INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman

DATE: March 24, 1972

TIME: 1 hr. 20 min.

TERVIEW:

1. Mr. Douglas Bolger
2.
3. Box 1465, Kendall St., New Liskeard
4. 647-7425
5. Principal - Latchford Public School (Fred Keenan Public School).
6. Kirkland Lake.
7. Father - White River by Judge.
   Mother - in Harris Township.
8. Married.
9. 24 years of age.
10. Educational facilities: As compared to other areas, they are lacking - we don't get the money that the larger school areas do. Evident in extra facilities and so on - supplies and trips are short here. Pupil-teacher ratio is good in comparison to rest of province. Visited a school in Toronto, which is a showplace for the Board of Education - had more supplies in one classroom than he has in his whole school. He has one set of equipment for the entire school, rather than one set per pupil as some things are designed.

Moving into the larger schools - will be proven in future years that it is a wrong idea. Children grow up better in their own environment, although high school is a different setup. Kids in N.L.S.S. do not even know half of the other pupils - they have their own groups of good friends with whom they chum. We no longer have a family type of society any more.

Would have to have increased government grants and go to smaller pupil-teacher ratios - the boards have to close smaller schools now because they do not have the money to keep them open. If you look at it from the dollars and cents angle, the boards are justified; however, the time will come when

we shall have to consider more than money.

Teacher salaries are increased when the teacher gets a degree - all the newer teachers have to have a degree, which will up the salary scale a good two thousand dollars right off the bat. Teachers' aids - need more planning in the educational system - would make great strides if they utilized the extra teachers who are now unemployed due to lack of job openings. Will probably have to lower retirement age - all the teachers that are just waiting for the magic number of their age and years of service to reach a specific number. Merit pay will probably come - who is going to be judge? It will set one person against the other. No more team work, just back to working for oneself.

Economic situation - No idea of the unemployment rate in this area at the moment. As far as the mining areas go, it must be rather delicate. Should be fairly stable in this town with educational institutions, agricultural community and businesses coming up.

Job opportunities, training and wages - Could be more job training right here in the area. A lot of people have to go away for training - takes them away from their family and whatever part time work they may have here. Granted, the government is fairly ready to help out in this situation in choice of jobs that people are being trained for; e.g. repair work for toasters and other similar appliances- however, soon there will be a surplus of people all trained to do the same kind of work and not enough of a market for them.

Hasn't really made up his mind regarding salaries in the area - teacher's salaries are pretty well on par for the province. Has debated with friends whether it is cheaper to live here or in the south.

Job opportunities could be improved - these winter work programs and summer employment for youth has alleviated it to a certain extent. As far as

getting graduates, we lose the young people. Outside of teaching, kids with university degrees find nothing for them to come back to. Executives are not required for the small businesses. Small companies have grown in the last ten years, with Rexwood, Northern Ontario Dynamics and the mine in Temagami, but we always need more jobs. Things are starting to grow - there is someone up the highway who is making camping trailers - fibreglass. Farms are not being kept up - have to be a big land owner and have many dollars in order to keep a farm going. It is a good agricultural area, but it is dwindling as the farmers are moving to town. Remaining farming is strictly dairy and beef cattle - there are two stock yards in the area for beef cattle. There's a local supply of beef and eggs for the local co-op. Dairy - natural consumption of products. Eplett's, Thornloe Cheese and Belle Vallee. Thornloe has a far-reaching market - can buy it in Sudbury.

Can go either way - from the business end, some are being taken over by larger companies, eg. Eplett's by Neilsons and Westons. Whether they will pack up and move head office out of here to Toronto isn't known. Northern Telephone was taken over by Bell - originally one company for northern Quebec and Ontario, now two separate companies, of which Bell owns the Ontario branch. This takeover was five or six years ago - they have kept head office here.

City facilities: Cannot compare - notice a difference in moving back up here from the city. Two shows here - between six to eight in the city. Shopping is limited - most people go to Kirkland Lake or North Bay or else to Toronto. Can get anything at the shopping malls in a large city. Greater competition in the cities, keeps the prices down, and can buy by greater volume. A lot of prices as far as food goes can be managed - his wife watches for specials. Not that much difference in costs from the south if you are careful. Perhaps more variety of food products in south - even if on a budget here, have good service. However, to go out for dinner is very different - lack good restaurants.

People tend to have a small town outlook on things - they wouldn't appreciate the change. They find the change just from having lived out of the area for two t(wo and a half years. Canadian Tire bought the old arena and will be putting in a great big store when it is cleaned out. There is some talk of a Holiday Inn or another large hotel chain putting up a hotel down near the beach once they get the park set up. Regional government would help the area grow rather than a lot of silly bickering between the towns, as it is now.
Ontario Hospital Board has approved a new hospital for the past two years - the towns cannot agree on the location.

Private Enterprise: The trend has been more to private enterprise - at least up here. Heard a rumour about bringing in discount stores and shopping plazas. The small businessmen have been powerful in blocking this - they provide services for the community. Majority of the growing stores are privately owned - there are not a lot of chain stores in this area.

Re eation Facilities: One advantage to the area, if you are talking about outdoor recreation. Have a mile-long beach and the lake isn't too bad. All the cottages in the area, but he would be seriously concerned with pollution. Their cottage out at Twin Lakes - about ten years ago, the water was so nice but this is changing. Skiing, snowmobiling, fishing and so on. Organized sports - getting bigger all the time with broomball and hockey - baseball in the summer. Two golf courses in the area.
Lacking in concerts or live performances - isn't that much. However, they would not get a lot of support. There is a community choir which doesn't get that much support; again, it is the small-town atmosphere, or perhaps the colour televisions are the cause. Poor entertainment on the whole. Live entertainment as far as nightclubs go - there is nothing to compare with the nightclubs in the cities and the entertainment is on a parallel basis. You just don't get good entertainment.
11. More co-operation. Idea of regional governmnt. There are a lot of little things that could be improved, such as water works and water supplies. If the towns would work together, they could put a line right through to Haileybury

11. continued and service both towns. They would probably save a lot of money on policing and generally improving the facilites, such as bus transportation, and so on. Could improve the speed with which things get done in this area.(eg. the arguments re the new hospital)- the government says "get things settled re location and then we will help out." A regional government would put a representative of a population of at least 15,000 people in government, rather than representing a few very small communities, who are fighting individually. The voice of a government representing the larger mass would have more power.

12. Regional schoolboard - little less personalized; there are pros and cons of larger and smaller boards. Less freedom as compared to larger boards - now it is a big deal to just close the school for a day, as an example. The housing project that the governement is putting up will influence the lives of many of the young married couples. The subdivision will make it possible for people to rent for five years and then either buy it or lease it for more years. Payments are minimal, low taxes, so it encourages you to build a house.

13. (included in #10)

14. The provincial government could be helpful in trying to get some training facilities here; could make use of the existing school facilites here. On a small scale, there are university courses offered here, although that is primarily for teachers to get their degrees through extension courses. More training courses are coming, for example, at the Mining School, a course in photography is offered. However, the population here can only withstand a certain number of people trained in the same field - too often, too many people are trained in one field, and then there is a surplus, and no jobs. Mrs. Bolger is taking the R.N.A. course offered at the hospital

14. continued... in Haileybury. They are putting out twenty graduates each year, even have applications from Scotland. Right now, and for the next few years, there will only be a few hired. If the new hospital comes, it will be a bonus to the employment of the R.N.A. graduates.

Once, young people could decide on what they wanted to do, then get the necessary training, and do it. Now, you can decide, but the chances are pretty good of your not finding employment in that field, and therefore, finding an occupation that you don't particularly want, but that has a few job openings in it.

Apathy and the power in the hands of a few - if the people in this area would make a stronger politcial pitch and really get their teeth into the issues they want revised, they would get more done. Example of the power and decision-making in the hands of a few - Trudeau and his cabinet members. The poor old Liberal backbencher is almost placed with the Opposition.

SECTION FOR UNDER TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF AGE:

L. Education - there are still advantages for the young in coming to the North to get ahead, but how long these opportunites will last is unknown. The people he went to Teachers' College with are quite shocked that in his second year of teaching, he was given the principalship of a small school. The fact that he now has this experience as a principal, may or may not make a difference to his future. Job opportunites for teachers may be stabilized by hiring assistants; working a merit pay system into present system and having an earlier retirement age. They may even put a lot of married women ~~that~~ who are not breadwinners for their families out of work in order to leave openings for teachers who must teach in order to live.

Doug needs another nine credits for his degree - either summer school, course with Laurentian University Extension Department, or perhaps correspondence courses to complete these credits. As long as the Board of Education pays for his courses... won't take him too long. A year in university gave him a

1. continued..... jump over the other teachers. After his degree, he will take professional administration courses.

2. Travel - On winter break, there were several good excursions for teachers on group charters. They plan to do a lot of travelling, unless they build a house. This area isn't as remote as it used to be - takes 25 minutes to fly from Earlton to North Bay, and then a hour from the Bay to Toronto. Took longer for him to get his baggage from the airport in Toronto than it did to fly the first leg of his trip.

3. Employment prospects - covered in an earlier question re security of teaching. Possibly, there may be a time when he quits teaching and goes into another line of work - perhaps Manpower training or else high school. A good field for someone who has had experience in teaching is to work in sales for an education supply house - if that ex-teacher has the personality for sales. Quite frankly, if he had to quite teaching, doesn't know just what he would do - has always wanted to teach and really enjoys it.

4. Residence - Home ownership is really good although it is getting quite bad as far as trying to build a house out in the country right now. Whatever the controlling government department in this area is, it has the land quite tied up. A farmer cannot even give his son a parcel of land but must give him a complete farm that has been deeded. He thinks this now applies to the whole province. Right at the present, there is a lot of available land, although the costs are rising. People cannot seem to get used to the idea of commuting between the Tri-towns.

FOLLOW-UP:

Dave Pessah - twon councillor; worksfor Ont. Hydro. Has lived between here and Kirkland Lake all his life.
m Gilbo - works for Wabi - a councillor.
Allan Armstrong - owns the Chrysler Co. - also a councillor.
Jack Dent
Walter Chatwin - town clerk for a number of years.
Duncan MacFarlane at Findlays Drugstore - Paget St.
Frank Findlay - close to 70 years of age. At least 30 years since he got his

FOLLOW UP:

pharmeceutical degree.
Lawry Taylor - was mayor here for a long time and owned Temiskaming Hardware.
Bill Barr - was once a mayor.

John Clark - Building Enterprises - is still working. Probably in his late 50's or around that age limit. Would be interesting - last year, he talked to the kids about war production.

Wes Shepherdson - old timer in lumber business. Lives up on the hill - in late 70' Operated a basket and coffin factory.