

Simone Bedard May,12,1972

3 1/4 hours.

1. John Suzack

4. Room 40 Prospect Ave. Fraser Hotel

6. 51 years old

7. Princess Property, Cobalt

8. Both my Parents were born in Ukraine, Bucovina Province and they came to Cobalt in 1913.

Rink--What I remember of the rink when I was a kid of 6 years old. It was very cold and everybody would go to the rink. We kids would stand outside by the door as we had no money to get in, some of the big shots with big Hudson Bay coats would hide us under their coats then give the guy at the door a wink and they push us in front of them and we'd get in free to see games played by senior teams from Haileybury & Cobalt. There was a lot of heavy hitting games at the blue lines there wasn't much corner play like today. There was a lot of stick handling in those days, there were fights and tripping but no boarding like they have today, there was butt ending and they player who had been hit would fall on the ice and nobody knew what had happened, there was no high sticking, everything was below shoulder.

When we were kids we use of dig through 6 feet of hard packed snow on the side of the rink and through the frozen ground under the foundation just to get in to see a hockey game, about 50 kids would sneak in and the owner would always have the holes blocked before each game, but we had rink rats inside who were our friends and they would go under the seats and open the holes once the game got underway.

At every game there were a lot of well off people attending the games and they would watch the game from the home end of the rink, this end of the rink was called the "Millionaires Row" In those days the rink was not heated so people would come fortified with whiskey hidden in their big Hudson Bay coats.

When we use to sneak under the rink the police Chief Mr. Stromberg would throw a snow ball or chunk of snow at the police then he would take off after this once the kids would run away from the rink and we'd get back in the rink again.

The Ice Carnivals were pretty well as to—day with figure skating and races for different age groups. There was a MacKinnon girl who would win most of the prizes in figure skating. we had Saturday afternoon public skating and the rink was just full.

The rink was usually closed in the summer months except for a Summer Carnival for a week or so. This carnival usually consisted of a fish pond, games of skill, and chance, a wheel of fortune, they also had a hot dog stand and pop. They would build a temporary stage for local talent and entertainers. The rink was closed most of the tme outside of winter months.

The owner had young guys keeping the ice clean and flooded and also keep the wood fires burning in the dressing rooms for doing these chores they would get free ice time for hockey practice, this is how they got the named Rink Rats. The building and rink area was about ¾ the size of our arena today.

I have been told that before I was born Cobalt had a professional team in the N.H.L. Some of the teams were the Ottawa Silver Sevens & the organization was played between Cobalt & a Montreal team.

In the early days ladies did all the baking on Friday and cooking on Saturday and we had to cut and split the wood on Saturday of course everybody had a bath on Saturday night and then on Sunday we had nothing more to do but get dresses up and go to church and to visit friends.

MARKET

The market was between the T.T.L. part if it was outside market and the other was inside. In those days it was all steam engines on the tracks and this was local passenger & baggage service between Latchford, Silver Centre and Englehart. Early Saturday morning the farmers would come from Englehart and area with all their farm products, live chickens, live ducks, pig heads, sides of pork and of course in summer potatoes, carrots, cabbage and other vegetables, fresh eggs, cream, butter, processed cheese bacon, this is what would be in the market. After unloading the farmers and their products the train would go to Silver Centre and bring the customers. So the market as well as a place for buying your fresh vegetables and meat was a great meeting place for people in the area. it was a reversed procedure of bringing the farmers and customers back home. Young boys like myself would e on stand by with our little wagon to help the people bring their purchases home such as live chickens and potatoes and such and we'd get paid 20 cents to 25 cents a delivery .

We use to have a daily morning train from the south and the Cobalt Station anfd market place were very busy places come on Saturday morning. The newspaper would come on the morning train and we'd also make money selling newspaper on the street and to market customers. The market place was also a news gathering place as there was no radios in those days.

MILLS

In the milling process to recover Silver from the ore the original silver mills in the Cobalt Camp played a vital role in the pioneering of modern day milling process. In the original mills in Cobalt the stamp mills were used to crush the ore and Rice each mill had a battery of stamp mills going there was a constant rumbling sound, and this was continuous night and day and of course people got used to it.

So when a stamp mill did close down for a while you knew something was missing you missed the sound. When the mines started closing down because of economic reasons and lack of ore the mills were closed down one by one and left then idle. For some strange reason a mill would catch on fire and burn to the ground, most of the mills in Cobalt were destroyed this way, the mill sites were cleaned up and all the iron was recycled so now there's nothing left but the old foundations. Street Cars

The street car line use to run from New Liskeard through Cobalt and right around to the Drummond Mine at Kerr Lake, There were a few hundred people living in the Kerr Lake and Giroux Lake area who used the street car service to Cobalt and New Liskeard. There was an hourly service during the week but on Saturday afternoon and evening they had 15 minutes service to Cobalt from Giroux Lake & Kerr Lake area due to the shopping hours for the miners who lived at the bunk houses on the mining property.

On Saturday the street cars were so full of people were hanging out of the doors.

Of course at the Cobalt station quite a number of people would transfer to the new Liskeard street car and go on to Haileybury and New Liskeard. On July 1ST. and different school picnics, the street cars were kept very busy between Cobalt & New Liskeard Beach with the people from Haileybury and Cobalt attending these picnics and Dominion Day celebrations. In the early days New Liskeard beach was a great place for local festivities. The street car line to

Kerr Lake was also used to bring in supplies & material to the mines in the area. Coal was a major item amongst the supplies going in to the mines. Being a street car and trolley line it was an all electric powered system by overhead trolley line. The street cars were made of wood and wooden seats and in the winter the motor man had a little coal stove near him to keep him warm. People in the area spent many enjoyable hours riding on the street cars.