

## Interview with Stewart Rawlings

**Title Text:** International Oil Drillers  
Oral History Interviews  
Oil Museum of Canada, 2014



**Text:** Assembling bulldozers in Ecuador

[A photo of a bulldozer under three poles leaning together to hold a crane is shown.]



**Text:** Stewart Rawlings

Grandson of George Rawlings (Africa and South America, 1910-1932)

[Stewart sits in front of a backdrop with three-pole derricks on it.]

**Stewart:** In Ecuador, they could only get so close to the coast because the water was not deep enough for them to come in, so they built these huge rafts made out of logs all tied together with binding, I mean 30 by 40 or something, then they—the ship lowered down the crates of the parts of the bulldozer: the motor and the vinyl drives and the tracks, all kinds of stuff eh, the fuel tank, they're all separate so they could handle them. They lowered them down onto the raft



[Two men stand on a raft with two others standing on a beach. There are two boats in the water behind them.]

**Stewart:** and then the natives had these long poles, there'd be a whole bunch of them, they'd get it in close to shore as they could



[Stewart sits in front of a backdrop with three-pole derricks on it.]

**Stewart:** and then they got these donkeys with stone boats we call them, you know, and they drag it, you know, they put the stuff on the crates and stuff on a stone boat and then you—maybe even four, five, six donkeys pulling it, dragging it, and they dragged it into where the location was, where their camp was,



[A photo of men pulling on a rope underneath a tripod with a bulldozer behind them is shown.]

**Stewart:** and then they put them together with a tripod. They just put three poles up in the air, had a binding around the top and just an old chain-fall, like a double-block they call it, to pick up the whole motor and, it worked alright.



[Stewart sits in front of a backdrop with three-pole derricks on it.]

**Stewart:** They got them together. And they just did trial and error I guess, you know, how to put the drives on and set up everything. I think they did have manuals, you know, books to read how to put it together. And they got them together, yeah.



[A photo of two bulldozers moving along the edge of a river pulling a pile of casing is displayed.]

**Stewart:** They used the riverbeds as roads because the riverbed stone would hold up the bulldozers, you know.



[Stewart sits in front of a backdrop with three-pole derricks on it.]

**Stewart:** If they got off the riverbeds, you could disappear in quick sand and you know, get the bulldozer stuck and it just keeps going down.