

Carmen Stubinski      May 27, 1972

4 hours

1, Ralph Benner

4. Business address. P.O. Box 208, Cobalt, Ont

5, 679-5757, Its funny my mining license is the same as my phone number

6.      born in 1913 - 58 years old

7.      At home in Mileage 104

8.      Dad was born in Severn Bridge, mother was born in Sundridge Ont

9.      They were married in South Diver 1908

10.     Born here

13.     There were 5 of us

14.     Geologist. I tried and tried to get a lease on Silver Cliff when I was 21. Someone beat me to it. Hal Fancy and Bob Lymna got the lease. So I went to work with a shovel for 13.75 per day

15.     Stenographer met her in England APP. We got married in England

16.     Consulting, Geologist, prospector

17.     Housewife

17a. I joined and waited 6 months for a call it came 3 days before Christmas in 1940. I landed in England xmas 1941. After training as a navigator Bombardier RCAF came out as a flight Lieutenant. Was there 31- years I was on the 429 Bison squadron Bombed on night duty. Did 24 hours bombing raids. Not Mary shortly after I got there. All Canadian personnel Bournemouth. That is where I met Mary. I went with here for 21 years and got married there.

18.     I was glad to be back after the war. Still remember singing O Canada when we came home. I was crying I was so glad to be home. Coming back to Canada and seeing lights and stores again after 31 hours darkness. You could feel embarrassment. I found the house very warm. It took me a year or two to get used to central heating again.

19.     Can remember coming home on the train met Cal Taylor on the train he was MP for Temiskaming NDP at the time. Cal told me how things were happening in Cobalt. It didn't concern as I still had one year to go to University and anxious to get a pack sack on my back again and get out in the bush and go up the lake and out hunting in the 'ash which I loved.

21. I came back to Cobalt because my business was mining. After I graduated from queens that when A.D.Hellens, Hal Kenty and Mario DeBastini and I got together, Melons, Kenty and I had been overseas. The five of us were all close friends. Mario didn't go overseas. Dan and I became partners with Mario's help and guidance pumped shafts fixed it all up for operation. The Cobalt Lode which we had optioned. The first drill hole we put down we struck high grade silver. Mario was working with us we found a mine the 2 & 3 hole --as rich the 4th one missed the rest were good. It was the first money I made to celebrate Dan, Mario and I went to Purdy's Lunch counter and had a coke.

Jim Armstrong came back from overseas he came in with us. We mat up a. brief and went in Ottawa. We rewrote the brief 3 times between Cobalt and North Bay. Between North Day and Ottawa we rewrote it 3 times when we got to Ottawa we had it typed. In Ottawa we finally filed it and presented it. We got what we wanted the raise in the price

of Cobalt. The old follows in Cot said we were crazy 4 young' fellows going to Ottawa to see about the price of Cobalt.

26. We had to walk a couple hundred yards to get water.

27. Coal lamps and lanterns an outdoor.

28. Wood stove. Mother baked all her own bread Saturday was baking day at our place. She preserved hundreds of jars of fruit and pickers every year. We never bought canned fruit. The fruit was wild raspberries, blueberries and wild strawberries

29. Quebec heater) heated by coal.

30. Harry Bucklers general store Morris Ledovitz. He had the East Nipissing clothing store. You could buy and pay him when you could afford to, It was a good store. He had beautiful daughters too. My barber was Charlie Otten There was Matton's barber shop in Mileage 104. Benny Mino the shoemaker. When Bill Harding also ran a poolroom and confectionery store.

31. The bush. The gym at the YMCA, in Cobalt Bijou theatre. It was 104 entry my sister took us, she paid our way. We sell bags to make money to go to the show.

32. The big thing was skating on Mill Creek we'd spend 6 hours. We'd ski, snow shoe. We made our own home made Bobsleds and we used to toboggan later years

33. Yes, Public school in Mileage 104 to grade 7 tried our entrance in the Cobalt Public school. Then I went to high school for 2 years my mother made me take straight matrix. I changed over to the mining school and graduated in 1932 at 17 years old

34. 16 years altogether

35. Street cars, horse and buggy

36. Dr. Schmidt

37. The miners hospital

38. Allan was born in England. Mary went to England to have him, I wasn't settled then it was the easiest way

39. Worked in the gold mines in Kirkland Lake 1933-34, Working conditions were good.

42. Mucking contests and hand steeling

43. Waiting for dad to come home with his lunch pail. Remember dad always saved me something to eat out of his lunch pail

45. Penfield fleece lined combinations Wool mackinaw jacket, knee breeches

46. I wore a little Lord Fauntleroy suit, lace collar, velvet knee pants, I always carried a needle and thread, so I could mend my long stockings before mother saw the tears. In sports we used to go swimming at Cross Lake in at the second lake, Kirk Lake. We'd play baseball in the school yard. Mother and dad were caretakers at the mileage 104 school when we were kids going to school. I was the water boy. I had to carry water in the morning before I'd go to school. I'd fill up the cooler up and down stairs before I caught the bus to go to Haileybury high school My boots would be very uncomfortable. I'd have wet feet some days in the winter till I came home at night. My brothers helped me sometimes.

47. We'd sing hymns at home after we came home from Sunday school. We had family gatherings

48. Mineral collection the last 10 years

49. I know the people they are friendly

50. I feel there's more people for my type of work. There are more mines to be found

51. Walking last fall up Lang St. I couldn't help but notice the young people outside painting and fixing up their homes at one time they were all old people on Lang St. I like Dunning Drive. Dr. Dunning deserves the honour of the street being named after him. New Red & White store more buildings not shacks replacing the old buildings
52. Don't like not having no drug store
53. My work has been searching and concentrated on new deposits
55. Yes
56. More mines found . They will be found I don't mean old mines I mean new ones so the production will be like 1910.
57. The fall, early spring, when the snow goes. No there's no flies. Its good prospecting in the fall when the leaves are gone there are no flies.
58. Jim Armstrong has been the mainstay of Cobalt. He has been and is doing a lot to bring money and has found silver for them. He is still working for them. as working in the old mines I'm looking for new mines. When I was in Cobalt and things were going good. I said I'm getting out of here I got so fat. It was terrible. I went to Beaver Lodge, Elliot, Denison and Canmet. I was in on the deal in Connaught. Had a deal with Denison exploration prospecting wise. My hobby is mining and prospecting I love the bush at Harrison Hibbert we located an ore body. Jim Armstrong and I were on the Harrison Hibbert. It never was a big mine. Cobalt Lode was a rich little mine Shaft 400 ft. 3 - 20 acre claims on property.
60. Mining in faces of refining production of silver and Cobalt metals. Have to find new mines
61. mining financiers, promoters, tourism
62. Mining tour, museum, fishing
- 63.. There are many mines to be found within a 50 mile radius of Cobalt not only silver gold, copper and nickel.

#### Hightlights:

1. I feel Paul Hermiston deserves a lot of credit for working free of charge in setting up and organizing and doing the excellent job of getting the museum in shape and setting up the exhibits and ore exhibits. I spent many hours in the museum when Paul was doing this practically round clock.
2. Arnold Todd had a lot to do in collecting material getting trucks to move the stuff in the museum in the start before Paul took over as curator. Arnold has done a lot for the town of Cobalt over the years in his own silent way
3. I was councilor for the Township of Coleman for 3 years before we moved to Toronto.

#### Ed Benner

4. Dad died at the age of 90. Feb. 1959. He worked at the O'Brien Mine for 17 years as surface straw boss. He liked sports Saturday night hockey as ho got older was his favourite. Ho used to listen by radio, earphone, TV. We rigged up ear phones for him. He didn't enjoy the TV as much as he did radio.

5. Mother died Harriet Benner died at the age of 88, March 1972, She was active all her life baking for United Church bake sales and teas to which she belonged. Rebecca's Past Grand Progressive Conservative organization. We moved 4 times in 4 different houses our house burned in the 1922 fire,

The one that burnt we bought from Charlie Oaty. The house we own now was after the 1922 fire,

1. Ralph Benner has always been optimistic about the Cobalt area. He has maintained an office here since the Second World War.

2. He has three good local properties in view one of the, they are drilling in the spring 12 miles south of Cobalt. They have the money for this work. Another is 15 miles south of Cobalt. The last 2 properties as soon as they set Capital they are going; to explore and work,

3. Shall I say Ralph is Cobalt in the Gore and is expecting great things for the next year.