INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman DATE: March 24, 1972

TIME: 1 hr.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mrs. Elzie Morrow
2. Fannie Ford - maiden name.
3. 431 Grills Street, New Liskeard
4. 647-5246
5. Housewife.
6. Kerns Township, Ontario.
7. Father - Allan Lake Township, Northumberland County - Ontario; her mother from Renfrew, Admanston, Ontario.
8. Widow.
9. Age - 64.
10. Educational facilites: Good, as far as she is concerned; certainly are expensive. Doesn't really know, but children would probably get more in a big city than they would here. Sometimes she feels that it would have been better to have left the old red schoolhouse. Re busing - doesn't know if it is better for the kids, although it must be very hard on the tiny ones to go through the long bus trips.

Economic situation: Quite satisfied with the taxes, surprisingly enough! She does think that if there were not so many unions and so much dissension amongst the workers, possibly things would go along a lot better. For example, at the Lower Notch Project, there were strikes all the time.

Job opportunities, training and wages: The technical schools - to learn a trade is the best thing right now. There are no schools in the area, unless you would call the shops over at the high school trade schools - and those shops are mostly just for the kids. There is a place in Timmins where they can send men to learn a trade.

10. continued ....

City facilities: Roads are in much better condition in cities. There are fewer stores in which to shop here. Difference in transportation systems. However, she thinks that is pretty good up here - only have the one train a day, but still, we can survive. We certainly lack the nightlife that there is in the cities, or entertainment of any kind. In that line, we don't have it as good as down south. Support may last for a while for an opera or something like that, but wouldn't be supported for very long here.

Private enterprise: About 50-50 here. For example, the IGA and Mike's are chain stores but the rest are privately owned. It is a fact that some people go out of town to shop, but she would rather support the town businessmen, although she does prefer chain food stores.

Recreation facilities: Skating rink and all sorts of things involved in a rink, eg. figure skating and broomball. At the high school, there is badminton, basketball and that sort of stuff. In the summer, softball, teenage teams as well as teams for grown-ups. Lots of sports plus the bit of skiing and ski-dooing that is available in the area.

11. Wonders if it would go, if changes were made; however, could give it a try. Eg. the new Hobby shop in town - something new, and it is doing a really good business. Would like to be able to see more employment - but what can be done? Perhaps more industries would create more employment, but what could be done to get more industries in the towns?

12. The country has grown, highway has been put through. The bypass around the Tri-town has been a big change. It was thought that it would harm local business. She thinks it was an asset - much less congestion down-town. Before there were big transports and buses - could hardly get around. People driving long distances probably only stop for food and gas, so the local merchants probably haven't been affected too greatly by the lack of throughtraffic in the town.

13. Could not think of anything right then, although there are lots of times when she has said what could be changed in the area. The town has done its best this winter with snow clearing - must be away over their budget for snow removal expenses, as is Kirkland Lake.

THE PAST:

She was born on a farm in this area - in Kerns Township, and lived there until she was married in 1926. Attended S.S.#3 - Kerns - a one-room schoolhouse. Teachers that she remembers were Miss Agnes Murphy, Mr. Nelson Chapel, Mr. Edwards Mrs. Baldwin, and Miss Madge Marks. The whole eight grades were in the one room; had to go into town for the high school years. The school started continuation classes for high school after she left school; her brother went to Monteith Academy. The kids walked two miles straight north to get to school - many a time, she thought she would freeze to death - stiff on the road.

They took their lunch to school - she and her brother would clean the school for 25¢ - the last three years she went to school, they swept up, dusted, and on the weekends, they would scrub the floor, carry out the ashes from the wood stove, cut the wood, etc.

Most houses then were made of logs. Two rooms, upstairs, and the downstairs was all one room - really pioneering. Carried the water from the river; in the winter, would have to cut a hole in the ice, the boys or her father would do that. Heating - just a wood stove and a heater in the wintertime.

Entertainment - sleighriding in the winter; fishing; the river ran right through their farm. Used to be entertainment made by themselves, as that was it. At Christmas time, the kids always had concerts at school. If you wanted to go to Milberta or Thornloe, you might get in on a concert there. They used to have Geography matches at school between those areas (Milberta, Thornloe).

Transportation - horse and buggy or horse and cutter in the winter. Neighbours on every farm; probably not at first when she was very small; later, all the farms were taken up. The last few years at home, they went to Cobalt market. Quite a going concern when the town was booming; pretty well raised and ate their own food, however, without going to market with the majority of their produce, as there was quite a family of them at home. Her father always worked out in the bush camps in the winter - on the Elk Lake branch and Henwood Township. He would work for someone else who ran the camp. She remembers having a lot of fun on the trains when they went to Cobalt Market - not many children, but a lot of adults, and they all joked and laughed.

In case of illness, you would do the best you could to care for the patient at home. It was 17 miles from town and if it was serious, you could get the doctor to come out, to the farms. If you had to be hospitalized, you would have to go into town. Dr. MacNaughton was the only doctor that here ever had. Remembers a Dr. Gall when her brother was born - mostly, her mother had the babies at home without the help of a doctor; a Mrs. Batty and a Mrs. Kramp were midwives in the area.

Stores - didn't come into town very often; there was a country store which was an old-time general store where you could buy anything from mothballs to baby bottles.

Her father, Mr. Ford, came up here when he heard that land could be got very cheaply. Her mother arrived here in 1901 with her father and family at the age of 14. Came from Mattawa to Lake Temiskaming by train, and from there by boat with all their animals - cow, horse, etc. Landed at Moore's Cove near Haileybury and dropped the animals off the boat and made them swim to shore. The family stayed at the farm back of where Mrs. Morrow now lives, and went on the next day as far as Milberta, taking up a house there for the time being until they found some land to settle on. Her father came in by that boat, too,

but he came alone, nor did he bring any stock with him when he came up in 1900.

Employment - wasn't completely cleared land on the farm, so there were just the animals to look after in the winter. Her father would go into the bush to make some extra money. Enough work to keep a family going on the farm then, but then they got more machinery, etc. More mechanization meant less work for those at home.

Her first job, other than cleaning up the schoolhouse, was to work for a woman who had a new baby - a Mrs. Newton. She did the housework, earned $7.00 a month, including board. Working hours: would get up around 6:30 and probably wouldn't be through until about 8:00. Stayed there for two weeks, then went to Iroquois Falls doing housework there; had a good job and might have made $20 a month there.

Nowadays, there is too much of kids not wanting to do anything for their parents - when she was young, the children were expected to do it and that was that!

Hasn't kept any particular possessions - except for a ring that she and her sister got when they were children with Magic Baking Powder coupons. The ring is silver, and in the shape of a buckle.

After she was married, for a time, she and her husband lived on the farm with his people in Hudson Township - for four years. Came to New Liskeard in 1930. He began to work for Eplett's and stayed there, except for a couple of winters when he worked in the coal yards. Mr. Conlon had a coal yard with Mr. Hagan - the yard was located down behind the creamery. All three of her daughters were born in the Lady Minto Hospital, although it may have been called the Red Cross Hospital when Pat was born. Hospital was up on the hill. The girls went to school in New Liskeard.