

Jack W. Porter Geoscience Honour Roll Citation

Jack Porter was one of the premier Saskatchewan petroleum geologists. He was born and raised in Saskatoon. His educational background through elementary, secondary and post-secondary were all obtained there. He entered the University of Saskatchewan near the end of World War II graduating with a B.A. degree in Geology in 1946. He received his early training in petroleum geology in Saskatchewan as summer student employed by the Imperial /Norcanols group. His duties included field mapping surface structures and sitting structural test holes. After graduation Jack joined the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources where his jobs included geological field work in northern Saskatchewan as well as conservation officer inspecting drill sites. Jack moved to Rio Bravo Oil Company to become one of the earliest Saskatchewan petroleum geologist based in Regina. Rio Bravo was the exploration arm of Superior Oil of California and eventually became Canadian Superior. The company was involved in exploration in southwestern Manitoba and southeast Saskatchewan. Jack guided the company's activities in Saskatchewan.

Jack was one of the first geologists in the province to recognize the hydrocarbon-bearing potential of the subcropping Mississippian in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba. Under his guidance Rio Bravo, later Canadian Superior acquired considerable freehold leases and had significant success finding hydrocarbon production. In addition, Jack was forward looking and did field work in Manitoba on the shores of Lake Winnipegosis in anticipation of finding hydrocarbon shows in the Winnipegosis of Saskatchewan.

Inasmuch as he was first and foremost an oil finder, Jack's list of publications is not lengthy, but through them he has made important contributions to understanding the subsurface geology of the Williston Basin area. His paper on the Madison Complex in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba demonstrated through the correlation of geophysical well log marker beds the facies relationships of the Mississippian formational units. In 1959, he co-authored a paper with Alaister Cummings and J.G.C.M. Fuller on the para-time nature of geophysical log marker beds in the Mississippian of Saskatchewan. This paper was presented in a symposium on concepts of stratigraphic classification and correlation published in the American Journal of Science. In addition Jack co-authored three other papers with J.G.C.M Fuller two on the Ordovician and Silurian of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the other on evaporite basins in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. In later years, Jack took an interest in the history of petroleum geology in Canada with specifically emphasis on western Canada. These were published in the CSPG Reservoir as a series of "Vignettes of Canadian Petroleum Geology".

Jack was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Geological Society. He played active roles on the society's nomenclature and correlations committees that released two sets of correlation cross-section and accompanying reports on Mississippian and Lower Paleozoic Names and Correlations. He was also one of the society's representatives to a Williston Basin Nomenclature Committee organized by the A.A.P.G. Jack moved to

Calgary in the late 1950s but remained with the same organization in spite of acquisitions and mergers. Before his retirement he was senior geological advisor to the vice-president of exploration for Mobil Oil. In 2009, Jack was inducted into the Saskatchewan Oilmens' Hall of Fame.

I am sure that you will agree that Jack Porter is a worthy inductee into the Saskatchewan Geological Society's Geoscience Honour Roll.