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Webber Oil Company's Redgate Ocean Terminal Opening, Part 2

WLBZ Radio

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Webber Oil Co.'s Redgate Ocean Terminal: Irving Hunter broadcasting opening of Terminal

Date: November 21, 1949

Recording number: 16.37; CD 6, track 38

Length of recording: 7:49

[transcript begins]

MR. HUNTER: We have moved our broadcasting equipment from the towboat *Walter Ross* to a point near the Webber Oil Co.'s gigantic new tank, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the dock where the tanker *ESSO Bridgeport* tied up to discharge its cargo of range oil. Before we continue to broadcast from this point, I would like to take just a moment to describe our facilities onboard the *Walter Ross* and to thank Captain Harold Sperling, his son Edward Sperling, and the members of the crew who helped us set-up our equipment and conduct the broadcast. We took our own power supply aboard the *Walter Ross* and set-up our recording equipment in the galley of the boat. Our engineer, John Libby, also set-up a short-wave receiver, and I had a sort of walkie-talkie microphone so that I could travel all over the towboat, broadcasting from whatever vantage point I chose on the boat.

We are broadcasting now from the Webber Oil Co.'s great new ocean terminal at Bucksport being officially opened today, and many gentlemen are on-hand to take part in the ceremonies. As the broadcast moves along, we are going to try to hear directly from some of them. The huge tank at this new Webber Oil Co. terminal is one of the largest in all New England. Its capacity is 6,300,000 gallons and will be used for the storage of ESSO range oil. Construction of this mammoth storage tank was necessary because the ever increasing business of the Webber Oil Co. The site at Bucksport was chosen because the port is open all year round. The Port of Bangor where the Webber Oil Co. had other storage tanks is ice-bound and closed to water transportation for 2 or 3 months of the year.

The storage tank itself is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the dock as we mentioned. Tankers discharge their oil into the tank through a pipeline that is 14 inches in diameter. The tank is built on land that was formerly known as the Redgate Pasture. Thus, this new installation has been named the Redgate Terminal. About 10 acres of land were cleared to make a place for the huge storage tank, which measures some 150 feet in diameter and is 48 feet high.

The Webber Oil Co., a distributor in four counties for ESSO gasoline, motor oil, heating oil, and other ESSO products. The four counties are Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, and Waldorf. A large portion of this 4-county area will be serviced directly from this new ocean terminal at Bucksport.

Now one of the motivating spirits behind this huge new development is Mr. A. E. Webber, the owner, the President, and Treasurer of the Webber Oil Co. Now Mr. Webber, this progressive move on the part of the Webber Oil Co. must have taken considerable planning. Is that right?

MR. WEBBER: That's sure right.

MR. HUNTER: Do you want to tell us a little bit about that? How you planned this new tank here at the Bucksport Terminal.

MR. WEBBER: Well, it was planned to make it economical, to get the gas here so we could compete with any other company that was in the business.

MR. HUNTER: I see by having a T2 tanker being able to bring oil up to this point you can buy it cheaper, is that right, from the original source?

MR. WEBBER: Well, yes, they can deliver it to you cheaper.

MR. HUNTER: I see, by getting a larger quantity.

MR. WEBBER: That's it, by getting a larger quantity, and I had some efficient help that I had confidence in, like Mr. Smart and Mr. Carleigh and also Mr. Frost. And that's why that I had the courage to go ahead and do it.

MR. HUNTER: Well you certainly have done a remarkable job here, and I think that you and the other gentlemen and the Webber Oil Co. is to be congratulated on this great new ocean terminal, the Redgate Terminal at Bucksport. And now, I see Frank Smart over here; I wonder if we can get him to say a word or two. How about that Frank?

MR. SMART: Yes Irving. We think that we have located quite a tank here in Bucksport, that we will be able to service the community of Bangor and surrounding territory.

MR. HUNTER: Tell me Frank, when did construction start on this Redgate Terminal of the Webber Oil Co.?

MR. SMART: We started this new tank June 1. This new storage tank makes us the only independent distributor set-up to buy range oil in T2 tanker loads. This will make it possible to serve our customers better in the four counties we cover.

MR. HUNTER: Thank you Mr. Smart.

MR. HUNTER: Another gentleman here at the opening ceremonies of the new Webber Oil Co.'s Redgate Terminal is Mr. Frank Fox, ESSO Standard Oil Co. tank-car salesman for the state of Maine. Mr. Fox –

MR. FOX: I take a great deal of pride in being here at the dedication of Webber Oil Co.'s Redgate Ocean Terminal, and I wish to congratulate Mr. Webber and his associates for their far-sightedness in the construction of this huge oil storage tank for home heating oil, which assures the people in this area that the oil will readily be available to them by the Webber Oil Co. I certainly appreciate being here.

MR. HUNTER: As the broadcast moves along, we here now from Mr. Frank Pollard, New England sales manager, ESSO Standard Oil Co. Mr. Pollard -

MR. POLLARD: I want to congratulate the Webber Oil Co. on the step forward they have taken in establishing this ocean terminal in Bucksport, Maine. The ESSO Standard Oil Co. now have ocean terminals from Providence, at Providence, Everett, Portland, and Bargetown, those are other smaller ports throughout New England. The establishing of this terminal at Bucksport is a step forward for the people in the northern part of Maine; it makes products available via tanker from the gulf ports, which is a fine thing in time of peace, and should we be unfortunate enough to have war again, it would be a great thing for the protection of northern Maine to have this great supply of petroleum products at Bucksport. I want to congratulate the Webber Oil Co. again for this fine step forward.

MR. HUNTER: Thank you Mr. Pollard.

MR. HUNTER: And now we hear from Harold Harding, district manager for the state of Maine ESSO Standard Oil Co.

MR. HARDING: I too want to add my congratulations to the development of this tank here at Bucksport by the Webber Oil Co. It certainly a privilege and a pleasure to be here today to view the inaugural program of such a project as this. I know that people in Maine are going to be better served and better protected by this development. Congratulations Mr. Webber and your organization.

MR. HUNTER: Thank you Mr. Harding.

MR. HUNTER: We have been broadcasting from the Webber Oil Co.'s new Redgate Ocean Terminal. Portions of this broadcast were prepared aboard the tugboat *Walter Ross* on the Penobscot River. This is your ESSO reporter covering another milestone of petroleum progress. This is the Maine Broadcasting Co.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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