

Carmen Stubinski May 6, 1972

3 hours

Alson Creighton

4. Princess Property, Cobalt

5. 679-8663

6. 71 years old

7. Victoria Mines (near Sudbury)

8. England

9. Mother and Dad were married in Sudbury 1900. Grandmother Creighton came to Canada 1860's. She lived in Pembroke then moved to the Sudbury district

10. In 1909 the year of the Lang St. fire we came to Cobalt. We moved into an apartment on Earl St. that hadn't burnt. J. M. Labelle bought the apartment house and made it into a one story house. By taking the roof off and lowering it. It is still on Earl St.

11. Came by train. Dad's brother was engineer on the TNO train that was laying the track (work train). He had an accident and broke his hip. Latchford was a large town long before Cobalt. Latchford was the 1st stop off place because the train didn't go any further and they were building the bridge at Latchford They used to Montreal River to go to Elk Lake and Gowganda. They had large Commercial boats. Portage Bay was a half way place and stop off to Elk Lake There was a large hotel there. When Harold Rowdon came to here he settled in Latchford. He was a clerk in a hardware store.

12. 3 girls' mother and dad

14. We went to work at the Cobalt Post office. I became post mistress in 1948. I replaced Major Holland. The first post office was located between Mike Brosko's and the Inch building

15. The first postmaster was Lorne Presley

16. The second post master was Walter Benny.

He was a prospector in the early days. He went overseas and served in the First World War 1914-18. He was badly wounded in the war. He lost his eye and one leg. All his left side was injured. He retired in 1933. He died July 1948. Major Holland took over from him in 1933. He was noted for recitations and singing.

In Dec. 1971 Alson Creighton found a plaque discovered on Catherine St. Ottawa between Elgin and Metcalfe Streets. Inscribed -copied from picture- Major Edward J.G. Holland, V.C. 1878-1948. Born in Ottawa Holland enlisted in 1899 in the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles. He served in the Boer War and on November 7 was a member of a small rearguard detachment assigned to cover a withdrawal from Komati River. For his gallant action during this engagement Holland was awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation reads "Sergeant Holland did splendid work with his cold (machine) gun, and kept the Boers off the two - 12 pounders by its fire at close range. When he saw the enemy were too near for him to escape with the Gun Carriage, as the horse was blown, he calmly lifted the gun off and galloped away with it under his arm. Erected by Archaeological and historic sites board. Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario. The second Post Office Walter Benny Postmaster was in the Fraser hotel (where the ladies beverage room is today) Bricks for this building (Fraser Hotel) came from Latchford from a hotel that was torn down. Bricks for this building (Fraser House) came from Latchford from a hotel that was torn down.

17. Post office was where Florence's Ladies we are today. Mr. Holland was postmaster. We moved to New Federal Building in 1955

Alson joined post office in 1920 became post mistress 1948 Retired 1965 . Liz Creighton started to work in the post office 1922. Became post mistress 1965 Retired Dec. 1968 .

Peter Murray - postmaster took over 1968

18. It was a very rainy wet day when we arrived in Cobalt. I remember a butcher shop on Lang Street; the fresh meat was out in the open on a board held up by 2 wooden boxes. The meat was covered with flies I'll never forget it. We had lived the country before we came here. It was different. Lots of people, large crowds day and night.

19. It was built up - very high board sidewalks

20. Dad heard of the Cobalt boom. He worked at the Princess Mine as hoist man for years till it closed, then he went to the Buffalo to work

22. When I went to work at the post office the hours were from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. one hour for lunch - 6 days a week

23. At \$40. per month

24. This is our original home. Dad built it in 1909. It had 5 small rooms, the same building changed-the roof and later built on a back kitchen.

26. One Earl St. we fought water at 250 per pail. When we moved here we had to walk 1/4 of a mile down the railroad track and get our water at a spring,

27. coal oil lamps

28. Wood stove - burnt wood. We had piles of it outside

29. Quebec heater burnt coal when it came in in the heater

30. Lots of big shops. Rowdon, Deacon and another shoe store. Milton Carr dry goods store. Milton Carr had a cash trolley in his store. J.A.MacDougall Millinery in the old Stadelman block next to Milton Carr's was the opera house. I remember the typhoid tents on the side of Lang Street bridge. There was a case of small pox and they isolated them, only one family Halassex that had the small pox in a tent behind our house. The bell rang and rang the night of the Lang St. fire. They used tubs and tubs and pails of water, they soaked blankets, carpets, all clothing in the tubs of water, and several men were on the roofs re-soaking the blankets and rugs trying to save the houses.

"Major Holland used to always say, "the roads and railways followed the deer trails; when they opened up the north.

32. Pantomimes, travelling shows, dances once or twice a week at the town hall. Lots of house parties people were always entertaining. The people made their own fun. Always when a house was built before they partitioned their houses they had a square dance. R.V.Holmes was mail courier from the station to the post office with his horse and buggy 4 times a day. Once daily he would go to Giroux Lake post office. It was in a store at Giroux Lake. He kept saying to his horse Topsy damn you're as contrary as a woman's hockey team." We had a wonderful woman's hockey team - here I played in school sports

33. Started school in the old public school that was built in 1907 and to the school in Haileybury as there was none here.

35. Street cars New Liskeard to Giroux Lake, the terminal at the foot of the Swamp Street later they followed the train track, when they added the stretch to Giroux Lake they would stop at the TNO station near the end of this station platform, to Giroux Lake it followed the track to the princess property to the McKinley Darragh on to Kerr Lake, it

made the curve at the end of the lake Shanks ponies carried us when war were going to school we'd run like blazes to catch on and ride on Con Connelly's sleigh

36. Dr. Hare vaccinated both Liz and I

37. Miner's hospital, every man employed at the mines paid \$1. per month to its support and \$1, per month to support the doctors.

41. Lots of mines and mills running the noise from the stamp mills were terrible. W We couldn't sleep to well, but we missed it when we didn't hear it any more

42. July first and labour day they had big sports days at West Cobalt ball park. July 1st was the biggest day, they had hand drilling and mucking. They had big league ball games. One year each mine had a football team, hockey and baseball teams

43. They all had bunk houses and cook camps

45. Long underwear, heavy wool stockings in winter. In summer ran bare feet,

46. cotton dresses, mother served and made all our clothes

47.. We went to St. James Anglican church 3 times a day

48. Girl Guide history, china etc.

49. It's home - the people

50. We like the way they have cleaned up the town .We don't like the businesses they have taken out of town, no drug store, no dentist, don't like the shopping area

55. yes

56. more jobs made for people willing to work and our young people

58. travel, curl

59. summer camp, gardening

60. small industries using our own raw materials

61. tourists

62. Cross country skiing, walking trails, mining tours, riding, going to beaches, mining museum, and biggest attraction. Good camping places, unique scenery, open cuts, untouched scenery.

Highlights

1. Alson Creighton joined girl guides in 1916 at the Chartered group. The first meeting was held in the Coniagas Mine. She became leader for 1st camp 1926. Later Captain till 1948. Mrs. and Rev. Cannon Simms were at our first meeting they organized it, there were about 20 other girls at that first meeting. Rev Cannon Simms had organized boy scouts in Cobalt in 1915. The first girl guide meeting, the girls were all Anglicans. The following year we held our meetings in the four different church halls as each church had a company, Baptist, Methodist Anglican, and Presbyterian. Later we met in the old town hall which is now the TTL. Held our meetings in the old town hall till TTL took over then we moved to the YMCA which is now the community Hall.

Liza joined girl guides in 1916 was patrol leader-Rangers she stopped guiding. But she took the parades for Alson. Alson still belongs to the local association. Liza does a lot of the baking for their events (local assoc .) Our mother died in 1914, dad died 1920. Dr, Armstrong was mayor of Cobalt when they put the spur line into Silver Center.

Alison Creighton add to her story

1. Alson took over girl guides from Mrs. J. Tommy who was Captain of the Girl Guides before her.
2. Alson can't forget all the respect and love the pupils of Cobalt High School had for their teacher. Mr. George L. Cassidy while he was teacher here, better known as Cass. Mr. G. Cassidy gave years of services and understanding. If there was anything to be done at the school or in town, that he could do maybe paint a picture and confide in his pupils. He always gave a helping hand.
2. Riding by the Cobalt pump house and residence. I feel it sorely neglected. Can it not be painted and fixed up?
3. Mr. & Mrs. Creighton died at early age Alson and Liza raised and put their sister May (Hylands) through for a nurse. They were both mother and father to her, their youngest sister.