were made fairly wealthy and others didn't do so good.

DW: Well, at that time he lived down at the camp. Clarence Matthews was an engineer down there, Jack Matthews father who just recently retired from ??? . But most older timers will remember Clarence. Then there was Joe ??? drilled for him and Scotty Tosh, Red McLaren they called Big Red and Red Young they called Little Red. The fellow that did all the nipple chasing, I can't come up with his name, and McIver, who Ralph hired away from Oilwell. Hart McIver. Ralph set him all up in business and practically gave him the drilling rigs and told him to go ahead.

AK: Well Hart was associated with you was he?

DW: No, Hart McIver was store manager, I was just working in the store as a clerk and record

keeper. Clearing customs and keeping records and Bill Lineham was the warehouse man. Then when he left I was made store manager, when Hart McIver left. Then there was just Bill Lineham and myself and we hired Kenny Miller. Then Joe Redman had got out. . .no, I think we hired Joe Redman first, he got out of the permanent army and he came to work in Okotoks for us and then we hired Kenny Miller. Then when I left to the States Joe was made store manager and I told him to hire Jake Lawson, who was at that time, working in the drugstore. There was a lot of oil people around Okotoks in those days.

AK: Yes, now you've got a list of those in your head there, people like Spi Langston and Stu King?

DW: Yes, Spi Langston was ??? Wells and he had Stu King working for him. Red Kavel was working for Dowell at that time in Okotoks. Ken Hutchinson, Pat Patterson. . .

AK: Was that before Haliburton set up?

DW: No, Haliburton was set up. . .

AK: But hey were over in the Diamond?

DW: They were in Black Diamond, Dick Gibbons was. . .

AK: Dick was running that, yes.

DW: Bill Dyson was there and Shorty Smith and . . .

#177 AK: One of the Davis. . .

DW: No.

AK: Or they came later.

DW: Percy came out there to play hockey and he went to work for Haliburton. And Doug ??? came out, he went to work for Royalite and Pete Ettinger went to work for Royalite and Pete Atkinson went to work for Royalite. And you mentioned the other guys name with Haliburton, still with them.

AK: Oh, Jack Pettinger.

DW: Jack Pettinger.

AK: Yes, he's retired now.

DW: He's retired but he was there, he was there a long time, he was working there.

AK: Yes, he was one of the real long time.

DW: And Ken Doze was there. He was there when Dick Gibbons, Ken Doze took over as manager when Dick. . .

AK: Oh, is that right. What happened to Dick?

DW: He had to retire, he got into the bottle pretty bad.

AK: Yes, he was hitting the. . . But Ken became manager.

DW: Yes, and then went to Dowell and . . . ??? worked for them in Calgary and what was his. . . they had a guy that run Dowell and he left Dowell and went into his business for himself. Frank Lonigan used to work for him.

AK: Frank Lonigan?

DW: You know, the heavy set fellow that lived on Elbow Drive there, ???, he was running Dowell at that time.

AK: Oh yes. He tore his house down and built 4 houses where that one. . .

DW: Yes.

AK: Okay, is there anybody else that you can think of that was in that. . .

DW: Wilbur Anderson was there in Okotoks and the McNeal brothers. The oldest boy got killed and then there was Angus McNeal went on with Shell out at Jumping Pound then went to work for Mobil. Before I went to work for Walter Mueller I worked for Maytag Washing Machine Co. and we had a kid used to come in and wash washing machines on Saturdays for us and he years later became the mud man for Drilling Contractors. His name was Tommy Rowan, Buddy Rowan's younger brother. Tommy's dead now.

AK: Did Gordie work for. . .who was it that worked for Shell Oil for a lot of years?

DW: In those days there was Eddie Shaffield.

AK: No, Eddie was with Hudson Bay.

DW: No, Eddie was with Shell out there. And there was Angus McNeal, Eddie Shaffield, . . . Oh, you know him.

AK: But Gordie Rowan is now with Pactus??? isn't he?

DW: I think so, yes. He's running ??? I believe. What was the guy's name that worked for Shell, hell, everybody in the oilfield knew him.

AK: Well, there was Ralph Archibald.

DW: Yes, Ralph was there.

#219 AK: Ralph worked as a roughneck and then he joined. . .

DW: Went east with Mobil, into Saskatchewan.

AK: Yes, but I mean before the war, he roughnecked and then during the war he served in the army.

DW: Yes. And then he come back and worked with Mobil.

AK: But he was safety man for Shell.

DW: That's right too.

AK: Yes. But he was one of those that was there in 1938 and earlier.

DW: Yes. Then there was Lloyd Stafford and Eddie Shaffield.

AK: What about Bob Burns?

DW: Bob Burns.

AK: Who was he with out in the valley?

DW: I can't remember. Then there was Lloyd McCallum.

AK: He's married to . . .his sister is Lloyd Stafford's wife.

DW: Yes. They lived out in Hartel, in the camp out there, what did they call that. They had a name for it, hell, I can't remember.

AK: Okay, I think we've pretty well got that. We won't go on to the States just at the moment but one of the things I've brought with me today Don, was an old manual that was written by Stan Slipper who was then a federal petroleum engineer. At that time you may know that back in the 20's all the Crown mineral rights were administered by the federal people. The province didn't get its mineral rights till 1930. So this was turned out by the feds and inside here is a picture of a pump that was used to kill, I suppose to kill cable tool wells. Now, could you just describe a little bit that picture, it's on pg. 6.

DW: It looks like the original Giant mud hawk pump that was turned out by Oilwell Supply. It looks like a 20" pump, 20" duplex pump.

AK: Is that a 20" stroke?

DW: Yes, that's a 20" stroke and it's a duplex pump.

AK: What would the diameter. . .

DW: It was steam operated.

AK: It would be steam operated.

DW: And if I can remember rightly I think that the bore in that pump at that time was either 7 ½ or 7 ¾ inch if I'm not mistaken. Or maybe the largest was 7", I can't recall.

AK: Now they were used on the steam rotary rigs in Turner Valley.

DW: Yes. Then they came out with the power pump, with the gear in that would turn by power, instead of steam.

AK: Yes, that would be run by a cat or. . .

DW: Whatever they were using for power. Cat engines or ??? or whatever it was.

#266 AK: Were these a pretty practical type of pump?

DW: They were, they were a good pump.

AK: And pretty rugged I guess.

DW: They used them on that big Shell rig out at Jumping Pound, the original big Shell rig. They had three 20's. They had what they called a tri-plex pump, it had 3. . .

AK: 3 chambers?

DW: 3 chambers on it.

AK: And this just had 2 chambers?

DW: Just the 2 chambers. What they called a duplex. The big one they called the tri-plex.

AK: Would those 3 of Shell's have been run in tandem or. . .

DW: They had 2 of them tri-plex out there, in fact I think they had 3 if I'm not mistaken. They just had one for general duties and in case of a shutdown out there.

AK: And one of your jobs with Oilwell in those days was to sell these and service them?

DW: Well no, we just sold them. Oilwell had a service man called Johnny Miller. He left there and started up his own business but he hit it right at a bad time and it died off and then he went to work for California Standard out at Princess when they had the camp out there. And then Ted Price who worked in the office in Calgary sort of took over as a service man. He had to do it and I can recall Ted Price and I having to go and change the fluid ??? for Dick Barrett out at Brooks one time or at Patricia, we had to go out and change.

AK: That was dollar-for-Dick.

DW: Yes. He had a 16" pump I think he had.

AK: Well, most of his stuff was pretty junky.

DW: Yes.

AK: Well, we'll just try to organize this thing now. What I was going to suggest that we got that done, we've got a few more minutes of tape, maybe you could explain how you got to be transferred to the States and where you worked in the States and some of your experiences down there with that gentleman whose first part of his name was Finney or something like that. How did you manage to get transferred to the States?

DW: They were short of people. Actually it was during the war, in the States, in the oilfield and there was a boom on in Rangely, Colorado. An oil well ??? in Artesia, Colorado, right on

the highway, right next to ???, right on the highway. National Supply had built their store right in Rangely. As I say, Oilwell, they had no help, they didn't have a truck, they couldn't get one and things had died down fairly well and Joe Redman had been trained enough and Kenny Miller that they could run the store. I think there were only 6 or 7 rigs working in Canada at that time. We'd had the best 3 year audit, we did a yearly audit and then during the war, as I say, they didn't have the help so the audit went to 2 years and then it went to 3 years. We had the best audit of any Oilwell stores of 70 some odd stores. So they needed somebody to put the store in Artesia in shape and take the truck that we had, an old Fargo truck down there so that they could have something to deliver stuff. And that's how I happened to get down into . . .

#320 AK: The Rangely field, there was then kind of a boom on there was there?

DW: There was a boom on there and in Rangely, one of the troubles they had in the store was drill collars. In those days they used to use 1 or 2 drill collars and they were using a hell of a lot of rock bits. Some budding engineer, I don't know whether he was with Hughes or with one of the drilling, figured out if they held the pipe in suspension they wouldn't use so many rock bits. So on a test basis, I think the first hole they ran, they ran 50 drill collars.

AK: 50?

DW: I believe it was somewhere between 40 and 50 drill collars and found out they only used less than 1/3 of their rock bits so everybody went to running drill collars and it was a mad house trying to get drill collars and keep them straight. People were coming in and picking them up off the dock at night if you had any out there. So there was a lot of shortages, it was quite a deal trying to straighten out their books. Then it sort of died down there and Pure Oil was starting to drill in Worland, Wyoming.

AK: That was over in the Big Horn Basin?

DW: Just right out of Worland, yes, they called it the Big Horn Basin. And one well, they were going down but they had nobody to take care of them and Pure was one of Oilwell's best accounts so Pure demanded that they put somebody in Worland. They didn't want to be driving up to Powell, Wyoming or all the way to Casper to get stuff, somebody to take care of their needs. They had an office in Billings at the time. So I guess I was elected, I had to go up and spend a couple of nights there in Worland, Wyoming and meet the people with Pure. Somehow I went back to Rangely and I got a call to get back up to Worland and that's where I ended up down there, working for Oilwell. I just had a little store in the back of a machine shop. And I didn't get along very good with the division manager. So the boom was on in Canada and we crossed swords and so I told him to stick it and get me back up to Canada, I said I wanted to get back up there and get into part of the boom. I could have stayed and gone to work for Pure, I was offered a good job but then I just wanted to see what was going back on in Canada.

AK: So what year did you come back to Canada?

DW: Spring of 1948.

AK: So you were only down there about 2 1/2 years.

DW: About 2 years, I can't recall.

AK: That's all right.

End of tape.

Tape 2 Side 1

AK: Did you say you moved back to Calgary?

DW: I moved back up into Canada and moved in to Calgary. I was known, according to Mark Macleod, ??? I was ??? bad boy and I'd better watch my step because they were just looking for an excuse to fire me.

AK: Had that word come up from Denver?

DW: I had come up from Worland.

AK: No, but I say, had your reputation come ahead of you?

DW: Yes, because of what I had told the division manager down there. I not only told him to stuff it, I told him that if he ever came into my little store there I'd poke him right in the nose.

AK: I think there was something about you going to a party and trying to report to him but he claimed that you never reported that. Unauthorized trip to Billings.

DW: An unauthorized trip to. . . We had a store manager in Powell, Wyoming but he never knew any of the people worked for Pure, they were all down at Worland or in Billings. But he insisted that he go because it was closer to call on Pure people in Billings, which was kind of stupid when he didn't know anybody and didn't know what was going on down at Worland. But this Finney ??? wouldn't allow me to go to Billings. The general manager for Pure was made a vice-president and transferred to Chicago, Bob MacIlvayne??? his name was. The boys, Tommy Warburton and those people that worked in Billings, and Jeff Hardon, the superintendent and Frank Manning the drilling superintendent wanted to throw a party for him. They were going to throw a surprise and he found out about it and he said no, they would make it a company party and it would be on the company, at the company's expense. But he had one stipulation, there be nobody but company employees, except Bob Hastings who was a tool pusher for Locklin and myself, he called me Chubby, be allowed to go to it. So I tried to get hold of ??? in Billings to tell him that I was going to Billings for the day. They told me he was in Cutbank, I phoned him there and couldn't get hold of him. So I phoned our store in Powell and told the man there where I was going to Billings and that that's where I'd be, I'd be at the Northern Hotel, he could get me there if anything came up. But Johnny ??? who run the machine shop there in Worland could take care of anything that anybody needed, he had the key to the store. So I went in with Frank Manning, the drilling superintendent from Pure, bought a bottle of whiskey, paid for the hotel room and had the gas going in and the gas going out. Oilwell didn't like you to spend much money in those days. Put it on my expense account and sent it in. One day I'm sitting in my little office, talking to Frank Manning and the phone rang, it was ??? and he wanted to know what this unauthorized trip to Billings was. I told him I didn't think it was unauthorized, I'd gone to a party for Bob MacIlvayne and he said, did you have any authorization. I said no, he asked me and I tried to get hold of you and I couldn't, I told Melvin Feet in Powell,

Wyoming where I was going and everything. He said, well, that was unauthorized, you should never have done it and by the way, how come I wasn't asked. I said, goddamn it man, if you're not smart enough to figure that out don't ask me. You're on paper to get me back to Canada so you just get my ass on the way back up to Canada as quick as you can because if you ever come down in this store again I'll poke you right in the eye.

AK: Well, you were on some kind of a visa weren't you?

DW: Yes, I was on a student visa.

AK: That meant they had to guarantee your return passage?

DW: Yes.

AK: Had you moved your family down there?

DW: Yes. I was down there pretty near a year before they moved my wife and child down. We lived in a motel. And we came back and they didn't even have a car to come back on, we had to take the train. If you can imagine taking the train from Billings into Calgary in those days.

AK: Yes, you'd have to change at. . . you had to walk I think, across the border.

DW: Across the border.

#039 AK: Right. But in those days I don't think they'd really got their plane schedules together then had they?

DW: No. when I got in there, Joe Redman, who I figured was under me but he was the store manager and I found out I didn't even have a title, I was nothing. They had me go to Edmonton and told me I was division sales manager but I didn't have a car, didn't have anything. Kenny Miller was up there and Joe Redman was up there. Joe Redman lived in the motel, Kenny Miller had a home he was living in. No, I think he was living in the motel and they built a little room in the back of the Oilwell store.

AK: Was this in Edmonton.

DW: Edmonton. They told me I had to live there.

AK: Where was the store, what was the location? Was it the south side of course?

DW: Yes, but about 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and . . .

AK: Off the Calgary Trail?

DW: Yes, just off the Calgary Trail. Over towards the railway track, back of National Supply, north of National.

AK: Yes, because National got located in there pretty early too.

DW: And then Atlantic 3 was blowing and we'd get calls every night and all I ever did was load cotton and baroid??? and all that kind of stuff. If I wanted to do any selling I had to use the truck but I couldn't use it before 6:00 because they needed it in the city for deliveries. So I used to go out at night and go out and call on Gene and Cody and go to Lloydminster to see Charlie Visser and had to do all of that at night and on weekends so I wouldn't hold up the truck.

AK: This was kind of a come down for you?

DW: It was. But I was still working, I didn't give a damn, I was too busy working. And I got a deal, I had a big deal with Charlie Visser and Tip Maroney.

AK: Supplying. . . ?

DW: I had a meeting with them about blow-out preventors. I took the train down to Calgary and got a room in the Wales Hotel and bought a bottle of whiskey and I had an appointment with them at 3 a.m. at their office. Went over to their office and left there about quarter to six.

AK: Why was it 3:00 in the morning?

DW: That's the only time that they had time to see me.

AK: They were going 24 hours a day themselves.

DW: They were going 24 hours a day. I come out of there with an order for 13 blow-out preventors with some High Drill and some camérons??? and a couple of chafers???

AK: So you were handling different makes of blow-out preventors?

DW: Yes.

AK: And Tip was very particular about the type of blow-out preventor he wanted.

DW: Yes, he needed the High Drills on account of the los substructures and the Cameron. . .

AK: ??? is not current.

DW: That's right. So I went back up to Edmonton and I had known the High Drill people from being down in the States and I contacted them and ordered the preventors and made a deal. In fact, I sold the first High Drill preventor in Canada, a small one was sold to Imperial Oil before this. And made a deal and filled up the accounts for Canada for Oilwell and then I turned my expense account in and about 3 weeks later, I got a letter from the division manager asking if my trip to Calgary had been necessary or had I gone down to see my wife. In fact, I hadn't even gone home, I didn't even tell my wife I was in town.

AK: Who was the manager at that time?

DW: Al Weir. So I just sat down, when I got in the office that night, it was about 1:00 in the morning I sat down and typed out my resignation. I was working at the typewriter at about 2:00 in the morning and Ted Price, who was working out of Calgary then, walked in and asked me what the hell I was doing. I told him I was typing out my resignation and he said, the hell you are, I handed mine in this morning. I didn't have to worry about a job, I could have gone to work for anybody in those days. Russ Wilson had been after me, he was with Dominion Oilfield so I went to work for Dominion Oilfield as sales manager.

#081 AK: Who did Ted Price go with?

DW: Ted Price got the agency for Mission, for Canada, Mission Manufacturing.

AK: Those were the. . .

DW: The valves and the pistons and fishing rods.

AK: Right. For the pumps?

DW: For the pumps.

AK: Okay. So this was right at the height of the Atlantic blow-out? When you went over to work for. . . ?

DW: Well, I went in and hooked up the blow-out preventor with Marv Odeham from High Drill. He was out of Los Angeles in those days. He's now in Houston with High Drill.

AK: And where did you hook this up?

DW: At the well.

AK: At the Atlantic 3?

DW: At Atlantic 3.

AK: Was this before you left Oilwell?

DW: Yes, I was still working with Oilwell then.

AK: But you'd signed off?

DW: No. . .

AK: Oh, you were still, oh, I see.

DW: That was the original High Drill that they brought in. They flew it in, it was flown in. That wasn't part of the order, the 13.

AK: Did that come by commercial or by charter, do you know?

DW: I can't recall. I think it came by charter.

AK: Yes, and then they land at the municipal at Edmonton.

DW: Yes. It was so hectic in those days, hell, I can't remember. Everything was hectic.

AK: But you were still with Oilwell when this happened and your parting of the ways with Oilwell was a little later on? Was it after the well had been killed or. . .?

DW: Oh no, no, the well was still blowing. We didn't accomplish much with the preventor, we couldn't do anything because it was all coming up around the casing by that time. The pump was just broken in the mud pit, bouncing up and down with the gas coming up underneath it.

AK: Yes, but the pump wasn't being used. I mean it was just sitting there.

DW: Just sitting there.

AK: And the whole place was a sea of mud and oil bubbling up all over. You said that you got an old Democrat. . .

DW: Got an old Democrat and we took the steel rims off it in case of sparks and we wheeled it in and we got it just about to the rig and one of the wheels broke, so we had to ??? it the rest of the way in.

AK: Was Tip there at the time?

DW: I can't recall who all was on the floor at the time.

AK: Well, there wasn't much left of the floor.

DW: No, there wasn't a hell of a lot left. But there was a little bit of a doghouse.

#109 AK: Was there still the old casing bowl there?

DW: Yes, it was down there.

AK: Yes. But I thought they had a Hosmer on there.

DW: Well, the Hosmer head had just slipped down into the casing bowl. The Hosmer head just wrapped around the drill pipe and slipped down into the casing bowl.

AK: Oh. So there was no use. . .

DW: It just had handles like a set of slips, that would be the Hosmer head. It slipped around the drill pipe and then it dropped the drill pipe.

AK: Well then what it would do is seal off the ??? between the surface casing and the drill pipe.

DW: That's exactly right. The Hosmer head.

AK: But it had no effect upon the blow-out preventors that we know now?  
DW: WE were going to put the High Drill in there and cinch it down and tie it down on the casing bowl and then cinch it around the drill pipe. But by that time most of the oil was coming up around the rig and hardly any was coming up through the drill pipe. It was more or less useless but that's what we did.  
AK: Do you remember whether this was before Tip took over or was it after?  
DW: I think this was before Tip took over.  
AK: He took over in about the middle of May.  
DW: I can't recall, I think I had left. . .yes, I was still with Oilwell. I'm not sure.  
AK: Well, that's all right. Your vivid recollection of going out there and working under the. . . you got right down in the cellar did you?  
DW: We were right there where the oil was popping up trying to put the preventor on and latching it down on to the casing bolt and trying to hook it up.  
AK: Yes. But what were you using to lift the god darned High Drill, what did you use?  
DW: We had ropes over some of the ??? of the derrick. The derrick was still standing.  
AK: And you kind of snaked it in and . . .  
DW: Yes, snaked it in and ???.  
AK: What's the expression, pissant?  
DW: That was one of Ralph Will's expression, pissant.  
AK: And that meant, doing it by hand?  
DW: That meant doing it by hand.  
AK: Well, that's a good expression to have on the tape here. So you were just, and how many of you were there, do you remember?  
DW: God, I can't remember, a whole crew.  
AK: They still had kind of crews out there?  
DW: Oh yes.  
AK: It was a GP rig you know, and it was Lloyd Stafford who was the tool push, he was the tool push on that.  
DW: Yes, and Bill Murray was working there.  
AK: There was another fellow that worked there, and he remembers very well getting in underneath the cellar at 3:00 in the morning when she was blowing and that was Hughey Leaper. Remember Hughey?  
DW: Oh very well. He worked there and then what's his name worked at the office for General Pete then was. . .

#145 AK: Bill Cummer?

DW: Bill Cummer.

AK: Then Jimmy Irvin was one of the tool pushes. Out there at the Atlantic 3 wellsite, they had as I was mentioning, Lloyd Stafford. General Pete had a yard in Leduc and Al Wright was superintendent. Of course, he was running around like a chicken without his head on.

DW: That's right. Bill Cummer was the bookkeeper.

AK: He was the bookkeeper in the office. And then Jimmy Irvin, was he married when he. . .?

DW: Yes, Jimmy Irvin was married.

AK: And then he spiked Bill Cummer's. . .

DW: Well, you know, things went on, that was pretty rough, living out in the camp. I don't know how that happened. But they were all out there. I do remember one night, Cody Spencer asked me if I would go around, I think I'd gone to work with Russ Wilson then, with Dominion Oilfield and Cody had me measure all the substructures to see what they could use for blow-out preventors. The highest substructure they had was 47", that was the height. Some of them were only 24", they were ??? 24" ???. So it was pretty hard to put any type of a blow-out preventor out there.

AK: Did they fabricate blow-out preventors in the States to suit this low. . .?

DW: No, but Camerons and Shafers were pretty high.

AK: So you couldn't get them in?

DW: They were pretty thick. By the time you . . . because you had to have 2 sets of rams. You'd have to have 2 of them, you'd have to have a set of blind rams and you'd have a set of pipe rams. You had both in. And then you put the High Drill above it and some of them just put the Cameron below with the blind rams and then put the High Drill above so they could squeeze it off around the pipe. But they had to have the Cameron down there so they could shut it off blind you see, with the blind rams.

AK: Yes, in case the . . .

DW: The pipe was out of the hole.

AK: In case the pipe was out of the hole.

DW: By the time you got a Cameron or a Shafer with a High Drill on top of it, you didn't have too much luck, if you didn't have enough floor space.

AK: No, you'd have no room.

DW: Then with some of the rigs they had to dig a deeper cellar. They put the casing cams down lower and put the casing way down in the floor.

AK: When did they start to smarten up and put a higher substructure in?

DW: That was after they found out that they have to get up in the air to accommodate the blow-out preventors. That's the reason. Everything was down in the cellar in those days, even the wellhead was in the bloody cellar in those days.

AK: Do you remember whether, before Atlantic 3 blew out, do you remember what the requirements were for blow-out prevention?

DW: I don't think there was any other than what Tip Maroney and Charlie Visser went to the government and told the people what they should. I think at the time, in order to drill, you had to have a blow-out preventor but there was no stipulations as to what kind and no inspection of them.

#188 AK: No testing?

DW: No testing and all that stuff. Most of them were hand operated. Under the cellar with wheels.

AK: And you just get down there and wheel it?

DW: That's the Camerons and the Shafers.

AK: Yes, because there was no hydraulics.

DW: You had to have operated ???.

AK: You had to have an air compressor.

DW: Yes, or hydraulics.

AK: But there was no stipulation in the regulations?

DW: Not as far as I know in the regulations. Well you know, I wasn't up with it then because I was too goddamn busy running around selling stuff and all that kind of stuff to worry about things like that.

AK: Yes, I think it was really Tip that really broke all that new ground by saying this is the kind of blow-out preventor you've got to have.

DW: Yes. Then I think Bill Connode was here at that time you know here and he was with the Conservation Board.

AK: Well yes, he was there before, he started in '38.

DW: Then he got together with the Conservation Board and the Conservation Board started stipulating because Tip and Ralph and Will and Bill Connode and all them were all friends and Charlie Visser.

AK: Well, Ralph and Bill were very good friends. Bill's widow is still alive you know.

DW: She is?

AK: Margaret.

DW: Oh yes, I think she still lives in that apartment building. . .

AK: No. Syndenham Rd., just at the brow of Mt. Royal. Where does Ralph Will live in town?

DW: He lives right above the Red Carpet there.

AK: Oh yes, Mayfair.

DW: Mayfair, in the penthouse.

AK: Okay, well, when all this was going on, did you have any idea that Atlantic 3 was really going to break new ground, that it was bigger than Leduc #1 discovery?

DW: Oh yes, well, everybody was talking about it because of all the oil that they pumped off the ground.

AK: Yes, 13,000 barrels a day they were pumping there. Do you remember any of that that was going on about pumping the oil?

DW: Oh yes, because I was out there all the time and I had the permit to get in there. And then as I say, I had to go around to all of GP's rigs and measure their substructures and everything else.

AK: But you're not sure whether this is before or after you left Oilwell?

DW: I'm not sure. Because after I left Russ Wilson, I had to break the exclusive deal that I had made for Oilwell with High Drill. I got that broken then we could sell High Drill preventors.

#220 AK: In other words, there were certain outfits that could only sell. . .?

DW: I got the exclusive for Oilwell with High Drill when we ordered the first bunch. So then I had to go. . .

AK: But Al Weir didn't appreciate your efforts I guess?

DW: I don't think he even bothered to look at the sale.

AK: Didn't he look at sales records?

DW: I don't believe so.

AK: He was too busy playing. . .

DW: I don't know what the hell. . . those people didn't seem to give a goddamn. They expected everybody to come to their door and order stuff. They didn't want to go out and try . . .

AK: Oh, I see, they weren't too aggressive.

DW: No, they weren't too aggressive.

AK: Now Russ that ran Dominion, that was under Francis Reed wasn't it?

DW: That's right.

AK: Then you were dealing quite closely then with Commonwealth Drilling?

DW: Yes. That was our biggest customer but Russ and ourselves, we were very, very aggressive. We sold a lot of rigs, we sold a bunch of pumping units to Imperial.

AK: Now what kind of pumping units were they?

DW: Ideco???. We had the Ideco account for Canada. In fact I sold the first air operated rig in Canada.

AK: What was the name of that, was that an Ideco?

DW: I'd go around and try to sell the rig and they'd say, Wilkin, just cause you spent 2 years in the States you think you know everything, christ, you can't operate air in Canada, it's so cold. You have to have the old bang clutch, or jaw clutch, there's no goddamn way you'll ever get air, christ man, are you crazy. I got thrown out of damn near every office in Calgary. Cody Spencer was the only one that had the guts to try it. So when we tried it we went to the CPR and got some, they were running air on those trains and it's just as cold out there on the railway tracks as it was on the drilling rig. So we put a bunch of scrubbers that we didn't need on it and. . .

AK: Yes, to dry the air out.

DW: To dry the air out. So it worked and now they're all air operated. But that was the first one sold in Canada. And I had a hell of a time doing it too.

#246 AK: What capacity of rig was that, do you recall?

DW: About a 5 or 6 thousand footer. I think it was an Ideco 30 or an Ideco 40, I can't recall.

AK: That wasn't the Rambler though?

DW: No, the Rambler came later on. This was an IH 40.

AK: This was more portable was it?

DW: No, it was on a regular derrick. ???

AK: Who was the agent for D. C. Moore?

DW: All the supply companies sold through National or Mid Continent or in those days it was ???.

AK: Right. But you see, when Leduc first started they were all standard steel derricks. You'd have your rig builders go around, I think Reg Young had quite a bit to do with that didn't he?

DW: Yes, well, I mean a lot of the oil companies owned the derricks.

AK: They owned their own derricks. And then they'd get the rig builders to dismantle them and move them.

DW: Yes. And when they got to the Jethro type or the masts, then the drilling contractors started supplying them.

- AK: Yes. And who was the first one to put a mast in, do you remember? Pappy ran those old rigs you see, and he needed the standard derrick. . .
- DW: I'm not too sure if it was Ideco, no we sold some D. C. Moore's before that. Hell, I can't remember.
- AK: No, it's all right. But Ralph wasn't going to switch over because he was making too much money with those old . . .
- DW: Yes. And as I say, Ralph was the type that put 24 hours a day into it. Once he got everything and got everything going good and it made some money, hell, he turned it over to his boys. He more or less went to the house. It was damned near time because I don't think he ever spent very much time at home and he was a married man and he had a daughter. He was about the hardest working man that I've ever seen in my life, and a fair man.
- AK: Yes, well, who was the. . .you see, Ralph moved up very fast there and of course, one of the outfits that he drilled for was Home Oil. Because Lowry and he were very close. I think I mentioned to you that Lowry drilled his holes in Turner Valley with Ralph on a turnkey basis. Ralph would deliver the hole cased to the lime and that was it. There was no rift or anything on Lowry's part. So when they went to Leduc Lowry got Ralph in there to drill his holes on that sycz lease. Do you remember that lease, they built that camp in there? Jimmy Stafford was running it.
- DW: Yes.
- #293 AK: Then Ralph was there and then Commonwealth come up pretty quick. I think they drilled Imperial Leduc #4.
- DW: Yes, well I mean, as I say, we were Dominion and we bought all of their rigs. Then back ???, he used to buy a lot of equipment but ??? expenditure you see. . .
- AK: Oh, put it on the books, yes, right.
- DW: End of every year, goddamn it, we'd be ordering stuff to hell and back.
- AK: Is that right?
- DW: Oh yes. ??? Commonwealth, he was getting a lot of rigs. They were becoming quite big.
- AK: What he was doing though, he was . . . What I'd like to know from you Don is, who was the first contractor to come up from the States. Was it Dollar for Dick or was Dick already in Canada?
- DW: Who?
- AK: Cantex, you know. Who was the first. . .?
- DW: Snyder and Head.
- AK: No, no, I meant at Leduc, when the Leduc boom broke, who started to move in from the States, who brought in rigs from the States?
- DW: I can't really remember because as I say, I was in Wyoming.
- AK: Oh yes, that's right, in '48, they were already in place. Yes, they were already in place. But Cantex, he brought some junk in.
- DW: Yes, Cantex came in.
- AK: I remember gondola cars. . .
- DW: That was Harry ??? . . .

AK: Yes, well Harry. . . and then of course, Morris works for him now. But Cantex. . .

DW: He bought a bunch of rigs from Royalite.

AK: Oh did he?

DW: Yes, he used to come down to Oilwell and pick me up and we used to go out to the ??? yard. We bought ??? and old derricks and old pumps, just about everything.

AK: Anything at all, anything that would. . .

DW: Anything that you could put together and work. And by god, that Dick Harris, he was another Ralph Will, he worked his ass off. He had a push working for him named Harry Sledge.

AK: Yes, and Sledge died of a heart attack.

DW: No, he didn't have a heart attack, it was complete exhaustion.

AK: Oh, he burned him out.

DW: He just burned himself out.

AK: I remember going to the funeral.

DW: He had his 2 boys with him. They were supposed to be in school and he had them in the car and he'd had them in the car for 8 days, he hadn't been home. Him and those kids had been eating in restaurants and living in the back seat of the car.

AK: Gee whiz. He just drove. . .

DW: He just died of exhaustion. The report came out, it wasn't a heart attack, he just died of flat exhaustion.

AK: Well, that was my recollection.

DW: Dick was. . . I'll tell you, Dick used to go out ??? all the time, I honestly believe that Dick could have done it. Because he would come down to the store in Okotoks. One day I was getting him some cable and we used a 14 lb. sledge with a 36" handle on it and a cable cutter to cut the cable. I did it and I wrapped up the cable and took the length of it and he had a ??? coil of rope. We kept the coils of rope in the ledger by serial number as well as footage and lb. I had it in my mind that I had to go up to the front in order to write it down so that I wouldn't forget. When I came back Dick Harris had the sledge sitting on the floor alongside him, a 14 lb. sledge. He raised his arm straight up without bending it, cocked his wrist and let the sledge come down, touch his nose and straight up and . . .

End of tape.

## Tape 2 Side 2

DW: ???, I took it out and opened the trunk of his car and put it in the trunk and I turned around to go back in to roll the rope out, well, to get the dolly to bring it out and here comes Dick, walking down the length of the warehouse, with his arm here, carrying it, and it weighed 228 lb.

AK: What was it, about 7/8" cable?

DW: No, it was 1" rope. I think it was 228 or 248 ???. He was a strong man. I like Dick, he was a hard man to work with but as I said, he was fair and I did a lot of things for him but he did a lot the same. Dick and I got along. . .

AK: Well, you'd approach it from a different angle but you see, one of my big problems, being

- out there at Leduc, was trying to get decent samples. [stopped tape] Ralph, I thought, worked for Cody.
- DW: Yes. He was another nice guy. Ralph didn't just work for Cody, there was another outfit. When Ralph went to change the name to Drilling Contractors, didn't that other company, Anglo Canadian, continue on with the one rig and Ralph Binning was running it.
- AK: Well, that could be but my understanding was that Ralph was brought up by Cody and Gene from the States.
- DW: Yes, he was. But I think that group, had Anglo Canadian when he formed Drilling Contractors, it was Anglo Canadian first then went to Drilling Contractors.
- AK: But that's Ralph Will.
- DW: Yes, I know, but then I think it went back, when he went to Drilling Contractors, I think they needed a hole drilled or something and Anglo Canadian, I think Ralph Will brought up Ralph Binning to run the Anglo. . . God, I can't remember, but I think that's how it went. Then he went in with Cody.
- AK: Yes, well, that could be you know.
- DW: I think he came up at first to run one rig, I think it was Anglo Canadian.
- AK: Right. But then the story about Cody Spencer and Gene Denton is interesting in that they decided to form General Petroleums and I believe that Spi Langston worked for them for awhile.
- DW: Yes, he did.
- AK: But then he got over into the diamond coring end of it.
- DW: That's right, and then he got into the consulting business.
- AK: Yes. Do you remember much about the reception that the diamond coring got with the drilling contractors?
- DW: They didn't like any damn part of it because it held them up.
- AK: They'd be getting day work though. But they liked the footage rather . . .
- DW: They preferred to get the footage and get the hell off of there so they could get another hole. Well, some of those hard nosed rig people, anything new came up they didn't have any damn use for it.
- AK: No, and I think the other thing too that was very difficult to institute were any kind of safety regulations.
- DW: That's right, it was hard and they would all hold everybody. . .
- AK: Ralph didn't care a whole hell of a lot for safety.
- DW: None of them did because they'd worked with it all their life. But safety always comes but it takes a long time before it comes.
- #039 AK: Yes, well, one of the things that I vividly recall is those old steam rigs of Ralph's and that great big long sprocket chain that ran away out to the motors. And that thing was just whipping and banging and. . .
- DW: No guards, no nothing.
- AK: Well, he put a couple of 2x4 or 2x8's. . .
- DW: You remember Oberan, there was 2 Oberan brothers. One of them ended up working for Brinkerhoff in Edmonton and then the other one got killed on a rig. They had belts. . .

AK: Rubber belts?

DW: Rubber belts. I think they had 8 belts or 10 belts.

AK: Oh, the little B belts.

DW: The little B belts.

AK: Yes, there would be about 8 or 10 of them in a shed.

DW: I think if I remember rightly, it was Oberan and he wanted to get over from this walkway over to the other. Seeing them belts go by every day, he never even thought, he put his hand down and went to vault over. Naturally they went down through the belt and he was gone.

AK: He got caught up in the belts, yes.

DW: But I mean nobody, you know, in those days, you didn't think that way. And everything was always in such a hell of a hurry and get the goddamn, you know, the old saying was working around the rigs that really, in Turner Valley when they started was goddamn, if you ever straightened your back you were run off. Because outside the fence there would be [tents of guys]???. They put a fence around the rigs and then all the rocks on the driveway in would be whitewashed, you never sat down for 5 seconds. You even straighten your goddamn back up and you're run off, you're fired if you ever straightened out.

AK: That's right, you were just working all the time.

DW: Yes. Steady. They never had to worry about hiring anybody, if a guy didn't like it he just quit and you'd just stand down at the end of the walk and raise your hand up and christ, there's be 6 or 7 guys come over that barbed wire fence and run like hell. The first one there usually got the job.

AK: And yet there was such a tremendous need for help at Leduc that. . .

DW: Well, then they couldn't find them.

AK: They couldn't find them, they went and got farm boys and a lot of those farm boys turned out good.

DW: Well, they always did because they were used to working around machinery. The guys from the city weren't mechanically minded.

AK: That's right, they could fix it with barbed wire or whatever.

DW: Yes, so they made good roughnecks, good drillers.

AK: What about Barney Taylor, he ran an outfit there, was that Empire?

DW: Yes, I remember Barney but I can't get the association. He was down south there, around Taber for awhile and he had something going down there. I can't recall it.

AK: No, but I think that was that Cliff Cross outfit that he was working for. They had some holes, Globe Leduc West or something.

DW: Yes, Globe Leduc West.

#069AK: And what do you recall of Neil McQueen and Art Newburn, do you remember those two?

DW: Oh yes. They were around and they were, what did they call it, Oil Ventures was first on their . . .

AK: Yes, that's the one that Maury worked for.

- DW: No. They had changed it to Central Del Rio when Maury went to work for them.
- AK: No, no.
- DW: No, I thought he went to work for them when. . .
- AK: Down in Taber, '43.
- DW: Yes, Oil Ventures, then they named it what, '44 or '45, they named it Central Del Rio.
- AK: No, not till about '47 or '48. When Leduc hit.
- DW: ??? I remember Don Redmond, who was with Chevron down in Taber, he went with them. I think that was after Maury left.
- AK: Did you meet Maury in Taber?
- DW: Yes, when he was with Oil Ventures I knew Maury. When Neil McQueen had that stuff working out around Brooks, when Maury was around Brooks and around Taber too.
- AK: Yes, it was British Empire, they drilled that hole, New British Dominion.
- DW: And then old George ???
- AK: That's right, he had a hole going there. But getting back to the contractors, when did the U.S. contractors start to realize that there was a buck or two to be made in Canada. Like say, Reading and Bates for instance. But they weren't one of the first but there were some others that come in, like Parker Drilling?
- DW: Parker Drilling, I think that was ????. When old man Parker came up here, he had a plane, flew up and he was around ??? there for awhile and then made some deal, I think had some deal with that Noble Drilling stuff. That was at Norman Wells. I think Parker put a deal together and I don't know who told him but he knew about Claire Nabors. He set Claire Nabors up on that deal. When he came up there. I think Noble was really tied in with it too, as well as Parker. I don't know how that. . .
- AK: Well, that's okay.
- DW: And Charlie Thornton come up here with Gulf you know, originally.
- AK: Oh, is that right, he was a Gulf man.
- DW: Yes. Then he got the idea and I think he was a friend of Reading's and old man Bates. So he got the idea, what a hell of a deal to set up a company in Canada and that's how it. . .
- AK: Oh, I see. So he'd be working with fellows like Ed Loughney and Jack Bevell and some of those?
- DW: ??? He knew all of them and I think he got a hell of a lot of Gulf's work.
- AK: Well, probably did, yes. And just scratched their back right and everything else. Okay, what about some of the others that come up, like Brinkerhoff? How did he, did he come up fairly early?
- DW: That was. . .
- #102 AK: You mentioned Blankenhorn.
- DW: Blankenhorn was working for Brinkerhoff down there. I remembered the guy's name yesterday, but I can't remember it now, Head or Heard, worked for Manning, tool pushed for Manning. He knew that I was back in Canada and he got hold of me and told me he was going to fly up here and they had a geologist. Old Manning had a bi-wing airplane, I forget the kind of it, it was a double bi-wing airplane and they flew up here and they brought a geologist with him. The geologist was Joe Poyen.

AK: Is that right?

DW: Charlie Grant, he was Charlie Grant.

AK: Poyen didn't come up with Dick Harris then?

DW: No. And they came up and had a look around. What happened when he went back I don't know, the next thing he was up with Dick or somebody. Then I think the word was out around Casper and all that, and Brinkerhoff, Zach was around there with what was going on in Canada. I think Zach came up on his own and had a look around. I just don't know, I think that was in the Redwater days.

AK: Well, was Bob Brinkerhoff . . .

DW: The youngest brother. There was Zach and Sonny and Bob.

AK: Oh, there was a Sonny, I didn't know him. Well then, is Bob still alive?

DW: He's in Calgary, sure.

AK: Oh, he lives in Calgary oh. We should get him to. . .

DW: He could tell you.

AK: Yes, he'd have a real picture. So Manning really was the vehicle by which. . .

DW: I know he's one of the reasons that John Poyen got up here because I know that Manning, he'd have probably heard about it from Earl Griffiths, who used to work for, Ralph Will worked for him. But they came up, Charlie Grant was a tool push. If I'm not mistaken I think Charlie Grant went to work for Brinkerhoff down there. Goddamn, I don't know.

AK: No, it's just interesting about some of those early . . . now, there was another outfit that has disappeared or at least was taken over, was Trinity Drilling. Do you remember them?

DW: Yes.

AK: They worked in B.C. mostly didn't they?

DW: Trinity, I forget who. . . I can see the guy so well. They got into a lot of trouble, Trinity Drilling. Then there was another outfit that came up, Roman and Johnson, do you remember Jackson ????. He did a bunch of work for Hudson Bay, Roman and Johnson.

#139 AK: Were they friends with some of the Hudson Bay people?

DW: Yes, what's his name from the States.

AK: Glen Bowes?

DW: Glen Bowes and that bunch. Roman and Johnson, they were here about 2 or 3 years. Then there was that. . . what was that guy, had a couple of rigs working up at Redwater and worked for Texaco. Lindley Drilling.

AK: Lindley. What happened to them?

DW: They went back to the States.

AK: What about Dallas Hawkins, he had a company going?

DW: He had some company going and then he got into promoting. Who the hell did he work for in those days?

AK: Well it was the name of the company and I can just see him standing there talking about it.

DW: He owns Oakwood now.

AK: Yes, he's in Oakwood. He's a big piece of Oakwood.

DW: I forget who he worked for, he worked for one of the majors.

AK: It was a name like, I was going to say Arcadia but it was not that, it was some other name. But he was very active in that and then he dropped that. I think there were some problems there that he had.

DW: Then there was another rig come up from the States, this tool push worked for this guy and I knew him in Worland, Wyoming and he phoned me and they were moving a rig up and got to the border and couldn't get it across. They didn't have backing and what was the guy's name that got tied up in this deal out west here at Pembina, with the Mormons?

AK: Oh, you mean Tanner's son-in-law?

DW: Yes.

AK: Cliff Walker.

DW: Cliff Walker and then they got that guy to drill for them and he was in on this rig and they brought up one rig from the States. I knew his partner, what the hell was his name, did he marry Cliff Walker's daughter, one of the Tanner girls. Remember the Mormons from Calgary.

AK: Well, Cliff Walker married one of Tanner's daughters.

DW: Yes. But this other guy, it's not Cliff Walker, they had a rig.

AK: No, that would be somebody else then. I should have brought that book over but maybe do it the next time, check it out. But no, there were a lot of them come up here and some of them worked out. Who was it that set up Cactus, was it LaSorde, he come up didn't he?

DW: Yes. I forget who the owners were down in the States.

AK: Then there were some of the companies that. . .oh, yes, there was a fellow from Wichita, Kansas, Jack Shearer.

DW: Jack Shearer.

AK: Yes, he had a company.

DW: Yes, he's still got a couple of rigs working around, I think he's got 3 or 4, probably a couple here and down in the States.

#175 AK: Because he's moved back to the States though hasn't he?

DW: No, he lives in the Roxboro House. ???.

AK: Well, I think probably we got to the point maybe where we could leave it for the next session and talk about say, your career with Dominion and then I want to move on into when Import was formed. Now there was one company that. . . was Delbert Lewis, was he in with you?

DW: Yes. He was tied in with that drilling company, Hurley Drilling. Remember Archie Miller worked for them.

AK: Oh yes, and then didn't that fellow Hurley go over and work for Britalta and Tri-Province?

DW: Tri-Province, yes. And Delbert Lewis was tied in there as a consultant. He and Hurley got some deals going, they got rid of both of them. God, I can't remember, there's so much of it. I can't remember the name of the company, all I know that Frank Tilley's wife worked for that company.

AK: Grace.

DW: Grace worked for that company.

AK: That's okay.

DW: I remember Archie Miller worked for them

AK: That was before he went with Duke. What about Laurie Oilfield Rentals, were you connected with that at all?

DW: No, I was supposed to have got a piece of that. Delbert said I had but I never did get any money out of it. He just took the money out of Import Tools stock to start it. Import bought the drill pipe and everything and they got all the rental income off of it. That's something I'd as soon forget.

AK: Yes, okay. But it was named after Lorraine wasn't it, Lorraine Lewis?

DW: I don't know how he got that name. But Cliff Gibson was one of the guys that went in with him. Yes, and then Delbert got him out of that. He got hold of June Cosgrove, the gal that used to work with me on that Pipe Valley Gas and Board, she worked for us. Then young junior had her fired because he found out his old man was sleeping with her and then she went over to work for Laurie Oilfield Rentals. She couldn't sleep in the goddamn round house. She was the one that managed to get rid of Cliff Gibson and she was the one that made goddamn sure that I didn't get in on anything there. It was a sick deal. When he died you see. . .

AK: Delbert, when Delbert died?

DW: There was no money left in Import. Laurie had all kinds of money.

#220 AK: Cleaned out eh?

DW: Cleaned out. Delbert don't believe that but let's face facts. I was the 3<sup>rd</sup> partner you see.

AK: Yes, well, Delbert Sr. died under rather peculiar circumstances.

DW: With June.

AK: Oh, is that right. She was the first to know about him. Well, maybe we can go back to some of this stuff at another time. I've taken up a lot of your time and maybe we can . . . Well, we'll turn this off, thanks very much. It's now 3:05. Thank you.