

The History of The

**ASPG / CSPG 1927 – 1978**

The History of the  
ALBERTA SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS 1927 – 1972  
  
AND THE  
  
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS 1973 – 1978

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August 31, 1984

Calgary, AB Canada

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## A BACKGROUND TO THE FOUNDING OF THE ALBERTA / CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS

The Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists dates back to the heady days of the late 1920's. Alberta's gas and oil production had surpassed Ontario's. The future looked bright. By forming a society for petroleum geologists, these eleven men not only looked expectantly to future success they also recognised a long history of gas and oil exploration and discovery in Canada.

In Ontario oil was discovered at Petrolia in the 1850's and by 1870 Canada was exporting surplus oil to Europe. Ontario oil producers formed Imperial Oil Company Limited to compete with the aggressive American companies but it eventually became part of the Standard Oil empire in 1899. For many years Ontario was the only oil producing area of any significance in Canada.

However, in western Canada, where the Society was formed, there is also an interesting history of petroleum exploration and utilisation that dates back to the 1700's.

In 1715 Henry Kelsey reported oil on the Athabasca River. Later that century Peter Pond and Peter Fidler also investigated the present day tar sands of northern Alberta.

During the 1850's Dr. James Hector, educated as both a medical doctor and a geologist, accompanied Captain John Palliser across the west. His professional observations were published by the Geological Society of London in 1861. George Mercer Dawson joined a government boundary survey team in 1873 and 1874, recording the geology along the 1400-mile border surveyed at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. Dawson learned of oil seepage from a guide working for the survey team, a man known locally as Kootenai Brown.

The arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880's forever changed the West. In 1883, while drilling for water and coal for its steam engines, the company hit gas in southeastern Alberta near Langevin. Seven years later, at Medicine Hat, another gas discovery occurred while drilling exploratory shafts for coal.

In 1893, R.G. McConnell found gas and oil seepage's near Peace River. Four years later a gas well blew in at Pelican Rapids, north of Edmonton on the Athabasca River, and flowed wild until 1918.

During the first three decades of the twentieth century gas and oil proved to be commercial propositions in western Canada, not just rumours or obscure reports.

Drilling began at Cameron Brook in Southwestern Alberta in 1901 in the field mentioned by Kootenai Brown. Beginning in 1904, D.B. Dowling with the Geological Survey of Canada documented the coal, gas and oil prospects in Alberta. During 1905 John A. Allan came west to do geological work. A.W. Dingman formed the Calgary Natural Gas Company that same year and in 1908, after finding gas on the Colonel Walker estate, began supplying gas to Calgary Customers.

Eugene Coste discovered the Bow Island gas field in 1909 and by 1912 a 16-inch pipeline was laid from the southeastern Alberta field to Calgary. In 1914, the popular Turner Valley Field southwest of Calgary proved itself with the discovery of liquid laden gas. A small compressor soon produced gasoline for the numerous automobiles that brought interested sightseers to the field.

The Viking gas field, southeast of Edmonton, was discovered in 1914. Foremost, discovered in 1916, fed gas into the Bow Island to Calgary pipeline to meet the ever-growing demand. In 1918, the Chin Coulee field was also tied into the Calgary system.

By 1919 Imperial Oil was searching the west for oil with fourteen geological crews. T.A. Link was with the crew that located a well at Norman Wells. In 1920 oil was discovered at that well and the North became part of the oil basin of western Canada.

In 1921 the Royalite gas plant in Turner Valley was connected to the Bow Island to Calgary line. The following year the Wainwright field was discovered, Pouce Coupe No. 1 struck gas near the Peace River and the British Columbia – Alberta boarder, and the Kevin-Sunburst field discovery in northern Montana fuelled the interest for exploration deep in southern Alberta.

In 1923 Viking gas began to serve customers in Edmonton and the second boom in Turner Valley followed the spectacular blow-out of Royalite No. 4. This well, the first to puncture the limestone in Turner Valley, blew wild when it encountered highly pressurised gas. After blowing uncontrolled for nearly two months it was tapped and fed into the line to Calgary. In 1925 the first oil pipeline was built from Turner Valley to the Imperial Oil refinery at Calgary.

Consequently, by the end of the 1920's Alberta was becoming a well-established field for both gas and oil. Edmonton and Calgary as well as many small communities were serviced by gas. Geologists employed by government and industry were at work throughout the province. The boom of optimism born by Royalite No. 4 grew as other wells came in and high profile promoters, including W.S. Herron, eventually urged the construction of a pipeline to Winnipeg.

Although Ontario boasted a much older oilfield, Alberta far surpassed it in the 1920's. Even though Alberta produced only 844 barrels of oil in 1924 compared

to Ontario's 154,368, in 1925 Alberta produced 183,491 barrels to Ontario's 143,134, or 67% of the total Canadian supply. In the years that followed Ontario's production remained stable while Alberta shattered all national records. Production in 1930 was 1,396,160 barrels, 92% of national production and in 1940 10,117,078 barrels, or 98% of Canada's oil, came from Alberta. Alberta remained the centre of gas and oil activity for the first fifty years of the history of the Society.

Alberta's significance as an oil centre was also demonstrated in other statistics. During 1925 the number of oilfield employees in Alberta exceeded those in Ontario. By 1926 Alberta boasted six refineries and thirty-three companies drilling for oil, most with their offices in Calgary. Twenty-two gas producers worked fields at Wainwright-Fabyan, Redcliff, Viking, Wetaskiwin, Medicine Hat, Bassano, Suffield, Foremost, Bow Island and Turner Valley. Finally, in 1927, the year the founders of the ASPG organised the Society, \$20,426,000 or 90% of capital employed in oil production in Canada was at work in Alberta<sup>1</sup>. Western Canada had become the most significant oil producing area in the country and the geologists at work in this exciting new area were optimistic about their role in the exciting future.

## THE NEED FOR A SOCIETY

Early geological work was general in character but as time passed the geology of oil became more important. As petroleum geology grew more prominent in western Canada institutions were formed to provide reliable information, education and direction to the industry.

The Geological Survey of Canada was an early source of information on the general geology of the West. Later, in 1912, John A. Allan established the geology department at the University of Alberta. Dr. Allan produced the first geological map of Alberta in 1920 and in 1925 a geological department was established at the Calgary office of the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company.

A few independent geologists worked in Calgary during the 1920's and they periodically lunched together and exchanged ideas. As the gas and oil industry in the province became lucrative, more and more people were attracted to the business. With the boom in 1924 came charlatans out to make money by posing as oil experts. The true geologists recognised the need for an organisation in order to maintain their respectability and status.

Many similar organisations preceded the formation of the ASPG. The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIMM) was formed in 1898, the American Association of petroleum Geologists (AAPG) in 1917, and the Ontario Natural Gas Association in 1919. The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta was formed in 1920 and in 1926 the Oil Operators' Association of Alberta, now known as the Canadian Petroleum Association, was established. Also in 1926, the CIMM formed a natural gas division to meet the needs of a growing industry.

Finally, in 1927, the time was right for a recognised society of petroleum geologists in Canada. The counter part in the United States, the AAPG had been formed in 1917 and by 1927 boasted 1670 members in 24 countries. Of the 130 foreign members, 31 lived in Mexico, 28 in Venezuela, 11 in England and 9 in Canada. When forming the ASPG no better example was needed than that of the AAPG.

## HOW THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED

Then came an inspired press article damaging to the new industry. Saturday Night, on November 20, 1926, took a page, including a map to enquire,  
**“Is There Oil in Alberta?”**

This is how T.B. Williams, a founder of the ASPG, remembered the scathing attack on the recently established Alberta oilfield.

With impostors divining for oil, eastern periodicals questioning the viability of the Alberta oilfield and a growing need for communication amongst petroleum geologists, talk of a society began in earnest. The informal meetings at Calgary demonstrated the growing interest in a society. Finally, as the story goes, Glen Ruby and Stan Slipper planned the founding meeting while negotiating the treacherous road between Calgary and Edmonton.

In the fall of 1927 Stan Slipper circulated a letter to the petroleum geologists at work in Alberta. Although not all were present at the founding meeting, those who could not attend sent letters supporting the formation of a society.

Saturday, December 17, 1927 was a sunny winter day. At a balmy 27<sup>o</sup>F, the pleasant weather was indicative of the geologist’s positive mood as they filed into the boardroom at the main office of the Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light Heat and Power Co. Ltd. in Calgary.

After the meeting was called to order by Mr. Slipper, Glen Ruby moved that a society be formed and that it be called the “Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists.”<sup>2</sup> Qualifications would be the same as those for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Professor J.A. Allan from the University of Alberta discussed the advantages of such an association. Further discussion made clear that exclusion from the AAPG would not necessarily exclude a geologist from the Alberta organisation. Then Dr. T.A. Link lauded the numerous benefits of membership in the AAPG and suggested that anyone not already a member “make application for membership as soon as possible.”

Mr. S.J. Davies then suggested the name be broadened to include all Canadian geologists. Mr. Ruby argued that a Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists organisation would have to include geologists in the east with “different problems and such an organisation would be too all-embracing and impractical.”

Finally, after some discussion as to the role of visiting Geological Survey of Canada geologists in the Society, Glen Ruby’s original motion was repeated and carried. Chairman Slipper then appointed Glen Ruby, T.A. Link, R.V. Johnson and S.J. Davies to draw up a provisional constitution. They were given a fifteen-

minute adjournment to do their work and came back promptly. During the short break Glen Ruby apparently pulled an already composed constitution out of his pocket, read it to the sub-committee, and they took it back to the group.

At 4:30 they reconvened and accepted the constitution. Nominations for officers followed and Mr. Slipper was elected unanimously to the position of President. Professor Allan similarly accepted the draft for Vice-President and Dr. Link was chosen for Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Link then nominated Glen Ruby for Business Representative but Mr. Ruby asked to have his name withdrawn. P.D. Moore also refused to stand for nomination and in the end Mr. Whitwell was elected as Business Representative.

As the meeting drew to a close Glen Ruby was officially extended a “vote of thanks” for all his work in forming the Society. Indeed, although he did not allow himself to be elected to office, Ruby was the moving force behind the formation of the Society. Finally, signatures and a total of eleven dollars in dues were collected from the men present. The meeting was adjourned.<sup>3</sup>

In retrospect, the ASPG was clearly patterned after the AAPG. Indeed, the qualifications for members section in the first constitution was directly quoted from the AAPG constitution. The early ASPG application forms were actually AAPG forms with the word state crossed out and province written in.

Similarly, the objectives of the new ASPG, “to meet from time to time with the aim of discussing problems concerning the geology and technology of petroleum, natural gas and allied minerals,” were patterned after the AAPG. The American organisation’s objectives also included the following: “to foster the spirit of scientific research...to disseminate facts...to maintain a high standard of professional conduct...and to protect the public from the work of inadequately trained and unscrupulous men posing as petroleum geologists.” Although the stated objectives of the ASPG were simpler, the AAPG goals were just as applicable to the Alberta organisation.

By the end of the beautiful December afternoon the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists was formed with a mandate to share information and discuss problems as they related to the geology of natural gas and petroleum in Western Canada. The foundations were in place for an organisation capable of fostering excellence in the field of petroleum geology. In the fifty years to follow the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists would attempt to live up to the dreams of the founders. The story of those fifty years recounts the near failures and ultimate success of the Alberta, and later, Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.

## FOUNDERS OF THE ASPG

The founders of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists came from many different sectors. Some were academics, others consultants, some worked for exploration departments of petroleum companies, and still others worked at various combinations of these jobs.

Seven of the eleven were members of the AAPG in 1927 and the other four became members in the years that followed. The influence of the AAPG on the new ASPG permeated the early activities and the documents from that era.

Although many other men and a few women provided important direction to the ASPG over the years, the brief stories that follow are the men who met on December 17, 1927 and formed the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists.

### J.A. ALLAN

John Andrew Allan was born at Aubrey, Quebec during July, 1884. Educated at McGill University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Allan began and developed the geology department at the University of Alberta. A member of numerous societies, his bibliography includes some 160 articles published between 1909 and 1954.

Dr. Allan contributed time, energy and, most of all, hope to the formation of the Society and the search for petroleum in western Canada. He promoted and organisation for geologists in June, 1926 to ensure high standards in the field. In October of that year, as both a university scholar and a practising geological consultant, he vigorously defended the viability of the Turner Valley field against vicious attacks made by a California geologist.

When the Society was formed he served as Vice-President the first year. To this day his geological hammer is passed from one president of the Society to the next, symbolising the authority and responsibility of the office.<sup>4</sup>

### S.J. DAVIES

Stanley J. Davies received his degree in Technology of Oil from the Royal School of Mines at London, England. From 1921 to 1924 he worked as a petroleum geologist and engineer in Romania, Trinidad, Mexico and California. By the late 1920'2 he had worked for the Department of the Interior, and was consulting for various producers when the Society was formed.

As a member of the AAPG, CIMM and other geological organisations, Mr. Davies was well qualified to help form the ASPG. By suggesting a national name he unknowingly foretold the future significance of the Society. Before moving the

founding meeting be adjourned, Mr. Davies acknowledged Glen Ruby's enormous contribution to the ASPG by extending to him an official vote of thanks.<sup>5</sup>

#### H.M. HUNTER

Harry M. Hunter, born in North Dakota, was only 24 years young at the founding meeting of the Society. Formally trained at the University of Alberta and practically experienced by working as a surveyor at Cranbrook and a mining engineer at Canmore, he had just been hired to work with Stan Slipper on Dr. Allan's recommendation.

In addition to his contributions at the first meeting, Mr. Hunter went on to serve as Secretary-Treasurer in 1929, Business Manager in 1935 and 1937 and president of the ASPG in 1939. Mr. Hunter is the only living founder of the ASPG.

#### R.V. JOHNSON

In 1937 the Vancouver Sun wrote "When time comes to write the history of Alberta's oil fields and particularly that of Turner Valley, the name of Russel V. Johnson will undoubtedly occupy a prominent place in the recordings...[he was] a consulting geologist and probably the only one of a miniature army who did not desert the valley in 1929-30 when the world went into a tail spin and far fields looked very green, even to eyes interested in black, gummy oil."

A member of AAPG and CIMM, he worked as a consultant in Calgary until the 1940's. As Vice-President of the Society in 1935 and president in 1936, Mr. Johnson guided the small group of geologists through a dark period. His only recorded contribution to the founding meeting was a considerate motion that the meeting be adjourned. It was passed.<sup>6</sup>

#### T.A. LINK

A geologist of considerable reputation, Dr. T.A. Link ordered shotguns for his geological field crews working in the North during World War Two. When they arrived without shells he repeatedly ordered ammunition without success. Finally he wired the U.S. commanding officer at Whitehorse saying, "A bear ate two of my geologists yesterday; now will you send those g.. d... shells?" They arrived the next day.

Born in Indiana and educated at the University of Chicago, Dr. Link was employed by Imperial Oil in the west when the Society was formed. As a member of numerous societies, including the AAPG, he was certainly a motivating force behind the creation and continued growth of the ASPG. He recalled the ASPG banquet in 1929 in his inimitable way. "The interaction of

ideas and stories continued at this banquet, and long speeches were conspicuous by their absence.”

Dr. Link served as the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Society and the second President. As the AAPG district representative for Western Canada, he encouraged communication between the AAPG and the ASPG, ensuring close ties.<sup>7</sup>

#### R.B. McNEELY

Robert Barnes McNeely came back from a pack-train survey in northern Alberta in the fall of 1927 and joined the other Hudson’s Bay – Marland men who went to Calgary to form the ASPG.

Born and educated in Oklahoma, Mr. Barnes returned to the United States in 1928 after a brief stay in Alberta. Back in the United States, he instilled in his eldest son such a fascination with the history of the American southwest that when Bob Jr. found a complete Pleiosaurus skeleton he donated it to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Although Robert McNeely’s single dollar in membership dues was his only direct contribution to the ASOG, the presence of yet another member of the AAPG gave that much more stature to the new organization.<sup>8</sup>

#### P.D. MOORE

Prentiss D. Moore was born in Indiana and educated at Indiana University and the University of Chicago. In 1927 he was employed by Royalite in the Turner Valley field. As a member of the AAPG he explained the membership requirements at the ASPG founding meeting. Before leaving the country in 1931 he suggested that the AAPG hold its annual conference at Banff. At his farewell party, hosted by appreciative oilmen, the Calgary Albertan reported he was given a watch “inscribed with a cross-section of Turner Valley from an original drafted for the purpose by his colleague, ‘Doc’ T.A. Link.” Although only marginally involved in the ASPG, P.D. Moore also helped form the new Society.<sup>9</sup>

#### G.M. RUBY

Glen Matthew Ruby was apparently the man behind the formation of the ASPG. This little known founder was born in Iowa. His education included a double major in engineering and geology and a double minor in English and philosophy at the University of Nebraska. In the years that followed he served in the U.S. Army and worked as a consultant for American companies and interests in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and the U.S. State Department.

In 1927 he was Vice-President and general manager of Hudson's Bay – Marland Oil Company in charge of geological work in Western Canada. He contributed to the Society by suggesting the founding meeting, writing the constitution and bringing two employees, R.B. McNeely and E.V. Whitwell, to the meeting. His company provided the sumptuous banquet referred to by Dr. Link in 1929.

By 1928 he was getting his pilots license in order to make better use of his time. Apparently he had had enough of planning societies in the close confines of automobiles on poor roads. Although numerous accomplishments are credited to Glen Ruby, just before his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday he remarked about his life of hard work: "My people were very poor, and I learned early that work is okay —if you get used to it." He obviously had.<sup>10</sup>

### S.E. SLIPPER

Stan E. Slipper and Charlie Dingman were dispatched by officers of the Department of the Interior to kill a wild well at Pelican Rapids in 1918. The gas well had been drilled in 1897 and was on fire when they arrived. Using jacketed bullets they shot off the damaged well head and used an old boiler stack to divert and extinguish the flames and then attach another wellhead.

The experiences of Stan Slipper, born in Ontario and educated at Queen's University, were diverse and fascinating. After working for the Geological Survey of Canada and the Department of the Interior, he consulted to local companies and eventually joined the Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Co. Ltd., of Calgary.

Well versed in the geology of Alberta, he was an ideal choice for the first President of the ASPG. In 1937 he held the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the Society. Along with Glen Ruby, Stan E. Slipper can be counted as one of the most significant forces behind the formation of the ASPG.<sup>11</sup>

### E.V. WHITWELL

Elvis V. Whitwell was born in Missouri and educated at the University of Oklahoma. In Canada for only a few years with the short-lived Hudson's Bay – Marland Oil Company, he attended the founding meeting and served as the first Business Representative of the ASPG. As yet another member of the AAPG who gave direction to the Society in its early years, Mr. Whitwell provided valuable help in the founding years of the ASPG.

### T.B. WILLIAMS

The life of Thomas Bowerman Williams accurately depicts the difficult careers many geologists pursued in the first half of this century. As both hardrock and petroleum geologists, Dr. Williams was forced to take jobs as he could secure

them. One incident shows his determination to full fill his obligations. While working the midnight shift at the Canmore mine, he was plunged into utter darkness hundreds of feet below the surface as the result of an unfortunate sequence of events beyond his control. Groping down a ladder in a part of the mine that had only recently taken the life of the last night supervisor, Dr. Williams suddenly found himself hanging by his hands when the bottom rung broke on the ladder in a seemingly bottomless shaft. He scrambled to safety, worried about keeping his appointment to guide the mine manager through the plant at the beginning of the morning shift. By now he was totally lost but his wandering in the dark finally brought him to the surface. He quickly ran back to his quarters, cleaned up, and got back to the mine just in time for the inspection.

Dr. Williams was born in Ontario, educated to the Masters level at Queen's University and received the PhD. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin. His career included coal mining geology, teaching at universities in the United States and Canada, and consulting to various levels of government and industry throughout Canada and the United States.

As a member of many other societies, including the AAPG, Dr. Williams was an important founder of the ASPG. He served as Business Manager in 1932 and President in 1935 during the deepest years of the depression in the Alberta oilfields.

## SIGNIFICANT PETROLEUM EVENTS 1928 TO 1946

1929

Red Coulee oil field discovered

German geophysicists test seismic equipment at Turner Valley

1930

Alberta and Saskatchewan receive control over their natural resources, including gas and oil

Max Ball organises Abasand Oil Limited

1932

Alberta Oil and Gas Conservation Act written but remains powerless until 1938

1933

Imperial Oil builds 500 bbl/day refinery at Norman Wells

1936

Turner Valley Royalties No. 1 finds crude oil in large quantities on southwest flank of Turner Valley field

1938

Alberta Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board formed

1939

Independent oil operators lobby Alberta government and British financiers for money to build pipeline from Turner Valley to the Great Lakes

Oilmen start enlisting for the war in September

1940

Home Oil drills new area in north end of Turner Valley field

British American refinery in Calgary announces plans to produce aviation gasoline for pilot training

Princess oil field proven as the year ends

1942

Turner Valley oil field production peaked at over ten million barrels of oil per year

1943

Wartime Oil Limited established by federal government to promote drilling for oil for war effort. Loans were due, with interest, only if oil was found

1944

Jumping Pound gas field discovered

Canol pipeline project completed, after 20 months in construction, as World War II draws to an end.

## THE EARLY YEARS 1928 TO 1946

The first two decades in the life of the Society began with the struggle to keep the young organisation alive. Although the enthusiasm of the 1920's lasted into 1931, by the middle of the depression services to members nearly vanished. After the discovery of oil at Turner Valley in 1936 and the demand for gas and oil for the war effort, the Society grew slowly and steadily. Although no one could have foretold the events to happen at Leduc, the Society was established and ready for a bigger role when 1947 ushered in a new stage in Alberta's oil history.

February 6, 1928, the Society met to hold the first monthly meeting. The luncheon meeting was held at the Palliser Hotel and T.G. Madgwick gave an oral paper entitled "A Major Fault Plane at Turner Valley." At the second monthly meeting T.B. Williams gave another paper on Turner Valley, speculating on the prospects of the north end of the field. The monthly meetings failed, for one reason or another, and no other activity is recorded for 1928.

The Society greeted 1929 with a renewed round of activity. The executive began to meet regularly, the monthly meeting was reinstated, and the First Annual Meeting of the ASPG was held in Edmonton on March 1 & 2, 1929. Five papers were heard and discussed on Friday, ten on Saturday and the University of Alberta, as host, provided lunch. Saturday evening a banquet was held at the MacDonald Hotel, sponsored by Glen Ruby and the Hudson's Bay – Marland Company.

The Society experienced early tensions, which helped it grow and eventually form its own individual character. Some conflicts were with other organisations. The Society itself was formed because petroleum geologists disliked their status as undifferentiated members of the engineers association. This tension would last for years. The Society's relationship with the various levels of government was sometimes strained too. The federal government, upon hearing that papers presented before the ASPG were often thoroughly discussed and criticised, refused to let its geologists present papers at the First Annual Conference. There were also internal struggles. In 1929 some of the titles for papers proposed by the Edmonton members were rejected by their Calgary peers because they were not specifically related to petroleum geology. In spite of the occasional problems, by the end of 1929 the Society had received tangible support from the University of Alberta and a major oil company, the Hudson's Bay – Marland Company. Affiliation with the AAPG was also discussed and a committee was struck to investigate the possibility of inviting the AAPG to have its 1930 conference at Banff.

During 1930 the Society began meeting regularly at the Renfrew Club. Dues, which had been voluntary, were raised from one to two dollars per year. The minutes record that a Dr. Heinrich Schluter gave a talk on his seismic work in the Turner Valley field. Nothing more is noted on this early application of seismic

technology to geological exploration in Alberta. In December the Society and the CIMM held a joint meeting and discussed a paper called "The Structure of Turner Valley" by A.J. Goodman.

In 1931 the ASPG became affiliated with the AAPG. Meetings continued regularly but some had to be held in members' homes to keep the expenses down. Additional financial constraints prompted one Calgary member to volunteer to transport the Edmonton members to the annual meeting in Calgary if the Society would pay for the gas and oil. Conflict with the federal government continued as J.G. Spratt was prevented from presenting a paper at the annual meeting by his supervisor, C.C. Ross. The Society sent an official letter of protest to the Department of the Interior. Conflict with the engineers continued when they refused to form a geological branch as requested by the Society. The more amicable discussions at the meetings revolved around the geology of Turner Valley and the advantages of rotary drilling over cable-tool technology. The single most important activity of the year was the memorials decided upon in honour of Dr. D.B. Dowling. A cairn was commissioned that year and erected with CIMM help in 1933. In addition, a complete issue of the AAPG bulletin was devoted to papers written by Alberta based geologists in honour of the late pioneer geologist.

In 1932 the Society subscribed to two geological journals and the City of Calgary subscribed to one. These were placed in the city library for general public use. Conflict once again was evident as the Society now had to request that the Alberta government allow its geologists working for the department of Lands and Mines to present papers to the Society. Friction was also created when the ASPG endorsed the principle of gas conservation. Some members of the Society, employed by the gas interests in southern Alberta, refused to go along with the official Society stance.

During 1933 and 1934 the Society struggled to stay alive. The meetings became smaller and a small Society advertisement in the AAPG journal was discontinued due to lack of funds. Both the Society and the city cancelled subscriptions to geological magazines. Meetings were held in members' homes and luncheons or suppers were completely discontinued. In March 1934 the minutes record that the Renfrew Club offered its facilities "for scientific reunions whenever needed without charge or obligation provided notice is given in due time." Finally, on December 8, 1934, S.E. Slipper, the same man who called the first meeting to order in 1927, addressed the obvious. Little geological work was being done in the province and he wondered if there was enough interest to keep the Society alive. Although the situation was bleak, the few members at the meeting decided to continue meeting as a Society. After a paper was read and discussed the members adjourned and met with the CIMM men to hear a paper presented by the superintendent of the Gas and Oil Products Absorption plant at Turner Valley.

In 1935 the Society seemed to recover from its depression even though petroleum prospects were still bleak. It passed a bylaw prohibiting anyone from holding the position of President or Vice-President in the Society twice. Subscriptions to periodicals were once again authorised and due to a surprising surplus of funds, dues were reduced to one dollar, those who had paid up were reimbursed their dollar and outstanding dues were forgiven. The friction with government was still evident as the Society complained to the province that the Deputy Minister of Mines was leaking information to the general public that “infringes on commercial development.” The Society concern about information leaks illustrated that petroleum geology was once again of interest to the investing public.

The Society meetings were full of geological theory about Turner Valley in the months of 1936 before Turner Valley Royalite No. 1 brought crude oil into production. This well, drilled with money raised by selling royalties on a specific well rather than shares in a company, brought life back into the Society, the city and the industry. For Turner Valley it meant that the little villages of Little Chicago, Little New York and Little Philadelphia grew overnight to meet the needs of the thousands of people who flooded into the south end of the oilfield.

Society records contain little information on the events in 1937 and 1938. Papers were scarce and so at the annual meeting in 1937 several members gave pseudo – scientific papers, intended to be humorous. The secretary, recording the events, was not amused. A call for papers eventually attracted some academic work and in 1938 a committee was formed to study the nomenclature of stratigraphy of Alberta.

The first meeting in 1939 included extensive discussion regarding the relationship between the engineering Society and ASPG. Although the relationship with the engineers required ongoing negotiations, other events in 1939 demanded the Society’s undivided attention. Once World War II broke out the Society was completely involved in exploration for oil for the war effort. Society members contributed articles to a special issue of the AAPG Journal called “Possible Future Oil Provinces in Western Canada.” Although activity was stepped up throughout the exploration areas, Canada’s main oilfield at Turner Valley produced over 10 million barrels of oil in 1942. Dr. Link, a member of the Society, encouraged the Geological Survey of Canada to put more effort into petroleum exploration. In 1943, the Norman Wells field, which Dr. Link had been instrumental in developing, was put on stream by the CANOL project after nearly two years of construction. During the war years the Society contributed to the effort by directing its expertise to the national emergency, disseminating information about geology and encouraging exploration by both industry and government. During 1943 the Society purchase six copies of The Stratigraphy of the Southern Plains of Alberta. These were awarded to promising students in the geology department at the University of Alberta. This tradition of awarding

prizes to students remains an important part of the Society's support of young geologists.

In 1944 the Society began using guest speakers of the AAPG Distinguished Lecture Tour organisation. These men travelled around the country lecturing various groups of geologists on new aspects of the science.

In retrospect, the years before the discovery of Leduc set the foundation for the Society. Meetings were the primary method of disseminating information on geology. Without a budget for publications, the Society relied on the AAPG to publish articles of interest based on western Canadian geology. Budgets never exceeded \$100 until 1944. Indeed, during the 1930's financial affairs of the Society were so strained that two magazine subscriptions were cancelled. During this time the members of the Society decided to buy a rubber stamp to imprint the Society's letterhead on paper rather than purchase printed stationery. Even though finances were tight through the first two decades, the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists fulfilled its mandate through frequent meetings filled with important oral papers and discussion of current information relevant to the geology of western Canada. The Society, although weak during the mid 1930's, built a strong tradition of information dissemination, criticism and discussion which would prove valuable to the geologists who would follow.

## SIGNIFICANT PETROLEUM EVENTS 1947 TO 1957

1947

Leduc oil field discovery

1948

Pincher Creek gas field discovery

Redwater oil field discovery

1949

Interprovincial Pipeline begins construction

Golden Spike oil field discovered

1950

Williston Basin discovery in SK and MB 1950-1955

Fenn-Big Valley oil field discovery

1951

Saskatchewan Geological Society formed

Wizard Lake Oil field discovery

1952

Major natural gas discovery at Fort St. John, BC

1953

Pembina oil field discovered

TransMountain oil pipeline built from Edmonton to Washington State and Vancouver

1954

Edmonton Geological Society formed

1955

Major oil discovery at Boundary Lake in British Columbia

1956

TransCanada Pipeline completed from Alberta to Quebec and Ontario

1957

Westcoast Transmission gas pipeline built from northeastern BC to Vancouver

Waterton natural gas field found

Oil found at Swan Hills and Virginia Hills in Alberta

## THE SOCIETY GROWS 1947 TO 1957

The Society boomed with activity during its third decade. In 1947 just over one hundred geologists held memberships in the Society and by 1957 that number had grown to 1,030. The discovery of Leduc and many other gas and oil fields no doubt contributed to this growth. However, President D.B. Layer's report for 1945 also challenged the Society. After reviewing the year's activities he criticised the Society members for only publishing one paper that whole year. His analysis predicted that if the Society were to remain intact and serve geologists, it would need to broaden its activities and actively seek new members.

Consciously or not, the Society took the President's challenge to heart. The Society's third decade witnessed the formation of many of the services pivotal to geologists today. Publications, conferences, field trips, awards and the numerous committees that serve the members all date back to this period.

From 1947 to 1949 the members continued meeting for luncheons at the Club Café and evening sessions at the Elks Hall. Although no publications were issued and no major conferences were held during these years, the flurry of activity in the 1950's suggests years of careful planning.

The first fruit of that work was the joint ASPG – AAPG conference held in Banff during 1950. The Society hosted the meeting and published a guidebook for that First Annual Field Conference. During the next seven years the Society hosted fieldtrips and published guidebooks for the Kananskis, Crowsnest, Golden, Jasper, Banff and Lethbridge areas. The ASPG also established the Medal of Merit in 1950. Awarded annually, it honoured the best paper presented at the annual meeting.

February 2, 1951 the Saskatchewan Geological Society was formed and affiliated with both the AAPG and the ASPG. The SGS was incorporated on October 17, 1957. The 33 geologists and geophysicists saw their Society grow to a maximum of 158 members in 1958. Their activities over the years have included field trips, formal meetings, symposia, awards and occasional publications.<sup>12</sup> Although the SGS was interested in a broader spectrum of geology than just petroleum, the close ties between the SGS and the ASPG became evident when the Society published SGS news and information in its publication, the Journal.

Membership grew from 160 in 1951 to 223 in 1952 and then more than doubled to 541 in 1953. The first Annual Dance was held in 1952. A monthly newsletter began publication in January 1953. In a guest editorial Dr. J.A. Allan described the newsletter as a "source of 'News', current geological findings, individual interpretations, abstracts of papers presented before the Society, and various

other topics.” The Annual Dinner and Dance supplemented evening and luncheon meetings.

In 1954 the Society was joined by yet another geological society. The Edmonton Geological Society was formed in 1954, incorporated on September 12, 1957 and became the Edmonton Section of the Geological Association of Canada on February 15, 1974. Activities included meetings, dinners, annual dance, annual smoker, annual field trip, AAPG Distinguished Lecture Tours, awards and, in the early years an annual stag with free beer. Membership hovered around 100 in the late 1950's, rose to a peak of 202 in 1962, and by 1978 had fallen off to 72 people.<sup>13</sup> The relationship between the EGS and the ASPG included joint participation in publishing and work in the short-lived Canadian Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The ASPG also helped set up a Technical Library, which eventually became part of the Calgary Central Library. Papers written by Society members on the stratigraphy of the Alberta basin were published by the AAPG in 1954. Dedicated to Dr. Rutherford, a geology professor at the University of Alberta, the volume was titled, “Western Canada Sedimentary Basin: The Ralph Leslie Rutherford Memorial Volume.” The ASPG published the first Lexicon of Geologic Names in Alberta and the Tectonic Map of Southern Rockies, Alberta and British Columbia, that same year. 1954 also witnessed the design of an insignia for the Society and it was used in publications and on a Society pin.

Society dues were raised from three to five dollars per year in 1955. Two dollars from each member went to the new Society publication, the Journal of the ASPG. The monthly Journal replaced the Newsletter and contained full papers as well as the news and information found in the earlier monthly. By this year the Society had thirteen committees administering activities from entertainment and library to editing the Journal. Although talk of amalgamation with other societies surfaced, conflicting interests kept the various Societies apart. In 1955 the Society honoured Alberta's fiftieth anniversary by hosting the second regional meeting of the AAPG in Jasper. These papers, focussing on the stratigraphy of the Jurassic and Carboniferous in Western Canada, were published as the John Andrew Allan Memorial Volume.

The Society publications were not limited to serious papers and information items. One geologist used the Journal as a forum to needle his colleagues.

The Editor  
Journal of the ASPG  
Dear Sir:

This is an open letter to the great fraternity of energetic hammer wielders, some of whom presumptuously call themselves geologists or petroleum engineers, and others of whom work for various core

analysing concerns. I refer to the persons who felt it necessary, when examining cores, to break every piece measuring over three inches in length into at least two. The more energetic ones really smash them into small fragments. They apparently do this to create the illusion that they are really working hard and are delving deeply into the pieces of rock for hidden secrets, the uncovering of which will make their names resound down the halls of time, or at least get them big raises and Petroleum Club memberships.

Not content with merely smashing up the core into fragments, these persons then proceed to mix the fragments, the duller ones within one box only, the more imaginative between two or more boxes. They apparently feel that by so doing they will confuse the competition's geologists and thereby ensure that their companies will forge into the lead in the search for oil. Real company men, these.

It is my pious wish that, following their welcome demise, these breakers and mixers of core may spend eternity on a big rock pile, wielding 12 pound hammers on the rocks and being urged on to faster work by an army of little demons who will continually bounce pieces of broken core off their massive skulls. And may all their children have warts.

There, I feel much better now.  
CONFUSED AND DISGUSTED <sup>14</sup>

Through 1956 and 1957 the Society continued to grow. The Society was incorporated January 20, 1956<sup>15</sup> and by 1957 broke the 1000 mark in membership. The first Annual Honorary Address was presented in 1957 as a forum for prominent geologists.

By the end of the Society's third decade the state had been set for the Society as we know it today. Meetings were regular and publications had taken on a major role in disseminating information. Prizes and special addresses had been instituted. Although the Society gave support to new geological societies, talk of amalgamation into one geological petroleum society for Canada was in the minds of geologist all across the country. The Alberta Society of petroleum Geologists, which only a few years before was at the brink of collapse, had by 1957 gained a reputation for being the major petroleum geological society in Canada.

## SIGNIFICANT PETROLEUM EVENTS 1958 TO 1978

1958

Borden Royal Commission on Energy suggests National Energy Board  
TransCanada Pipeline Limited finishes line from Alberta to Montreal

1959

National Energy Board formed  
Judy Creek oil field discovered

1960

Organisation of petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) formed  
Independent Petroleum Association of Canada (IPAC) formed  
The 1960's forecast as decade of gas expansion

1961

National oil policy implemented with voluntary guidelines  
Large diameter gas pipeline built from Alberta to San Francisco

1962

Natural gas sales up 40% over previous year

1963

Sulphur production, a by product of natural gas processing, becomes a significant Canadian industry

1964

Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited begins tar sand plant construction  
Largest gas processing plant in the world opened to process gas for TransCanada Pipeline

1965

Oil discovered at Rainbow Lake – Zama, Alberta Waterflooding, a secondary recovery technology, gains prominence  
Computers make entrance into oilfield work

1966

Revenues up for fourth year in a row  
Boom year for pipeline construction

1967

Great Canadian Oil Sands (now called Suncor) produces synthetic crude at its Fort McMurray tar sand plant

1968

Canada's sulphur production second in the world  
Kaybob gas field discovered

1969

Syncrude approved to build another tar sand factory  
Canadian gas demand more than doubles in period from 1960 to 1969

1970

Natural gas industry continues to grow

1972

Mackenzie Valley pipeline hearings and debates begin

1973

Middle East Oil Crisis

1975

Petro-Canada Formed

1976

Social impact studies of Mackenzie Valley pipeline begins

1978

Oil industry experiences banner year  
Syncrude begins operation at tar sand plant in fort McMurray  
Alsands applies to build tar sands extraction plant  
West Pembina oil field discovered

## THE SOCIETY ATTAINS WORLD STATURE 1958 TO 1978

During the fourth and fifth decades of the history of the Society, from 1958 to 1978, the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists grew from just over 1,000 members to almost 2,500. Society functions increased with dramatic growth in publication and conference activities. Finally, in 1973, the Society changed its name to the Canadian Society of petroleum Geologists and expanded its mandate to the national level. By its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Society was a respected international organisation involved in geology of global significance.

Well established after three decades, the Society entered the new period of its growth in 1958 with renewed commitment to its membership. With some 900 pages of information to be published, 32 technical meetings to organise and a \$65,000 budget to administer, the Society hired a staff person for its office. The growing list of publications was made more accessible with the release of an annotated bibliography of ASPG materials to 1955. Guidebooks, published almost annually since the first Annual Field Conference in 1950, were released regularly during the next twenty years in conjunction with the field conferences.

In June, 1958 the first corporate sponsor list was published in the Journal. Four years earlier the Society had decided against approaching companies because corporate memberships were deemed unnecessary and likely to erode the independence of the ASPG. By 1958 the six corporate members and twenty-one associate corporate members were approached in order “to give the Society a more predictable income and to obtain funds in a more business-like manner.”

By 1959 the Society's 1142 members were served by some 40 committees. In addition to individual members the Society also included 19 corporate memberships and 20 consultant memberships. Other activities in 1959 became evident in the following year.

Two major conferences and one important publication marked the year 1960. The Arctic Symposium, hosted by the Society, attracted 1,123 people. Although many were Society members from Calgary, 210 other Canadians, 167 Americans, and 18 geologists from other parts of the world, some from Russia, came together to discuss Arctic geology. A Circum-Arctic map produced for this symposium set an example for future international conferences. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Conference and Western Canada Regional meeting of the AAPG at Banff attracted 903 geologists. With 96 Americans and 4 geologists from other countries, the scope of ASPG conferences began to broaden. Finally, in 1960, the Society published the Oil Fields of Alberta reference volume that has become another standard geological work.

1961 witnessed the formation of the Annual Golf Tournament. On a more serious level, the Society sponsored the Polar Wandering and Continental Drift

Symposium. By this year the monthly Journal had become the Society's single most important ongoing contribution to geological understanding.

A very informal field trip to the Bahamas was held in April, 1962. The annual report commented: "Similar trips to geologically important areas are worthy and could be continued at intervals in the future."

The Journal became the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology in 1963. The new publication moved to the quarterly format now familiar to Society members. The Bulletin was a joint effort and served as the official publication of the ASPG, the young Edmonton Geological Society and the Saskatchewan Geological Society.

By 1963 the Society membership had grown to 1243. Its close ties to the AAPG were evident as 650 AAPG members were also members of the ASPG, EGS or SGS. That same year the AAPG held its general meeting at Toronto. The growing importance of Canadian geology was apparent as the AAPG chose a Canadian city for its first meeting outside the United States.

In 1964 the oil industry celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of oil in Alberta. The Society contributed \$3,100 to the construction of the Dingman No. 1 cable tool rig replica at Heritage Park. George de Mille, a geologist who has written a history of gas and oil in western Canada, suggested the project to commemorate the historic find in Turner Valley on May 14, 1914. During 1964 the Society also erected a highway marker at the Koto's erratic better known as "The Big Rock." Membership in the Society reached 1287 but demand for the Bulletin was so great that each printing run was set at 2000 copies. Membership dues by now reached \$10.00. Computers, a relatively new tool in geology, were investigated by a Society committee to ascertain their relevance to the science. A museum to interpret the geology of western Canada was proposed but deemed impractical at the time. The Geological History of Western Canada, a Society publication that came out in December 1964, set a new standard in stratigraphic reference materials. Finally, the Society and the University of Alberta co-sponsored the First National Conference on Earth Science at the Banff School of Fine Arts, which became an annual event.

A separate newsletter began publication in 1965 to keep Calgary members up to date on current events and future activities. An Index to the Bulletin for May 1953 to December 1962 was published in April 1965. An attempt to change the name of the Society to Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists was once again defeated although 48 of 75 members voted in favour of the change. A 75% mandate was required. The new name was deemed unnecessary because of the "historic connotations of the ASPG name" and the "presence of other local Societies such as the Saskatchewan Geological Society, which would have to merge with ASPG before there could be a truly national Society."

“Acting on the principle that many companies had never become corporate members simply because they had never been asked, the committee found that asking produced results.” Thus the ASPOG successfully concentrated its membership drive on companies and by the end of 1966 received 45 percent of its income from corporate sponsors. That same year the Society held a joint conference with the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists. The meeting’s 27 papers attracted 586 participants, 60 percent of who were geologists and the remainder geophysicists. In addition, symposia were held on structural geology and reefs, with a total attendance of some 800 geologists.

During 1967 an International Devonian Symposium was held at Calgary. In addition to the 841 Society members who attended the highly successful symposium, another 238 geologists came from 18 countries around the world. Papers presented at the Devonian Symposium were eventually published by the Society in two massive volumes. The Geological Highway Map of Alberta was also published by the Society in 1967. The change to a national name was once again discussed but the status of the Society remained unchanged.

Although still called the ASPG, during the next two years the Society took on increasing responsibility in the national and international fields. Along with the Geological Society of Canada, the Geological Association of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy the ASPG sponsored a display at the International Geological Congress at Prague in 1968. On the national level it joined with the Saskatchewan and Edmonton Geological Societies and formed the Canadian Association of petroleum Geologists in 1969. The CAPG served as an umbrella organisation, whose main function was publishing the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology.

The annual ASPG Distinguished Lecture Tour was started in 1969. Two prominent geologists gave lectures at fourteen universities the first year of this regular society activity. The first ASPG Core Conference was held at Calgary that year and two new committees were formed. A Helicopter Safety Committee studied the accident records and made recommendations for future procedures. An Education Committee built geological kits for use in junior high schools. The ASPG Gas Fields of Alberta, published in 1969, served as a valuable new reference tool.

From 1970 to 1972 the Society continued to recruit members, grow in stature and prepare itself for its national role. In 1970 the Society hosted the Annual meeting of the AAPG in Calgary. The Distinguished Lecture Committee was formed and the Fall Barbecue was established. A reference work, Face of Time, was published in 1970.

The Society released the long awaited Views of Canadian Geology in Colour Slides in 1972. The ASPG also helped form the Canadian Geoscience Council that same year. Finally, at the Beer and Bull session in 1972 the discussion

centred on the future role of the Society and her name. A committee for a national name was formed and preparations for an expanded role were completed.

The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists was incorporated January 15, 1973. It received a federal charter, designed a new log, and applied to have its status with the AAPG changed from that of Affiliated Society to International Associate. It also became a member of the World Petroleum Congress and the Canadian Geoscience Council. An early document published by the Society was a volume entitled, Canada's Fossil Fuel Reserves, published as Memoir No. 1. It was presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works during May, 1973 in response to a request for reliable data relating to the current energy crisis. Other publications released that year included Memoir No. 2 The Permian and Triassic Systems and Their Mutual Boundary and the joint GAC-CSPG Proceedings of Symposium on the Geology of the Canadian Arctic.

Membership in the Society reached 2027 in 1973 and its activities and programs served many varied interests and needs. Noon luncheon lectures, two field trips, two symposia on arctic geology and tar sands and the Distinguished Lecture Tours provided professional stimulation. Publications included the Bulletin and a newsletter, published monthly to meet the increased demand for current information for the Calgary members.

Although committees were already numerous a special Aircraft Safety Committee was formed to investigate accidents and recommend safety procedures for the future. The J.P. Gallagher Library committee was formed to help develop a geology library at the University of Calgary. An Honorary Membership Committee was formed to oversee the granting of the highest honour given by the Society. To date 40 honorary memberships had been granted, including eight of the original founders.

Society activity, although mostly scientific and exacting, was not without a lighter side. The Annual Dance, Annual Golf Tournament and Beer and Bull Session provided an outlet for other sentiments. The Beer and Bull session for 1973, at the University of Calgary, was entitled "Great Expectations – Industry Expectations of Students and Student Expectations of Industry." Apparently the meeting fostered "closer ties" between the two groups.

During 1974 the Society hosted a symposium called Canada's Continental Margins and Offshore Petroleum Potential. Some 1100 geologists attended the fifty papers that were delivered concurrently in two theatres. A third room featured continuous films of Arctic and offshore exploration. While professional activities kept the members busy during the day, the evenings were given over to social events.

The Society began a new publication, the Reservoir, in January 1974. Published in Calgary, the monthly served as a newsletter and forum for discussion of local events and issues. Memoir No. 3, entitled Oil Sands – Fuel of the Future, added to the geological information available through the Society. Area representatives were appointed in 1974 to assure close ties with Society members throughout the country.

The Society held a joint convention with the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists in May of 1975. Some 1455 people attended the symposium. Society publications for 1975 included two volumes of a reprint series on the Devonian Reef Complexes of Canada, and Memoir No. 4, Canada's Continental Margins and Offshore Petroleum Exploration. Field trips, awards and regular meetings filled out the members activities. The J.B. Webb Memorial Trophy was established this year to recognise the best student paper given at the Western University Geological Conference. "Jack" Webb was an early ASPG member. He served as Secretary-Treasurer in 1931 and President in 1940.

By 1976 the Society was in a healthy financial and membership position. No convention was held this year but field trips and publications fulfilled the educational mandate. The Society formed a Speakers Bureau to coordinate the Distinguished Lecture Tours, Business Trip Talks and the Link Award Tour. Established in 1976, the Link Award Tour allowed the recipient of the Link Award for best oral presentation of a paper at regular CSPG meetings, to travel the country giving the prize paper. The first Tracks Award was given this year to recognise the "significant contribution to the success of the Society" by a member.

A Past Presidents' dinner was held in 1976. Like its predecessor in 1960, the Dinner was a social gathering for the past leaders of the Society. In the years that followed the Dinner became a forum for the discussion of current Society problems and helped the current executive formulate future policies.

The Student-Industry Field Trip was established in 1976. The next year students participated in a seven-day field trip that took them to many industry sites in Calgary and exposed them to hands on geological experience in the Rockies.

During 1976 a CSPG Women's Group was formed. At its first dinner meeting in November 121 women showed up to help form the club. These women added a new dimension to the society by organising a Ladies Program and a Creativity display (exhibits of hobbies and talents) at the CSPG – CIM joint convention on enhanced recovery. The Annual Dance and Barbecue also benefited from the planning of the Women's Group during its short two-year life. One president of the Group remembers the difficulty of planning winter activities in Calgary's unpredictable climate. A skating party had to be cancelled when a Chinook melted all natural ice surfaces in the Calgary area.

Also in 1976, the Society began to plan for its fiftieth anniversary in 1978. Numerous publications, including a history, were planned and anniversary celebration committees were formed.

In 1977 the 2400 members of the Society participated in luncheons, field conferences and symposia. In addition to regular activities and publications, the Nominating Committee compiled and circulated a directory called CSPG Members and Their Activities – Since 1965. This reference work proved valuable for administrative organisation and for historical research. The Society also published a special issue of the Bulletin entitled “Cordilleran Geology of Southern Alberta and Adjacent Areas.” A new committee published the first Geological Calendar with a press run of 3200.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society in 1978 was celebrated with a special convention, Facts and Principles of world Oil Occurrence. The three day meeting attracted 1894 people including 62 speakers. The keynote speaker was His Excellency Sheikh Yamani of Saudi Arabia. The conference was a success and its proceedings were published as Volume 6 of the Memoir series in 1980.

In the anniversary year the Society, with nearly 3000 members, administered a budget of almost half a million dollars. By contrast, the handful of geologists in the Society in 1928 spent less than one hundred dollars. A brief review of the Society’s activities in 1978 will detail the expanded role of the mature Society.

In addition to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, the Society held one day field trips, continuing education seminars on coal reserves and sedimentary rock development, a Technical Speakers program which organised the Distinguished Lecture Tours and Link Award Tours, an Honorary address and regular meetings. Honorary Memberships, Tracks Awards, a Special Award to the General Chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention for excellent work, Medal of Merit, Link Award, Undergraduate Awards and the John B. Webb Memorial Trophy recognised contributions to geology and the Society. Social activities included a golf tournament, the Annual Dinner, the Past President’s Dinner and Women’s Group activities.

By 1978 more than 80 committees were at work organising the Society’s ongoing functions. In addition, three other groups gave added depth to the Society. Six divisions within the Society dealt with structural geology, geochemistry, geomathematics, computer applications, palaeontology, sedimentology and coal. With the exception of the Palaeontological division that was established in the early 1960’s, all the divisions were formed between 1974 and 1976. CSPG area representatives in Victoria, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Quebec and Dartmouth as well as twenty-one universities served the needs of the various areas. Finally, the Society’s ongoing liaisons with the Geological Society of Canada, Association of Professional Engineers Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta, the world Petroleum Congress, the Canadian Geoscience Council, the American

Association of petroleum Geologists, the National Conference on Earth Sciences and the petroleum Resources Communication Foundation contributed to its international character.

Publishing, one of the oldest Society activities, was not forgotten in 1978. The regular issues of the Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology, the Reservoir, the Membership Directory and the Geological Calendar were produced. Two reference volumes, The Phanerozoic Geology of Canada and the Field Guide to Rock Formations in Southern Alberta as well as Memoir no. 5, Fluvial Sedimentology were printed. A long awaited resource work, the ASPG – CSPG Subject - Author – NTS Area Index, 1931 to April 1977, was also released.

After fifty years the Society had grown into an organisation which bore little resemblance to the original group. Formed by a handful of men in a company boardroom, the Society boasted over 3000 members and its own offices. From sporadic luncheon meetings in the Club Café in downtown Calgary the Society has grown to international stature. By 1978 the Society sponsored symposia, workshops, conferences, field trips, awards and a whole range of important publications. Born during the boom of the late 1920's the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during another boom. The enthusiasm experienced by the founders of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists lived and grew into the world recognised Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Mineral Production of Canada, compiled from various years, CA1-BS26-D8.
- 2 The typed minutes for the first meeting mention Association instead of Society in the first resolution. Since no name change was discussed and the final name included the word Society, it is assumed that the insertion of the word Association was a typing error.
- 3 Alberta/Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists papers, Glenbow Alberta Institute Archives, 6442/f.I.
- 4 The Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Bulletin, 48 (1955), 518, p. 384.
- 5 Glenbow Alberta Institute Library, Pam/338.2728/C151s.
- 6 Oil and Financial Review, December 28, 1929.
- 7 Journal of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 65, No. 8, p. 1486.
- 8 AAPG membership information forwarded to the author from the Houston office.
- 9 Calgary Albertan, November 6, 1931.
- 10 Canadian Bulletin of Petroleum Geology, May 1979, p. 110.
- 11 Harry M. Hunter recollection, January 16, 1978.
- 12 D.F. Paterson, "Historical notes on the Saskatchewan Geological Society," in Fourth International Williston Basin Symposium, ed. J.E. Christopher & J. Kaldi, Special Publication #6, SGS and North Dakota Geological Society, pp. Vi-vii.
- 13 Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Corporate Search File No. 5000 2800.
- 14 Journal of the Alberta Society of Petroleum Geologists, February, 1956.
- 15 Alberta Consumer Corporate Affairs, Corporate Search File No. 5000 2461.

## A NOTE ON SOURCES

The ASPG-CSPG papers and publications were the single most valuable tools consulted in the research of this work. The Society papers are at the Glenbow Alberta Institute Archives. A chronological, box/file, and subject index was generated from the material. These papers are in the collections numbered 6424 and 6442. The bulk of the material came from the 1960 to 1978 period.

The next most useful source of material was the collected publications of the Society. There is no complete collection of these works but between the Gallagher Library, the CSPG office, and the archival papers the researcher can find most materials. The collection of all the Society publications into one storage facility is highly recommended by this researcher. The Journal and Bulletin of the Society form the single best historical overview of events. The Annual President's Report is concise and thorough.

Other useful publications include the AAPG Journal, Oil in Canada and Oilweek. These are generally available but a reliable depository can be found at the Gallagher Library at the University of Calgary.

In addition to published works and archival papers this researcher also made extensive use of personal contacts with numerous Society members. Their information, direction and criticism was most helpful.

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	BUSINESS MANAGER	DIRECTOR	DIRECTOR	PAST PRESIDENT
1928	S.E. Slipper	J.A. Allan		T.A. Link	E.V. Whitwell			
1929	T.A. Link	P.S. Warren		H.M Hunter	B.F. Hake			S.E. Slipper
1930	B.F. Hake	R.L. Rutherford		J.G. Spratt	D.L. Powers			T.A. Link
1931	J.O.C. Sanderson	A.E. Cameron		J.B. Webb	E.H. Hunt			B.F. Hake
1932	D.L. Powers	J.S. Irwin		A.J. Childerhose	T.B. Williams			J.O.C. Sanderson
1933	A.J. Childerhose	G.R. Elliot		B.L. Thorne	V. Taylor			D.L. Powers
1934	G.R. Elliott	J.G. Spratt		E.J.P. Vander Linden	S.E. Slipper			A.J. Childerhose
1935	T.B. Williams	R.V. Johnson		F.M. Steel	H.M. Hunter			G.R. Elliott
1936	R.V. Johnson	J.G. Spratt		D.L. Thorne	F.M. Steel			T.B. Williams
1937	J.G. Spratt	J.S. Irwin		S.E. Slipper	H.M Hunter			R.V. Johnson
1938	J.S. Irwin, Sr.	V. Taylor		J. Ower	B.L. Thorne			J.G. Spratt
1939	H.M. Hunter	B.L. Throne		R.G. Paterson	W.D.C. MacKenzie			J.S. Irwin, Sr.
1940	J.B. Webb	E.H. Hunt		R.G. Paterson	W.D.C. MacKenzie			H.M Hunter
1941	W.D.C. MacKenzie	J.O. Galloway		W.C. Howells	D.B. Layer			J.B. Webb
1942	J.O. Galloway	W.C. Howells		D.B. Layer	J.C. Sproule			W.D.C. MacKenzie
1943	W.C. Howells	J.M. Kirby		J.D. Weir	D.B. Layer			J.O. Galloway
1944	D.B. Layer	J.D. Weir		I.M. Cook	H.D. Curry			W.C. Howells
1945	D.B. Layer	J.D. Weir		I.M. Cook	H.D. Curry			D.B. Layer
1946	J.D. Weir	I.M. Cook		W.P. Hancock	J.R. McGehee			D.B. Layer
1947	L.M. Clark	W.P. Hancock		D.G. Penner	C.O. Hage			J.D. Weir
1948	W.P. Hancock	D.G. Penner		J.G. Gray	F.A. McKinnon			L.M. Clark
1949	E.W. Shaw	J.G. Gray		F.A. McKinnon	J. Spivak			W.P. Hancock
1950	J.G. Gray	S.R.L. Harding		J. Spivak	R.A. Bishop			E.W. Shaw
1951	S.R.L. Harding	J. Spivak		A.J. Goodman	E.O. Abbott			J.G. Gray
1952	C.O. Hage	E.O. Abbott	F.G. Lines	H.E. Parsons	F.B. Clare			S.R.L. Harding
1953	E.O. Abbott	H. parsons	F.B. Clare	F.G. Lines	A.W. Farmilo			C.O. Hage
1954	W.B. Gallup	F.G. Lines	H.R. Belyea	A.W. Farmilo	R.H. Erickson			E.O. Abbott
1955	J.C. Scott	A.W. Farmilo	G.D. Grant	R.H. Erickson	R.F. Buckle			W.B. Gallup
1956	A.W. Farmilo	R.H. Erickson	D.W. Axford	S.A. Kerr	W.P. Ogilvie			J.C. Scott
1957	J.A. Downing	K.A. Kerr	W.A. Greenwalt Jr.	J.R. Pow	F.J. Beesley			A.W. Farmilo
1958	R.H. Erickson	W.A. Greenwalt Jr.	P.E. Cote	A.R. Keevil	W.A. Loucks			J.A. Downing
1959	W.C. Gussow	K.A. Olson	R.J. Kirker	R.B. McCrossan	W.M. Jubb			R.H. Erickson
1960	H.W. Woodward	R.J. Kirker	G.O. Raasch	C.B. Newmarch	R.R. Baker			W.C. Gussow
1961	R.J. Kirker	E.W. Best	W.W. Charles Jr.	J.R. Shoudice	F.C. Brechtel			H.W. Woodward
1962	E.W. Best	G.G.L. Henderson	C.E. Cleveland	N. Elphinstone	L.F. Keating			J. Kirker
1963	J.C. Brechtel	R.G. McCrossan	L.F. Keating	T. Parks	H. Mogenson			E.W. Best
1964	R.G. McCrossan	T. Parks	R.L. Pretty	A.L. Evans	D.J. Duncan			E.W. Best
1965	R. de Wit	R.L. Pretty	H. Mogensen	A.E. Pallister	C.F. Burk			R.G. McCrossan
1966	C.B. Newmarch	A.E. Pallister	S. J. Nelson	W.A. Bell	L.D. Grayston			R. de Wit
1967	A.E. Pallister	E.E. Pelzer	J.E. Stobart	G.M. Collins	R.C.M. Budd			C.B. Newmarch
1968	J.R. Shoudice	J.E. Klován	G.L. Hayes	R.T. Peirce	J.R. Century	J.E. Stobart	E.A. Brownless	A.E. Pallister
1969	M.E. Hriskevich	A.D.M. Mason	M.G. McKellar	H. Westmore	W.A. Hides	J.D. Aitkin	R.C. Galloway	J.R. Shoudice
1970	G.D. Grant	R.C.M. Budd	G.H. Stafford	J.C. Mawdsley	H. Heise	S.J. Nelson	J.W. Kerr	M.E. Hriskevich
1971	D.J. McLaren	P. Fuenning	A.N. Bahan	H.C. Lowther	W.W. Taylor	D.L. Barss	K.S. Knox	G.D. Grant
1972	R.L. Slavin	C.R. Evans	R.A. Stuart	H.T. Hornford	J.H. Jubenvill	H.N. Hotchkiss	J.E. Klován	D.J. McLaren
ASPG								
CSPG	CSPG officially formed January 15, 1973							
1973	C.R. Evans	W.G. Ayrton	E.C. Gronberg	W.W. Shepheard	R.W. Handfield	R.W. Macqueen	W.O. Richmond	R.L. Slavin
1974	J. Law	D.W. Organ	R.E. Deere	M.J. Meloche	E. O'Bertos	H.R. Balkwill	W.A. Loucks	C.R. Evans

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1976	W.G. Ayrton	N.J. McMillan	K. Leskiw	K.N. Beckie	T.A. Birnie	T.A. Oliver	J.W. Porter	D.W. Organ
1977	N.J. McMillan	D.F. Stott	H.R. Rudy	P.A.T. Haince	R.L. Beh	P.L. Gordy	G.D. Williams	W.G. Ayrton

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