

Carmen Stubinski      May 25, 1972

3 1/2- hours

1.      John A. Gore
2.      Don
4.      31 Ruby St. Cobalt
5.      679-5710
6.      46 years old
7.      Kirkland Lake. Teck Hughes Property
8.      My father came from Fitzerackley England. My mother from Peterboro, Ont. They were married in North Bay, moved to Kirkland Lake. Mother was left a widow with 4 children in 1929. She came to 23 Cobalt in 1930. She stayed with Mr. 8: Mrs. Nolan on Earl St. She got a big empty house on Watson St. This house was empty as no one wanted to live in it, because a man supposedly had been murdered in it and thrown to the cellar. After the man was murdered the bishop came and blessed the house. People that were living there were Italian descent, the man that was killed was a Finlander. The fight started in a poker game. He got knifed in the stomach. We moved in funny things started to happen. The toilet would flush on its own. Then you'd hear cheers like people playing at a baseball game. We were playing out in the yard one night there was a cord of wood delivered to our place. We went in the house heard a loud noise. There was a square piece of tin 30 x 30 nailed over this hole in the basement. We three children were alone. Mother was working for Mr. & Mrs. McCord. He was a mounted police here in Cobalt. The tin made a big noise and blew up. We ran screaming to the neighbours they came right away. One stayed by the hole the other searched the house. They found nothing just the burst up tin. One time mother came home and found the drawers all pulled out. Money, candy and clothes were still there, dumped out all over the room. Shortly after we moved out of the haunted house, there were reports they saw a man running away from there at times. We moved on Earl St. in a house that belonged to Jack McGale, the house is still there. We moved to the Coniagas Property 1931-32. My mother's brother Uncle Harry Fraser came to live with us. Mother worked and also made homemade bread, buns and donuts and sold them to different people, Joe my brother used to deliver them to her customers. Mrs. Frank Todd was a customer. Mother and Bill Peebles got married in the mid 30s, Bill Peebles was a plumber. This man was a well known respected character. He was born on the Isle of Man came to Canada with his dad in 1905. His dad was a machinist he worked at Joe Sweets Machine Shop down by the TNO siding. Bill started to work there too. He started there as an apprentice. Then he became associated with Jake Fy4sit in the old red fire hall. He learned plumbing there and worked there for a good many years. Bill Peebles lid plumbing in practically every establishment in Cobalt. He started plumbing in 1907 and did plumbing till the day he died in 1958. He lived by himself in the old Cobalt Hotel on Swamp Street. He had a room there. One time he got a call to come and move a stove in a blind pig joint. There were 4 men lifting the stove it was so heavy they took the lids off to see what made it so heavy. It was stacked and jammed tight with high grade leaf silver. Bill was a very strong man one night on park street in a blind pig there was a ruckus Bill was put in Sail for fighting and being drunk. Jake Eyd came and got him out as they needed him on a job.

In 1911 Jake Eydt got an order to install the first hot air furnace in Kirkland Lake. The year the power plant went into Sandy Falls. They installed furnaces and did plumbing for the plant. In those days they bought galvanized iron in sheets, car load, lots of everything, they used in those days were handmade. In Jake's shop they made articles for the

mines, prospectors,

dairies etc. One night in the Cobalt Hotel there was a big poker game. Bob O'Gorman and Bill Peebles saw this man come and hid a big roll of money under a garbage can. He hid it there while the party was on. Bill was a hard worker, --but he also liked his liquor. He would take a 25 oz. bottle tip it to his lips and drink it down in one drink. He was a man's man, after he married mother

he didn't drink so much. Jake Eydt at one time had 30 to 40 men working for him in his business. They used to carry their tools by horse wagon or sleigh. They did a lot of work for Northern Ontario Power, at Hound Chutes, Ragged Chutes, Kerr Lake, and Silver Centre. When Jake retired, he gave his business to Bill. Business had dropped off.

So he left Bill his tools and equipment. Through Bill's drinking and RITA changing of times business deteriorated. He was a master mechanic but no business man lost the majority. He then rented from Mr. Giachino behind the store

on Silver Street had his own plumbing shop. Depression hit things got worse; He moved to the Coniagas property and operated from his own home. He still made roof jacks stove pipes, as progress came, hand made articles couldn't keep with machines. I started to work with Bill at Mrs. Benny's house, where Cy Bazinet lives today. Mrs. Benny died so he and the children moved away. We drained the plumbing so it wouldn't freeze. In the 1940's, when they moved the town hall to the YMCA, we took out the police cells. We put 2 of them in the

old Herbert block, we tore all the plumbing and heating out of the old town hall. Bill took over the contract for TTL he did all the plumbing and heating system. Hand made piping etc. for the dust collectors. Pipes had to be made to fit buildings. Bill did it. The professional engineers working for the Ontario Government were amazed; it was an art in itself, the skill of the plumbing.

Joe Houston, Mr. Young and Mr. Sinclair examined it. Ha and mother bought two houses down town next to the hotel. One belonged to Paddle Knap who worked at the ONR Freight office. Frank Cassie a mining machinery man did plumbing for them. Through Bill Peebles knowing so much about the water situation. This is where I got some of the information on the protection of the water shed. Bill was very self conscious of water pollution. He told me years ago, we'd have to go back to the land with this stuff. He may be proven right.

16. Stationery engineer, licensed plumber in Provincial and inter-provincial. 23. I got 500 per week when I first started to help Bill.

33. Started school in the annex in the old Public School yard. TI annex was moved and integrated with the High School.

35. Feet, street cars and trains, horses used to ride Tom Belanger's ice wagon. Harry's Bakery delivered by horse.

36. Dr. Schmidt.

38. Lady Minto Hospital New Liskeard

39. Virginia finished Highschool took commercial went to work for Dep't of Mines in Toronto. Joseph finished grade 13 and went to work for the Department of Highways. I have 2 still going to school.
48. Plumbing tools of Bill Peebles
49. The people
50. Native ingenuity
51. Streets kept clean
52. I wasn't happy to see the hospital go. It was straight economics. I wasn't happy at all to see the telephone offices go. We lost our Hydro; we've lost some of our churches. We are in the process of losing our schools. Most important of all we are losing our local autonomy. Already the cestodes are moving in with an eye on our water sheds. There is no place in the province of Ontario that owns their own water but the town of Cobalt. The last belongs to the crown. For 60 years we have kept this much shed restored in its natural state. It has provided the residents of Cobalt with a pure water supply at a very moderate cost. No where else can you take a cup and scoop a cup of water out of a lake and drink it. If we had a local health board in Cobalt we wouldn't have the problems we are having, today. Let's keep the one thing we have left. Our pure good Cobalt water.
53. like Cobalt, wouldn't live anywhere else.
55. yes
56. First we have Hydro at our finger tips. Unique source of power, air power, as we have, any industry that specifically requires air driven machinery or tools can operate in this area. We have it in its raw material state.
57. All seasons
58. Prospecting, hunting and fishing
59. Canoeing, writing poetry
60. We need knowledgeable people from the government with financial hacking.
61. tourists
62. First Bass Lake. The natural sources fishing, hunting, unique scenery for artists, photography, clear air, pure good water, snowmobiling, skiing, riding trails, walking trails, arena, canoeing, boating,