

Joanna Stubinski Date of Interview: March 8, 1972

Time 3 hrs.

1. Mrs. Charlie Smith

2. Orpha

3. Church

4. 7 Helen St

5. 679-8200

6. 81

8. Father in Calabogie, Mom in Arnprior

9. Ottawa Valley

10. trains were packed with foreigners , Orpha, her sister and sister-in-law came together these with fur caps sat across from them, The men decided to eat so started un-packing the lunch sack. opened a can of meat with jack knife sister started to giggle and then they all started to giggle and then the men got mad. Then they took out a long roll of bread snapped it in half, over knee the broke it off with their hands,

were really glad their husbands met them in the Bay, because they were afraid of the men when they got to Cobalt they could hardly get off the train for the men and people. Her husband had bought a store keeper out and had had all the food delivered for she arrived to her little black shack on Earl St.

C.P.R. and T.N.N.O.

Lots of relatives here and husband, no children yet

14. Miner

15. Housewife

16. dead

17. Housekeeper, her son Eric lives with her.

18. Liked cobalt, because it was busy, but really suffered with the cold.

19. Busy roads had to buy their water by pail when water was delivered the water man would nick the door frame, with the nicks reached to bottom they would have to pay. had to save dish water to scrub the floor. Also gathered snow to melt for water. Her and her husband found a little spring on Earl St. They sat beside it so other people wouldntt notice. So he sent Orpha home for a pail and dipper, so they go one fresh pail of water i to drink. The next morning her husband went to get some more water and found an old Finlander there in no time at all everyone knew about the spring and it dried up. There were quite a few springs running aut of rock cuts

20. Came because husband was here

21. mining, store clerks

22. 8 hrs. per day

23.75 per day

24. Little shack, one room, bed at one end, stove at other, Went out a lot so didn't stay home too long.

25. Went to Christmas programs had a lovely tree. lots of food and drinks which men enjoyed

26. Drew the water, filled up the barrels. Then a few yrs, later the town put up a pipe about a block from their home. then they had to aarry it. They had to pay the town for putting up the pipe.

27. Coal and oil lamps and carbine lamps. Bought all oil at Rowden's he did a very good business in coal oil
28. Wood stove
29. Wood or coal found it very cold
30. Beautiful shops, down to the end of Lang St. Mrs. McDougall had a ladies shop, down in Tressider's parking lot
31. 5 theatres, vaudeville shows, ropes across theatres and people would ride bicycles, across them country doctors, in tents selling snake oil, preached about it, peddled medicine everywhere
32. Always had horse and dog in the winter In the Cobalt lake
- 33.
34. Grade 8
35. Horse and buggy wagons, snow ploughs made of wood drawn by horses, livery stables sidewalks up high over roads. Charlie and Orpha would rent a horse and Buggy on Sunday for Brady Lake, with friends, or just went for rides
36. Dr. Taylor, Dr. Cain or Schmidt
37. All children born at home
39. Just as soon as they finished school
40. Eric, Railroad, Gordon, Railroad, Eddy-, Mining Eng. , Alf, Miner Duggie, Railroad, Eileen Telephone, Lena, Telephone, Donald, Mines
41. The mines started with a hole, then would build shaft over it.
42. Then the town got going good they had drilling and mucking hand steeling and other contests. The Ball Park out at west Cobalt, always a busy place, women would go and watch the ball games, everyday if possible, They even bought in stampedes, One day Orpha and her husband were watching a game and she saw a big husky fellow walking with a tiny women. She said she knew the man so asked who he was, and couldn't remember the name, Her husband said it was Ambrose Murphy and he was going to marry that girl Orpha said she remembers that as plain as day.
43. Meat, Eggs and Potatoes for breakfast, very heavy meals, and deserts
44. same, always ate frozen lunches as it was so cold at the mine. They bought a house after 2 yrs. and paid \$4.00 ground rent a month.
45. Housedress, heavy wollen stockings as it was so cold
46. Dolled up
47. Went to Church and would walk all day, after children born never went out much. Went to the show 3 or 4 times a week as it only costs 5 cents
48. some furniture from first house, table and dresser, dishes over for years old, and a cake plate and mothers pictures
49. Likes it its better now but had more fun in the early days
50. memories
51. like all changes, sorry the recreation director had to be fired
52. no
- 53 likes it as it is
- 54.
55. yes

56. Lots of things, Cobalt will be good yet. It always comes back
57. Spring, summer and winter
58. belongs to lodges and church groups, goes to the teas
59. sewing and plants and flowers
50. Thinks it's awful, if people would plant gardens, grow more food, keep it for winter. More people should do for themselves.
61. People living here their homes are here. just want to stay here as she loves it
62. Museum, library, community Hall, Churches, tours, Hunting and fishing theatre, Historic sites.

Highlights:

Orpha's interview was terrific. A sweet old lady with so many stories to tell. She told me (she could tell stories for a week or more of different things that happened in Cobalt. A tape recorder would be the answer there. She would not live any place else but Cobalt as all her memories of the wonderful times she had still linger in her mind. As though they happened yesterday.

Joanna Stubinski:

Please add this to Mrs. Charlie Smith's interview:

At one time in Cobalt there was quite a fair size island at the end of Cobalt Lake. The Mining men wanted to get rid of it. so they drilled underneath it. then blasted. It spun around and around until it hit bottom. Mrs. Smith said the sound and the feeling it gave her was awful. It was really something to see.

There were people that came from all over just to see this. People that came from Toronto This happened over 30 yrs. ago. After sinking the island they had it mined.

Orpha also remembered the washing of the Nipissing hill. They did this so they could see where the veins of silver were. They used a hose 5" in diameter, had to use a saw horse because they were so big.

The water pressure was so great it uprooted trees. It was another interesting thing to see. This took 2 months to do. People came from all over to watch. When they finished you could see the veins of silver and Cobalt. It was beautiful. This was in 1918 the hill was a gully with a thousand stumps or more, still there today

Mrs. Smith's father would have been 111 in four months when he died.

She showed me a framed picture with the following writing from the Province of Ontario to her dad.

Mr. Spencer Church Calabogie, Ontario

May I extend to you on behalf of the Government of the Province of Ontario

Heartiest congratulations on you one hundredth Birthday and good wishes for your Health and Happiness

Parliament Buildings

Toronto

Provincial Secretary (couldn't make out his name)

