INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman DATE: February 17, 1972

LENGTH: 1 hr. 10 min.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mrs. Cleve Holmes (Ethel)
2.
3. Matthews
4. 27 Armstrong St., New Liskeard
5. 647-5604
6. 79
7. Durham County, England
8. England
9. England; mother's father a Swede
10. Came to New Liskeard in 1912.
11. Train.
12. Portland, Maine was where the boat from England docked; then came up here by train. Incidentally, they sailed on the Simric, which set sail the same day as the Titanic - pure luck they weren't on the Titanic.
13. Parents, one sister and Ethel.
14. Businessmen since 1928 - C. Holmes & Son.
15. Worked in store from 1928.
16. Retired.
17. Retired.

17a. In both 1914 and 1939, many men went from here. Rationing in the second war; scarcity of sugar in the first war. There were war efforts, but doesn't remember the details.

18. Not much.
19. Different life - wooden sidewalks and mud. They arrived in April.
20. Father had been here for six months ahead; worked for Hill, Clark, & Francis - worked on the first mill. Returned to England to bring his family out.

21. Not excited - meant leaving all of her friends in England.
22. 16 to 18 hours a day in the store.
23. No salary - just starting out in business.
24. House with parents - on Haileybury road, across from Eplett's.
25. Doesn't remember - thinks there were probably some of the men that worked with her father who came in to visit on Christmas Day.
26. Running water.
27. Electric.
28. Wood stove.
29. Furnace (coal or wood).
30. Not so many. Greenwood's was where Eaton's now is, and her mother and another woman would walk downtown to the shops.
31. Made your own entertainment - moving picture shows, whist parties; skating on a rink(no heating and no artificail ice); music, family parties.
32. Skating.
33. Not here.
34. Age 7 to 14 - left school as soon as she was 14.
35. Horse and buggies, sleighs; street car that ran from New Liskeard to Cobalt, built by Fitzpatrick.
36. Dr. Fisher.
37. Lady Minto Hospital up on the hill.
38. Only child - Alfred, born in hospital.
39. Alf - 3rd form, then went overseas; worked in store.
40. Worked in the store.

41 - 43: doesn't know; always associated with the shop only.

44. Farms - three heavy meals a day. The Holmes had one large dinner.

45. Repeat question.

46. Not like now.

47. A particular dress.

48. Sunday school; walk home.

49. Vases that were a wedding present from Sweden for her mother.

50. Has been home for sixty years - has friends here. Not as friendly as it used to be because now there is naturally another generation of people. One friend, who comes to visit every Saturday night, came to Canada as a war bride; another friend comes to tea every Saturday afternoon.

51.

52. Paved sidewalks. Mr. Barlow, the man who paved the first sidewalk in New Liskeard, used to live with the Matthews. New community hall.

53.

54.

55.

56. No.

57.

58. Winters never bothered her - no favourite season. Mr. Holmes tells a story of the time it was 60 degrees below zero, and he watched two men walk from the Windsor Hotel with their collars down, just strolling along. They looked at the thermometer in front of the post office and immediately put their collars up and started to look really cold.

59. Housekeeping; does the books for the store; the odd card party - doesn't like Bingo.

60. Weaving (has her own loom) and reading.

61. No experience with unemployment - her father and husband, now her son have always been in work. Feels sorry for unemployed - has no solution.

62. Lakes - they have a cottage on Ferry Lake which they enjoy; camping.

63. Doesn't matter about people's colour; she doesn't mind watching the French programs. (Interpretation of question was a bit different!) Winters are too long for people to come to retire here and when you get old, it is harder to make new friends.

HIGHLIGHTS:

I had an appointment to interview Mr. Holmes, but when I arrived, he was ill, and his mind was wandering a bit, so Mrs. Holmes said she would anser the questions. He felt better later on and told me that he was from Draydon in Southern Ontario, and had come up to New Liskeard on the old Meteor, in 1902. Mrs. Holmes then remembered the picnics and excursions they would have down to the site of the old Fort; she remembers a lot of shacks. More memories; they used to curl and many people watched baseball games, although she never understood it. Very interested in music - was in various musicals, and the choir.

Mrs. Holmes learned to weave about fifteen years ago - is a member of a small guild in New Liskeard which holds a handicraft sale once or twice a year. She does lovely work - bought some of her table mats in a Swedish design!

FOLLOW-UP:

No names given.