

Carmen Stubinski, May 29, 1972

3 hours

1. Omer Sabourin

2. Shorty

4. Ville Marie, Quebec

5. 679-2128

6. 61 years old

7. Born in a log shack on First St. in Cobalt

8. Dad and mother were both born in Hull Que. and came to Cobalt in 1906

9. They married in St. Hillarion Church Cobalt by Monseigneur La Tulip. My grandmother was a sister of Fred LaRose. Her name was Mrs. Donata Gauthier Grandfather and Fred were both black smiths. Fred worked laying the track for the TNO. Grandfather later was blacksmith for the O'Brien Mine. He was there 20 years with Paddy Sweeney as blacksmith. I remembered that. my dad Arthur Sabourin worked at the O'Brien all his life. First in the mill next in the assay office with Claude O'Shaughnessy. I used to take my dad and grandfathers lunch, Connie Vachon and I had to take them a hat lunch at noon hour every day. I was the oldest one in our family. There were 7 of us children 4 sisters and 3 of us boys.

I started in the soft drink business when I was 14 years old. I worked for the Cobalt Aerated water works. It was owned by J. hector Trudel. I worked for him 27 years. Started at \$3. per week. He got the first coka cola franchise in 1927. I used to deliver any hour. If a customer was short sometimes 10 p.m. at night. We had cream soda, lemon Sour, jersey cream, Hires Root Beer, Cobalt Dry ginger ale. Horse and wagon in summer horse and sleigh in winter was our transportation. The first years the trucks came out Mr. Trudel of a truck with a chain drive. It had solid rubber tires. He bought his first truck from Oliver Blais. They were very good friends. In 1929 Trudel went into the ice cream business. He had a slogan at that time. "If its Trudel's its sure to be pure" We used to make ice cream 6% butter fat. His first business was on Argentite St Ice cream sold at \$7 for a 5 gallon can. Pop was sold at \$1.20 for 36 bottles Pop sold at 5 cents each then. That's when a nickel was a nickel and 1 cent was 1 cent. The retailer made 33 1/3 percent. He started the ice cream business in 1929 Sold out to Epletts in 1933. In 1931 Mr. Trudel started another business in Kirkland Lake by this time he already had one in Swastika, South Porcupine, one in Elk Lake. He sent me up to Kirkland Lake in 1931 - 1941 as manager.

1943 he took me in as a partner I stayed in Kirkland Lake the 10 years In 1941 I came back to Cobalt after the Kirkland Lake strike, things went flat in Kirkland Lake everyone was leaving town.

When I became Partner. I put in \$4000. it was 1/5 ownership valued at \$50,000 Trudel was very good to me, he had no children of his own. Later he wanted to retire and sell out. He gave me an offer. He wanted to open a plant in Ville Marie. I had to take Cobalt or Ville Marie. I took Ville Marie Plant. We dissolved partnership. He said \$3000. and it's yours. I paid him off at \$1000. a year the business grew. After I paid for 3 years I still owed him \$1000, on the \$1000. He said forget it. The business was mine in Voile Marie 1951 built up business till 1971. I sold out Sept.1971 at \$68,000. I own 25 acres of land across from the Old Mission on the Quebec side. Have a summer cottage there. I've retired now and my home is in Ville

Marie. In 1942 Mr. Trudel, business had moved sometime before that on Cobalt Street. He sold out to Victor Stevens later Victor sold out to Gordon Stevens then Gordon sold out to his son Roger. Roger sold out to a Cochrane firm, Fortier and there is no more pop factory in Cobalt. Mr. Trudel retired and moved to North Bay. He died in North Bay in 1966 Mrs. Trudel still lives in North Bay in an apartment. I worked very hard for Trudel. We were not as employee to employer we were very good friends till the last. Fred LaRose came to Cobalt from Hull, Quebec. He was blacksmith for the TNO railway under contract for Mr. McKinley, Darraugh and Timmins they had come from Mattawa. They were pushing the railroad. I remember once we were on a trip and visited, Larose's after they retired and moved back to Hull. Mrs. LaRose was very stingy. I was 8 years old at the time. Fred liked to eat and drink

All she served for breakfast was porridge and 1 cob of corn. His dividend checks were \$1100. per month. He wouldn't have had anything through his honest friends Mr. Darragh, Timmins and Mr. McKinley when the LaRose mine was in' operation and production in 1914, the 3 honest men looked after his assets. Fred LaRose couldn't read or write or even sign his name, He signed his name with an X. Later years when he moved St. Redemption Street Hull, Que. He bought a beautiful brick home. He had no daughters, just 2 sons, Donat and. Fred Jr. They spent money like water. In 1914 2 boys joined the army. In those days you could buy your son out of the army if you had money. Fred paid \$300. to get his sons out of the army as soon as Fred would buy them out, they would rejoin again. He bought then out of the army 3 times. The Legend of Fred LaRose and the hammer was not true. It sound good. He was having a crap in the bush and he saw an animal run by. He threw a piece of wood and hit it. He went over to take a look and saw the silver shining. I married Lucy DeRepentigny of Cobalt May 10, 1931, in Cobalt in St. Theresa Church by Father Chapleau

My two boys and Francis were born in Kirkland Lake. I can remember skipping to the Old West Cobalt ball park, to see the ball games. It was professional baseball, Cobalt used to play Osler of Toronto and Hillcrest.

There was Al Miller and Decker was the catcher. Longpres was on first base. Bill Brisson was second pitcher. Shorty Flynn was short stop. Field was Red McAndrews, Jimmie Andrews was centre field. It was a double header first of July game. Cobalt beat Osler in the morning. In the (afternoon Hillcrest from Toronto and Cobalt. Cannon Ball was Hillcrest's pitcher. I remember the

Millionaire Hockey team in Haileybury. Cobalt's hockey team was the Silver T against Renfrew and Pembroke. The Cobalt Miners had a real good team of juniors, naming Carl Hutt, Louis Hoy, Murray Watts, Roy was goalie Maxi Bennet, Ray Bennett, Warick Roberts, Harry Hasset, Fergie Ferguson (We had one too) Duncan Minio, Pete Giovenella, Joe Southall etc. They went into the Allan cup that year. Maxie and Roy Bennett turned professional for Montreal Maroons, visits me all the time in Ville Marie Carl Hutt used to too and Murray Watts

36. Taylor used to start his car without changing the clutch. In winter he first used horse and sleigh. He had a studebaker car. He'd step on the starter and wouldn't take it out of gear. Taylor was a real family Doctor also a very friendly one. 48. I got a card that was on the Wright Mine in Ville Marie. Its in french and English. Its a signal board for the first mine in Canada. I had to have it a painted it was so faded out.

49. My heart is still in Cobalt All the people you meet on the streets are familiar and so friendly. My idea is with this new industry coming up, Why should we go to Japan, Mexico, Colorado for souvenirs, when they can be made right here, out of our own silver and raw materials.

59. Business and antiques. Why send our raw materials to Denver to get finished It should be sold right from Cobalt. We have more power plants in the North than anywhere else. Lets make our own produces from here. I'm here in cobalt every week. I gave a piece of granite to the museum from Ville Marie. It's red granite. That is an industry that could be brought up for Cobalt. There's lots of granite in the area.