

Name of Interviewer: Simone Bedard

Interview: April 4, 5 Tues: Wed: 1:45 - 4:30 9:30 -11:55

1. William H. McKnight

2. Bill

4. Nipissing Property

5. 679-8463

6. 45 yrs. old

7. I was born in Cobalt

8. My father was born in Scotland and my mother was born in England

9. They met and married in Cobalt

10. I was born and raised here. I had uncles Joe Holson, Harry Sennah and Bill Streeter who

also lived in Cobalt

11. My parents came by boat from the old country and then by train to Cobalt, my dad was

working a farm as a helper and then prospected in Cobalt after they discovered silver.

My father, mother, two sisters and myself

My dad was a prospector and miner.

Dad was a settler in Haileybury

So far as I can remember the man worked 10 hrs a day and 6 days a week.

My dad was getting \$5. a day as a stationery engineer in the mine

My first room that I can remember was made of log, we had 2 bedrooms, a living room, kitchen bathroom and a back room.

My dad would get a Christmas tree and we'd decorate it, mom would make puddings, short

bread and fruit cakes. My dad would buy cigars only on special occasions, and on Christmas morning I would wake up the aroma of dad's cigar, I'd get up and go and smell the box of cigars. We'd hang our stockings and my mother would put candies, nuts an apple and orange she would also put a nickel in our stocking.

26. We had running water in the house

27. Electric lights and you'd pull a cord to turn them on and off.

28. Wood burning kitchen stove

29. Quebec heater during winter

30. Rava's General store they'd go around taking orders in the morning and in the afternoon

they would make the deliveries

31. I remember going to silent movies

32. I played hockey with the kids in the neighbourhood. I also played on the Public School ball team.

33. I started school in the annex, as the school was too small in town. Mr. Elliot was the school principal, my first teacher was Miss Rowe.

34. I went to school for 9 yrs.

35.

36. Dr. Smith was our family doctor

37. I had my tonsils out when I was 8 yrs. old and Miss Knight was a nurse and Mr. Jeff Fields Sr. Was an Orderly.

38. Our 7 children were all born in the Misericordia Hospital in Haileybury
39. Bill Jr. quit school at 17 and his first job was as a section man on the railroad, he's still working there.
- Albert also quit at 17 his first job was working with his uncle Brian Jenkins in plumbing now he's working on the railroad.
41. There were no machines, everything was done by hand, hand mucking, hand steeling
42. They would have hand mucking and hand steeling contests
43. It was nothing to fancy, pork and beans, bacon eggs, fried potatoes home made bread
44. Potatoes, vegetables and meat
- 45.
46. n those days men always wore hats, either felt hats or turned caps, high boots, plaid shirts.
47. Mostly suits, bowler hats or fur hats in winter
48. I went to Sunday School, then went for walks played ball and in winter sleigh riding or skating on Cobalt Lake.
49. Old Edison recorders, an Aladdin lamp, and a moustache cup given to my wife by her grandfather.
- 50.
- 51.
52. The town looks cleaner with the old buildings torn down, there's new buildings torn down there's new buildings and the sidewalks are better.
53. The atmosphere is different, too many by-laws, the younger generation are drinking too much and I would say that there's more vandalism today then they had in the early days.
- 54.
- 55.
56. There should be more free recreation, like they had in the days of the Y.M.C.A.
57. I would like to see more restaurants that will stay open later to give better service at eleven there's no place to eat in town We'd need another doctor, a dentist and a drug store.
58. I enjoy all seasons, in winter I ice fish, Summer I go hiking, fishing and on family picnics, in the fall I go hunting.
59. I watch T.V. read the newspapers and I go out with the boys every weekend.
60. I use to carve and draw and I was pretty good at it, but I've gotten away from this now I go fishing, every chance I get.
61. Right now the situation is very bad, we need an industry of some kind, if we refined our raw materials the town and mines would benefit and they would save a lot of money on shipping costs and it sure would help our people.
- 62.
63. We have two mining museums in town, and we have the old mine workings to visit. I see no reason why our children should be taken out of town to go to school, when we have new schools here, it's costing us more taxes and we still have to keep the upkeep

of the buildings.

There was a radio station on Nipissing Property and they'd have amateur shows on Sundays

Mrs. Wink's was the announcer. Mr. McAdam was the owner of the radio station.

Mr. Hallot was manager of Northern Ontario Power Co. Mr. Jim Keon was the general maintenance foreman, Mr. Lajoie used to inspect the power lines with a team of dogs in the winter and a Mr. Harry Taylor was doing the same job on a riding pony during the summer months.

My wife's paternal grandfather Arthur Seed sold meat at the Cobalt Meat Market for yrs. William Seed owned a sawmill on Sharp lake and also owned a mine it was called the Royal Mine.

When the train came in every night they had a Salvation Army band playing at the station as the train came in.

I remember when the muck from the Nipissing Mine was transported in buckets on overhead

cables to the Nipissing Mill where it was concentrated, it would be melted in bullion bars and it was shipped by train to the mint.

Sam Cote delivered coal with horses and wagon in summer and by sleighs in winter.

Dan Gannon was a driver for the Express Co.

The old Cobalt Arena was on Miller Ave.

Harry Raney was the Customs Officer Manager.

Jack Johnson was the Superintendent at the Nipissing mine.

Mr. Ed. Houghton was manager of the Cobalt Foundry.

Some of the businesses were Giachino's Grocery store, Greenlee's grocery on Cobalt st., Irvin's grocery on Lang St., Stadelman's Bookstore on Prospect Ave.

Mr. Clarence Walsh raised and raced his dogs in dog derbys

There were the people who lived on Nipissing Property just across Cobalt Lake when I was

a young boy. Pete McEwen owned a grocery store his wife was Cobalt's first Public School

teacher, Jack Dudee was a teamster for Northern Ontario Power Company, Jack Johnson, Ed

Houghton by the way he's still living in the same house, Mr. McAdam, Mr. George Martin he

was a mining man, Mat Niumi was a mine boss, Gus Mardini was a miner, Mrs. Mackay was a miner

widow, Mr. Lalonde was a carpenter for Nipissing mine, Nelson Pierce worked in the Cobalt Mine

Mr. Goula was a mining boss. Mr. Watermacker was a miner, Mrs. Korpy ran a dairy, Frank

Hill was a businessman. Harry Fennah was a miner. Herb Bugohold was a teamster at the miner

Mr. Malouin owned a grocery store Mr. Howard he was a miner.