

# Funeral rites held in city for oil sands researcher

Funeral rites were held Friday for Dr. David S. Pasternack, a pioneer researcher in the extraction technology that led to development of the Athabasca oil sands.

In a 25-year association

with the Alberta Research Council, Dr. Pasternack, 70, of Ste. 1106, 11025 82nd Ave., is credited with helping develop the hot water process of separating the oil locked into the vast "tar sands" in northern Alberta.

Born in Rega, Latvia, he emigrated to Canada with his parents at an early age, and settled in Calgary, where he received his primary and secondary education.

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He graduated with a B.Sc. in chemistry from Queen's University in 1925, obtaining his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from McGill University in 1926 and 1928 respectively.

In 1929 he joined the Scientific and Industrial Research Council of Alberta, forerunner of the ARC and then an arm of the University of Alberta.

Until 1932, when the council was all but dissolved during

the depression years, he worked closely with the late Dr. Karl Clark in developing the foundations of the extraction process.

From 1932 until rejoining the ARC in 1944, he held a number of positions in private industry and with the National Research Council in Ottawa.

Resuming his work with the council, he continued his research into extraction technology, and is considered to have played a key role in development of the oil sands' vast commercial potential.

Dr. Pasternack's work continued until his retirement about five years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Mae; two brothers, William of Portland, Ore.; and Simon, of Blueport, N.Y.; and two sisters, Mrs. L. E. Nudelman and Mrs. A. Jaffe, both of Seattle, Wash.