INTERVIEWER: Dianne Zieman

DATE: March 1, 1972

TIME: 2 hrs. 45 min.

INTERVIEW:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Thomas Mick
2. Sam
3. Catherine Britain Mick (no relation)
4. Dawson Pt. Road, New Liskeard
5. 647-4982
6. Mr. Mick will be 84 in August; Mrs. Mick will be 79 on August 13th.
7. Mr. Mick was born in Stafford, Co. of Renfrew on south half of Lot 5 in Concession 1; Mrs. Mick was born in Micksburg in Stafford, Co. Renfrew.
8. Mr. Mick - his mother was born in Canada; his father in Co. Limerick in Ireland. Mrs. Mick - her mother came from England and her father was Irish.
9. Great Britain.
10. In 1929, Sam came a few days ahead of the family, directly to Dawson Pt.
11. By car; had a team of horses, a cow and a pig. She came by train.
12. Pembroke.
13. Parents and three girls.
14. Farming.
15. Farm work; housewife and mother.
16. Retired - gave the farm out on shares; kept sheep for eight years, but had to sell the sheep last year.
17. Retired.

17(a) W.W.11; quite a few of the men from here went (Roy Wall, Stuart Wall; George Tucker, Andy Berrigan, George Jelly). Some who didn't go overseas, but who were called up. Collections and war drives - not so much in the country. These things did take place in New Liskeard.

17(a) Cont'd

During the Hungry 30's, Mrs. Mick remembers being told that a shipment of clothes had just arrived, and to go and get some overshoes for the children. She didn't go - too independent. There used to be carloads of apples brought in - one could buy a bag of apples for a dollar. Could not sell the produce anywhere. Mr. Mick used to go over to Haileybury to peddle from door to door. Sold meat for 5¢ a pound - saw one lady buy half a pound, as that was all the old woman had. A little girl asked him "How can you buy meat and Daddy out of work?" at one house he went to.

Alan Bradford lived on 60¢ a day - diet of bread and beans - always made sure that he came. What was wrong with the 30's - "How best can the poor man live?" Going to be the opposite.

18. House seemed ghostly. Cobalt seemed the most desolate looking whole she had ever seen. It was raining at the time - tar-paper shacks and black streets. Haileybury and New Liskeard were different - but she sure wasn't in love with her home. During a celebration picnic on the beach on July 1st, there was a big windstorm; got very dark. The lamp blew out. She remembers both of them pushing with all their might to hold the door closed against the wind. People couldn't live in their house - it was so cold. Mr. Craig wanted $200 a year rent for his farm; they lived there for a year. There was a flood, and 100 ft. of railway track had been washed out by Dixon Creek- debris from the flood washed up 30 ft. Had to transport passengers from Haileybury to New Liskeard to get the train. The storm happened in 1931 - freak storm. Mr. Mick had sowed three bags of potatoes - he harvested one half bag. The water ran down the hills a couple of inches deep.

19. answered with 18.

20. To get the girls to high school - couldn't afford to pay their board and it was hard to find a place so that the girls could live at home and still be close enough to a high school. George Welsh, a dairyman, was here then - told Sam about it. This farm belonged to W.V. Craig - Mr. Mick bought the 62½ acres at first, then bought 20 acres more. The spring on their land used to water the town of New Liskeard at one time - big pipe took the water under the lake and into town. An earthquake in 30's - the water flow has never been so heavy since. One used to see logs pushed up in the spring- the spring is near where Peters' house now is.

21. They farmed, some lumbering and road work. Things were going down at at the time. Went into the council about 1935-36 and the year before, all that was spent on the roads was $1200 in Harris Township - total between the government and area. Russell Leroy earned 60¢ a day on roadwork - tried to hold down two jobs - developed appendicitis after about four days.

22. Working hours were from 5 a.m. until dark at night.

23. Got nothing except board. Had at least three or four men who begged them to take them in for at least their bed and board during the 30's in return for work on the farm.

24. Ghostly - a very tall frame house, with a high spooky roof on it. Everything was black - had to clear old clothing and hazelnuts out with a shovel. Tore it down and the family lived in a tent while they built a new one; using most of the lumber from the old house. Spent $89 for tarpaper and nails - no insulation; bought redi-roofing and used second-hand boards, which shrink far less than new lumber. They have a beautiful log and stone barn partway up the hill behind their house - couldn't afford to buy the large timbers to build a barn, so

24. cont'd

they bought the barn in Pembroke for $89 and had it shipped up here for a little over $100. Stones for the barn foundation came from the road when the road building crew was here.

25. Same as usual. Goose or fowl for dinner - the usual procedure, with a Christmas tree - no visitors for their first Christmas here.

26. Down to the back spring - carried water from there until three years ago. Carried drinking and cooking water from the spring. They drew soft water from lake in barrels.

27. Lighting - coal oil lamps.

28. Wood - range.

29. Wood heating; Quebec heater in one end and a wood stove in the other.

30. A & P; Dominion; Lalonde's were all grocery stores. Clothing stores were McKnights and Robinsons.

31. Dancing; although they as Methodists didn't dance or drink. They could play baseball or hockey but they didn't really have the time.

32. Girls belonged to the 4-H Club; school sports. Put on plays - "Red-Headed Stepchild" was one performance that the Mick family was in at the Harris Hall. Played in Cobalt and somewhere else.

33. New Liskeard Secondary School - New Liskeard Public School - cost $5 a month because they couldn't get their taxes transferred from Harris to New Liskeard. Bessie went to Balls school in Harris.

34. Iola - 14 years plus 2 years at University; Bula - 10 years; wouldn't study. Took a special course in commercial. Bessie - Ross' School - 11 years. Mrs. Mick had 8 years of schooling;her husband had 3 years.

35. Cars in the area - Bennett Buggy. Electric streetcar between Cobalt and New Liskeard.

36. Dr. A. C. Farlinger.

37. Never were in one.

38. All born in Micksburg.

39. Iola at 17 was teaching; Bula at 16 or 17 - went to Binkley's in '39; Bessie left school at 16 and worked in the Royal Bank.

40. above

41. Farms were very good. Pretty well-cleared by then. Found more trouble with the farmers than with the farms. Good for a couple of years when they came here - the years of '31 to '33 were the worst here - they went into debt. Bought fowl at $1.50; couldn't give them away. Crops musted - no room for hay in the barn and so couldn't get it dry. One needed a "strong back and a weak mind" to survive.

42. Fair of cattle, etc. New Liskeard Fall Fair.

43.

44. People on farms ate well - meat, vegetables, bread and baking - Mrs. Mick spent one day a week baking. There were several (15 approx.) families on relief at the time. Mr. Mick was a relief officer - paid $6 to the father - the mother got $4 and $2 for each child. The Micks had as many as 12 children at one time living with them from the Children's Shelter in Haileybury; had a Sunday school at their house for five years.

45. Overalls for him; a print dress for her. There was a day when she had to wear her summer clothes in the winter.

46. One good dress - made all her own clothes.

47. Sundays - very quiet - never worked on Sundays - went to church and to Sunday school.

48. Picture which is over 100 years old; she bought it in Pembroke; has four of them. Iola was born with a "veil over her face", apparently a loose piece of skin. Mrs. Mick refused the nurse's offer to save it for her - wishes she had kept it as it is a rarity.

49. Like the community as a whole - good neighbours. At least 7 or 8 of their neighbours have offered to drive them but they are too independent. Finds country people really willing to help.

50.

51. Changes: road have improved - good homes along the lakeshore which are well-kept. Nice in the summer.

52. No - no liquor. The sports on a Sunday don't appeal to them because of their religion.

53. No - better off in this area than they would have been in Old Ontario. Easier to make a living here than there.

54.

55. N.D.P. government getting elected to power.

56.

57. Summer - used to like the winter but not since he has to stay in the house. Never was cold outside.

58. Happy as two turtle doves - don't seem to need any entertainment. Talking, reading and listening to the radio.

59. Used to do embroidery - still likes to sew.

60. Mr. Mick used to work 12 hours a day and then it was cut to 10 then to 8. Now if they would cut the working day down to 6, they could employ more men and get rid of the unemployment. Certain men will not go, but any man, if he gets the job he wants, will go to work. What's the use of educating a man to use a pencil and then sending him out into the bush to work when he doesn't know how? Good idea that if you don't like a particular course in school, you can try something else. A lot of people are trained for something for which they are not suited.
Industry: build smelters, etc. to work out our own minerals - must keep our industries at home. We are selling out Canada to the U.S.A. Too high a percentage of our industry goes to the States. Give out

60. cont'd

surplus money, then draw it in again once things are going better. He remembers the $4.00 bills that Laurier brought out when he was paying off the railroad. The States get the resources because they have the money. "How could a man earn half a million honestly?" - question of morality in big money. Grab that should not be.

61. The area has a lot of room for new industries, for example, furniture building as this is where the lumber is. Would be a great place for an airport.

62. Nearly any nationality would be interested in looking at what this area has to offer. Lovely country for farming. People have an idea down south of what the area looks like. The homes here are better than many of the old and fallen down homes they saw around Pembroke.

HIGHLIGHTS:

They kept mentioning Old Ontario - apparently anything south of North ~~Ay~~ Bay is Old Ontario - anything north of the Bay is New Ontario.

When he was 21, Mr. Mick went through Cobalt on his way to Matheson - remembers the platform being so thick with people, he was afraid he'd never get back on the train.

Heard that a mine was located recently between Temagami and Cobalt - Neil King had located it 50 years ago - he knew Mr. Neil King, who came from Lake Dora in Renfrew County.

Brought their barm up from Loxley in 1946. Mr. McNab built the stone foundation - he was at that time about 70 years old.

Knew Mr. M.J. O'Brien from the O'Brien Mine in Cobalt - he was an elederly man living in South Renfrew. Although he was rich, they claimed that no children went to school as poorly dressed as did his.

Remembers the road between here and North Bay - corduroy road - a car had gone off and sank in the mud - one-way track. On the way up, someone

took their name and destination at North Bay and agin when they reached Temagami.

They used to sell butter, buttermilk, pickles and pies as well as meat, fruit and vegetables. Mr. Mick remembers earning $3.75 after peddling all day long in Haileybury from home to home - at some homes he was asked to come back after dinner - as that was payday and the women wouldn't have any money until their husbands got home. Found the people very honest.

FOLLOWUP:

Mrs. Sutton

Peters