

Eldon Fournie in South America

Title Text: International Oil Drillers

Excerpts from the International Driller Tent Exhibit at the Oil Museum of Canada

[*Drums, film rolling*]



[A curtain opens. An actor holds a book and a pipe and talks to the audience. A photo of a theatre appears and a drawing of a man is displayed over top. The frame then changes to show a photo of a factory.]

Actor: Working in a foreign oil field must have been exciting to a young lad from Lambton County, but equally so was the journey itself. One day in 1920, Eldon Fournie was working in front of the Imperial theatre in downtown Sarnia when a gentleman from the International Petroleum Company stopped and offered him a job in the South American oilfields. Eldon threw down his shovel and signed up immediately.



[A video shows a train moving along a track, followed by a photo of the New York City skyline. A photo of a large building appears and animated fireworks go off above it. A map of Panama and photos of ships are displayed then photographs from Fournie's time as an International Driller are shown. A curtain closes.]

Actor: His journey started with an exciting train ride to New York City where he lodged at the Prince George hotel. Then, on Christmas day, he boarded a steam ship bound for Cuba. A few days layover in Havana let Eldon experience the vibrant Cuban nightlife, especially on New Year's Eve. Back on board, Eldon crossed the Caribbean and marveled as he passed through the recently completed Panama Canal, a shortcut across the Americas. The final leg of his eye-opening journey was along the Pacific Coast of South America, ending in Talara, Peru. Eldon became adept at riding a horse [*horse neighing*] and learned to become fluent in Spanish. He was responsible for transferring oil from ship to shore, and vice versa. Riding about on his horse, Diablo, a pistol by his side, he oversaw 100 native workers. Eldon had come a long way from digging on Christina Street.

Text: Project Funding
Province of Ontario
County of Lambton
Shell Oil
Imperial Oil Foundation

Production and Post Production Facilities
Avolution Multimedia
519.337.0177
production@avolution.com