

Name of Interviewer; Carmen Stubinski      March 23, 1972

Interview:      Time; 3 1/2 hrs.

1.      Gordon Borrie
2.      Beak
- 3.
4.      75 Silver St. Cobalt
5.      679-5528
6.      65
7.      London England, my dad. came to Cobalt in 1906. Before that he was a gardener in Montreal. Before that he worked on the Railway. The old Grand trunk he worked as far as British Columbia that was when they were building the railway. Mother went back to, England to have me. We had a house on the Buffalo Mine property. The Buffalo mine property was one of the first mines in Cobalt to produce.
8.      Mother England. Father Scotland
- 9,      Montreal
10. Boat to Montreal train the rest of the way
13.      There were 4 of us. Mon and Dad, Jim and I
14.      delivering groceries on the delivery wagon for Jack Ough first. Then as miner and diamond drilling
15.      Clerk
16.      Retired partially
17.      homemaker
18.      Joined the air force 1941 to 1945. When we got off the train he met us. There were no sidewalks from the Buffalo to the station and the pushing was hard in the mud. there was so much of it,
19.      Bush shafts shacks and rocks
20.      My dad heard about the Cobalt boom in Montreal and came to Cobalt
21.      Mining bootlegging boarding houses
22.      Jack Ough 6 days al week and sturdy night till 12 p.m.
23. 15.00 per month (1921)
24.      It was a two story frame house 2 rooms, upstairs, 2 rooms downstairs. My dad bought it from the Buffalo mine.
25.      Always a Christmas tree with candle holders and real candles lit on it. Weld thread pink pop corn and put it on the tree along with tinsel, Xmas was a special occasion at our house. The dining room table set up with a white cloth the tea service, all the silver. Always a goose and plum pudding. The silver was also used on Sunday. The rest of the week we ate in the kitchen.
26.      No, There was a well and pump the Buffalo mine owned and everyone on the townsite got their water there. Later the mine put up water. and supplied the houses.
27.      Coal oil lamps
28. Wood range that had a reservoir on the side of it. We took the hot water out with a dipper,
29.      Had a Quebec heater in the front room that we burned coal in.
30.      Stores from one end of the town to the other. Swamp Street was real busy. Argentite Street as it is known today. There was corks bakery, Devlins Drug Store, Milton Cars office Rod and Deacon Shoe store, that was the main street then, the street

car terminal was at the end of Swamp Street, and McKay had a livery stable. There was one show on that street. There was one show on Lang St. called the Orpheum.

Where the Stevens live today on Cobalt St. there was a poolroom Brewers owned. It's the same Brewers ran the rink for roller skating and ice skating. At that time the rink was privately owned, Cliff Moore had a syndicate with several share holders who owned it. There was Reams bottom and Edward on Cobalt St. White had a clothing store in the Building that Paddy Basset owned. McKinnon bought the building after for offices.

31. Everything traveling shows use to come. They had the dumbbells here lots of shows. Live plays at the Opera House remember the plays at the Grand theatre on Silver St. The first Y.M.C.A. was a small building where LeBlanc's service Station is today, all we seemed to do at that was read. Later they build the Y.M.C.A. across the street where the community hall is today. They had pool tables, bowling Alley, and Swimming pool at the back of the Community Hall where the town Gargle is today. I remember Charlie Ferris's brother getting drowned in that swimming pool. Jim Paneritus was with him at the time. They had a good gym there too; we played basket ball and badmington.

We had a good Tummies court at Sass Lake. Larry Stadelman was very active at the tennis court, The Cobalt tennis court was always in use. The Buffalo mine had a Tennis court,

32, Skating in the winter. In the winter they had sulky races on Cobalt Lake maybe 7 or 8 horses entered in the race. Skating on Cobalt Lake we always had a bonfire. At the arena we got season tickets and we could skate whenever we wanted to. There was lots of outdoor skating too.

We played ball in summer. The Buffalo Mine built their own boxed in toboggan slide. It came from the mine water tank ended up on says Lake. We also slid on all the rock piles to Galena St. We had good base ball teams. Haileybury, Cobalt and New Liskeard competed.

Silver Centre had a good base ball team too that use to compete here. The games were all at the Grand Stand ball park at West Cobalt.

33, The old Public School was built in 1907 on Grandview and Cobalt St. When I first started school there was no kindergarten in the big school. We used to line up in Public School yard march across Cobalt Street to the Baptist Church basement that is where they held our class. Later they build and addition to the Public School and we moved over there. The first original school was a red tin school next to Brewers pool room where Stevens Bottling works is today. I remember the west Cobalt school too.

34 Went to Haileybury High School. We didn't have one here had to go there

35. Horse, buggy, cutters, trains lots of them, street cars. We walked mostly in those days.

36, Dr. Schmidt

37, We had the Cobalt Hospital

38. Timmins at home

39. Finished High School at 16 yrs. old. Went into banking, Toronto Dominion Bank. He is still banking. He was manager for some time, now he is bank inspector in Montreal.

41. The mines were just starting operating on a small scale. Their first lamps were candles next Carbide lamps, till they got the battery lamps. At the Buffalo cooker, Mae Nathersons father was cook there, we hung around the cookery a lot. They gave us lots of

raisin pie. Blueberry when the berries were in season. They had a cage at the townsite mine,

42. Hand steeling and mucking these contests were first held on the square in front of the Imperial Bank. Later when they built the ball park at West Cobalt. They held the events there,

43. Had a round granite lunch pail. Hat tea was put in the bottom of the pail. Lunch was put on top of tea. Tea was always cold no matter what; we always had homemade bread sandwiches.

41, depending on the shift Dinner was eaten mostly at noon. Meat potatoes, lots of pudding bread, custard, rice tapioca puddings mostly raisin pie,

45, Always had to go to Sunday school. We didn't do too much on Sunday because we couldn't even play cards on Sunday.

46, Clothes week day, our best clothes on Sunday.

47. In summer we'd go to Martineau Bay, in a horse and wagon to pick blue berries by the tubs full, they were very good in Martineau Bay; you could pick 2 - 12 qt. baskets a day, After mother preserved all the blue berries she needed over the winter we sold the rest,

They used to bring in box cars of fruit in the fall. They would sell the fruit right off the car at the station. Mr., Sheridan use to get the fruit in the fall. We'd buy peaches pears, plums, green to preserve and apples to store for the winter in barrels everything was preserved. The walls in the pantry were all lined up with fruit jars, 100 lbs sugar bag. If there was moose or deer mother would can the meat. Mom would buy pork and box cars at night.

48. Old wooden album, lots of old pictures

49. A peaceful quite place of live in

50. No rat race, no pollution

51, New Red and white store, abolishing of old shacks, cleaning up the town in General

52, Can't get a train out of town when you want one, No taxi's to meet the train. You used to be able to get 2 trains daily. North and south, now with the buses we don't even have a shelter; we are really in a depressed town right now. With all our pay rolls gone. No drug store, no dentist. Get fed up on having to go out of town to shop all the time.

53. no

54. the taxes are getting higher with no benefits

55. yes

56. We need a boost in the price of silver to stimulate the economy of Cobalt to put it on its feet again. A light industry to employ 50 or 50 men.

57. summer and fall

58. T. V.

59, Read

60, Would like to see exploration on Virgin ground for new mines or the mines reopen. New jobs would be made if this was so; it takes a lot more money to operate a mine today. 2 or 3 light industries would have to be here to solve part of the unemployment problem. We just have to have new jobs for our men teenagers and people who need work

61. Tourists

62. Good lakes, Bass Lake good beaches, sightseeing, Bingo's new parks, Good fishing, and hunting.

This stone block house was my stepfather's Alf Williams he came to Cobalt in 1908. This house was built by Brown lived in it first Rogan lived here next then Alf, bought it and lived here till the day he died. He always had a beautiful flower garden. He bowled till the day he died suddenly With Dune McLeod, Harry Miller, and Lorne Humphrey, Harry Miller and Alf were very good friends they played the stock market together.

The only brick house in Cobalt was built by Dr. McLaren on Nickel. St. Dr. Taylor lived in it next. O'Flaherty lives in today.

We had the Jitney service. The make of the car was called Stir. Scharf owned the Jitney service. It would start at the square and went to Haileybury and New Liskeard. Ray MacCauley drove the Jitney service. It would leave the square till the car was full and the fair was .25 cents.

On Cobalt Lake there were at least 4 motor boats. The mines, Nipissing,, McKinley-Darragh etc. owned their own boats. The mine boats used to take the men back and forth to work come to town for the mail or any hardware needed for the mines. Mondoux had a boat on the Lake.

A colorful figure in town was Casey Cobalt; the streets were always crowded at all times. If it were a Saturday night or a special event down town everything would stop and give Casey Cobalt a clap, when he would step dance. He did it for year's step dance on the square. The Elk Club owned their own building where Gordon Watts house is today.

Mrs., Phil La Frange was the cook there for years. It was something like the Cobalt Mess. It closed down when she left. Evan Donaldson and his brother always stop to visit us, when they go through to Timmins. They were here last fall. Might get an interview there. Hudson Brown was here to visit us the first year they had the miner's festival 2 yrs. ago.