

# Loss of Vital Rights Feared Under A New Constitution

by Ruth Gorman

If the new constitution becomes law, you as an individual will have lost the most important rights you have. They are the rights which distinguish a democracy from a dictatorship.

The first right is the individual's guarantee of the enjoyment of his property without fear of confiscation by the government.

The second is the individual's right to have access to courts that are independent of government interference, and where he can go to get his rights protected from the government.

The third great right is the individual's freedom from being imprisoned by the government for mere political opposition.

Most countries lose these rights when tanks rumble across their borders; you are losing yours by a few pages of print. The actual constitution is only 27 pages long.

It's written in both English and French, so the English version is only 13½ unlucky pages long.

On these few pages are outlined the laws that will be binding on your future, and that will deprive you of rights you now have.

An individual's right to property was first asserted in Magna Carta, and has been steadily reaffirmed in Canada's and statute law up to now. It was reconfirmed in Diefenbaker's Canadian Charter of Rights, and in the United Nations Charter of Human Rights.

The appropriate place for it in Trudeau's constitution would have been in Section 4(2) on Page 14. There, they copied Diefenbaker's charter word for word until they got to property rights, and then they just did not put them in. Nor are they anywhere else in the constitution.

You may think that past laws will still guarantee your property rights. That's wrong. Built into this constitution is a section which makes any law "inconsistent" with this charter "inoperative and of no effect." See Section 58.

**NOTE:** Section 58 as presented to parliament had mysteriously become section 59 when the constitution was presented to the court, in what would appear to be an attempt to confuse the issue even further.

Inconsistent is an awkward and unusual word to use, but look it up. It means contradictory or incompatible. To have a right and to not have a right is legally inconsistent. So your rights under past laws that are not included in this constitution are overridden.

But to merely lose a right to property does not necessarily mean that property can then just be taken from you, unless another person or the government has been specifically given the right to take what you own.

Again hidden away in this constitution the central government has given itself that right. Section 31, (2) and (b) gives it the right to do what it pleases under the so-called "equalization" provision.

Equalization has, until now, been a matter by which the provinces of Canada

shared revenue to ensure reasonable public services to all Canadians at approximately equal tax levels. It is based on the provinces' agreement and on actual provable facts and figures.

Now the right is to be given exclusively to the federal government, which can redistribute provincial revenue without the consent of provincial legislatures. The government does not have to prove the necessity of doing what it does with statistics or facts. Ottawa can take from one province (or even person) and give to another, including itself, if it believes such action will promote "equal opportunities" or further economic development that reduces "disparity of opportunities."

Opportunities are not a factual provable reality. They are just guesses about the future. The new constitution ought to read that property can be "equalized" at Ottawa's will but that would have alerted an unsuspecting public.

But you may well say that couldn't happen in Canada. Elected members of Parliament would never take rights or property from one Canadian or one province and give it to another. Such thinking is dangerously naive.

Look at the last election, the 18-cent election, as it is called. Trudeau bought Ontario's vote by promising the voters there cheap oil at Alberta's expense.

In the same election, Trudeau promised Quebecers Canada-wide bilingualism in all the federal civil service and Crown corporations such as the CNR, Air Canada, and so on.

Albertans will be forced to pay the cost of these services that they don't use. And it is estimated that in Alberta alone 40,000 people could lose their jobs if the provisions of the new constitution laid out in Section 16 (1 and 2), Page 20 are enforced.

Premier Davis of Ontario, a Conservative, warned that his province's Liberals would be upset if those laws affected their people, so Ontario has been given an exemption from the bilingualism requirement. Claude Ryan, Quebec's Liberal leader, announced that Quebecers would support Ontario's exemption provided that they were ensured jobs in the rest of Canada.

The West is given no exemptions. The central government does not need its support as long as Ontario and Quebec are happy.

Even now, Westerners are an ineffective minority, lacking the votes to protect their interests. Imagine what will happen to the property of yourselves, your cops and companies, and of course, your provinces once this constitution is in the

Continued on Page 3

## Mainstream Canada

# The Farmers Win Support

by W. Roger Worth

Canada's farmers are under the gun these days as various groups complain that farm marketing board systems for many commodities are keeping food

Because farmers have been allowed to overproduce on many occasions, and products have been destroyed or dumped, all marketing boards have been

themselves in order to control output of various commodities.

Only 26% opposed such boards, and 26% were undecided.

It's interesting to note that Federation



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# Loss of Rights

Continued from Page 1

place and the guarantee of property rights is gone. You will face a terrible situation.

*The Canadian Real Estate Association has made representations to the federal government regarding the omission of the right by Canadians to enjoy property from the proposed Charter of Rights and Freedoms to be embodied in the Canadian Constitution.*

*Every member of Parliament was also contacted in the public interest by The Canadian Real Estate Association outlining its concern with regard to this important issue:*

*The Canadian Real Estate Association is only one source of legitimate grave reservations regarding the Charter in its present form as the two editorials reproduced here attest.*

Not only property rights are omitted from the constitution. By omission you will also lose the ancient democratic right of trial before courts independent of government interference.

Since the courts' structure is not described at all, again under Section 25 that power of control goes to the central government.

Eventually, your courts could degenerate into tools enforcing the government's will on you, as they do now in Russia and China. Their power to protect the individual will be gone.

The vital right to freedom from political imprisonment is not gone by omission, but is incorporated directly in the constitution, Section 4(2) on Page 14.

The War Measures Act is made part of the constitution. Under that authority, if the government wishes, you can be sent to prison for mere political agitation. The government doesn't even have to wait until you make an actual treasonable move. If it even "apprehends" insurrection, it can act.

Apprehension is defined in dictionaries as a state of mind, a thought or feeling as opposed to a reality. Apprehension could be created by placard-carriers, strongly-voiced political opinions or even strikes.

If you do become a political prisoner, don't hope for a quick trial. Habeas corpus, the ancient guarantee of a quick trial, is gone and replaced by a new law, Section 11(b), Page 18. The government may now decide what is a "reasonable" time to bring you to trial.

Nor can you count on good treatment in jail. Section 12, Page 18, forbids

"cruel and unusual treatment," but it is the government which defines those vague terms. A daily beating over the head is not considered too cruel, and is certainly not unusual in many countries.

Even if the voters become upset over government actions, such as arbitrary imprisonment on political grounds, they may not be able to help you. Section 4(2) allows the government to put off elections indefinitely if two-thirds of Parliament agrees with their "apprehension" that there could be insurrection.

The legislation protecting women, Indians and other minorities is weakened, not strengthened, by this constitution. In particular, Section 15(2) opens the possibility of discrimination against them.

This provision ends the principle of equality before the law, and allows discrimination if the government decides a group is "disadvantaged." An all-male Parliament might decide that males are disadvantaged. They alone decide, and the vagueness of the word allows them to do what they wish.

You can understand now why men experienced in government, but no longer interested in politics, such as former Alberta premier E.C. Manning and former Conservative leader Robert Stanfield have tried desperately to warn you against this constitution.

You can see why Trudeau prevented western members of Parliament from questioning his constitution, but instead invoked closure of the debate, with armed guards present.

You can appreciate Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed's refusal to speak at the parliamentary hearing on the constitution. Like the others, he would be limited to suggesting amendments, when a democratic citizen would prefer to see this dangerous constitution thrown out altogether.

For 115 years we've enjoyed good democratic government and rights. Why should we part with this system now?

England, Australia and New Zealand have no entrenched constitutions and have preserved democracy far longer and more effectively than most countries that do.

\* \* \*

*Reprinted with permission from Dr. Ruth Gorman, a Calgary lawyer. She helped to draft former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights and was former Chairman of civil liberties of the Canadian Bar Association.*



# Golden West

CANADIAN WESTS 'OWN' MAGAZINE

VOLUME X, CHRISTMAS 73



## EDITORIAL

It is the time of the year when we all feel the chill of approaching winter and many countries are celebrating festivals of death. Even in our own country we do so under the gay name of Halloween. But fortunately if there is death there will soon be life and a new year. This magazine was no exception to the rule. This magazine like all of us suffered from labor shortages and strikes and it had become so difficult that I felt we were no longer properly serving our readers. However, just as the new year gives all another chance, at the last moment a new publisher bought Golden West. She too is a woman, a young woman, a native Calgarian who has always had admiration for the magazine and is determined to try to keep this magazine honest and dedicated to its



New Publisher  
Sally Farran

Well, after long weeks of hard work and numerous little problems, the magazine is rolling along smoothly and everything is getting back on an even keel.

I've known Ruth and have been an admirer of the Golden West for quite some time and I find it hard to believe sometimes that now I'm actually part of it all. I realize that I'm of a different generation and that I perhaps have new and different views on things, but I have no thoughts of changing the flavour of this wonderful publication in any way. I feel, as a native Albertan, that this magazine reflects to Albertans, and all others who read it, the wonderful life we lead here in the west - a small peaceful corner in a troubled and fastly changing world.

I feel that we are now at a very important stage in the history of the west. The very people who pioneered their way across the country and who built the solid foundations of our province are still alive today and are alone in knowing the first hardships and joys of Alberta. These stories can be passed on by word of mouth, but in another generation they'll be

readers and the wonderful country they live in, the Canadian West. Her name is Sally Farran. I too will stay on as editor. The combination of a very young publisher and an old editor should give a new exciting dimension to you our readers.

Due to the difficulties of closing down the magazine and now reopening it, your fall issue will be extremely late. However, we promise you that each subscriber will receive the full number of issues.

It seems almost symbolic that this change over should come at the time of year when the new year is approaching. Actually it is time for a change all over the world. This past year has been a difficult one for all of us. It has been a time when we realized our mistakes of the past, and suddenly we are discovering, almost with terror what are the results of the mistakes we tolerated. In our children, permissiveness has been revealed for the ugly thing it really is. At Watergate our shrugging of "oh well, politics are rotten" was suddenly revealed with stark, shocking consequences. In our chase for the buck we ignored the gifts of nature and now suddenly we are facing a polluted world and one dangerously short of energy and power. 1973 has been a year of harsh discoveries but possibly we should be grateful that our troubles have piled up, piled up to the point where we all know we have to change to survive.

So it is to be hoped that in this coming year, under our new publisher, we will be able to report that man is not as dumb as he seems and, as always, he only really learns by error. May this be true in 1974.

Ruth Gorman

second hand stories. We must reap the harvests while we can.

Let's preserve and appreciate our unique western heritage - inherited from a people who came from countries all over the world, pioneering the new land, struggling and investing their lives in the foundations of our province - and we, their heirs, are still living and struggling for the future of Alberta.

Wish me luck as the new publisher of Golden West. My thanks to our sponsors through advertising and our subscribers. May prosperity be yours in 1974.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

ALICE THOMPSON — #3, 816 - 15 Avenue S.W.  
Calgary 3, Alberta, Canada  
Telephone: (403) 265-9647

Canadian Golden West is published quarterly from its head offices at 814 - 16 Ave. N.W., Calgary 41, Alberta, Canada. Phone (403) 289-4022.

Publisher ..... Sally Farran

Editor ..... Ruth Gorman  
253-8686

Advertising ..... Sally Farran . phone (403) 289-4022

Subscriptions: \$3.50 per year, \$6.00 two years, 50c extra postage for out of Canada. For subscriptions phone (403) 265-9647.  
Authorized as 2nd class mail. Reg. no 0909



# GOLDEN NOTES



It turns out Washington's Hungry Horse dam was poorly named. It is thirsty not hungry. The power company is planning to seed clouds in that area this winter, hoping to create more snow to fill the lake above it. But what happens to spring rains for crops? Man, with his ingenuity is creating for power use the natural water the land is hungry for.

It could soon be a case of choosing food or light! Unless, of course, we manufacture food with power or power with food. Anyway, it sounds like a dead horse situation coming up and it is clearly a warning to Westerners of danger, just as the horse skeleton by the old waterhole was to our western pioneers. This is concrete evidence that we are destroying our natural water sheds and it may soon be a case of hungry humans not hungry horses.

...

Federal Energy Minister Donald Macdonald's performances lately regarding Canada's all important oil policies are frantic. A whirling dervish would turn green with envy as he watched Macdonald do another complete turn about, every time Lewis, the unelected leader of this country, raises his left eyebrow.

Funny thing is Macdonald evidently expects us to believe his actions are really logical! After all, isn't he basing them on a 639 page report prepared by some Eastern Canadian crystal gazers? In their crystal ball they not only see Canada's but the world's condition in the year two thousand!!!

That's really funny if you consider that twenty-seven years ago no forecaster then could have really known how to extract oil from Alberta's fabulous tar sands - nor that you could use atomic power for domestic production.

It's even funnier when you realize Macdonald can't even forecast his own decisions one hour in advance. He has to wait till he hears from Lewis!!

However, don't underestimate the canny Macdonald. He won't go cold in an energy crisis. He will have heat in his house. He can just burn the massive paper report.

What a farce on the voter!!!

...

This magazine's pet projects like everything else in life lately seems to have had their ups and downs. The Cupola off Calgary's early James Short school, due to the great generosity of a private anonymous donor, will now go up on Princes' Island. But Calgary's first hospital has under the mayor and city councils direction been knocked down and turned into a "Ruin Garden" -- There's one consolation - they couldn't have picked a more suitable monument to the present administration.

...

Man's eternal optimism is amazing. Despite all his unkindness he persists in referring to himself as Mankind.



# GOLDEN NOTES

Before newspapers, TV's or radios were invented and they were still reading from stone, the best thinkers of those ancient times were warning the populace of the danger of allowing their minds to be preoccupied with only the wicked and the ugly.

Even in first war times while charity was still a virtue and not an organization, Western Canadian authoress Nellie McClung (the one who graces our present Canadian stamp) noted how "her entire day had been made pleasant by finding in a Calgary newspaper, hidden in the shadow of black headlines of gloom, one tiny news item: "It said that local postal authorities were rather confused, because each Christmas they were receiving fifty dollars from an anonymous donor who requested they use this money to pay the additional postage on any Christmas parcels that reached them with inadequate postage on them to assure they would be delivered for Christmas.

One cannot help but worry about what personal tragedy may have prompted such an anonymous gift. But also one cannot help but receive joy there was once such a shy, nice donor in Calgary.

Mrs. McClung went on to say how that bit of "good news" had made her day. I suspect it made many a Calgarian's day and even made their whole Christmas and even made the season happier,

Today's media seems out of touch with their time. They are still mired in the old rut of carefully counting and then recounting the tragic and the ugly. They still think that's news! Today, unfortunately, it is just commonplace, and good news is the uncommon. Like the dinosaurs they had better adjust to changing conditions or else we may all weary of their newspapers and their TV that are merely sales flyers or canned tragedy that just came on a tape from New York---now these tapes we could easily miss! All the news can't be bad. This tired old world would never have survived this long if it were so!

...

Now we have sex education in Albertas schools the parents are learning a lot. Have you heard about the mother of one small boy, who tearfully greeted his father on his return from the office with - "He had his first lesson today, and he's locked himself into his room and says he never wants to see either of us ever again".

...

Overheard at the bus stop - a four year old boy was querying his obviously older five year old companion, - "What do you make of this devil business? Do you think there really is a devil? Thoughtfully but with great superiority his older companion replied, "Nope - I think it's just like the Santa Claus business, it will just turn out to be your father."

Calgary's Thirteen may be an unlucky number to some, but to Calgarys physically disabled the thirteen new buses that will pick them up and deliver them to where they have to go is sheer good luck! Made available by our United fund, and city transit, if booked in advance the fee is only \$10 for a 20 ride pass. Phone 249-2345 or after hours 262-3137.

...

If you ever wonder why this magazine has mistakes just remember we write for everybody and some people enjoy finding mistakes.

...

Those Arabs who keep loosing wars sure have a funny way of getting sympathy as they call it. I suppose if they lived on anything but a desert they would try just starving us all to death!



Artist is Antoine Desilets

"Reaching" is one of the beautiful cards in this year's Unicef Christmas Card collection. It is symbolic of the efforts of Unicef which, through helping the unhappy children of the world, hopes to direct them to a peaceful future. What ideal Christmas cards they make! Not only will you reach out to one of your own friends but by buying them you are helping "babes in the manger" all over the world.

You can get them in Calgary by phoning 243-6398, in the Chinook Ridge Library, Louise Riley Public Library, the Novoga Interiors, Peter Pan Beauty Salon and many other locations. If you phone 243-6398 they will tell you the nearest one to you.

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SHARES

— 10 —



*This oil share like many others was sold to a gullible investor for one dollar. Despite the hundreds pictured, the company hadn't even drilled a single well when they sold it.*

# 100 YEAR STRUGGLE FOR OIL

Oil has become all important in an energy-hungry world. Its instant importance places Alberta dead centre in the eyes of greed throughout the world. We have just witnessed a war where the world powers seemed more concerned over and certainly counted more carefully, each drop of oil that dropped from the well valve heads of the oil fields of Arabia, than they did the young men on either side who dropped dead, killed in a horrible war. Alberta with its tar sands, which is one of the known potentially richest oil areas in the world, is now caught dead centre in this fierce conflict over the control of oil.

First predator to appear on the horizon is our own Canadian government. If it hadn't been for pioneer Albertans who lost their fortunes funding oil, and the American companies who invested and assisted us when Ottawa refused to, there would be no oil in Alberta for Ottawa to grab. Let us consider facts not political fictions.

Albertans have behind them a century of painfully searching for, developing and financing the first oil wells on these Western Canadian plains. Before the white man came the Indians had found traces of oil here. In the rarely read early journals of the explorers they referred to seeing Indians use oil for medicinal cures. Ninety years have passed since natural gas was struck in Langevin, Alberta, now known as Alderson, forty miles north west of Medicine Hat. Two years later in 1886 John George Brown, better known as Kootenay Brown, was using crude oil from a source his Indian wife had shown him, a spot now almost within the borders of the town of Waterton, to oil his machinery and wagon wheels. He and his hired man, William Aldridge, dug a deep trench and allowed the oil to seep in and caught it in an overflow trench. In no time ranchers were riding miles to buy it from them at a dollar a gallon. But this was an era

when a dollar was a lot of money and production by seepage was very slow, so their hard work gained them little.

By 1890 the C.P.R. had drilled a well six hundred and fifty feet deep at Medicine Hat and were using the gas they found in it to light the street lamps of that town. But so little did the federal government or any people beyond our borders care or know about this amazing discovery, that when Rudyard Kipling visited Medicine Hat and noted the phenomena and wrote a poem in which he said "Medicine Hat was a town that had all hell for a basement" his publishers felt it necessary to add a footnote to the poem to relate Kipling's poetic phrase to the gas discovered in Alberta to a disinterested and uninformed public.

The first oil drilling company in Alberta was formed as a result of a hunting accident. Lafayette French, when hunting in the Waterton area, was accidentally shot in the leg. An Indian woman with the hunting party treated French's leg with some black stuff she called Indian "Medicine", but to French the stuff smelled like Kerosene. French was only impressed with the quick cure of the wound. But when he recounted this miracle to his friend, an early Calgary rancher and surveyor, A.P. Patrick, Mr. Patrick realized the medicine could possibly be oil. He persuaded Lafayette to return and find the Indian woman, and she led them to a creek bank where she found the healing "medicine." The "medicine" was the black gold-oil.

Back in Calgary Mr. Patrick was able to persuade local citizens to put money into a drilling venture. With another Calgary man, John Lineham, he chartered the Rocky Mountain Developing Company and in 1901 they began drilling.

William Aldridge, who had once helped Kooter



Patrick collect oil near Waterton, owned the property the Patrick company filed their oil claim on. Aldridge claimed that since 1899, he had been producing oil out of the Indian woman's "Medicine" creek. He shovelled from it gravel covered with thick black oil into a sluice box, added water and when the oil floated to the top he just stripped the oil off the top of the water with an old oat sack, into a boiler, where he drove off the last of the water by boiling it. Then he packed it in cans to Cardston, where he sold it for ten dollars a gallon. Poor Aldridge must have really worked long hours, because he claimed to have gotten fifty gallons a day this difficult way. He had several times tried to dig a shaft into the clay ground, but couldn't succeed. He was naturally very resentful when Patrick and Lineham filed an oil lease on his property, and even madder when their well hit oil. The area abounds with legends of skuldugery between the rival oil men, but neither Aldridge nor the company were to get any riches from their search for oil. The Calgary company's well, the first in Alberta flowed at the rate of 300 barrels a day.

That in itself created another problem - as large storage tanks had to be hauled into the wilderness. But the terrain was rough and the engineering work experimental so the company ran into one mishap after another. The final blow came when they lost seventy feet of tools in the hole. For fruitless months they tried to recover them but Alberta's first oil well was a financial fiasco and was abandoned.

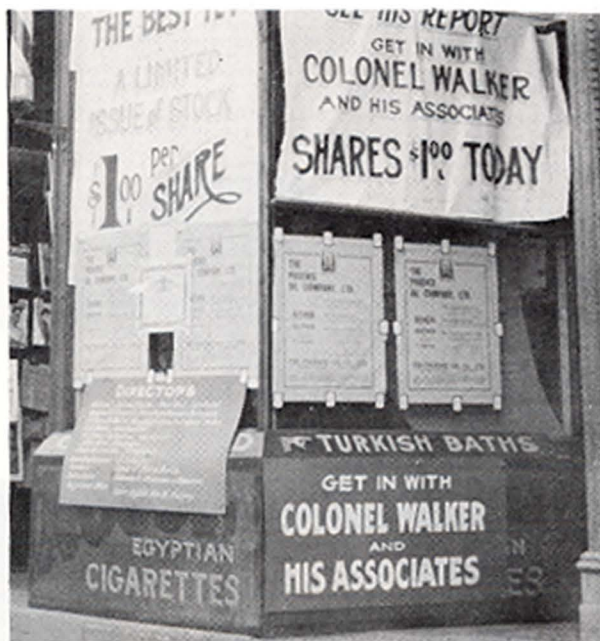
Bruce Hutchison in his book "Canada, Tomorrow's Giant" labelled Southern Alberta as "the land of the big dreamers" and despite no evidence of real success and the fact that most of their dreams had turned into nightmares, Albertans had started dreaming the oil dream. Small oil companies began to form. Some were merely promotion companies in which gullible westerners lost their life savings.

Others were local companies that were actually in the process of drilling for oil, such as the Western Oil and Coal Company, the Pincher Creek Oil Company and the Canadian Northwest Company, later known as the Canadian Western Oil Company.

By now wells had to go down over 1,000 feet and were expensive and although money was made in exchanging oil stock the wells weren't producing enough oil to pay the costs.

The Gas always came first. By 1908 at A.W. Dingman's company, the Calgary natural gas company had encountered gas at 800 feet in a well and a plant was built in Calgary on 10th avenue between 4th and 5th streets. Soon 18,000 Calgary customers were actually buying and using natural gas. It was this company that Eugene Coste, a great engineer who had once worked on the Panama Canal, reorganized when he came to Calgary. He bought up wells that the C.P.R. had drilled at Bow Island, Brooks, Bassano and Dunmore and himself drilled other successful gas wells at Bow Island. Coste's company is the parent company of the present Canadian Western Natural Gas Company. This tangible evidence of oil possibilities kept the dreamers in Alberta on the expensive and elusive search for oil. Nearly every Albertan was by now a shareholder or somehow involved in the search for oil.

Even Calgary's city council was into the oil business. In October of 1911 Mayor Johnnie Mitchell officially drove a stake in land on which he posted a notice "The City of Calgary will apply for Gas and Oil



Everyone was in such a rush to get into the oil boom even the promoters hadn't time to read their own signs - read the one in the lower right hand corner. Even the Good Colonel wasn't quite aware how accurate that would be.

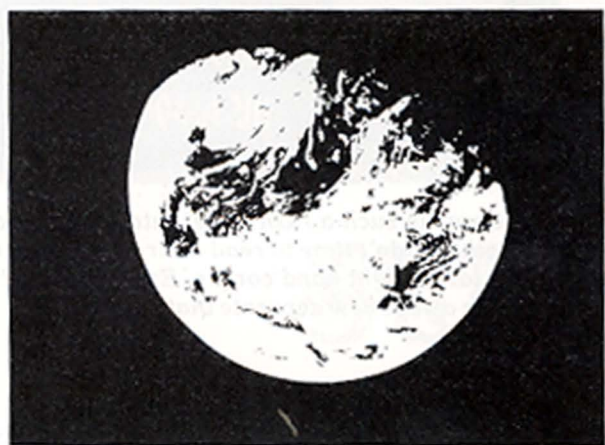
Rights to this Land." The stake was on land owned by a Mr. Stobo. As usual the city council was occupied in debate and delayed sending in the necessary claim papers. But not so Mr. Stobo, the owner of the land. He filed and was granted the claim. The City of Calgary was out of the oil business before it even got into it.

Since the land they had staked, but not filed their claim on, turned out to be only 100 feet from where the famous Dingman "discovery well" would find oil two years later, the tax payers were mad and disappointed. If the claim had been filed, Calgary citizens might not be paying taxes to this day.

The well drilled on the Stobo property near the property the city lost, was called The Dingman Discovery Well, and its advent began the Turner Valley Oil Field, the first and at that time the largest producing oil field in Canada. Credit for that field's discovery goes to S.W. Herron, a man whose sons still live in Calgary. He was an American who had worked in the Pennsylvania oil. He bought Stobo's property, but he had difficulty interesting investors to put up the necessary money. Finally he resorted to just showmanship. He invited a group of investors out to his property and lit the oil seepage he had found. In an ordinary frying pan he fried and served cooked eggs. To some of Calgary's most prominent men, Mr. Dingman who had already founded the Calgary Natural Gas Company, Senator Lougheed (grandfather of our present Premier), A.E. Cross of the Calgary brewery, A.J. Sayer, William Pearce the engineer who built our first irrigation ditches, and Colonel Walker of Mountie fame. They were convinced - the eggs were good so they pooled their resources and formed the Calgary Production Company. They sold stock to other Albertans and drilled the Dingman Discovery Well and in October 1913 they struck oil. Five hundred barrels were hauled away every day by six horse teams to Okotoks. A new oil boom was on.

Albertans were jubilant. Big dreams could come true! It was their oil and they wanted to share in it.





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Cars poured out of Calgary to drive the forty miles over rough, rutted roads to Turner Valley to file land claims. Alberta farmers took to sniffing each gopher hole in their back pasture to see if they could smell oil, and have themselves an oil company. If they couldn't smell any, they usually rushed to town to invest in any one of the thousands of oil companies that had been formed in the first few days after the strike. The Herald reported 500 companies financed by Albertans had been formed three days after the well blew in. The real estate offices in Calgary that had fallen on poor times after the land boom collapsed, just changed the signs in front of the building and were instantly in the oil business.

And what a business it was! The Calgary papers report 500,000 dollars changed hands in one day. In an age when you could buy a car for 300 dollars and a man's suit was worth 10 dollars that was a lot of Albertans' hard earned money. One oil company had to store their cash in a clothes basket, it came in so fast, and there were lineups waiting to buy stock in wells that had not yet been started.

Although Ottawa at this time, through the B.N.A. Act, was responsible for the oil, nothing was heard from them; no research money, no development or no supervision. Eastern Canadians didn't even invest much capital in the venture. In fact the East contribution was largely Toronto and Montreal con men. These characters further exploited the Albertans. On Sheep Creek one of these types used to each day take another prospective oil land buyer fishing. His confederate would pour a little oil on the water several hundred yards up stream. When the fisherman noticed the oil slick the seller would pretend his secret was out and he would then reluctantly sell a share of his land, land he didn't even own. Another sure fire way to convince reluctant Alberta investors to buy phoney stocks was to drive them to Turner Valley and then fill up their car with oil straight from a well. It was so pure the car's motor ran fine. Unfortunately it had one serious fault. The fumes from the car's exhaust had a terrible sulphurous, rotten egg smell. While in Turner Valley the impressed investor, dreaming of how he would never again have to buy gas, didn't notice it. The smell was drowned in the dreadful stink from Turner Valley's hell hole. That was the label attached to the great pit over which thousands of feet of gas burned from the oilwells, gas that they were unable to hold under pressure.

As the happy investor drove back toward Calgary with his tank full of Turner Valley oil he gradually became aware of the peculiar smell, but rarely did he suspect his own car. Usually he blamed the car ahead of him, and so unconsciously dropped further and further behind, while the farmers along the route roared with laughter as the line of cars began to stretch further and further apart, as they hurried down the road to Calgary to invest all their hard earned savings in oil stock.

The oil boom of 1913 lasted only three months. By then the promoters had left town. There was stock galore but little oil and no profits. By 1918 the company that had found the Dingman Discovery Well was still pumping oil but still hadn't recovered the initial cost nor the cost of the other two wells it had drilled. In 1920 a fire wiped out their vaporization plant so they sold to Imperial Oil, who renamed the company "Royalite". Imperial Oil money then continued drilling in Turner Valley and brought three more wells into production, including the mighty

(please turn to page 17)



beginner. And there was no better place to start than at Mount Norquay which has been improved so magnificently in recent years by the Herron family. For Norquay has both the most challenging and the most encouraging of slopes. At the advanced end of the scale there are the long steep runs off the chair, one of the most exciting ski runs in the world. You can come down the straight, steep hill known as Lone Pine or down the Bowl which has a wall which would suit one of the daredevil motorcyclists at the Midway or the long run of the North American. Or you can begin where the well-groomed slope is devoid of moguls in front of the lodge.

I recall well my beginnings on the two hidden runs which are now serviced by a rapid tee-bar. Those are the slopes that have produced many of our young racers who compete for Canada today including such whizzes of the slopes as Reto Barrington and Stephanie Townsend.

Well, in those days a simple rope tow served where the tee-bar tow now stands. Half-way up my companion fell. Naturally I joined him in the deep powder. Unfortunately, I was unable to extricate my skis from the beaten path and before I could I had tripped up thirteen skiers, all of whom joined us head-first in the deep snow. Most were amused. Some were not. But we laughed until our sides ached.

Once, like many skiers, I broke my ankle. It was near the rope tow at the bottom of the North American. Breaking an occasional bone is a badge of honor among skiers and I was back on the slopes by next spring. Of course, nowadays with quick release bindings and better boots, accidents are less common. Anyway, it is a risk sport and the danger is part of the thrill. The fear of broken bones does not

deter many skiers from the adventure of winter sport. And as I grow older I realise that speed is not essential for enjoyment - a safer and more sedate pace can be just as much fun.

Mount Norquay, incidentally, has become a favorite starting point for the new cross-country enthusiasts. Perhaps rightly so because it has always been the place for that other thrilling aspect of Nordic skiing - the ski jumper. From the bottom of the tee-bar, a number of beautiful trails lead off into the deep mountains. The shortest run is a pleasant afternoon's jaunt to the bridge over Forty Mile Creek. But the bolder can push on to Mount Edith or Elk Lake or the Amphitheatre.

One of these days I will have to tell you about the joy of skiing at Westcastle near Pincher Creek or of Marmot Basin at Jasper. But the editor tells me that I have rambled on over my favorite subject too long for available space.

So until then - happy skiing. May your skis run fast and true over the best ski slopes in the world, the ski runs of the Rocky Mountains.

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For reservations write to Betty Plotke, The King's Domain, Box 85, Lake Louise, Alberta, or telephone (403) 522-3791.

## 100 year struggle for Oil

(continued from page 14)

### Royalite #4.

The tragedy of Royalite #4 was that it was too big a well to control. It produced twenty-one million cubic feet of gas a day and 600 barrels of white naphtha. It caught on fire and for over a month it burned. The skies of Southern Alberta were black with oil smoke and at night the flames could be seen for forty miles. Despite this disaster Royalite 4 produced for ten more years. It was its proven naphtha production that got another ex-Albertan, Major James Robert Lowery into the oil business. He had been a conservative member of the Alberta legislature of 1909. In 1925 he formed Home Oil Company and paid the highest price up till then ever paid for Turner Valley land - a million dollars cash for one quarter section. It was a Calgary R.A. Brown Senior who talked him into taking this gamble. Engineer Bob Brown was head of Calgary's city electric light department, and had been responsible for bringing the first electrical street car system to Calgary. By 1929 on the expensive quarter section of land, Home Oil Company and Brown drilled three successful wells. Home Oil 1, 1A and 2 and interest was again running high in Alberta oil and Albertans kept investing.

Then came the depression and the bottom fell out of the world's stock markets. Among the first to crash were the Western Canadian oil companies financed largely by western Canadian residents, who

once more were financially ruined because they had backed their own oil venture. I remember in my Calgary High School at this time, how upset we all were when the police came to tell a fellow student his mother had committed suicide in a Calgary brokerage office. However in the long run the oil industry helped Albertans and Canada through the depression. Oil was produced and some Albertans had jobs in the industry.

Despite the depression Bob Brown Senior never lost faith in Turner Valley. He had what other engineers called a "crazy theory" - that oil lay on the west flank of the Turner Valley field below the gas cap. But to get to it he would have to drill the deepest most expensive oil well yet drilled in Alberta. After the depression no one would buy his oil stock so Brown sold interest royalties to fellow Albertans and commenced drilling in 1934. Seven times the drilling was closed down because the company ran out of money. Seven times Brown and partner George M. Bell, owner of Calgary's Albertan newspaper, went out and borrowed more money. Brown mortgaged his life insurance, his home, even his car. It took two years to complete the 8282 feet deep well called Royalite number one, but on June 17th, 1936, they blew it in and yet another oil boom came to Alberta, but this time to stay! Bell died before the well was complete and R.A. Brown Senior, a few years later in 1948. His son, Bob Brown Junior who had worked with his father carried on. He had inherited the

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# 100 year struggle for Oil

(continued from page 17)

strange qualities a big oilman must have, - the daring to be a gambler and the tenacious courage to see such a chancy venture through to its ultimate end. He also was a financial wizard. He amalgamated Brown's Federated Company with Lauries' Home Company and became head of Home Oil. He bought back from Imperial Oil the 38 wells they had at Turner Valley. Like his father, he had the courage to drill discovery wells, and as a result opened up two other Alberta oil fields at Harmaltan-Elkton and the billion-barrel Seven Hills field. As an individual he was able to compete with the giant world-wide oil companies. When he became over-extended he appealed to the government at Ottawa for help, but he received nothing but harassment from them. However despite that he did pull it through but died a comparatively young man.

Bob Brown may have been destined to be the last of the great Western oilmen, the ones who developed our oil and were thus able to attract the much needed financial support from the big American companies even if Ottawa would not aid in our development. Now the fabulous Leduc field and the Athabasca Tar Sands have assured that financial support for all time. Because the oil business like all other businesses of these times has become so expensive with deep holes in remote areas requiring the support of expensive pipe lines, and like the other businesses of today seems to require joint industries to support it and we must attract them.

But support from the federal government was up to this time totally lacking. In 1930 when Quebec and Ontario wanted control of their fabulous, proven valuable, mineral deposits, Ottawa did grant the provinces back control over their own natural resources. Fortunately to do that they had to give Alberta control over their oil too. At that time that didn't concern Ottawa. After all up till then Alberta had not exported oil. Albertans, as usual, as consumers were financing and supporting their own oil industry without any extra profits. Ottawa now through taxes wants to renege on that agreement as far as Alberta is concerned. But we hear nothing of

plans to tax Sarnia or Nova Scotia developments. Alberta has been able to attract international capital to assist in the high cost of finding and producing oil but if Ottawa taxes them too heavily we may now lose this hard earned assistance. To depend on Ottawa to continue with expansion of our oil development in the future, will be as hopeless as it has been proven to be in our past.

If you ever wonder why a state or province needs control over its natural resources take a visit to Butte, Montana, our friendly neighbouring state on our southern border. At Butte, at one time, a million dollars worth of copper was shipped out each day. Unfortunately the state officials were coerced or bribed into relinquishing their rights over these great natural resources. The only state tax they collected was on the small piece of surface land occupied by the mine entrances. Today there are more dead in Butte's Boot Hill cemetery than there are people living in Butte. It's a pleasant exciting small city, but it has comparatively few outstanding civic improvements, or large homes. Yet in faraway Boston the finest street of homes ever built there was built with Butte money. Butte's environment is now even ruined with strip mining.

For our children's future in Alberta we must back our province in a fight to retain control over our oil rights, and for a chance for Albertans to invest in and profit from their own Alberta Tar Sands. In memory of the hundred years of fierce struggles by the pioneer Alberta oil men to make our oil a real possibility, it is only just it should not be lost now.

In Pennsylvania there is a tomb stone over the remains of Edwin L. Drake. He drilled the first well at Titusville and discovered the great Pennsylvania oil field. Somehow along the way he lost control over his oil well and his land, and he died penniless. Twenty years after his death other wealthy oilmen erected a tombstone over his unnamed paupers grave. It read "He shook the boughs for others to gather fruit".

Look out Alberta! Ottawa is trying to get into the fruit gathering business after a hundred years of idleness, and a paupers grave is cold comfort.

RUTH GORMAN



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## Letters

We regret we have to report to our readers that since the last issue we have lost by death three of our great contributors. Mrs. Ride, whom we had labelled the "grandma Moses of Alberta" and who painted several of our covers, died this fall. She was a primitive painter who produced beautiful pastels of the mountains and who felt her colors were sent to her by God.

Also we lost Mr. A. L. Freebairn, the grand old writer and old timer from Pincher Creek. He had produced privately three small books of poetry and newspapers had reproduced his memories of early days in Canada. Last issue carried one of his poems. We regret to say the printer mixed up the order of the verses, so that poem is republished in this issue.

Both these contributors were talented Westerners whose work had not been publicly recognized but who, fortunately, before their deaths were able to reach the people through this small magazine.

The third contributor was Alvin Winspear, who was a world-renowned figure.

He had received his early education in Calgary's first college, was a Rhodes Scholar from Queen's, taught at the University of Wisconsin and was Professor Emeritus of the University of Calgary.

He spent his recent winters at Oxford and his summers conducting tours in the Aegean Sea on his world famous yacht. He had a world reputation as a Greek scholar and had published books. In fact, at the time of his death he had almost completed a last book.

We were privileged to run two humorous articles on his early life in Calgary and as a young scholar conducting tours, and to republish two excerpts from his world renowned book. He made a unique contribution to the world of education by putting parts of Plato and Aristotle through the computer, thus analyzing authorship by style.

Alvin Winspear was a brilliant scholar but also a great person who enjoyed life. It is significant that his pupils, although they stood in awe of his classical knowledge and admiration of his personality, had nick-named him "Zorba the Greek", another who was a great scholar and a great lover of life.

And Golden West, as will people all over the world, will miss him.

We owe an apology to our last issue readers, our fine photographer Boyd Waddell, and to Charlie Hughs whose fine model of the first Fort Calgary we wrote about - photographed last issue.

Mr. Hughs' model is an exciting piece well done. Mr. Boyd Waddell is an exceptionally fine photographer. In fact his one man exhibit "Through Boyd Waddell's Lens in 1973" that was held from Nov. 21st thru to December 8th at Calgary Galleries was an outstanding success.

But despite all this talent, the sloppy gremlins that seem to plague our "Seventies' Affluence" got into our printers ink, and the picture we finally produced of the forts' model was simply a mess! Like so many of today's cars we are recalling it, and have run this new photo of Mr. Hughs' model of Fort Calgary, with our apologies.

Mr. A.L. Freebairn of Pincher Creek Alberta had published privately 4 slim books of poetry, and his humorous authentic tales of early life in the foothills of Alberta were carried in the Pincher Creek Echo and this magazine. We are pained to report in this magazine's last issue two of his poems got printed under one title.

Mr. Freebairn had come west at seventeen to work on a ranch. He never in his long life lost the excitement of the vast raw land, and the grand people he first found here. In a poem on the vanished trails made by the pioneers published before his death he said --

"The old trails the lone trails  
Grow dimmer year by year  
As age dims the memory of  
Those no longer here,  
But we the generation  
Who proudly bear their name  
Give thanks because our fathers  
Broke the trails across the plain."

And we at Golden West, give thanks too, for all the grand old timers like Mr. Freebairn who broke trails and who left us word - pictures of what a heritage we have to build on.

## A "Thank-you" letter

We sometimes wonder what happens to our Canadian Golden West magazine. A letter from Thunder Bay, Ontario, tells us what happens to one of them. This reader says she lends them to as many as six neighbors and they then end up at the local hospital. It's this kind of circulation that brings us new subscribers and we are grateful for the appreciation. In the past people have had difficulty finding Golden West, to buy. We now have several new locations where you can buy Golden West and for readers' convenience we are listing them:

In Calgary:  
Carmen Moore Books  
Evelyn de Mille Books  
McDermid-Greig Drugstore in Britannia Shopping Centre  
David Fallis Bookstore  
Guild Gallery  
The Bay Bookstore  
The Tack Shop  
The Centaur Shop

In Edmonton:  
Julian Bookstore  
Palace of Sweets  
Mike's Newstand  
Mountain Shop



815 - 50th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Phone: 253 8686.  
May 4, 1981.

Public Relations Department, - T.V. & Radio.  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation,  
1724 Westmount Blvd., N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Madam/Sir:

Will you please put this notice on the air  
May 6, 1981 with your public service announcements:

C I T I Z E N S ' T O W N H A L L M E E T I N G

on

"A L E R T !"

Concerns of the proposed constitution  
and its effects on Canada.

Featuring eight speakers from Southern Alberta.

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Dr. Carl Safran School  
(Old Central High)

Address: 930 - 13 Ave. S.W.  
(corner of 12th Ave and 8th St. S.W.)

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ruth Gorman.

RG/dk



815 - 50th Ave. S.W.,  
Calgary, Alberta.  
May 4, 1981.  
Phone: 253 8686

Mr. Gene Laihto,  
News Director,  
CFAC Radio,  
1301 - 17th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Laihto:

It is my understanding that radio stations give notices on the air as a public service. Will you please announce the following on May 6, 1981:

C I T I Z E N S ' T O W N H A L L M E E T I N G

on

"A L E R T !"

Concerns of the proposed constitution  
and its effects on Canada.

featuring

Eight speakers from Southern Alberta.

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Dr. Carl Safran School  
(old Central High)

Address: 930 - 13 Ave. S.W.  
(corner of 12th & 8th St. S.W.)

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

RG/dk

Dr. Ruth Gorman.



815 - 50th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Phone: 253 8686  
May 4, 1981.

CHFM - 96 Stereo,  
Moffat Communications Ltd.,  
804 - 16 Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Sirs:

Due to the fact that this meeting has just very recently been planned we are urgently requesting that you somehow squeeze this following announcement into your public service announcements on May 6, 1981.

CITIZENS' TOWN HALL MEETING ON "ALERT!" - Concerns

of the proposed constitution and its effects on Canada.

featuring

Eight speakers from Southern Alberta.

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Dr. Carl Safran School  
(old Central High)

Address: 930 - 13 Ave. S.W.  
(corner of 12th Ave. 8th St. S.W.)

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

*Ruth*

Dr. Ruth Gorman.

*fete*  
RG/dk.



815 - 50th Ave. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta.  
Phone: 253 8686  
May 4, 1981.

Mr. Thompson MacDonald,  
CFCN - Radio - T.V.  
Broadcast Hill,  
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

It is my understanding that radio stations give notices on the air as a public service. Will you please announce the following on May 6, 1981:

C I T I Z E N S ' T O W N H A L L M E E T I N G

on

"A L E R T !"

Concerns of the proposed constitution  
and its effects on Canada.

featuring

Eight speakers from Southern Alberta.

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Dr. Carl Safran School  
(old Central High)

Address: 930 - 13 Ave. S.W.  
(corner of 12th & 8th St. S.W.)

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ruth Gorman.

RG/dk