INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman DATE: March 2,1972

TIME: 1 hr. 15 min.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Sumbler
2. "Nan" to family and close friends.
3. Armitage
4. 415 Whitewood St., New Liskeard
5. 647-4055
6. Age 86.
7. Yorkshire, England.
8. Parents both born in England.
9. England.
10. Came to Cobalt in October, 1913.
11. By train; by boat to Canada. Train was running to Englehart when she came.
12. England to Cobalt.
13. Just had two babies; her husband was already working at the Coney-Angus Mine. Her little log house is still standing there - it was all brand new for her. Right at the very end of the left hand side of Silver Street - stood at the foot of the path and looked at the house and said "Have I got to live there?" Looked so funny and so queer that she couldn't imageine living there. She did think that she would be very sad now if the house is destroyed. Very few of them that were built in 1907-1913 are still standing.
14. Worked the mine - didn't go underground; he was on the staff; then the war came along and he volunteered in 1914 and went overseas in 1915. Came back in May of 1919. Due to general war disability, he had to get away from the mine and came to New Liskeard and built a greenhouse.

14. cont'd

He had always been fond of gardening and land work, so by degree, they learned what to do and how to do it with the plants.

15. Didn't work in Cobalt; when they moved to New Liskeard, she had to learn to help in the greenhouse.

16. Deceased since 1965.

17. Retired.

17(a) The mine then (W.W.1) started a Patriotic Fund, also had a Soldiers' Wives' Club to which they went once a week and took their children. The women in the area that were able took part in Red Cross Work. Cobalt was a very friendly place - very friendly people. Tried to do all they could for each other. During W.W.11, there were several drives in New Liskeard - her husband helped with many of these. He was very municipal-minded. Red Cross Club that did a lot of sewing and knitting. Drives for clothes for the bombed out areas - they were very busy people in New Liskeard during the second World War for all the services.

18. Thought it was the end of the world - very surprised at all the people that were there and the amount of shops. Had a couple of theatres. They had a skating rink and played hockey. There was a lot of houses that were built here, there and everywhere - thought that people just decided to build where they stood - looked derelict outside, but inside they were always very homelike and comfortable. Must have been a population of 7,000 at that time. One thing that surprised all the newcomers to Cobalt was the amount of people that congregated at the platform. Newcomers would wonder where all the people were going. Perhaps people went to the station to see if there would be anyone they knew on the incoming train. Couldn't help feeling the isolation; no roads. The only way to Cobalt was by train; the farthest point by road or trail was Latchford, and a streetcar to New Liskeard.

18. cont'd

In New Liskeard, in 1919, there was a mud road to the corner where she now lives - the bush came down to the town there. Only a population of about 2,000 people then.

19. above

20. Urge to travel - husband could and did get work at the mine. She was terribly shocked to know that he worked for less money here than what he had earned in England. Came to Canada; from March to October until he came to Cobalt. So many people had decided to come to this country so he was willing to come.

21. Job in mines and there was a foundry. Had a pulp mill where Rexwood now is - no other type of work for the few women who worked other than in stores. Married women stayed home to look after their homes and children. As far as Liskeard was concerned; there was a foundry; Hill, Clark & Francis Ltd. where the IGA and John Clark's now is; and quite a thriving general woodworking factory. Have not had a lot of industry here at all. Rexwood is a help. When the pulp mill closed down shortly after W.W.1, people thought it was a calamity. Farming all around when she first came to New Liskeard. Until the Hungry 30's, she never heard of people going hungry or being poor. Canadian Lundia has only opened up in recent years. Wabi and Eplett's were here much earlier.

22. Working hours for her husband at the Coney Angus: 7 to 5 p.m.; on Sat. as well.

23. $2.00 a day; paid twice a month, on the 10th and 25th, although at first it was only once a month. They got along quite nicely; no luxuries as you knew you couldn't pay for them and didn't want to go into debt. On pay days, they used to treat themselves. Had an ice cream parlour at the end of Silver Street. She tells a story about being teased as she usually managed to have a bit of money left over each payday from

23. cont'd

the previous pay. Her friends dared her to treat them next payday, with all her wealth from the last pay - she went along with the dare, and determined to live up to her word, took them all to the ice cream parlour. There were eight ladies in the group - and they all ordered banana splits at the exorbitant price of 25¢ each. She was very shocked at the bill of $2.00, but put it down as she had agreed to the dare. Her friends teased her for years after at the expression on her face when she learned she owed two whole dollars - an entire day's pay! The story went around the mine, and the men would tell each other in front of her "If you're nice to Mrs. Jack (her nickname at that time), she will buy you a banana split!"

Did all her own baking and cooking; she had been the eldest of six children and when at home, had learned to help her mother early.

24. Log cabin - seemed that it wasn't too big - just one room - kichen part and a bedroom with a bit of an attic above it, probably 18' x 24'.

25. First Christmas - the cook and his wife from the mine cookhouse came to visit. Seemed very different from things at home in England.

26. Manager's house was built near their's and they got their water by the pailful - one of the things that shocked her after her life in England.

27. Coal oil lamplight - she would light a candle instead of the lamp because she was afraid of the lamp.

28. Wooden cook stove.

29. Wood.

30. Everything that you could have wanted - it was most amazing. Stores on each side of Lang Street, right from the station to past where the little school is built - close together - quite that far.

31. Three or four churches that put on their own entertainment - concerts and plays; hockey and skating on the open air rinks. Men would play ball and horseshoes in the summer.

32. Didn't take part in any sports although her husband did.

33. New Liskeard Public and New Liskeard Secondary Schools (Cobalt only for a little while) were the schools her children attended.

34. All went through high school.

35. Streetcars to Haileybury and New Liskeard.

36. Dr. Taylor - quite an elderly man.

37. Miners' Hospital in Cobalt - at the other end of Silver Street, now is Buffams' Undertaking parlour; then hospital in Haileybury.

38. The first two were born in England; the other two girls in New Liskeard.

39. Dorothy: went to work at Mr. Binkley's (New Liskeard Motors)

& Miriam: went off to be a nurse

40. Edna: went to Teachers' College

Margaret: graduated from U. of T. in 1946; got married in 1948.

The Bumblers believed that a school holiday was given so that the kids got some kind of recreation as they need a change from studying. In present circumstances, how can we find jobs for everyone. Automation cuts down on jobs. People have to learn to live on one income.

41. Her husband thought the mines were a reasonably good place to work - the pay wasn't too good. On the whole, they had very agreeable working relationships. A couple of strikes but didn't amount to much. People were not as dissatisfied as people nowadays.

42. Re type of contests: didn't have unions in those days. The mines paid for various outings for their employees - such as picnics up the lake.

43. Meat, vegetables, did a lot of baking of cakes and pies as the wives all

& 44. stayed home and kept house. People had little bits of gardens; they had a market every Saturday morning.

45. Most people wore dresses, skirts and blouses.

46. Something very special - the best one had - clean shoes and gloves.

47. Sundays: most people went to church and for walks in the afternoon; back to church on Sunday evening.

48. Big fire in 1922 in New Liskeard - lost all their treasures that she had from the early days - just has the odd thing her people sent to her after the fire.

49. Because she has lived here; likes the friendliness of the people she has known. Thinks that it is a wonderful place to raise children - loads to do for amusement, for all ages. Good schools and wonderful transportation. No better place to live.

50. above

51. Changes - getting water in their homes; sewage treatment; indoor plumbing; lighting by electricity; roads and streets; have good fire protection.

52. None in particular.

53. No - unless it was mosquitoes - not really bad since the bush has been cleared away.

54.

55. No. Changes have been for the better. Could have more industry.

56. above.

57. Fall of the year.

58. Never lacked entertainment - belongs to the Lionettes, goes once a month. Legion meeting, once a month; a sewing meeting in her church once a week; on the Advisory Board for C.N.I.B.; member of the New Liskeard Hospital Board.

59. No special hobbies - likes people very much.

60. People have the idea that the city is the best place to live - people prefer the cities and that is where they are going to stay. Wish they would get some new industry - but doubts it. Thinks that this town will end up a retired town like Haileybury is. A lot of our young ones go away; sooner or later some wend their way back to stay while others get caught up in the city.

61. Wonderful place to come to farm. Tourists-have ~~xx~~ a lot to offer them.

62. Can not see any reason why any kind of people would not be happy up here - especially nice for older people like herself. Not fair to encourage them to come when there is not enough work for the young. Beautiful place - but needs work for the young.

HIGHLIGHTS: included stories in answers.

FOLLOW-UP:

No names - think she was quite hesitant to suggest people in case they would be annoyed to be asked for an interview.