

Simone Bedard May 10,1972

2 hours

1. Gerard Sauve (Gerry)

3. 165 Lang St.

4. 679-8105

5, Core maker at Cobalt Foundry

6. I was born at Warren Ont.

7. MY dad was born at Plantagenet, Ont. My mother was born at Nicolet, Quebec

8. Married

9. I'm 56 years old

10. We came to Haileybury in 1931 and we were 10 boys and 5 girls

I was married in 1938 to the former Helene Larabie of Cobalt and made my residence here.

When I came to Cobalt it was during the depression and I was working as a bartender at the Miners Home Hotel for \$14. a week. T.T.L. In The Summer Of 1941 Years ago the T.T.L. was KRUM located next to the Cobalt Foundry and in the Summer of 1941 it burned down and I helped fight this fire and this is when I became interested in joining the Cobalt Fire Department.

I joined the Cobalt Fire Department on Dec. 15,1941. Andy Cote was fire chief and also police chief for the town.

The first fire that I went to was in French Town at Mrs. Lagasse on Third St. it was a chimney fire, the next one at Owen Robinson's Garage, a Mrs. Lachance from Goward ran into the gas pumps the call came around 1 P.M. and I returned home around 11 P.M. that night Mr. Robinson's apartment upstairs was water & smoke damaged as the fire was confined mostly in between the walls.

When I joined we had a Chevrolet truck and the first Winter that I joined we Had a couple of practice runs with horses owned by the late Frank Larabie, my father-in-law or the late Joe Nadeau, we had loaded the wagon with the necessary equipment and

taken a few trial runs in case the truck would not be able to get out to a fire because of

road conditions during the Winter storms. The horses were kept on stand-by at the fire hall until the were opened for the truck.

Chief Andy Cote had the position of chief for about 4 years, after him it was the late Phil McRae he held this position until his death and he lived at the fire hall which was situated on Prospect Ave. where the Dominion used to be. Hubert Audette was next to hold this position and was chief until approximately 1955. The late Bill Burton was chief until his transfer to Kirkland Lake by the Ontario Hydro. Harry Cooper was next and served until 1965, Alec Nadeau followed and had to resign due to ill health. Maurice Belanger was fire chief during Centennial Year, then our present chief took over in 1968.

Ste. Theresa School is situated today on Lang St. a whole block burned down, there were 14 homes, besides a Parish Hall, a garage and Mrs. Joe Cote had a confectionary and also a boarding house this fire was on Aug. 4,1947 and all the firemen had been asked by the Kiwanis Club to help with traffic and parking of cars at Bass lake. When we got the call and got rides back to town the firemen did not own cars then the fire was beyond control at this stage. The fire started in the the garage while they were welding

and there was an explosion, fortunately there was no loss of life. Mr. Belair the welder who had re entered the building to get some valuable papers had to break the big window to get out as the fire was too hot and he got cuts on his arms nothing serious and this was the only injury.

Another big fire we had was on Prospect Ave. when Gerry Pressey's barber shop Mrs. Lagasse's Restaurant and boarding house and Alec Dworski's Lunch bar burned this fire was in March 1947 or 48 in this fire there was one loss of life. We fought from around 9 A.M. until around 6 P.M. that night.

The Miners Home Hotel and a confectionary owned and operated by Mrs. Sara Lajoie burned in March 1947, this fire started at 1 A.M. in one of the bathrooms at the hotel, when we there the flames were shooting through the roof and it was 45 below zero. I got home around 8:30 in the morning.

Mr. Patriquin on Nipissing Property lost his life in the Fall of 1947, he was living alone and a passerby put in the alarm. When we got there the whole inside was in flame, we tried to get the door open but it was locked from inside, so we took the door hinges and I crawled on my hands and knees and found him about 6 feet from the rear, he had collapsed and by that time he was dead.

Mr. Gauvreau and Mrs. Despres lost their homes on Galbraith St. in the Spring of 45 or 46, these were two big families.

Since 1952 we have better fire fighting equipment things have been getting better, we now have the Tri Town Mutual Aid, which is a very good thing, the difference is that before, we had lots of help of bystanders who had no experience but were very willing. while now if the need occurs we have help from the brigades.

The Township of Coleman has a well equipped pumper truck and it is kept at the cobalt Firehall.

When I joined the fire department we were 12 firemen and a fire chief now we're 20 firemen, 3 fire trucks and a fire chief.

I'm a life member of the T.F.C.F.A. which is Temiskaming Fire Chief Firefighter Association. I have my 20 & 25 year pins as an active fireman, I have been awarded The Fire Services Long Service Medal in accordance with the Fire Marshalls Act this medal is for thirty years service.