

Simone Bedard.

1. Alfred Roy

4. 181 Lang St.

5. 679- 8214

6. 82 years old

7. I was born in Buckingham Quebec

8. My mother was born in Terrebonne Quebec I can't remember where my father was born.

9. Originally, we came from Buckingham Quebec. When we arrived here we had no relatives in Cobalt, my father came first he was here for about a month or two then he sent for us.

10. I came to Cobalt in March of 1906.

11 & 12. We left Buckingham by train, went to Ottawa and then on to Cobalt by train.

13. When we came to Cobalt we were 7 boys and three girls and our parents.

14. My father was a miner

17. I was married to Alvina Forget in 1913 and during the first war they did not enlist married men, I was too old for the second world war.

18. There were a lot of tar paper shacks and I told my dad "I won't stay here for very long"

19. I found it dirty, no pavement and the roads were all muddy, they were just starting to build wooden sidewalks

20. I came to Cobalt to work, and I expected to see people which I did, but thought the place would be nicer.

21. There was employment in the mines & the saw mills. I remember there was a saw mill on Commission St. where the old St. Patrick school used to be.

22. We worked 10 hrs. a day

23. A machine man got \$3.50 a day a helper \$3.00 and those who worked where it was dirty and wet were paid \$3.75 a day.

24. Our first home was on Hudson Bay Property it was a one storey house, it consisted of a kitchen dining room and living room, the sleeping quarters were divided from the rest of the house by curtains and we slept on the floor on mattresses

25. We had a little drink and sang, if you went to bed early, your friends and neighbours would come and knock on the door until you opened, they wouldn't leave until they were allowed inside as they were in the celebrating mood.

26. Water was bought at .05 cents a pail or by the barrel which was cheaper. Mr. Joe Nadeau and Mr. Martin passed with horse drawn water tanks, and you'd buy what you needed they'd get the water at the lake.

27. Coal oil lamps were used

28. Wood stove served the purpose and being in the bush we had all the wood we needed.

29. The same wood stove served the purpose

30. There were a lot of stores, Mr. Abraham, Vellis's Mr. Auger had a restaurant, Batons had a grocery store and they had the order office in the back.

31. I believe there were around six theatres, I remember the Princess and Bijou where St. Therese Parish had at theirs all in later years, and dances

32. Every night there was a good fight at one of the rooming houses

33. no

34. I went to school for 5 or 6 years
35. When I arrived transportation was by foot if you didn't own a horse you could either rent a horse and buggy or you would go to the livery stable where the owner would take you to where you wanted to go.
36. Dr. Taylor was my first doctor
37. During the influenza they had to build wooden walls about 3 to 4 feet high and a tent on top of this to serve as emergency hospitals, as the only hospital they had was filled to capacity, a lot of people died during this epidemic
38. Our 10 children were all born in Cobalt
- 39 & 40 Gertrude quit around 16 years old and stayed home to help my wife Ito was sick later on she went to work in Val D'Or. Aurel finished his grade 8 then went to work for a Mr. Stooke making cement blocks. Calix (Eugene) went to the Mining School in Kirkland Lake, then he went to work in Hamilton for Westinghouse & then joined the navy. Romouald went to Sacred-Heart College in Sudbury for two years from there he worked in Kirkland Lake, then joined the army. Georgette quit school in grade 8 and got married Rene went to school as far as grade 8, he worked on the extra gang on the railroad. Ruth finished school at the age of 20, at 16 years old, while still attending school she was teaching piano, she worked at Woolworths and Buckovetsky's on weekends.
42. On Labour Day they had hand mucking and hand drilling contests.
43. Roast pork and dip bread in the drippings for me this was the best, also potatoes & vegetables.
44. Beans, trout, pickerel, potatoes & vegetables
45. Pants, two piece overalls, shirts, rubber boots with a leather sole when the company furnished it we didn't have safety toes in those days.
46. Dress suits, boots & spats, you needed a hook to button or hook your boots
47. first we went to mass we played croquet, we played cards, we'd buy a barrel of apples for \$2.50 and we'd play a sort of poker game for apples
49. I've been here so long now that I just enjoy smoking my pipe, eat, sleep and quietness.
51. We have good lodging and I'm satisfied with Cobalt, it's the best old town I know.
55. Cobalt is okay for me.
57. I love summer the most, as we can sit outside and just relax and watch the people pass by.
58. I play cards and games with my grandchildren
61. The price of silver is down and it's affecting our mines

Highlights

There was a small ferry, that used to travel people across Cobalt Lake. I remember when they used to cross buckets of muck from Myers Shaft to Nipissing Mill across Cobalt Lake overhead on big steel cables. Dr. Taylor never locked his door, when we needed him we just walked in, it was during the night we'd just go to his bedroom and shake his shoulder to "wake him up, he had a man working for him to tend his horse, so he'd be ready to leave at a moment's notice and it wasn't long that he'd be at the house. I started as a school janitor in 1933 and worked there for 30 years until my retirement.