

Transcription of interview with Vi Gilroy. Senior Citizen's Complex, Springhill.

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[Born Nov. 28, 1899. widowed. b.Springhill, father was a miner. b. Hartford, N.S.--came to Springhill as a young man. Born at Herritt Road. father owned his own home. lot of the miners did own their own homes. Mother died in the Spanish flu. Lost all her family when in hospital having her baby, all succumbed to the flu.]

Spanish flu: "People just died like flies that year."

[her husband got to be an overman. worked every day, didn't have time off like the other workers. sometimes worked Sunday. advantages of an official position. steady earnings for the family as compared with others.]

[father went to work at half-past five and come home at half-past three or four. "I never remember my father being out of work."]

["When I got married I married a fellow--his father had his own business, the meat market here, and after he died..."]

["You know, the men here yet want to mine. It's in their blood. And they just can't get away from it."]

["My father worked all the time. It didn't make it easy for you in lots of ways, I suppose, because people resented it. You could do what you wanted to or get what you wanted to, but after all...My aunt had a lot of children and she used to resent it. I'd get something. But we were good to them. My father and mother always helped them. I think they resented it, you know."]

[tells story of her sister-in-law who holds mortgages on many houses which were not paid up but did not insist on their being paid or on getting the houses back. the typical instance of the self-sacrifice of the merchants, to keep the community going.]

[Doesn't think there is too much "class distinction" in Springhill--thinks this means racial prejudice. There was some a while back. Don't resent them now.]

[People were scared of the coloured people. On Herritt Road, McGee Street, up there on Church Street. They were "bad," the ones up there on Church Street. "They were brazen or something, I don't know, forward."]

[father first man to have a car in Springhill--in the opinion of the speaker. thinks this was around 1919.]

[Herritt Road. a bit rough down there. They're Herritt Roaders and they went their own senior citizens' complex. ]

[Children fighting over politics. Little children in playgrounds fighting.]

[Joke about the 1891 explosion."This woman had her husband's body in the front room. And she went out to visit the other people for a little while, that had lost men. And she come home and she said, "I knew they'd take that man." He had three brothers killed and they'd taken the body up to put it with the other bodies, to have the four of them in one room....People were tough, though.]

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