

Carmen Stubinski May 18,1972

2 hours

1. Harry Buckler
2. Prospect Ave. Cobalt, New Subdivision
5. 679-8184
6. 49 years old
7. I was born in Cobalt. Our store was burnt out in 1922 and we were staying with friends on Argentite St.
8. England, Leceister, Mother & Dad grew up together. Dad came to Cobalt 1909 He came 1908 and worked in Toronto for one year.

They were married in Cobalt 1910. Mother came out soon as he got settled in 104 In 1909 his first store was in a tent at Mileage 104. When he had this tent store he started to build a store and house so they could move in before winter. The mud and stumps were all over the palce, The few people that were in Mileage 104 at the time built a central well and they all came to it to get water. There was a little creek that ran padt the front of the store had trout in it. The first building was a small one storey old type general store. They sold everything thread, food, clothing, hardware name it. Poisson started a general store but it didn't last long. There used to be streets of houses across the tracks in the beginning a townsite of its own. Dad delivered groceries to Giroux Lake and Kerr Lake by horse wagon or sleigh. There were 4 of us children 3 girls and one boy. The girls were all born at home in 104. The store hours were very long 8 A.M. to 11 P.M. daily except on Sunday we closed. We were burnt out right after the 1922 fire. He had a rough building up and we were back in business by Christmas.

It was a large frame 2 storey building old fashioned general store we even sold coal oil. A big ice house in the back to supply our refrigerator, Dad would get the ice in the winter and pack it in saw dust for summer use and he'd sell blocks of ice. The store was so big and built so fast it was cold. They had 4 coal stoves and one wood stove for cooking and they still couldn't keep ie warm. Mother often said it was a constant battle to keep it warm all we did was bring in coal and take out ashes.

From 1922 on, the store was too big for Mileage 104. People left and didn't rebuild after the fire.

We had a stable behind the ice house before the fire they had chickens, every one seemed to raise chickens in those days,

When Mom first saw Cobalt she nearly keeled over couldn't believe it was so rough, after England city and paved roads.

From 1910 to 1920 they had lots of house parties. Lots of theatres. various groups had oyster dinners, They had a good time.

The store had all sizes of bins made and held spices, we sold spices by the 3 oz. in those days. They held dry beans, peas, rice, tapioca spagetti, flour, sugar these were sold by the pound sugar and flour sold by the 100 Lb. bag, vinegar dark molasses and coal oil came by the barrel. The vinegar had a pump on the barrel. It sold by the quart or gallon. The dark molasses had a pump on it too. When it was cold we'd pump and pump the molasses barely came out. We sold molasses by the pound 2 or 3 pounds at a time. Dad bought fish straight from the coast in the winter. It came in a large white wooden box shaped like a coffin; made out of rough lumber. There was Halibut, Salmon he'd saw off what amount

the people wanted in chunks. The tea came by bulk in a wooden box lined with heavy tin foil We sold it by the oz. or pound.

Apples came in wooden barrels. We'd get russets and toliman sweets or spys. After the fire Dad put a water pump in the house. We used coal oil lamps and lanterns.

Dr. Schmidt was our doctor.

I attended public school in 104. We went up to grade seven there and did grade 8 in Cobalt. I went to High School in Cobalt.

18. I joined the army in 1942, went overseas stayed there till 1945. I belonged to the Toronto Scottish Regiment. When I returned home I went into business with Dad. Dad died in 1951. In 1954 Mother left and went to Windsor to live with my sisters she died in 1960.

I ran the store till 1958. I put in a self serve service. The hardware and clothing lines dropped off. I couldn't compete with the big stores lines deteriorated such as lamps, nails, hardware and axes.

Elliott Lake and Bancroft opened up, people moved away. Mileage 104 population did drop, no more new buildings etc.

Dad used to get car loads of feed, shorts, scratch feed, oats. No one was raising chickens, cows and pigs anymore.

We used to have a large glass showcase filled with .01 cent candies. I can still see the kids standing with their noses squashed to the glass deciding how to spend their pennies. Dad used to have 5 clerks working for him in the early days. I remember Dick Kitts, Reg Brooks, Bert Moore. He had 3 delivery wagons 3 of them in use daily ( that's hard to believe). They'd go out Friday pick up the orders from the customers. There were hardly any phones then. They would deliver the following day Saturday. In winter they used horse and sleighs.

Dad was on the Township of Coleman council for many years.

Finally business was practically,, nil I sold the stock, equipment and building was torn down.

I came to Cobalt in 1958 and went to work for Customs, built a new home in 1958. It still has no number.

We used to skate on Mill Creek build a bonfire we'd skate from Cross Lake to North Cobalt. We'd ski in winter. I had a bobsleigh. We used to go to the show in Cobalt we stuck mostly to 104.

The old No. 11 highway went past Claude O'Shaughnessy house went straight down made a square corner it went right past our store. There were lots of accidents then

I like the way they have cleaned up the town tearing down of buildings, street lights the new roads opened up the new parks.

52. I didn't like the moving of service bussiness out of town, ONR long distance Northern Telephone, Hydro, Freight Shed, Hydro could have been centralized in Cobalt instead of New Liskeard.

53. I like Cobalt. I've lived in this area all my life.

55. Yes

56. Some other type of industry not depending fully on mining to keep our young people in the area.

57. Summer

58. Swimming and skiing

59. Gardening, Stamp, coin and rock collecting
60. Secondary Industry, winter sports complex
61. Tourists
62. Ragged Chutes blow off. Drummond Cairn, Giroux Lake, rock dumps, plenty of mineral open rock cuts with ice in summer. Fishing Montrea; River Good beaches The best i've seen is Bass Lake Boating Golfing Nature Trails, skiing, snow mobiling

unorganized sports, Historical back ground. Uniqueness of the Town itself and I would like to see the restoration programme go through to the fullest.