

“Stories of a Third-Generation Independent Oil Producer”



*Celebrating the Story—
Progress from Petroleum*

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In keeping with its goal to commemorate the 150-year history of oil in the U.S., Oil 150 has embarked on an oral history film project entitled “Stories of a Third-Generation Independent Oil Producer, as told by Bill Huber.” Mr. Huber is one of approximately 50 independent oil producers who pump in the Oil Region National Heritage Area.



Bill Huber and his son, Bill Huber, Jr., inspect a well site.

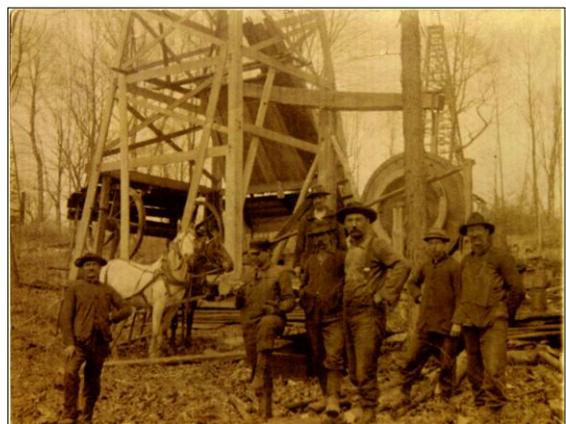
At 68 years of age, he has lived his entire life in Plumer, Pennsylvania, a town approximately 10 miles south of the spot where Edwin Drake struck oil in 1859.

Mr. Huber’s family stories and daily experiences will be video-recorded at his lease and in the studio. The film will then be augmented with still photographs and early family movies. The final product will be aired for free at regional festivals and similar events throughout the Oil 150 celebration. The video will also be distributed as an educational tool through the Oil 150 website (www.oil150.com) and in museum kits being assembled by Oil 150.

Mr. Huber is one of a few people whose family has played a part in the entire 150 years of Pennsylvania’s oil history. He is uniquely qualified to speak to the traditions associated with independent production. Like his father and grandfather before him, he pumps most of his wells using nineteenth century technology.

Mr. Huber’s humble and straight-forward style of expressing his family’s history and traditions will both educate and entertain the audience. For example, when asked how and why he became an independent oil producer in the original oil country, he says, “My father took me as an infant in a basket with him while he tended our family’s wells. He put my basket in the engine house beside the Reid Engine which still operates our central power today. I love the sound of a power pumping, and the squeal of the rod lines as they slide back and forth operating numerous wells. I introduced my son to the oil field in that same basket.” Through anecdotes such as this, audiences will gain a deeper appreciation for the heritage of independent production.

Oil 150 has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council a donation from Baker Hughes of Texas and funding from the National Fuel Gas Foundation toward this project. “Stories of a Third-Generation Independent Oil Producer” provides a special opportunity for companies and organizations to celebrate Oil 150. If your organization would like to contribute monetary assistance, please contact Melissa Mann, Oil 150 Deputy Director at (800) 483-6264, Extension 103; mmann@oilregion.org.



Men working two standard rigs. The man on the extreme right is William Huber, the grandfather of Bill Huber.

