

CHARLIE GLENNY:::

I was born on the 27th of May 1882 along the Grand River, near Cayuga in the County of "aldimond. My fathers name was Thomas Glenny, and my mothers name was Mary Adeine Glenny. Her maiden name was Mc. Clung. Her sister was married to Robert Glenny. She died when her youngset child was born, and left five children namily; Isabel, Agnes, Thomas and John. my mother while she was still in her teens, was called upon to go and raise this young family; which was quite a responsibility.

Robert Glenny owned about two hundred acres of land, underneath lay a strata of Gypsum rock, about eight feet in thickness. This rock when ground was valuable for farm fertilizer. Robert desided to mine this rock and have it ground so it could be sold.

my father thomas Glenny had learned his trade as a Blacksmith and in the year 1872 he went to Cayuga to help Robert by sharpening the drills for the miners to mine the Gypsum rock.

Glenny's Company Began Gas Industry

By VICTOR LAURISTON

MY OLD FRIEND C. N. GLENNY of Fort Erie is stepping down from the presidency of the Provincial Natural Gas and Fuel Company — which is to the Niagara district what Union Gas is to the southwestern peninsula. Charlie, well known to many Chatham folk, was 40 years with the company.

To succeed him as president, Provincial has called in a youngster, J. T. Farrell. Farrell has been with the company only a scant 35 years.

Even Charlie, despite his lengthy service, can best only a boy's memories of Provincial's beginnings. Were the real beginnings of Ontario's natural gas industry a matter of 64 years ago. Provincial had almost reached its maturity when Charlie joined it, and therein found his useful work.

Natural gas had been found in the Niagara district as early as 1866, in the days when the Oil Springs and Petrolia discoveries inspired rainbow-chasers to drill for oil wherever a pole-tool rig could be set up. About 1885 gas was distributed on a small scale in Port Colborne. But things really started to hum when D. A. and Eugene Coste got into the game.

D. A. was the business manager, and Eugene the geologist. Almost simultaneously they started two ventures, at opposite ends of western Ontario. The first, early in 1888, struck gas in Gosfield, between Kingsville and Ruthven, to usher in the short-lived Essex field, which led, indirectly, to the opening of our much greater Tilbury field.

D. A. Coste's own venture was in the Niagara peninsula, in Bertie township. It struck gas early in 1889. Unlike the Essex field, and perhaps taught by its experiences, the Niagara field has gone on and on. The last time I passed that way, Old No. 1 was still producing.

Out of it grew the Provincial Natural Gas and Fuel Company, which supplied gas to Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Bridgeburg and, for a short time, even exported to Buffalo. The Dominion Natural Gas Company's operations farther west, in Haldimand and Norfolk, came a good many years later.

The Coste brothers spent their early years at Amherstburg. Their father, Napoleon Alexandre Coste, a native of France, had a bit to do with De Lasseps in the building of the Suez canal. Later, he came to Canada, and settled on the east bank of the Detroit river.

There he built an impressive colonial mansion, which still stands, a monument to its owner's ambitious dreams. The dreams took form in founding of an Amherstburg paper — the Herald, I think — which was planned to aid its owner to a career in Canadian politics.

Eugene studied geology at the Ecole Polytechnique, where he acquired a deep rooted belief in the volcanic origin of gas and oil.

The volcanic theory runs counter to the accepted British and American conviction that oil and gas are of organic origin. But whether his theory was wrong or right, Eugene had an uncanny knack of discovering gas fields. Essex was one. The Trenton field in Dover township was another. And the greatest of all, in its day, was the Bow Island field in Alberta.

The Costes had a knack, regarding which D. A. himself once jested, of attaching exceedingly elongated names to their gas companies. The Provincial Natural Gas and Fuel Company was one. The Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Company, which still supplies Calgary, was another and pre-eminent example of this tape worm nomenclature.

The Costes came into the Tilbury field in the early days — though perhaps not the very earliest days. Where other operators worked south from the original discoveries toward Lake Erie, Eugene Coste drilled to the north, along the Thames. At the time he got nothing. But he had, seemingly, smelled gas and oil in the Trenton limestone, more than half a mile underground. The Dover discoveries in 1917 vindicated him.

It was the Costes who brought natural gas to Chatham. They got control of the 7,000,000-a-day flow of the Halliday well near Fletcher, organized the Volcanic Oil and Gas Company, wangled a Chatham franchise — in conjunction with the old Chatham Gas Company — laid a pipe line that was meant to be temporary, and delivered natural gas to Chatham early in 1907.

Mrs. Mary A. Glenny.

mrs. Glenny was born in Cayuga, Haldimond County. born to Mr. & Mrs. David Mc. Clung, she had two sisters and four brothers. in 1876 mary married Thomas W. Glenny and ten years later moved to a farm in Bertie Township. He devoted most of his time to general Contracting ; and from 1900- 1910 he built many fine residences in Fort Erie and Bridgeburg. In 1911 the Glenny's moved to Bridgeburg, and Mr. T. Glenny died in 1912.

Thomas and Mary had two sons Gordon T. Glenny and Charles N. Glenny
DAUGHTERS MARGARET & EDITH (MRS. W. BARNHART)