



Welcome back! To the RECORDER that is. As you can see by the length of this column it has been a busy summer so far. I am writing this at the end of July and happy to say I made it through Stampede for another year. I swear it is getting harder on me each year! I was in Regina and Estherhazy, Saskatchewan for the first part of Stampede and flew back an hour before our company Stampede party. What a culture shock.

You forget how fast paced this city is and how crazy Stampede is until you step back from it. But I for one, love it!

I have stepped down as the volunteer ticket coordinator for the CSEG technical luncheons. The attendance at the luncheons has been breaking records and the luncheons are consistently selling out. It became obvious that it was no longer a volunteer job, so as of September, ticket sales will be handled through the CSEG office. So please contact them to order luncheon tickets. Thanks to all of you for your patience and consideration over the last year when I was handling the ticket sales. I enjoyed it! Thanks to Rob Vestrum and Jonathan Downton. It was good working with both of you and the rest of the luncheon committee. I appreciate your support.

I also want to congratulate my fellow columnist, Gina Schlitz! She has a new job at IHS. I wish you every success in your new position Gina. Gina and I have a new fellow columnist, Dani MacLeod (Boyd Petrossearch). The summer edition of "The Source" (CAGC publication that is included quarterly with your RECORDER) debuted Dani's new column, "What's Shakin". Dani, I hope you have as much fun with your new column as I do with "Tracing the Industry."

Please take the time to read the Giving Back portion of this column. Lynn Chotowetz of Canadian Natural has written a moving piece about his charity work in Africa. Thank you for sharing Lynn.

Announcements are free. You can contact me at (403) 560-8431 or carmen@geophysicalservice.com – CS

GIVING BACK...

Many people in our geophysical community give unselfishly of their time and resources in volunteer work outside the geophysical community. The RECORDER committee would like to give our members an opportunity to share their experiences and details of the charity that they support. If you would like to write a piece for this portion of the column, please contact me. – CS

Lynn Chotowetz – Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.

It's said that the first lesson a Western-mind planning work in Africa must learn is that his plan won't work. Yet, even on my second visit to South Africa I, along with 12 other Calgarians, arrived in the middle of a refugee camp with a tightly gripped blue print and a detailed time line to build a 5000 sq. ft community/feeding center. The simple objective was to command the standing skeleton of an existing abandoned structure, rebuild it, and finish and fill the place with needed items. We had 3 weeks. And we prepared accordingly.

But upon arrival we learned the old structure wasn't exactly as we'd been told, and the chief in charge of it wasn't interested in sharing with the rest of his community anyway.

Time to re-evaluate.

Our host organization had already purchased new, bare land—it sat at the community's eastern edge, a sort of transition space crossed daily by village women seeking the flat, hot savannah and picking arm loads of firewood from beneath those low, twisted trees. But first, before a feeding centre could begin, a toilet needed digging. A big toilet: twenty feet by eight feet and thirteen feet down through the steamy, red African topsoil and grey, cemented clay. And the excavated toilet dirt was needed, to be mixed by hand with cement and shoveled into a hand-operated machine squeezing out wet bricks to build the walls of the centre.

So we, and four local men who'd volunteered to help, swung picks and shoveled dirt, passing the few available tools among one another as we tired. The air crackled above 38 degrees and the sun hung directly above us that day—and then the next seven—as we stood together swinging, shoveling and passing.

The hole grew deeper. But it was slow, and finally, one evening as the team gathered to eat and recollect the day, an engineer among us unraveled. "Why the hell are we doing this," he asked. "We could've hired a backhoe, dug the hole in an hour, bought bricks, and then had a chance at finishing something useful for these people."

The rest of us were silent: mostly wondering, "Yeah...why?"

Later that night, sensing our frustration, the lanky, white, South African project director for the community, George, gathered us. He stared at us a long while, then smiled. "You don't know what you're doing," he said.

"For seven days you—white, rich Canadians—have stood in a muddy hole rubbing sweaty shoulders with poor, black Africans. After decades of apartheid, decades of being taught they were useless, decades of forgetting their own strength and dignity, those African men are realizing more in that hole than you'll ever understand. Don't underestimate your actions.

"If you simply came, paid for a backhoe, bought your bricks, put up a building and left, you'd leave a centre for a community still stalled: waiting for another group of Westerners to return and take the next step for them. Don't overestimate your actions."

Lesson learned: work in Africa won't go as planned. Sometimes, that's a good thing.

Nine teams, initiated, trained and facilitated by Westside King's Church, have flown for 3-week trips to Africa—Zambia and South Africa—in the past 18 months, working on home-based care, construction projects, youth mentoring, health training and whatever else has surprised teams upon runway arrival. I've been lucky enough to help plan and coordinate most of those trips. New mistakes and lessons arise each time we go, but the compassion and energy and usefulness exhibited by those from this city that go, shock me. Each team has made an impact. Next year we plan to send more.

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And in October this year, my wife and I will pack up, rent out and fly back to South Africa for a year to begin a youth mentorship program. UNICEF says there are 10-15 million orphans in southern Africa today and guesses there will be 30 million in 3 more years. That would leave more orphan kids than adults in certain areas there.

George, the lanky South African director, sees it around him. These kids are doomed, he says. Unless the highest potential performers among them rise, attend university, and lead their peers as doctors, politicians, social workers, they are doomed. So, at George's request, we will develop and run a program developing character and boosting academics to help the most promising students into university. And we are combing Calgary to raise scholarships to make it happen.

It's a hard time to leave a booming industry, but we've met the kids. And we've committed to a plan. Certainly, plans may change. But it's something I'm getting used to.

If you would like more details, please contact Lynn at lynn.chotowetz@cnrl.com or 290-8075.

ON THE MOVE...

I would like to extend my sincerest apologies to Steve Sembini. Steve's announcement was submitted for the June column and somehow it got missed! This is the third announcement I have messed up in three years, so I guess my track record isn't too bad. So I hope this makes it up to you Steve! – CS

Steve Sembini has recently opened up a new business, **DMI Digital Media Inc.** Steve has over 20 years experience in the service and supply of seismic and geophysical data and imaging media. He invites his friends and former colleagues to contact him at 204-5207 and looks forward to many more years offering superior service at the most competitive prices to the geophysical industry. Please visit www.digitalmediainc.ca for more information.

She's Back! **Jocelyn Frankow** formerly Bradley ("no I didn't get married, I got unmarried and went back to my maiden name") – would like to let everyone know that she has returned to the geophysical fold here in Calgary from rainy Europe via sunny Albuquerque, New Mexico and has joined **Geophysical Service Incorporated (GSI)**. Jocelyn has joined forces again with **Allan Feir** and **Don Daub** whom she started in seismic with who are also at GSI/Precision Seismic Processing. As GSI's Marketing Representative for their non-exclusive seismic data Jocelyn will be responsible for licensing GSI's ~ 250,000kms of speculative data which includes the Falklands, the Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie Delta, East Coast, High Arctic, all Labrador data including the new 2006 Labrador program. The most challenging part of the move was to find a place to live and to fit her golf in alongside learning her new job. Jocelyn can be reached at 514-6295 or at jfrankow@geophysicalsevice.com

Mamdouh Girgis has recently joined **Geophysical Service Incorporated (GSI)/Precision** Seismic Processing Division marine processing group as Sr. Geophysical Processor. You can reach Mamdouh at 514-6282 and email mgirgis@geophysicalsevice.com

Quantum Seismic Services is pleased to announce that they have relocated to the offices of **Geophysical Service Incorporated (GSI)/ Precision** Seismic Processing, 400, 400 - 5th Avenue SW.

Meenaz Rajan can be reached at 514-6284 email meenaz_quantum@geophysicalsevice.com

Paul Hebert can be reached at 514-6283 email paul_quantum@geophysicalsevice.com

Lynne Wortman can be reached at 514-6295 email lynne_quantum@geophysicalsevice.com

John Williams can be reached at 514-6294 email john_quantum@geophysicalsevice.com

Geophysical Service Incorporated/Precision Seismic Processing Division is pleased to welcome **Kaylee Pichette** to the team as a Seismic Processor. Kaylee is a recent graduate of the Astrophysics program at the University of Calgary and will be joining the marine processing team. You can reach Kaylee at kpichette@geophysicalsevice.com or 514-6385.

Boyd PetroSearch is pleased to announce that **Mohammad Bhatti** has joined our team of mapping specialists. Mohammad will be working with **Jena Wyllie**, Mapping Coordinator, and with **Kathy Sloan** and the Field Operations Support group. He has over eight (8) years of experience in the GIS industry. He holds a bachelors degree from York University and also has completed post graduate work in GIS – Application Specialist, from Sir Sandford Fleming. Mohammad can be reached by email at mohammadb@boydpetro.com or by phone at 233-2455 or 620-5292 (cell).

Hillar Lilles is pleased to announce that he is now with **Black Bore Resources Ltd.** as President and Chief Geophysicist. He can be reached at (403) 663-0200 ex. 1 or via email at Hillar@blackbore.ca

Rob Kendall would like friends, colleagues and clients to know that he has joined **Petrobank Energy and Resources Ltd** as an Interpretation Geophysicist. Rob can now be reached at kendall@petrobank.com

Randi Christiansen has joined **First Calgary Petroleum Ltd.** She can be reached at rchristiansen@fcpl.ca or (403) 264-6697.

Rainer Tonn, formerly with EnCana, has joined **OILEXCO Incorporated** as Chief Geophysicist. Rainer can be reached at 262 5441 or by email at rtonn@oilexco.com

Todd Stuebing would like to announce that he has joined **Compton Petroleum Corporation** as a Senior Geophysicist. He would like to thank all of his former Petro-Canada colleagues and friends for their support, guidance and "good memories". Todd can be reached by email at tstuebin@comptonpetroleum.com or phone (403) 205-5848.

Jim Ross (The Seismic Gourmet – CS) would like to let people know that I have moved to **Perth Australia** to accept the position of Manager of Geophysics with **Apache Energy Ltd.** I can be reached at +6108-9422-7400 or at jim.ross@aus.apachecorp.com. I'd like to personally thank all of the people at Apache Canada for 6 great years and hope to be back in Calgary from time to time.

Guoping Li would like his friends and colleagues throughout the industry to know that he has taken a new position with

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Canadian Natural Resources Limited. He has had a wonderful career with EnCana Corp (formerly PanCanadian Energy) over the past twelve years, working in a variety of areas on numerous interesting E&P assignments. He's now working as an Area Geophysicist, responsible for CNRL's exploration and development activities in North Central Alberta. Guoping can be reached at (403) 517-7013 or by e-mail at Guoping.Li@cnrl.com

Hui Wang and Rick Steele would like to announce that we have started a new processing company. **P-Wave Imaging Ltd** started in Rick's dining room January 2006. We moved to an office February 1 and are located at:

800 900 6 ave S.W

Calgary AB

T2P-3K2

We can be reached at:

403-668-0982

huiwang2006@hotmail.com

steele.rick@shaw.ca

We have enjoyed the first 6 month and all the challenges a new business brings.

Nilanjan Ganguly, formerly at Nexen, has recently moved to **Tanganyika Oil**. He can be reached at 716-4070 or on his cell 560-9101

Marian C. Hanna, P. Geoph., has packed up her technical skills and her 'joie de vivre' and is sharing them with **BG Canada**, working Alaska. She continues to build on her ability to work well with great folks in this industry, wear fashionable field gear (like mosquito nets) and utilize geo-gasmic applications that help to find more oil and gas. Marian can be reached at 403-538-7439 or by email at marian.hanna@bg-group.com

Gillian Bishop has moved from Petro-Canada to **Anadarko**. Gillian has joined the NEBC group. You can reach Gillian at 231-0052 or Gillian_Bishop@anadarko.com

Lisa Holmstrom has recently returned to the Calgary geophysical community, from small-town Golden. She returns much richer in life than when she left, with a complete (and sometimes perfect) family, as well as a teaching career to fall back on. Lisa has joined **BG Canada**, and is looking forward to the challenge of exploration in the Foothills! Lisa can be reached by email at lisa.holmstrom@bg-group.com

Arcis is pleased to announce the following new members of the Arcis team:

Chongfeng Chen, Depth Imaging Processor, 781-5871, cchen@arcis.com

Ulises Arellano Gonzalez, Seismic Data Processor, 781-6231, ugonzalez@arcis.com

Vincent Onwuka, Seismic Data Processor, 781-5853, vonwuka@arcis.com

Carter Edie, Seismic Data Processor, 781-5857, cedio@arcis.com

James Beck, Seismic Data Processor, 781-1704, jbeck@arcis.com

Liliana Ilie, Seismic Data Processor, 781-1439, lilie@arcis.com

Kola Oyewumi, Senior Software Developer, 781-1440, koyewumi@arcis.com

Andy Riggs, Unix Administrator, 781-1720, ariggs@arcis.com

Kathleen Parr, Land Operations, 781-5874, kparr@arcis.com

Gay Ruddy, Sales Associate, Participation Surveys, 781-1716, gruddy@arcis.com

Raman Chohan, Human Resources, 781-5867, rc hohan@arcis.com

Doug Voegtlin would like to inform his acquaintances in the industry that he has moved from his Manager Geophysics position with Compton Petroleum to Manager Geophysics with **Oban Energy Ltd**. Doug can be reached at 781-9130.

Dr. John Pendrel, Business Manager, is pleased to announce that **Brian Hoffe** and **Olga Petrova** have joined the project geoscientist team at Fugro-Jason Canada. Brian obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Geophysics at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, where he studied and worked for 11 years before moving to Calgary in 1997. In Calgary, Brian first worked with CREWES at the University of Calgary before moving on to geophysicist positions at Husky, PanCanadian and EnCana. Olga obtained her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Geophysics at Kazan State University (Russia). She worked for 12 years in Kazakhstan with Kazakh State companies and Chevron before moving to Canada in 2001. In Calgary, she worked at Earth Signal Processing as a seismic data processor before joining Fugro-Jason Canada. Both Brian and Olga can be reached at 263-3340 or bhoffe@fugro-jason.com, opetrova@fugro-jason.com

After six years with Nexen **Carl Reine** has taken a leave of absence to pursue a research degree at the **University of Leeds in the UK**. You can contact Carl at leccar@leeds.ac.uk

The **WesternGeco** Depth Imaging Team is very pleased to announce that **Peter Vail** and **Kiran Dyal** have joined the team. Peter has many years of seismic processing experience from around the world and recently transferred to Calgary from WesternGeco's Houston office. Kiran is a geophysics graduate from the University of Calgary and has just returned from Oslo where she graduated from WesternGeco's Data Processing Start School with flying colours. Peter and Kiran can be contacted at 509 4666. If you are interested in joining our growing team, or you would like to find out more about the services we provide, please contact Rob Holt at 509 4495.

George Eng has joined **Enerplus** as Sr. Geophysicist in the Southern Alberta Business unit. Friends are welcome to call him at 298-2860.

After almost 5 years of drinking screech and trying to pick up a Newfoundland accent, **Krista Solvason** successfully defended her **Ph.D. thesis "The Crustal Structure and Formation of the southeast Newfoundland Continental Margin"**, at the **Memorial University of Newfoundland**. She is currently at Nexen Inc. working as a geophysicist in the Heavy Oil - EOR group. She can be reached at (403) 699.4866 or at krista_solvason@nexeninc.com

Kimberly Pike has joined **Devon Canada** to work in their Northern Plains Exploration Team. She can be reached at kimberly.pike@devoncanada.com or (403)213-8171.

Medena Bridger (P.Geoph) would like to announce she has joined **Compton Petroleum Corporation**. She will be working for the company's Exploration and Development group, focusing on southern Alberta. She can be reached at (403)205-7802.

Kris Eyolfson has joined the NE BC group at CNRL and can be reached at 386-5648

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Darren Kondrat, would like friends and colleagues to know that he has joined **Connacher Oil and Gas Ltd.** as the Chief Geophysicist. He can be reached at 536-4714 or dkondrat@connacheroil.com

Geomodeling Technology Corp. is pleased to announce the addition of **Michael Woodford**, Geophysical Support Tech to the Geomodeling team. This is Michael's first employment in Calgary hailing from St. Johns Newfoundland. He is very excited about the new opportunities and experience this position will bring. Michael can be reached at t. 698-8373 or c. 561-4326. Email michael@geomodeling.com

Geomodeling Technology Corp. is the leading innovator in geoscience software for the oil and gas industry. Geomodeling enables petroleum companies to maximize revenue and reduce costs with software solutions for improved reservoir characterization and recovery. Founded in 1996, Geomodeling has offices and resource centers in Brazil, Canada, China, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom, USA and Venezuela. Find us on the web at www.geomodeling.com

MOVING UP IN THE WORLD.....

Geophysical Service Incorporated is pleased to announce that **Allan Feir** has been promoted to the position of President of Precision Seismic Processing. Allan has over 30 years of experience in seismic processing and has been with GSI for the past 3 1/2 years. He can be reached at 514-6266 and email allan@geophysicalsevice.com

Kelman Technologies Inc. (KTI) is pleased to announce that **Rob Tilson** has been promoted to Processing Manager-Calgary Processing Centre. Rob will be responsible for all of KTI's Time and Depth processing in Calgary. His background has included running a processing centre in Argentina as well as managing Processing and User Support groups in Calgary. His close interaction with the Research & Development groups and his strong technical ability will ensure KTI's continued technical leadership. Rob can be reached at 403-294-5259 or by e-mail at robt@kelman.com

THE STORK HAS VISITED...

Carrie Youzwishen (Husky Energy Inc) and her husband, **Oliver**, are proud to announce the arrival of their first baby, John Oliver! John was born on June 5 at 04:13, a bouncing 7 lbs 8 oz. After a super effort by mom, John and mom are doing great.



THANK YOU...

In the February 2006 RECORDER **Ken Whitehouse (Suncor Energy)** put an announcement in about collecting book bags,

satchels and backpacks for the Mustard Seed, Storefront 101 project. The RECORDER readers stepped up to the plate and the letter below is for you.

Dear Carmen, Thank you Carmen and all who made the donation of 48 bookbags, 12 packbacks, and 5 portfolios for Storefront 101: A University Discovery Project. This program offers people of low-income a university level course in the Humanities. We try to make it as barrier-free as possible, with free tuition, books and materials provided, and support for transportation and child-care. In September our course will be Canadian History taught by Dr. Donald Smith from the University of Calgary. The students will benefit by these items that your members donated. It is great for our students to have bags to carry their books.

If you or any of your members would like a tour of the Seed, please contact me.

Marsha Mah Poy
Program Assistant for Storefront 101, The Seed

HOW I GOT INVOLVED IN GEOPHYSICS...

This portion of the Tracing the Industry column is where people share how they became involved in this strange industry. Geophysics seems to be an "accidental" profession. Not many seem to start out with the goal of becoming a geophysicist. Each month I like to have someone trace their pathway into geophysics. This month, we are fortunate that two people have decided to share their path with you. If you would like to share your story, please let me know! – CS

Graeme Gibson – Husky Energy Inc.

Along with many other contributors to this column, for me, geophysics was somewhat of an 'accidental' career choice for me. Unlike a number of those who would end up in geophysics at university, I had actually researched what a geophysicist could be expected to do, and I had even selected my program to include geophysics... Oceanography & Geophysics to be exact!

Everyone growing up needs some inspirational stories or heroes to form dreams of what they will do when they reach adulthood. For me, influences during my young years included novels by Clive Cussler, movies like *The Abyss*, and the real life achievements of Jacques Cousteau. In addition, the amazing achievements of test pilot, turned astronaut, turned SeaLab scientist and author, Scott Carpenter was also a great source of inspiration. All of these influences led me to believe that the best possible career for me was Oceanography. I foresaw eventually attending the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts (associated with M.I.T.), but I could not make such a move straight-off. I am sure that growing up on a ranch my entire life, hundreds of miles away from the ocean, probably gave me a certain fascination with the sea.

In any case, I was headed for a career in Oceanography. When it came time to register, however, I found that you couldn't simply take Oceanography... you needed to combine it with another discipline (like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or... you guessed it... Geophysics!). At that point, I didn't know anything about geophysics, but I went to the local library and researched it. When I read about the numerous job descriptions of a geophysicist, and the huge variety of possible careers, I felt that I could do

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much worse than learning geophysics. Besides, I was very strong in Physics and Math, and in science in general, so it felt like a good fit.

At the University of British Columbia, I straight-away took an introductory geophysics course, Geophysics 120, to see what it was all about. I loved it, and when the time came to re-declare my specialization, I chose pure Honours Geophysics... I never took one oceanography course!

After a few years of returning home during the summer to work in forestry, I decided that I needed to get experience in the field of geophysics, and stayed in Vancouver to work. It was a complete disaster! My first job was working for a geophysical consulting company, contracting out to a Swedish mining company working at the Myra Falls mine site, Vancouver Island. The system we were hired to operate was a proprietary down-hole TEM (Transient Electro-Magnetic) system. Unfortunately, the labels and instructions were in Swedish! With the large time zone difference between the West Coast and Sweden, we were short on help. In the end, that turned out to be the least of our worries as midway through the project, disaster struck! Apparently, during the appropriating of the underground drilling setup for the down-hole survey, the drillers (or geophysicist) didn't secure the tool to the spool properly. At an inopportune time, another driller showed up, distracting everyone from watching the drilling line as the tool was being lowered down the hole. All of a sudden everyone looked in horror as the last of the drill string followed the tool in its fall to the bottom of the drill hole, over a kilometre deep! After a few more days of standby as they attempted to recover the tool, we headed back to Vancouver. My first experience with geophysics was less than perfect!

Luckily for me and my dreams of becoming a geophysicist, my next summer was much more successful and exciting. I was hired by Amerok Geosciences Ltd., based out of Whitehorse, Yukon, and owned by a top notch geophysicist and geologist, Mike Powers. That summer we worked in various field locations across the Yukon and Alaska, carrying out many different types of geophysical surveys for environmental and mining purposes.

I learned much that summer, but one thing that stuck was that consulting wasn't necessarily exploration. Courses taken in my last two years at UBC opened my eyes to the real possibility of working in petroleum exploration, and I decided that I was very much interested in the related disciplines (petroleum geology, seismic interpretation, well-log interpolation). Although I did spend nearly a year post-graduation in Vancouver working for another geophysical consulting company, in various field locations including British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Washington, Alaska, and the Philippines (that is another story, all unto itself), my eyes were now on Calgary, and the promises of finding a full and exciting career in petroleum exploration.

In the spring of 2001, my girlfriend, Andrea, (now my wife) and I made the move to Calgary, and after some anxious moments, were both successful with finding work. I started with Geo-X Systems Ltd, processing seismic data. Looking back on the past five winters of seismic processing, I once again marvel at the number of hard-working, talented, and fun members of this dynamic industry I have met.

This past March I resigned from Geo-X Systems Ltd. to pursue the career that I had envisioned when I first came to Calgary, that of an interpretative geophysicist. I am very pleased and excited to be joining Husky Energy Inc.'s Southern Alberta & Southern Saskatchewan team in this capacity. It has been quite a ride so far!

Francois Aubin – CCG Canada Services Ltd.

I came to the seismic industry as a programmer, which I refer to as the back door. It may come as a surprise to many of you who have known me for a couple of decades. Let us go back a couple more decades. I was born and raised in a small village in Northwestern Québec 400 miles from Montréal. In my teens, I was attracted to the clouds and decided to go into meteorology. I also decided at that time that I wanted, or needed, to learn English. It turned out to be a good combination: the only university in Canada offering an undergraduate degree in meteorology was McGill. Off to the big city at 20 to pursue a first goal: learning English, and a second goal: earning a degree. I managed to achieve both, even though some of you might argue that my persistent accent shows that I did not achieve my first goal. That is where I started learning programming with punched cards (if 'punched cards' does not mean anything to you, find an older programmer to explain). Summer jobs included mining exploration field work, very fitting for coming from a mining area of Canada, which gave me a taste of what seismic field work might be like.

With my degree in hand but no work in my field, I worked for a year in a high school doing lab prep work. Off to school again: I worked towards a master degree in oceanography. Added to the studies were field trips on a boat on the St. Lawrence estuary and gulf, wonderful experience providing me with some insights on what an offshore seismic acquisition crew might be like. While finishing my M. Sc. thesis, I moved to Victoria, B.C., to work under contract as a research assistant/programmer modeling the movement of icebergs off the East Coast of Newfoundland. Yes, it is one of those idiosyncrasies of federal government: doing work on the west coast for a project on the east coast, go figure. In those days, the largest oceanographic research center in Canada was in Ottawa. After a year and a half in Victoria and the contract running out, I got a choice between two offers: Calgary or Lausanne, Switzerland. Some might think I was crazy, but I landed in Calgary in 1980. It is interesting how some things happen: when moving from Rimouski, Québec to Victoria, B.C. a couple of years earlier, I told myself while driving through Calgary: this is a place I could live in. Somehow, Calgary felt right as a dynamic place. It still does: the mentality, the pace, the people. It is to be noted that I was moving east when I came to Calgary, not west, which excluded me from being one of Klein's 'eastern bums and creeps'.

After a year and a half in environmental consulting work in Calgary as a research assistant/programmer modeling the movement of ice sheets in the Beaufort Sea, I started looking for something else: that is when I realized that the most satisfying part of my work experience was the people, not the task at hand.

I came to Geodigit/CGG in December 1981 as a programmer, and I quickly turned from a programmer into a very demanding user. Doing user support and delivering services for clients on interactive software in modeling, databasing, interpretation:

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everything should be possible I would tell the programmers. In 1988, I got the opportunity to move my family to France for two years: great experience that we all benefited from in many aspects.

Right after leaving Calgary to go to Paris and not knowing if I would come back, I realized that Calgary was truly home for me. I came back in 1990 processing seismic data. After a couple of years back in Calgary, with 2D, 3D, land and marine processing experience in my backpack, I decided to check out what else was "out there". I was privileged to be part of a small team bringing Veritas into the foothills processing. Wanting to do more than process seismic data, I took on my own to broaden my horizon. I joined Toastmasters, took a Dale Carnegie sales course, and went into sales and marketing when leaving Veritas in 1998.

Kelman (KTI) allowed me to apply and refine my skills and greatly further my career.

Needing a change after six years at Kelman, CGG again offered me an opportunity to grow further. Being at the forefront of all aspects of the seismic business is very demanding and challenging for a company, but at the same time very rewarding.

My recommendation to those coming into this business: find your niche, find what motivates you, and be ready to change all along your career. Changes imposed by the market, changes coming with the technology, changes due to your own maturity. Let's not forget that this business is all about people. Work hard, enjoy what you do, and reap the rewards. **R**

What's Coming in Future Issues of the RECORDER...

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Paper Deadline</i>
How the oil and gas industry interacts	Jeff Gautreau	<i>Oct-06</i>	15-Aug-06
Interaction of geophysicists and engineers	Sandy Lucas	<i>Nov-06</i>	15-Sep-06
Role of geophysicists in reservoir estimates & drilling	Sandy Lucas / Andy Marshall	<i>Dec-06</i>	15-Oct-06
Seismic Acquisition: Designing of surveys	Sandy Lucas / Jeff Gautreau	<i>Jan-07</i>	15-Nov-06
Near surface geophysics – 1			
The use of statistics in geophysical methodologies	Muyi Kola-Ojo / Andy Marshall / Oliver Kuhn	<i>Feb-07</i>	15-Dec-07
West coast exploration / Environmental topics	Susan Thompson / Oliver Kuhn	<i>Mar-07</i>	15-Jan-07
Mining Geophysics	Andy Marshall	<i>Apr-07</i>	15-Feb-07
Crustal / Mantle Geophysics	Helen Isaac / Muyi Kola-Ojo	<i>May-07</i>	15-Mar-07
Geophysical case histories (Oil / mining / water)	Muyi Kola-Ojo / Andy Marshall / Jason Noble	<i>Jun-07</i>	15-Apr-07
Near surface geophysics – 2	Muyi Kola-Ojo / Andy Marshall	<i>Sep-07</i>	15-Jul-07