

Transcription of Interview with Harold Mackinnon.

b.1900. family came from Petitcodiac. settled in 1872. one of first families. came up from Petitcodiac--that where his grandfather was. became down with his father.

his father and Dan Murray was out in Arizona for awhile. they came back here. he started a store. his father station agent until that time until he died in 1927.

North Slope--very deep, on a slant, he says.

joined to another slope by tunnel.

he became mechanical superintendent.

'The older men--they didn't move around too much.'

'Sometimes you used to fight with them, you know, because they were asking too much.'

'I'd go down there--[No.]7--and come up there around 5 o'clock at night.... And then the coal people down below, all they wanted to do was to get it out as it is....when I would try to get something, I couldn't get it from them. [Cape Breton men would 'break that up for me', they'd come down and have a talk with the men underground.]

his wife's summary: "He was interested in keeping the machinery in good repair. The miners were interested in getting the coal out."

"All they thought of was getting the coal...."

--they used to be after me, "c'mon, c'mon, c'mon, you know."

just missed the explosion.

hated every day he went to school. 'Because if you made a mistake they beat you.'

'I remember the day that I got out.'

--quit school grade 11.

round about 13 years old.

--went to night schools in Amherst. man who was teaching him was so different.

went to sea. second-class engineer. down to New Zealand twice.

was the stationary engineer for quite a while. haulage at No.7 he was first-class machinist, ~~fixxxx~~ worked at Robbs. Learned his trade at Robbs. 1918.

worked in the machine shop.

went to sea in 1925. had no work or anything.

m.1960.

her father was underground mgr. No.6

b.1905.

'When I went to these other people' at schools in Amherst and Halifax, they'd teach you like an adult. He really liked that style of teaching.

he had an accident on board ship--was rushed to hospital. came back to Springhill. In Springhill his father suddenly died, so he had to stay, and stayed the rest of his life.

--any problem on the surface, with labour--he'd deal with that.

--when men were trapped down the mine, Harold Mackinnon sought high and low to find the right kind of tubing--all the stores in Amherst and Springhill. finally found it --behind a door, at this store. men were going to die if they didn't

The 1000 feet from the mine

his father was mayor of Springhill.

politics in Springhill. Dan Murray was Liberal, His father was Conservative. And every Saturday night they'd get together. They'd never talk about politics.

--parents m. June 22 1899.

tributes to Mr. Mackinnon.

Mrs. Mackinnon

his wife: worked in the coal office for many years.

Harold's sister was a stenographer for several years before.

People took a dim view of her working at the pit--felt she never should have worked as long as she did.

started work at 1916. went to school--was going to go to school and take a commercial course, but worked for postmaster instead.

she worked for \$30 a month--post office.

after working in the post office she worked for the company--1926 she thinks.

worked until she was old enough to get the pension.

she wanted to get the full pension.

she'd deal with workmen who had a compensation claim.

workmen's compensation.

Mr. Mackinnon: "We used to dance five nights a week." 1924. I can remember that--"pick yer up and away we'd go."

--would go to Farnsboro, Oxford, Amherst, River Hebert. in the motor car.

--neither of them indulged, nor did their friends.

--went with a crowd of kids who didn't indulge much either.

socializing with their friends.

--underground mgr.--his name was Calvin Earl. active on the council. he retired from being underground mgr. to become checker--bad knee. [Her father].

--Mr. Mackinnon--very narrow escape from No. 4--thirty-five men killed.

[He repeats this story. This seems to be really important to him].

her father born in Oxford. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ his father was a veteran of the Crimean war.

--Harold had the wrong teachers to start out with, she says.

'Don't think you know everything because your mother wears sables.'

--and comments like "It's too bad you're not as smart as your sister."