

2003.02.168

T976.13

INFORMANT: MRS. ANNA SHAVER
nee. PERRON

SUBJECT: autobiographical

PERIOD: 1901 - 1938

INTERVIEWED BY: Arlene Borgstede
August 3rd, 1976

LENGTH OF TAPE: 40 mins

Part of intro missing

- 006 - 013 Marie Rose Anna Perron, born December 1901, in St. Albert. Born in the Perron home, about the third house from the highway on Mission Drive. House had been built that same year by a contractor for her father.
- 014 - 036 Fleuri Perron: born Charlemange, Quebec, February 4th, 1867. In 1883 he attended a meeting in Montreal given by Bishop Vital Grandin on the advantages for the young people in western Canada. Two days later he left for the west with three Belisle brothers, Gedeon, Xavier & Joseph. Settled on a homestead at Egg Lake, about 10 miles north of St. Albert. Married Lina Laliberte from Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in Egg Lake in 1892. *some old friends*
- 037 - 062 Came to St. Albert in 1896, became the proprietor of the Windsor Hotel. Sold this four years later to Mr. Renaud. Then opened a brickyard on the North River road (Bellerose Drive). In 1904, with Mr. C. Hebert bought a General Store from E. Brosseau. In 1908, he became the sole owner. This store (corner of Perron St. and Mission Dr.) burned down in 1919. Fleuri then opened a butcher store across the street. *did not rebuild*
- 063 - 068 Had 9 children: Alice, Alex, Ella, Anna, Alfred, Romeo, Leo, Hector, and Eugene. *Oldest to youngest - All born St Albert*
- 069 - 085 Spent two years in California; had gone with Alex to buy store there. (about early twenties) Returned home and rented store on corner of Perron St. and Mission Dr. Sold dry goods, groceries, had gas pumps in front of store.
- 086 - 099 Paddle Wheeler, the St. Theresa, went to Big Lake on Sundays, *pleasure trips*
- 100 - 131 Died August 1930 at 63 years. Personal recollections of her father: very kind, generous, always smiling. Cared for three old people: had a small house on their property, provided fuel, food and clothing. Mrs. Trembley, Mr. Savard, Mrs. Lamoureux. Mother was very good, active, quick, a small woman, Father was a big man. *20 lbs*
- 132 --155 Early Childhood: Started school in the large brick building at about 7 yrs. Teachers were mostly Grey Nuns. except for Mr. O'Dwyer who taught Grade 9. Lower grades had large classes, higher grades were smaller. Grades 1 - 12 were taught. Sister Savard taught grades 8 --12. Inspector Fyfe considered her one of the best teachers in Western Canada. *Went home for lunch*
- 156 - 172 Perron house: was very comfortable, gathering place for children skating etc. Two stories with 4 large bedrooms upstairs, a living room, dining room and kitchen downstairs with small room off kitchen for washing. Full basement. Used rain water or river water, had a good well on property for drinking water.

**BG noise
(cars)
mic adjustment**when
why he
came
Ave**Cuts out**separate School on the hill*

- 173 - 202 Had a large garden, a cow, chickens, ducks, pigeons, even guinea hens. a large white donkey, a pony and horse and cutter and buggy. Did not preserve garden vegetables but canned wild raspberries, strawberries, blue berries, saskatoons, and highbush cranberries. Had hired help in the early days, all washing was sent out. Personal chores included helping prepare meals.
- 203 - 210 Entertainment as a child: river used for boating, swimming, skating.
- 211 - 247 Christmas Day was a religious holiday. ^{no gift} Attended Midnight Mass, had large dinner. New Years Day was a day of festivities, exchanged gifts, had many visitors. Meals on both days would consist of roast goose, turkey, traditional pork pies, cookies, cakes and salads. ^{15 to 20 people, no relatives inst. Albert}
- 248 - 256 Mother always celebrated each child's birthday, remembered her July 4th holiday and the American Thanksgiving (fourth Thursday in November.)
- 257 - 266 Took piano lessons for nine years from the sisters at the convent. Could also go to the convent on Saturdays to learn singing, mending etc.
- 267 - 290 Medical services included the town doctor and his wife, Mrs. Giroux, who would assist them in diet, medicines etc. Had mid-wives to assist at births. Alice died at five yrs, Romeo and Alfred both died at about 18 months. Home remedies included mustard plasters, barley water.
- 291 - 306 Flu epidemic of 1918: mother made lots of soup for people stricken, Alex helped to deliver it. Both Alex and his wife got the flu, recovered. Fall of '18 was bleak, no snow, the constant tolling of the bells was very depressing and sad.
- 307 - 311 Attended school till 1920, took high school.
- 312 - 326 Recollections of town: very lovely, park along the river bank, hill to slide down, river to skate on.
- 327 - 336 Started to work at the Bank of Hochelaga on the site of the present Bank of Montreal. (1920)
- 337 - 360 Ella attended Normal school at Calgary, Leo, the Jesuit College in Edm. Alex had attended the seminary in St. Albert, then Alberta College and then Mount St. Louis in Sherbrooke
- 785-198
car
Anna worked at the bank in St. Albert for 14 yrs. as a clerk, teller, accountant and agent for the last two years. Bank managers included: Mr. Sylvestre, Mr. Beland, Mr. Turcotte, Mr. Bherer, Mr. Ribrdy.
- 361 - 404 In 1932, the bank was converted to an agency and supervised from Edmonton. Anna was the only person working there, did normal banking duties. Incident of the lost keys, locksmith had to be called to open bank, safe.
- 826
"drop"
405 - 421 When the agency was closed, ^{in 1934} she worked in the bank in Edmonton, now the Banque de Canadienne Nationale. Commuted back and forth ^{for 42 years} to Mr. Sylvestre, who had several passes.
- 422 - 467 Entertainment: house parties, CWL, Mrs. Giroux often organized concerts. The Canoe Club was primarily used by people from Edmonton. Went camping at the Narrows between the two lakes, fishing etc.
- 468 - 519 Depression: Started working at \$435 per year, in 1930 was making \$1200/yr. Salary was cut. Did not notice effects in the community. ^{before cut}
1065 - "drop" 1033 - "drop"

- 520 - 552 Was offered a job in December 1936, at the Gillespie Flour Mill. Did invoicing, general office work. Manager of the mill was Mr. J.M. Shaver. Mr. Gillespie was a very shrewd man, good business head, pleasant man.
- 553 - 584 Married J.M. Shaver ^{mill} in October 1930, settled in Manitoba. 1 son, Joseph Milton (B. March 11 1940)
Returned to Edmonton in 1952. *Helmington SK*

Son is w Alberta Health Care, married with
3 children

1145 "drop"

1161 "drop"

38:58