INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman

DATE: March 29, 1972

TIME: 1 hr. 50 min.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mrs. Malcolm Hamilton
2. Nonie (full name Noella) Kingston.
3. 190 Jaffray Street, New Liskeard
4. 647-6433.
5. Supply teacher.
6. Red Lake, Ontario - north of Kenora.
7. Father - from Calendar, Ontario; Mother - Hawkesbury, Ontario, then moved to Haileybury.
8. Married.
9. Age - 36.
10. Educational facilities: adequate; other facilities of a large city aren't available - the children here will not have as many facilities. However, the teachers are making it available to the children by taking them on bus trips to outside centres, eg. Ontario Science Centre in Toronto; the high school trips overseas.

Lack of things here due to distance from larger cities but the teachers and schoolboards are trying to make additional facilities available.

Economic situation: We read of unemployment and welfare. She knows of some people who perhaps are working and could make more money on welfare; people are really trying, as are the "powers that be" in most cases. Certainly deserves thought for more programs to get more people off welfare and working. So much that could be done in the area- should pay people more to work than what they would get on welfare, and so discourage them from staying on the dole.

10. Private enterprise: The chain stores have always been here - perhaps more now. Three main ones in New Liskeard for grocery stores. Jones' has been an independent grocery store, then Paul's Meat Market. The big chains really don't seem to be moving into the town. Still small businesses. Doesn't see that there are really the opportunities for the big chains to open in New Liskeard, such as Woolworth's or others; unless there is a great boom in the economy of the town.

Job opportunities, training and wages: Very difficult for a person to get another job if they are suddenly uprooted from the one they are doing; particularly someone over 45 years of age. Either to be let go or fired - would make gaining another position almost impossible, even if one had about 20 years of experience in some field.

Believes that there are some job training facilities; particularly with Northern Telephone, after a good background of education. Any specialized job available that was going to demand specific training would first of all require a certain level of background education and then supply on-the-job training; for example, the recent advertisement for a Children's Librarian - qualification of Gr. 12 level.

Trades training is probably under the Manpower Dept. - why cannot they have this training locally? There must be lots of people who have to go to Timmins for this training. Manpower could set up a course here; then the people could stay here and not have to leave their homes in New Liskeard to move to another town.

Wages - not really familiar with wage scales, but from what she sees, everybody is doing what she cannot do! Spending of young couples - how can they afford it? In some cases, wonders whether the salaries are really that good or if people live beyond their income rather than concentrate on security for their families. Always a fringe of working people who are

10. Wages - continued .....

not doing well; although the wages here are probably suitable. People are becoming better educated and more aware of all conditions. Some people here could not afford to live in Toronto on their present salary. For instance, her daughter skates and if they lived in Toronto, she doubts whether they could afford to pay the dues to join a skating club and then the added cost of transportation.

Some things are more costly here - heating, require warmer clothing; food costs are higher; however, people can curl and golf in this area, plus use the arena facilities, whereas these pursuits are very expensive and very limited in a large city. Housing much less expensive here - wonders whether they could afford their own home in Toronto - would probably have to rent an apartment. Nor could they afford to belong to clubs in Toronto - would be a pretty awful life to be so limited because of lack of money.

City facilities: Not the variety, but for the area, there is plenty offered during the year. Hockey, curling and variety of facilities offered by local rinks for example. They try to get good orchestras for some of the dances. Have such organizations as the I.O.D.E. and Eastern Star, various service clubs, big bazaars - comparable to those of a city, but naturally, on a smaller scale. Art and Craft club, theatre groups if one wants to participate - just anybody can join if they wish - something that is just not possible for those of a lower socio-economic group in large cities. Example - knows a lady on welfare who has three daughters taking figure skating classes; two of these three girls are registered for the Spring Skating School - that money could be well put into something else if they are on welfare. That particular mother was the President of the Mothers of Cubs and Scouts Club - she was quite accepted, even though on welfare.

10. City facilities - continued ....

As far as the I.O.D.E. and similar clubs go, this partiuclar woman probably would not have been asked to join - costs you to belong and one has to be asked - must be out socially.

Recreation facilities: Arena, curling and golf.

Recreation is struggling now- a great many people have a particular interest, say skiing. You can only do one thing well; there are few people who take part in everything. There are art and craft classes, a weavers' guild. The recreation director is making an effort to follow up on any interest shown; for example, had Junior Badminton last year, but not this year until interest was demonstrated - the badminton is again running. Should any group show interest in a particular activity, the director will gladly help them organize it and find them space for the activity.

11. Should try to get people going - not just let them fall heir to things. There is a tendency to just find someone who is a good guy and agrees to do a job, without really asking the public at large if anyone else is interested in joining. Perhaps simply a little notice in the Speaker. Usually a case of who you know that gets you a local position - goes for all groups. An example was given of a new member asked to join the Kiwanas Club - this person had barely worked and because of a wealthy background was able to get away with it - not an asset to a community.

People in small towns are faced with the fact that you know people and you get to know them very quickly, so that the basic person tends to be overlooked in favour of the superficial - status. People should be accepted for what they are; the fallacy of looking at their status in small towns must be stopped - too much concentration on name and wealth. Prevalent attitude of not sticking their neck out - just accepting things the way they are.

12. The new industries coming to town have definitely affected them, although indirectly. Rexwood, Northern Ontario Dynamics, the expansion of existing facilities, such as the Telephone Company and the new area Board of Education, which has brought in more money, more salaries, more children into the schools which in turn, requires more teachers. The general growth has affected everyone - people are generally more prosperous as a result of the new industries.

13. Encourage facilities - getting ~~them back~~ back to recreation again, we probably have some very good swimmers from this area. If a year-round pool were put in, could then try to interest a group like the YW-YMCA in the Tri-Town area so they could handle it. Thinks that the beach facilities are good and a good summer recreation program, which should be expanded. Never will have top swimmers in the north until they can swimm all year round. Some kids are getting their Bronze and Silver medals, but more could if we had proper swimming facilities. If the Y came in, we would not have to pay a recreation director since the Y would probably organize everything.

14. Could be more expansion in industry, but that depends on the group responsible for encouraging this kind of thing. The Chamber of Commerce is supposed to handle this, but when her husband and Don Mackenzie opened the Hobby and Craft Shop in late August, they did not even received a letter of congratulations on their opening and wishing them success; nor were they ever asked to attend a meeting, should they wish to join the Chamber of Commerce. Either improve the existing Chamber of Commerce, or do away with it.

Apparently, there is no local by-law governing store hours; simply an agreement amongst the shopkeepers. The men did not know of this when they opened their store, and no-one informed them. She feels that the Hobby Shop is certainly unique in this area and deserves a bit of note from the community.

THE PAST:

Came here as an infant, lived in New Liskeard with her grandparents. Her husband was born in New Likseard.

She attended New Liskeard Public School, New Liskeard Secondary School and Hamilton Teachers' College.

Activities: Beach facilities in the summer and swimming instruction; in the winter, skating group and hockey - not sure when the minor hockey league started but thinks it was when she was just small. Was a ski club in New Liskeard at that time - used to ski near Cosman's. Her grandmother lived on Farah and she could see the ski-jump lighted up at night. Parts of the big wooden structure may still be left. Probably went defunct in the later '40's. People took a greater interest in sports then - snowshoeing, tobogganing. Waltons or Findlays had a great big snow machine with an airplane motor and propellers on the front, used to roar up and down the street. No recreation director then.

W.W.11: Her grandmother used to knit for the Navy League; and there was a whole pile of sewing machines in the basement of the post office where women would go to sew for the Red Cross.

Re rationing and ration books - doesn't remember whether there were dates on the books or not. Her grandmother, who needed more butter, would trade coupons with Mrs. Nixon who needed more sugar. Even small children each had their own book.

War effort drives were common - money was raised by the various service clubs in the area, for instance, the Kiwanas Club had a carnival. Mr. Ramsay has a long pointed nose, and he would always wear a long black wig and go as a witch. Mr. Begg has rosy cheeks; he would go as a clown. The minstrel show would be at the curling club and the kids would dress up in costumes.

The service clubs could buy candy in quantity, so that the kids would get candies at Hallowe'en, which was a real treat. Got prizes for the best costumes.

Guides, scouts and brownies did a lot of war work, also cadets. Most of the high school students were trained - wore short tunics and white blouses (girls

outfit) - did a lot of running with stretchers, bandaging people, learning how to cope with injuries, and so on.

Employment: Her first permanent job was with the Sudbury City Board of Education as a teacher. She had worked here during the summer holidays, as well as in the Muskokas at resorts. First job here - working for Lorne Block, the optometrist. Acted as a receptionist; cleaned lenses and fixed temples on glasses. She was about 15 years old - Lorne was a family friend, which is why she got the job. She thought she was quite amazing - doesn't remember her salary, but does remember feeling quite rich. Would have worked all day.

Most of her classmates who were not going on to college, etc. were in the commercial class - majority of those not going on would not have involved themselves with Grade 13 - just the two courses of commercial and general then. They might have taken the Special Commercial after grade 12 - Junior Matric and then, commercial bookkeeping, typing and shorthand. If anyone wanted to train for a nurse, they would have their Junior Matric after completion of Gr. 12 General. Many of the kids did get jobs locally and then went away after a couple of years in town. They could get jobs at George Taylor Hardware, Phone Company, Wabi, Kemp and Kemp, General Electric, Insurance offices, and Eplett's.

Transportation: She came after the days of the streetcar! Has always been a bus service between the three towns. Walking was the means for children; also, when she was growing up, there were many horse teams and wagons, and horses and cutters in the winter. Little boys playing hockey on the road didn't use a puck or bit of snow then .....

Can remember seeing the bush horses coming down eight abreast in the spring, from winter jobs. Not unusual to see a horse and wagon parked downtown. Has changed that way - thank goodness!

The railroad was a lot more popular; the times that the train came through were much more convenient. One cannot introduce one's children to train travel today, unless you want to get them up in the middle of the night and put them on around 4:00 to go north, or at best, around 12:00 midnight to go south. Both of her children have travelled by bus and by plane; but much as she and her husband would like them to experience train travel locally, it is impossible.

Physical makeup of the town: Expansion of housing, mostly in specific areas. Their particular sub-division is about eight years old - Birch is few years older. Good deal of expansion around the hospital, across the river. On the southwest side of New Liskeard, at the upper end of McCamus and Farah - construction on Veterans' homes.

Apparently, the Jaffray area used to be the old golf club for New Liskeard. In the townships, there are many new houses. Used to be almost like a bush road along Dawson Point Road, as well as between Haileybury and New Liskeard. Expansion north of New Liskeard, near the new bypass.

One day, they were trying to figure out where things were - many of the original store owners are still there but they have expanded, modernized, renovated, or moved to a new location in town. Hinds and Colliers were a little store next to Glen Walton's; Stedmans used to be where Hinds and Collier are now - they have just switched places. Simpsons was once a Dominion Store, then the office for the Speaker.

Tourist attraction: Her suggestion to the Cobalt Restoration Committee is that the only way to develop Cobalt as a tourist attraction, would be to make it into another Upper Canada Village and move the people right out of town - restore the whole centre of Cobalt. However, feels that people here are not geared for that kind of thing and would not agree to the idea. She does think it would be terrific though. Doubts that the Provincial government would go along with that suggestion - the expense and the difficulties of re-locating the Cobalt residents. Will probably just stay the way it is - would cost so much to restore it properly.

Certainly thinks that the wilderness area around here is absolutely gorgeous; we do need development of our park facilities within the town. Should open up facilities to camper-trailor set-ups, with caretakers and so on. Set up nature trails with guides - there are unlimited gorgeous things to see. However, the "powers-that-be" are not apt to be too interested - they all own their own summer places.

The Dept. of Lands and Forests have other programs - why couldn't they help with this. If the government can afford to have people out cutting ski-doo trails for the Winter Works, they could also afford to cut nature trails. Blazing the trails could be done in winter; then the Lands and Forests could help. The high school students could act as guides along the nature trails for little groups of tourists - would be worthwhile work for the kids.

There are people in this are who are very fond of nature and know all sorts of secret places to go to watch birds, and so on. A friend of theirs took them out on a picnic one day - along a road off the Elk Lake Highway - beautiful, and some where they have never seen before.

If the Cobalt Restoration deal goes through, would be great. She saw a picture of Cobalt when it was booming - large hotels and theatres. Her father and his sister used to frequent Cobalt - she guesses it was quite a place.

FOLLOW-UP:

Mr. Hugh Armstrong - Cobalt; would have a real background to give; actually an engineer, but prospected for the Coniagus.

Mr. Todd - Cobalt.

Mrs. MacVeigh

Mrs. Don Smylie - was Mrs. Madge Walton; is Dr. Smylie's stepmother; lives on Niven St. - very articulate

Mrs. Frank Francis - Niven St. - her husband was a partner in Hill, Clark & Francis

Miss May Ball and her mother - living at Northdale Manor; Miss Ball's brother was a mining engineer and is quite wealthy.