INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman DATE: March 14,1972

TIME: 2 hr. 15 min.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Thomas Mallett
2. Stan
3. (didn't get Mrs. Mallett's maiden name)
4. He will be 77 in June.
5. Their address is 102 Paget Street, New Liskeard.
6. Their phone Number is 647-4075.
7. He was born in Appin - 20 miles west of London, Ontario. She was born in Deeside, Scotland.
8. His parents were born in Liskeard in England; hers - Scotland.
9. Mr. Mallett - English ancestry; Mrs. Mallett - Scottish.
10. He came in 1922 after the fire - December 22nd. She arrived in 1923 from the West, where she had been nursing in a Mission Hospital.
11. He came via train from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - she took the train up from Quebec City where she had gone for Christmas.
12. as above.
13. They both arrived alone.
14. He came in with Northern Ontario power - did linework.
15. Mrs. Mallett did a little nursing here for a couple of years.
16. Retired.
17. Retired.
17. (a) Children could collect pieces of aluminum - would take it down to the theatre and get in for free. There used to be Bingos to raise money for cigarettes, etc. for the soldiers. Red Cross had sewing bees for the women - would turn their stuff in at the post office. Everyone was so relieved at the end of the war - don't remember a parade or anything like that. Lost a lot of young men when they went overseas during the second World War - the boys were in their teens. Mrs. Mallett remembers a family learning of their son's death on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. Probably informed of his death by the standard awful telegram.

18. Mr. Mallett - came to Haileybury and everything was pretty bleak. All the main part was burned out in the fire of '22. A bunch of old streetcars were sent up from Toronto and people were living in them until they rebuilt their homes. He was boarding witha family, who moved, so he moved into one of the streetcars. Went to the show in Cobalt one night and opened the dampers up when he got home to warm the place up. Overdid the warming bit - when he woke up, the place was on fire. Had to run only about a block to the temporary firehall - was quite afraid that the fire would spread to a house only about 12 ft. away. They got the fire out, but his streetcar could no longer be used for a home. Moved into another boardinghouse - some new buildings were completed at this point - lived in what is now the Lakeshore Hotel. Used to carry a watch, that he would leave under his pillow at night. Got the watch out safely after the fire - used it for many years there after.

In 1923, when Mrs. Mallett arrived - she got off the train in Haileybury. Came up from North Bay. It was one scene of desolation - still ice on the lake and on May 17th, there was still ice on the puddles! She saw several bathtubs lying about in the ruins of the burned out houses. Street after street of the same. She was the youngest of twelve kids - had been in the service, and so got free transportation to Canada. Had worked in a Mission Hospital in Saskatchewan; then gone down to Quebec City at Christmas. When they got married, they bought a little house up here. The only part of New Liskeard that had been burned out was the area across the track - not too built up there then.

19. as above.

20. Came because of work - new country and opportunities. It had been settled for quite a little while throughout this area. At a pioneer picnic, a man came up and eagerly started to shake their hands. He asked how long they had lived here, and when they said since 1923, he quickly dropped their hands - only newcomers!
The Continental train came through here at that time - didn't seem to matter to her - she simply accepted things the way they were. Remembers going into a store and asking for a half pound of butter - a quantity too small to be sold as such. Another time, she asked for a reel of thread which completely puzzled the shopkeeper.

21. He worked with the power company; very lucky that he always had a job through the Hungry '30's - a lot of unemployment then, but he was always quite busy. The Power Company's means of transportation at first consisted of a horse that was called "Barney Google". Mr. Mallett feels that there was a lot more brotherly love amongst working men in those days than is evident today.
Worked for "Northern Quebec and Ontario Power Company" - they put the first power into Val d'Or. Mrs. Mallett went up to join him for a weekend in Val d'Or - very hot. They went out to Broom Lake - she saw a lot of people swimming in the lake - plus a sow and her piglets!
Lumbering; telephone company was developing; road work.

22. Hydro - for ten hours a day; would work half-days on Saturday at first. They never did have an union with the old power company - the cut in working hours was more or less in line with working conditions in the the rest of the country.

23. Paid by the month - ordinary wages were $110 a month. Mrs. Mallett, as a nurse would make $65 to $75 a month, with board included. No one mentioned income tax to her when she was working in Saskatchewan,

23. continued although she had to pay it when she came here. Nursing, she would work a twelve hour shift - there were three graduate nurses and a housekeeper at the hospital. No water, coal oil lamps. The nurses would have to fire the furnace as well. It was the Anna Turnbull Mission in Walker, Saskatchewan. Did V.O.N. nursing here; relieved the V.O.N.. Later, she did a little nursing in the Lady Minto or as it was later, the Red Cross Hospital - three nights at a time, and perhaps she would go in for an hour or two in the morning when the staff was particularly busy.

24. Little four-room house down Paget Street - nice wee house. No bathroom - outdoor facilities; no foundation; and the rooms were not too big.

25. First Christmas - not very different from any other day. Must have been at home. Nothing special that they can think about - probably just a day off from work. However, at Hallowe'en, the kids would duck for apples, and dance and sing for their treats. They could tolerate all that because they were a lot younger then. Standard treats would be candies, oranges and the apples that they ducked for.

26. Water in the house.

27. Electrical lighting - first one on the street to have an electric stove and all the neighbours came in to look.

28. Quebec heater - had to cook on it.

29. The Quebec Heater heated the house as well. Once the foundation was completed, they put in the furnace as well.

30. Never had been used to shops that sold everything - in Scotland, a shop sells one kind of thing, whereas here, you could buy anything anywhere. They had the groceries delivered - went down on Saturdays and bought the groceries - $5 worth was fair sized box. Greenwood's - where Eaton's is now handled food and oats - big general store. None of the A & P type of thing. On this side of the river, Binkley's general store - in

30. continued two parts: dry goods on one side and groceries on the other. Grill's store was across the river - they were the three main stores in town. McKnight's Men's Wear, down near where Wood's Hardware now is. Mr. Redpath had the jewellery store. Elliott had dry goods, and Cook's was a grocery store. Mrs. Mallett remembers seeing them put things out on display in their barrels, just the way you read about.

31. Downtown - had an opera house with a player piano - located where the Can. Tire Corp. is now. There were picture shows and every so often, a group would put on plays - the Anglicans did put plays on on their own. The Chitawquas (spelling?) put up a tent down near the beach - they were a troupe of players from the States, wandering minstrels. They would, perhaps, have one group perform here tonight, while on a three night cycle - the other two groups might go to Englehart or Kirkland Lake - they would rotate so that in New Liskeard, the public would see a different group perform each of the three nights the show was on.

Mr. Mallett remembered that when W.W.11 ended, everything in town opened up and there was a street dance.

32. Baseball; before they came here, there used to be log rolling on the Wabi River. Horse races down at the beach; before that it was out where the Government Farm now is. Hockey. Lawn bowling once across the street on Paget - the old Hartman home. When they came here, didn't have a good deal except what the nurses out west had given her and a few gifts from some of their friends as wedding presents. They weren't in New Liskeard very long when Stan's parents announced they were coming up for a visit. Big panic - didn't have enough cutlery on which to serve four people. Asked at one of the hardware stores "Have you any prospector's silver?" Got a dozen of each for a dollar - she asked the clerk if the cutlery would melt if she washed it in hot water.

33. Not applicable.

34. Not applicable.

35. Electric cars running from Cobalt up here - to Kerr Lake south of Cobalt to the bridge in New Liskeard. Probably stopped running in the '30's. People were getting cars and perhaps it wasn't a paying proposition to continue the streetcar service. Then they put buses on that run.

36. Family doctor was Dr. Gall. Dr. McCullough was the first doctor.

37. Lady Minto Hospital - very cold hospital - not well insulated. It was the only hospital in the area until the Miners' Hospital opened in Cobalt. In 1916 during the Matheson Fire, victims were cared for in the Lady Minto. In 1920, there was a typhoid epidemic which had to be handled by that hospital. At one time, the house across the road from the United Church was set up for nursing smallpox. Perhaps there is some mention of that in Miss Craven's book, "In the Beginning."

38. Born up in the Lady Minto or the Red Cross Hospital - whatever it was called at that time. Apparently Lady Minto was something like Andrew Carnegie - a person who donated money to various hospitals.

39. Marg went in training when she was 18; Bill at age 17 was working for Hill, Clark and Francis - the war was on at the time, and he tried to join up. Sandy, at age 17, went working at Walton's for awhile.

40. as above.

41. Power operations, one of the big contracts was dealing with the mines and furnishing them with power. They used to use diesel and steam in the mines; and when they became very active, they wanted power. He ran power lines into the mines.

42. Found more co-operation between the workmen - did your work with nothing said about it. No overtime or trying to make a job last so you could get overtime pay.

43. & 44. Much the same as we have today - all had gardens. Made the most of it; although the wages were low, food wasn't so expensive. They got

44. continued a freezer when they still lived in the old house. They used to cut ice on the lake - when people had ice boxes, there was a man who would cut the ice and deliver it to his customers somewhat like they deliver the milk today.

45. Much better than we dress now. Women just didn't wear pants and slacks.

46. Better dressed then - kept a special Sunday outfit.

47. Going to church in the morning, would walk four miles in the afternoon. Would walk around past the government farm site and down to the Catholic cememtary and back into town along Dawson Point Road. Or, they would walk out to the old dam, one of the first power plants they had here - along No. 6 Highway to Elk Lake- called Wabi Falls. High Falls was the dam out of Haileybury.

48. The first sitting room outfit they had when they got married - still have it on their verandah - have had it for 49 years. She still has the wedding spoons from the nurses.

49. They have lived here for a long time - have their friends here. Used to it. Winters don't bother him but they do affect Mrs. Mallett - she cannot take the cold weather. Loves it (the area) as home. Many old people move away, but eventually come back - there are difficulties to be faced no matter where one lives.

50. as above.

51. All kinds of changes - travelling is so much easier than in the old days. It used to be that when the snow came, the only means of travel were the horse and cutter to get somewhere. Today, the cities are only a few hours away by car - all year round. The first road going through - it took two days to get to Toronto. The old Ferguson Hgwy. was a lot crookeder, narrower, and hillier than Hgwy. 11 is today.

52. Doesn't like salt on the road. Not the brotherly love there was in the old days - now it is so cut-throat in partly anything you want to mention. "Dog eat dog" today. He may have some old ideas but disagrees with unemployment insurance and baby bonuses as they encourage people to stay home and not to work. This is what makes our income tax what it is today. Education - some of the best men this country has ever had as leaders were educated in simple old log schools - not the fancy schools we now have.

53. No. A nice area - outside of the usual few trying to run the lives of many, this area is quite good and not suffering too much on the government aspect.

54. as above.

55. Mrs. Mallett - would like to see the town shovel out the sidewalks after the snowplow has passed.

56. as above.

57. All year round, although she cannot go out in the winter. Spring, summer and fall are just beautiful.

58. Television "the idiot box"; belong to the Legion, the R.N.Association, the Presbyterian Aid; Missionary's Society, Daughters of Scotland - it is Mrs. Mallett who belongs to all these groups.

59. Gardening - picking raspberries and blueberries to freeze. He does repair work - mending, painting and fixing.

60. Computers are taking over - creating less jobs for men. Rexwood has given employment, as has Northern Ontario Dynamics. All through the north, the government men say it is a desolate area. There is work if men want to do it. The big thing is that the ordinary man cannot cut a little bit of wood and sell it - the government wants pretty near as much as he makes out of it, so then he must cut more, and must buy large scale machinery to do so - the cost of which discourages the man from working for himself.

61. Real wonderland for tourists - with hunting, fishing. There are a lot of nice lakes. Depends on what the tourists want to do.

62. Would again, depend upon the people themselves - lots of farms that are going to waste because the right sort of people are not interested. The government has not encouraged the farmers - they once gave the Veterans money to buy implements.

A group of Dutch people came in to set up a community north of here and even set up a Dutch Church - but the church closed down and the people all left. Mr. Mallett thinks perhaps they were Memmonites. Used to be able to buy fish from Simmons Fish Market - fresh fish that had been caught in the lake. None of the government levels have helped the farmer.

One of the doctors wanted to drain a local marsh and to develop it as the Holland Marsh is developed, but couldn't do it. About 50% of the farms in this area have gone back because the farmers left the farms to work in the factories or town industries. Very good farming country around Earlton.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Again, I have included many of the stories in the answers.

Mrs. Mallett told me a story that had been recounted to her by another woman. Must have been just after the fire in '22, but some people were out looking for their cattle. There was a lot of smoke around. They came on this old man who thought that the fire had meant it was the end of the world, and that he was the last man alive on earth.

FOLLOW:UP:

Mr. Alex Bateson
Mr. Harley Walton
*Dr. Fraser Farlinger
Mr. Mort Mason
*Mr. Jack Willars
Mr. Rowan Hutchison
*Mr. Bob Pipe and his wife Phyllis
*Mr. Hughie Grant

* 45 to 65 years of age