

Transcription of Interview with Maurice Pullick.

b. Joggins, 1912. Sept. 13.

father worked in the Joggins. his dad was shot-firer there, worked on the railroad--porter on the railroad--started working at Springhill.

'I know that he used to...'

father was born in Antigonish.

got shot-firers' papers c. 1908. may have worked in Stellarton as well.

lived in the Joggins for five years.

lived up in "Wottentot," a street of some sort. called Mitchell Street now.

'He used to swim across to the reefs, with me hanging on to his back.'

had one sister, brother who died in infancy.

sister died in Toronto.

he was 9 years old when he came to Springhill--1921. going on 11 then.

Mother was born in Springhill. met each other in the Joggins.

after his mother died, his dad was brought up by another woman; his mother stayed there after her mother died. this brought them together.

went to school in Amherst. came from the Joggins, went to school in Amherst for a couple of months, then went to school in Springhill.

got to grade 11 up here. failed grade 10--"Too much fun, no seriousness."

two years in grade 11--failed one year, second year got suspended, third year didn't take last exams.

was suspended for classroom disturbances--wasn't paying attention to his work.

his dad really wanted him to go to school.

started going to school and eight and nine. because he was so frail-looking and thin. his mother kept him home.

--Herritt roaders were a rough lot of rascals kids.

--remembers Soup Kitchens set up by Salvation Army--3 lb. lard pails to get his soup.

Transcription of Interview with Maurice Ruddick.

family used to keep hens, ducks, hadn't a big garden.

put on a diet of duck eggs and milk.

batching it after the death of his father.

everybody helping each other.

played around among the boys, played hockey, ball, things like that. His mother had thought he was a frail child and wouldn't let him do that.

his mother wouldn't let him go to school either. no really sickly-- just frail looking. duck eggs and milk cured him of that.

'I had that innocent look.'

--intermediate teams: the Herritt Road tigers (this was in the intermediate league right in Springhill).

--set up two tennis courts, with pounded in stakes, ball of string for a net, wooden rackets homemade. home-made golf sticks.

--Herrit roaders--why did they stick together? Just because they hung around together. 'There used to be a lot of fooling around, boxing and stuff around, you know.'

'We never had no serious problems.'

--cards, bridge, whist. Whist partis were great.

friendly games.

'There used to be a fight on the Herrit road pretty near every night there. Especially the weekends....'

--everybody made their own beer in those days.

A lot of singing going on in the Herrit Road on Saturday night.

'There were a few little rows and one thing and another, but outside of that the boys always stuck together.'

sing-songs.

'The happiest years in your life--at least in mine--was when your family was all together and all coming up. That's the happiest time.'

--just about everybody had plenty of kids.

started work in the mine in 1941.

--started at the age of 23.

'Worked for 17½ years.'

--started in putting boxes for miners, down at the 9,000 wall.

--his favourite job was building packs.

golden harmony boys--they'd have quite a quartet going while they worked in the pit.

performed around town--then they were known as the 'poolroom quartet.'

golden harmony boys circa 1949.

--had a record made, still has the records.

'We're Negro or coloured--those are my terms that I like to use. And it didn't make any difference what you were, you all fitted in. Because there was a lot of foreign people, one thing and another, you all fitted in and you had friendship towards everybody. That's what I thought, any way.'

not fond of 'agitators' in the union--his father and he were ordinary union members, counted on the Board Member to defend them.

'You used to hear a lot of them saying, 'Sit down, sit down,' and 'Put that fellow out...' ...'

--you knew everything about everybody in the mines.

'It was just the same as the women, how they get and gossip....Men did pretty near the same thing down there.' [down the mine]

--a lot of teasing, 'a lot of going on--bugging somebody, you know, all the time.'

'If a fellow took it to heart, you kept at it, see?'

'It was a real good life, I thought. Going down there, once you go down there, that was it. You knew most of the time what you were going to do, unless you were standing around for a job, you know.'

--company hands definéd as those who do the "in-between work"

--singing in the trolleys coming up.

just singing in the mines.

mouth-organs in the pit.

--known as the Singing Miner and the Harmony Babes; then becomes the Singing Miner and the Minerettes.

--his father used to sing a lot, and his mother too.

--on religion: always went to church, to Sunday School--learned enough. Dad wasn't too religious.

--his mother composed songs

father died 1957.