

Transcription of Interview with Mrs. Harlan Pettigrew.

[Her name is May Pettigrew. Lives in a house without electricity at 10 Fur Street.]

b. Stellarton, 1896 ....she is 83 now.

father was a coal miner.

her grandfather was Scottish. her maiden name was Kellogg.

quit school because her mother died.

had to look after her family. in her father's family were three children. she was the oldest.

mother died when she was young, had to look after the family.

"I'm not very big but I can stand up to a lot."

worked in the store in Stellarton--the Barkers, the two Barkers. grocery store. she was a clerk in the store.

came to Springhill at the age of 20.

Harlan Pettigrew's people were farmers. came from Economy. he done farm work and worked in the lumber wood.

he just dug coal, as far as I know.

hard to keep things clean.

lived out the Herriott road. we owned a place out there. then sold it and went down to California. he got work down there for awhile with a gas company.

"I'm not a heathen..."

"My husband...he always voted for the labour man. He says, he was a labour man himself, so why vote for anything different? So, of course, I voted with him."

"Some of the younger people...they had their 'holidays'. Some of them weren't very anxious to work, you know."

Q. Was your husband a socialist or not? A. Oh, well, I suppose.

no children.

He was injured a lot in the mine. Leg broken, collar bone broken. "He got compensation but it wasn't much then."

--he had a large garden. greens, beans, potatoes, cucumbers, carrots.

"A labour man couldn't do much, I don't think."

"Plain stuff will suit me....It might not suit some people...."

"Getting plenty to eat, that's the main thing."

--he used to vote liberal until the workingmen started running.

he was Methodist.

he was in that union, yes.

--she thinks there was a clique in the U.M.W. and "sometimes that spoils things."

"I often wonder why he bothered....As I say, he knew better to try,...I don't know what notion he took."

"It wasn't easy."

"He didn't go back at first, but after the time expired, he went back...." He worked in the woods for awhile.

Q. He couldn't get on at the mine if he wasn't with the U.M.W., could he? A. He could if he'd go back, but he wouldn't. He just took a contrary spell. ... Pretty hard to beat him, I tell you, if he made up his mind. No, he didn't go back until the time was up. Oh, he got along fine. Never went hungry.

□ died four years ago--

"I can't understand why he bothered, because he knew the trouble unions made."