

Simone Bidard  
Interview  
April 21.,1972

1. Theodore Leonard Matilda Leonard
2. Ted
4. 6-5th Street
5. 679-5542
6. I was 70 yrs. old on Oct. 9
7. I was born in St-Jovite Que
8. My mother in St. Jovite I think dad was born in St. Marguerite
9. We came to Cobalt from St. Jovite in 1905. Matilda: My family came to Cobalt from Masson in 1908 dad came here before us. He was a prospector he sold one of his claims and built a house on Second St. and then sent for us
11. We came by train
13. Ted: When we came to Cobalt we were five children  
Matilda: Whan we came to Cobalt we were six children
14. Ted: My dad was a miner
15. Ted: My parents operated a boarding house for many yrs. my mother worked part-time as a cleaning woman at the Cobalt station
16. In 1916 I tried to enlist in the army, I was in the office when my mother passed on the street and saw me, she came in the office and took me out of there as I was only 15 yrs. old and did she ever give the officer a blast. I wanted to join the army cause I wanted to play the bugle.
19. In 1905 it was starting out but it got bigger as the yrs passed
20. My dad came to work here as a miner
21. It was practically all mining
22. In the early days men worked 10 hrs. a day
23. When i started to work in the mine in 1918 I was getting 2.75 a day as a mucker. A maching helper was paid 3.00 a day
24. Ted: Our first home was a log house on the corner of Park and Watson St  
Matilday: Our first home was a frame house on Second St.
25. Ted: We celebrated on New Yrs. and I can remember one of our boarders. He had bought me an Indian doll, in my stocking they would put candies an apple or orange and on top of this they would put potatoe peelings.  
Matilda: We had a christmas tree and we'd hang our stockings and we'd get apple oranges and doll.
26. Ted: My dad had two teams of horses and two big water tanks one sleigh or wagon depending on the season and he sold water from house to house
27. Coal oil lamps
28. Wood stoves
29. Box stoves, and turtle coal heater, this was a furnace with the print oj a turtle on it.
30. There were lots of stores and we had butcher shops with sawdust on the floor.

31. We had six theaters there was the Harmony dance hall we had a ball ground on Swamp st aro und hudson Bay road
32. I played baseball
33. yes
35. Horse and buggy or sleigh. The streetcars started in 1910-11.
37. It was good as far as I'm concerned
36. Dr. Taylor and Dr. Mitchell were our family ~octor
38. Our children were all born in Cobalt
38. Rene went to grade 11 and went to work as a pln boy and handy boy at the bowling alley in Matachewan. Irene went to grade 9 and worked at a store in Matachewan she was 15. Jeanne went to grade 8 then went to night school she works part time in a store in Fort Erie. Rita went through high school and went to work for Mr. Shaw's drugstore in Cobalt
41. In 1910-11 they built the air pipeline to Ragged Chute to furnish air to the mines.
42. Hand steeling contest, mucking and drilling contests
44. We had stews, soup meat, potatoes, and veg.
45. Ladies wore cotton dresses, Men wore the same as today.
46. On sunday we'd wear out our best dresses. When I was a little boy I wore pants that went down to the knees, something like knee knockers, shirts and knee socks.
47. We'd go to church then we'd take walks, play cards or we'd play croquet or horse shoe
48. no
50. I think it's the cheapest place to live as far as taxes and water rates are concerned. I was raised here. I went away to work for a few yrs. but then I came back to Cobalt, to me this is home.
55. We haven't got enough work
56. Summer as I enjoy fishing
57. My hobby is bowling
- I go to bingoes I play cards with a group of ladies. I belong to Women's institute, Legion Auxilary and the Dames Chretiennes
60. What we need is a second industry, with the price of silver it's hard for the mines to keep going
61. Mining museum, mining tour and fishing.

I started working in the mines when I was 17 yrs. old and I worked in them for close to 24 yrs.

We had the Orphium theater, the Grand Opera House, The Princess, Empire and Bijou.

We had a French school and church approximately behind where the Bijon theater was.

When my dad worked in the mines, the men used candles for lighting, they were placed on a candle holder that had a handle at one end. A pick at the

other. This could be hooked on your hat or you could put the pick in a crack in the wall.

In 1919 Cobalt had it's first strike and the silver went up to almost \$1.45 an ounce and every time the price of silver went up a certain amount they would give us a raise. Once mines even hired men to play hockey. The national hockey association started in Cobalt in 1910, some of the teams were The Canadians, the Renfrew Millionaires, the Toronto Shamrocks.

Mrs. Duval had a dance school in thebasement of Stadelman's store  
Some of the teachers at the French school in the first yrs. were Miss Gauthier, Miss Roberge and Miss Lafond

Miners would pay 1 dollar a month for doctor and Hospital service.

We put our meat in crocks and put them in the cellars to keep it fresh.

Some people had ice boxes and you could buy ice at 10¢ a block

When I went to school I wore a white pinafore over my dress and mom use to have to starch it.

When I was a little boy I remember the men wearing rubber collars, a spa coat and beige striped pants.

We were married at Ste Theresa Church in Cobalt by father Courbon on May 24th, 1921. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last yrs.