Name of Interviewer: Carmen Stubinski March 29
Interview: 2 hrs.
1. John Cram
Cobalt Refinery Townsite
Cobalt
5. 509.-8169
6. 56
7. Swift Current Sask.
9. Father was born in Carlton place
Mother in St. Thomas
12. Came here from Debora where I was Manager of their smelter, which treated basically the ore that came from Cobalt.
Much for some 60 yrs.
Senator M. J. O'Brien who had mine interests here, didn't like to pay heavy treatment charges because of the arsenic and Cobalt Content.
A Danish engineer by the name of Kirk Guard who had been chief engineer of them then closed down of the Gold operation of Canadian Consolidated at DeLora was looking for something] to do with the plant. This plant had facilities for roasting arsenical ores and O'Brien
had money, ore and silver. A Dr. Kirkpatrick and Metallurgy at Queens had worked out a process to separate the Cobalt and Nickel and recover them as oxides. Got together and purchased the DeLora plant in 1907 carried on continuously with the ups and downs in 1961.
During their history they produced the first Cobalt metal (Commercial)
In 1907 they had no market for it; just in limited quantity 1912 stock piled Cobalt as oxide. 1912 Dr. Ralmus who was an inventor type. He and his wife were some of the original discover, developed Techni color for movies. They invented the Stellite Alloys with
were high temperature anxite abrasine which were hard. One of the basic major contents was Cobalt.
In the first Great War DeLora Stellite Alloys helped the western power war effort, considerable with Stellite cutting tools they were able to turn out shells at a much faster rate and DeLora Smelter and Refinery. O'Brien built a large plant in England to produce Stellite Alloys as a result, this helped the Cobalt camp absorb the production, in order to get the much needed Cobalt.
So that the operating became Cobalt plant primarily because of the world needs and as they were the only major producers of Cobalt.
Silver and arsenic became by products because they were in ore.
Arsenic was in high demand during world war one, as it was used in producing shrapnel shell and mines. The price of arsenic actually reached .60 cents per lb.
When the war was over DeLora had a control of the world, Cobalt market one as necessary consequence they controlled the price. They had yearly contracts in the U.S.A. overseas at prices which they set at $4.00 per lb. approximately.
In 1923 the Belgium's, who had been developing their copper, Cobalt mines in the Congo quietly approached most of the Cobalt consumers and under cut the price by more than $2.00 per lb. This of course collapsed the DeLora operations to a great degree. Prior to

this the price of silver collapsed. So did the Cobalt Camp. Films were found in the Halnor Mine office files. The chop that took the pictures made notes for everyone of them was named Mitchell. Mitchell's initials can be found or had Thom Malcolm Slack. He is Porcupine area Manager for Noranda Mines. Noranda Mines in conjunction with Canadian Kodak have had this made into 35mm. One copy which has the notes with the slides edited by Mitchell's daughter made into sound track, These pictures were taken by Mitchell 1906 to 1911. leaving Toronto coming north to Cobalt. North to Elk Lake, there was nothing at Elk Lake at the time on to the Porcupine, Timmins etc. Mitchell was involved in promoting and developing Cobalt. He became president to the Halnor Mine. This is a copy going to the Haileybury School of mines with no sound track.
Film can be had on loan from
Noranda Mines, 44 King St. East Toronto..
Attention Peter Riggan.
Vice President Public Relations

It is very good of this area, its factual pictures of this area. It clears up the Legion of the Fred LaRose and the fox, other than the fox the story is pretty realistic. We had them at the C.I.M. Cobalt Branch meeting last. Had hand written notes. It was good.