

May 24,1972
2 hours

1. Edward Sylvester

2. Ed

4. 57 Nickel St.

5. 679-5540

6. 55 years old

7. Born in Cobalt on Earl Street at home

8. Mother in Gracefield, Que., Dad Briston Mines

9. Dad met my mother and the married in Sturgeon Falls. Dad let left when he was 14 years old. The three brothers Dad, Jim and Bill all left home when they were very young and Don Sylvester was game warden in Kirkland Lake. He met my brother in law and he happened to say he had married a Sylvester. So Don went to visit them, they compared notes my sister said I have no uncles my dad's brothers have been dead for years.

Through Don — Dad found out his 3 brothers were living. He hadn't seen them for 45 years they were very much alive. They got together and all they did was cry. It was something believe me. Don took Dad to Bristol Mines. My uncle Jim couldn't believe it. In those years no one could write. They had to get out so young, to work. Dad started to work in the mines in Cobalt in 1905. One day he had 4 different jobs at different mines each mine he went to and job he tried he didn't like. The 4th one was at the Nipissing mine. He stayed there 45 years. Dad died at the age of 96 in 1952. Mother died at the age of 86 in 1972

13. I was the third child there's Bill, Emma ,Cecil, Jane and Francis. We were all born in Cobalt at home. From Cobalt they moved to 104 they lived across the tracks before the 1922 fire they were burnt out they used to be 30 houses across the tracks.

I mined till 1949 now mechanic at Sherman Mine. I worked at Silver Miller Glen Lake.

Left Cobalt went to Bancroft for 5 years and at worked at Wilroy for 9 months. It was depression years when I was growing up. We

got married in 1934 at St. Theresa's Church Father Chapleau was parish priest then.

When I first went to work I worked for Coleman Township cutting wood for people on relief. We used to get \$ 11 voucher no cash, every two weeks and \$5 per month for clothes. Dad was over 70 years old. I tried to do his 2 weeks work. They wouldn't let me at first after many arguments How could dad work at that age, they let me do his 2 weeks work. The old age pension was \$20. a month then. I was married when I worked at Gillies airport cutting brush. They paid 20 cents per day with room and board. They served lots of prunes prunes and more prunes. We got paid by the month and cash 5 new one dollar bills per month, there were 300 men working there. People on relief and welfare today should be made to work instead of getting welfare so easy. I gave Ralph Benner a lot of credit

for sticking to Cobalt as he has. Our first home was next door to the Public School in Mileage 104. We got water from a spring. The spring is still there. It was very good water. Our house was a two storey frame building. No electricity, therecwas electricity in town, but we couldn't afford it. We used a Coleman

coal oil lamp. We had a cast iron cook stove, the oven opened sideways. We made our own entertainment I had a bob sleigh I made, with a plank and 2 sleighs. We used to play ball. Dad bought me a pair of skates. I traded them for a 22 gun. I got hell for trading my skates. So I had to return the gun, get my skates back. Then I traded my skates for a movie projector. We showed slides on the wall, when dad found out. I had to take it back and get my skates again. He paid \$12. for them that was a lot of money in those days.

33. I went to St. Theresa's school

35. Street cars. They took the street cars off in 1935.

36. Dr. Taylor

37. Got my appendix out in the Minters Hospital, Dr. Case was the Dr., Miss Reed was matron Miss Knight and Miss Brown were nurses

38. At home in Cobalt, Bill was born in Mileage 104. The rest were born in Cadillac Que. We had 6 children the last 2 are twins,

40. Bill went to work at Brady lake at 17. He was the French one in our family as we lived 12 years in Cadillac He'd always answer in French. I worked for O'Brien and Cadillac Mines. They were gold mines. Safety rules were not as they are today. The safety rules I saw one guy once smoking a cigarette sitting on a keg of powder.

48. My dad's fiddle its over 125 years old. He used to play it lots in the early days.

49. Cobalt is home to me. I wouldn't want to move,

50. This last couple of years they have beautified the town. Its 100 per cent better than it was 10 years ago.

52. The stores closing and businesses leaving town. It seems everything is moving or did move to New Liskeard.

53. Yes

56. Industry to give work for people old and young people willing to work.

57. Summer, spring fishing. Was fishing in Lake Temiskaming Monday there were several boats there, everyone catching fish, large ones.

59. Fishing, bowling, rock collecting.

60. Jobs made for people willing to work

61. tourists

62. good fishing, unique scenery, rocks for rock hounds, museum, mine tours, Cobalt's hospitality.

I would like to give Paul Hermiston credit where its deserving. He deserved a lot of credit for the endless hours he spent organizing and setting up the museum. He went into the bush bought in old stake posts. Post identified with beaver chewing marks. Set up exhibits rock and prospectors.