

Oil, more oil, millions of gallons of the crude material flowing from pumps, day and night. This in a concise form is the story of the Edmonton, Alberta boom.

The story of oil resounded in the ears of the population of Lindsay and the people of Ops and Emily townships a few short decades ago.

The Edmonton story was retold a few days ago by Dr. R. C. Wansbrough of Lindsay, who along with Mrs. Wansbrough and some thirty-eight other people from Bobcaygeon, Peterboro and other towns and cities recently returned from a twenty-two day bus trip through the Canadian west. The tour, which was masterminded by Eddie De nure of Peterboro, formerly of Lindsay was most interesting and exciting as well as educational.

It was in Edmonton, however that Dr. Wansbrough received one of the best "kicks", a view of many oil fields which caused the Alberta city to grow from a population of a few thousand fifty years ago, to the figure of 261,027 in 1951, and then escalated to almost three times that figure.

Edmontonians are proud of the fact that pipe lines carry their oil east into Ontario as far as Sarnia. This is proof of the development of the city along many other lines. Their city is the nearest big populated city closest to the U.S.S.R. but this does not seem to bother the residents to any extent.

Edmontonians are also completely wrapped up in the promotion of "Klondike Days" which to them equal in interest the Calgary stampede, as a tourist attraction.

Getting back to the oil days

Getting back to the oil days in Lindsay, Ops and Emily — how many remember the oil boom (?) which burst in these parts several years ago, when the report was circulated that some wandering traveller was going out the Downeyville road, past the location of the Drive-In Theatre, when he is alleged to have discovered oil in the corner of a farmer's field, near the much travelled road.

It really looked as if there was oil when a company sent in officials and later set up a drill. Business was booming, at least tongues were wagging, and it is alleged that considerable oil stock was disposed of to gamblers who had dreams of retiring to rest one night and awakening as oil magnates the following morning.

Alas and alack these dreams did not come true. To some it was fun while it lasted.

Dr. Wansbrough was thrilled on witnessing the mammoth street parade at the Calgary Stampede. "It was fantastic, especially the wonderful array of bands, floats, Indians, cowboys and pretty girls", he said. The show at the enclosed grounds was excellent, but the street parade was "worth the price of admission".