

Name of Interviewer: Carmen Stubinski Date of Interview: March 22 Time 4 1/2 hrs

1. William McKinnon
2. Bill
- 3.
4. 67 Cobalt St. Cobalt
5. 679-5693
6. 83
7. Greenfield, Ontario
- 8.
9. Scotland our family talked Gaelic
10. 1905 in Oct.
11. Train
12. Ottawa East
13. Got married in Cobalt 1915
14. Waiting on tables at the Elenora house on Cobalt street on the vacant lot next to Bob Sopha's.
15. Was a miner the first two years was a hoistman 1908. I was 72 yrs. old when I quit hoisting. Had been hoisting for 64 yrs. Mining Corporation most of the time also Kerr Addison 4 yrs. Ashley Frontier at Silver Centre. Ontario Nickel Sudbury, Michel Offset McKinley Darragh, Curry mine, Loon Lake, McIntyre Mine, Schumacher, I took sick at 72 and had to carry a Disc certificate since.
16. Dec. 19 1967 My wife died
17. Retired at 72 yrs. old
18. Spent 2 yrs. with the army Volenteers
19. Didn't think much of Cobalt when I came. Lang Street was mostly all bush. The lower part was cleaned off. The Buffalo Mine was operating then. We had a hard time to find a boarding house. It was the Queens Hotel that they were just building where we ended up with a room. They only had boarded it on the outside, nothing inside. It was so cold and draughty we could see outside. He gave us 2 blankets one to sleep on on the floor and the other to cover us, Harvey was the name of the man that had the hotel. It was the same house the Martins lived in. Later tore down and Elio Chitaroni built a house on the same site, They did not serve meals there. Pipe and Presley had a grocery store and the post office in the same building between Mike Brosko's and Given Bonnie Smith's. There weren't many buildings. They'd hear the hammers going all night. The next morning there would be new shacks built and people in them. They kep t clearing the lots and building shacks fast. The Nipissing Mine owned most of Lang St. the people that squatted there had to pay the Nipissing ground rent, In 1909 there was a fire that started around where Tommy Blacks store was. It burned down both sides of Lang street. The Nipissing would not let anyone build again till the Nip prospected and used what the wanted , such as leases etc. After that anyone that wanted to build had to pay ground rent. The station that is now the O.N.R. Station is the second one built there the first one

was a little one that the railroad. The only entertainment was the meeting the trains.
That is if they were on time.

20. Looking for work. I heard of the Cobalt Boom and came,

21. Mining wood cutters, There used to be a boat on Cobalt Lake. Can't remember the fellows

name. It was a private boat. He'd take us across to the Nipissing mine for 5¢ each. It was a canoe that held 3 or 4 people. Cobalt Lake was called Long Lake at that time. It was beautiful. Before the slime hit it. The dock was at the end of Cobalt street.

22. 10 hrs, a day \$2.00 per day and they took 60¢ a day out of it for our board, I was helping on a machine.

Dr. Smith and Schmidt had an office over the old Dominirim Store, I had to get a piece of steel out of my eye once and Dr. Smith took it out.

When prohibition was here Dr. Case would give anyone a subscription to get alcohol from

cliff moore, Cliff would get an extra dollar for each prescription sold it

24. 2 storey frame house on Cobalt St. where Alma Reise lives today. It belonged to George

Brewer. He had a livery stable and was contractor for moving mine machinery.

25. I'm at a boarding house

27. Coal oil lamps

28. They used to have a honey wagon, The Mercier brothers had a boxed wagon pulled by horses

They would go around and clean out the toilets and take it to the dump past West Cobalt. The time of typhoid there was no water in town. They would go around town with a team of horses sleigh or wagon depending on the season. With barrels and large cans and charge 5¢ per pail. When I stayed over Donaldson's beside the pop factory. I paid 10cents a pail because they had to carry the water upstairs.

28. When we got married cook stove

29. Quebec heater

30. Dances--we had 5 shows then 2 on Lang St. 2 on Argentite St. one on the square the Opera

House. Right where the Red and White is today. We had good shows then silent pictures. I belonged to the Elks Club then they owned their own building where Gordon Watts lives

today.

We'd go to Haileybury by train. Horse and buggy. We used to charter a boat on Lake Temiskaming, we'd go on moonlight excursions. We would dance on the boat.

We had an orchestra of our own. Clarence Labelle played the violin, Babe LaBelle played the piano. there were some other guys playing to Casey Jones. He stepped danced and played the mouth organ.

On sunday we'd get a boat several different couples take a lunch basket. We'd go down the lake to the mouth of the Montreal River and have our lunch, These were private boats owned by the Kego Company. It was the Meteor that Cap Burns was captain of. Phil Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, George Thib, and his wife, was clerk for. R. P.

Graham lived on Galena and Grandview.

One time we went to Haileybury to go by boat to Ville Marie. The Lords day Alliance

had just came out in effect. They wouldn't let us get on the boat and take it out. The boat left later. But it couldn't go the direct route. They would pull up at each dock and eventually got to Ville Marie.

Mrs. Johns had a very large ball of wool she Was knitting away. Her husband threw the ball of wool overboard. She nearly had a fit. She kept pulling the wool in. It was such a mess she threw the Wwhole thing over board and finally gave the whole thing up. It was very funny. We laughed so much.

32. There was lots of skating in the old roller rink. It had a beautiful hardwood floor in it. In winter they would spread tar paper over the hardwood then they would make the ice over the tar paper it was a mess. The rink blew down in 1939.

35. Trains and horses

36. Dr. Smith in 1906. I had typhoid fever. They took \$1.00 off our pay checks at the mine

to pay for the Dr. Saunders owned a big frame house at the corner of Lang st. and near the foundry.

On the north side of the Right of way bridge.Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Adam Davis were the 2 nurses. All typhoid fever cases went there when they built the new hospital Mrs. Saunders was the first superintendant.

37. No hospital then

38. In our first house

39. All went through school. Eunice and Freida went to the telephone office. Dorothy Aldine. Delsie worked fr Dr. Dunning Aldine worked forthe Dunnings for years then went

to St.Michaels to train as a nurse, went to Murray, Laurence and Ken worked for Hydro, Glen worked at Silver Miller Mines, Delsie went to Hamilton to train as a nurse.

41 We moved six times in Cobalt as our family got bigger we' have to get a bigger house.

The safety features are a lot better today

Everyday we'd use the cage. But if they were sinking a shaft, wie would use a bucket. We just 'wore our every day shoes and rubbaers. Cap or hat.

There sure was lots of silver underground when I worked underground in 1905-07

42. There was hand steeling. Tug of War. Some of the mines had their own hockey teams.

The temiskatming,Nipissing McKinley Darragh. O'Brien Mine and Cobalt Lake had their own hockey teams.

The Renfrew millionaires owned by O'Brien Ottawa Senators, Montreal Maroons , Haileybury

and Cobalt were playings hockey full strength in 1908 went they organized the N.H.L. hockey league here in Cobalt. I remember that well as I saw every hockey game. I lost a months wages in one of those games. There was lots of money bet on the hockey game.

Sam Eplett bet \$1000.00 on one game. The Montreal Maroons were very good they would come

to Cobalt two or 3 days , Haileybury beat the Maroons. I bet on Cobalt because they had a better team than Haleybupy , it ended up the Maroons beat Cobalt and Haileybury and I lost. The rink would be packed every time they had a game. That rink was as

big as the New Liskeard rink. They would be sold out every game , There was great hockey here in the early days.

43. Always took lunch sometimes came home when I was at the Mining Corp. We had a round

galvanized Lunch pail bottom of it was put the tea. That was always cold when it came time to drink it. Another section was set in the pail to put the sandwiches in. The sandwiches were always soggy when we ate them. Cake was put in the lid of the pail.

44. We ate 3 heavy meals a day. Breakfast-fried potatoes bacon , eggs, or cold pork and toast

Supper always had a roast or a stew,

45. Mine clothes. Changed when we came off shift.

46. Best clothes, wore wool in those days. Same clothes, but different prices as of today One fellow from Nova Scotia had a hair lip, roomed with another guy they slept in the same bed. His wife knit him a suit of underwear combinations to keep him warm. He got them in the mail and they were so big his room mate told him they should be washed before he wore them. He took them to the steam laundry beside McMillan's garage when he

got a child's underwear. He held them up and kept saying these aren't mine. These aren't mine. It was so funny to see him with his hairlip holding up the underwear jumping up and down with the underwear in his hand.

47. All went to Sunday school and Church. Mother made the boys clothes and all the girls clothes. All the bread she did all her own baking;. It was family day. When the children grew older our house was always full of people,

48. Gold watch fob. I won it at the West Cobalt ball grounds for winning in Tug-of-war. Gold medal inscribed W.E.M. 146, Sept. 3, 1917. The ropes were tied to the centre by a ribbon. There were 8 men on each side. We'd pull till the ribbon broke for start off

49. Because I like it.

50. Schools are here

51. not getting older that's the thing. I've got my health

52. Eye sores torn down. Cleaned up the town. Tore down the Stadleman block. I like the way they have widened Cobalt St. out in front.

53. Closing of the mines. O.N.R. moved out. freight service gone. The mail service is terrible, We got better service when it came by train. Nothing here for young people.

56. Refinery to reopen. Mines might open if the price of silver goes up. Would like to see exploration on virgin ground. It could make new mines to employ miners living in town. There's lots of ground to be explored here yet. I think the government should sponsor this programme.

57. summer,

58. hockey still go to the hockey games.

59. I have a bird feeder. And do all the snow shoveling in winter. There's lots this winter.

60. More jobs to be made in Cobalt , light industry to use our own raw materials.

Furniture.

factory to make plain rockers, tables chairs etc. Wood highly polished unique furniture out of birch.

61. tourists

62. Historical history. Scenic Scenery , Bass Lake, good beaches, Sharp Lake Park, clean water, boating, canoeing, fishing hunting, skiing.

Mr. McKinnon helped Paul Hermiston organize and set the Museum without pay. The board

decided at one time to take out a piece of machinery it was too big to go out the door when the finished the Museum. Mr. McKinnon took it all apart to go out the door.

Someone

decided they were going to keep it in the Museum. So he put it together again. This was all

free gratis.

Paul Hermiston deserves a lot of credit for working so hard in organizing and setting up the

Museum , I spent many hours helping place articles collecting , asortinng, helping Paul establish the Museum without pay , Mines operating in 1905 that I can remember, Tthe buffalo, one of the first, Nipissing Shamrock Mine. Co Cobalt Central, Silver Queen, Temiskaming Hudson Bay, McKinnley Darragh Mine,

Temiskaming Mine, O'Brien Mine, Crown Reserve, La Rose, Chambers Ferland , Nancy Helen Mine,

Northern Customs, concentrator, Right of Way, City of Cobalt Mine. The Colonial, King Edwadrs,

Conigas Mine , Silver Cross Mine, Kerr Lake Mine , Townsite Mine Tretheway Mine, Beaver and

Nova Scotia Mine.

My interview with Mr. McKinnon was very interesting. His memory excels in remembering dates.

Very interesting person. Citizens of his intellect and a memory at 85 is something.

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