

1/ Interview with Robert Robinson

What's your full name?  
Robert Robinson.

When were you born?  
Feb. 7 1917

Up here?  
Yah ( meaning Hazelton )

What were your parents' names?  
My sister's name is Mable, and my mother's name is Marie.

What about Steve?  
I live with Steve for a long ( they are brothers )

Where did you guys live when you were small?  
In an old house, near the barn, in the yard.

What kind of heat were you using?  
Oh you me n long time ago ( yes ) We had wood stove. ( where did you get your wood? ) I buy the wood from someone else, maybe the Johnson's from Kispiox. It cost 20 dollars a cord. Aftersesecndnd year never bought wood again

Where did you get your water?  
I pack water from Bukley River. Before the pipe came through.  
( every day? ) yah, thatwas every day, I pack water, ( what was the water for? ) We use it for when we cook and to wash the place.

And I used to cut wood for 3 dollars a cord sometimes \$2.50.  
And I pack water for people downtown for, a 25 yrs. ago. You know Le Cheung, laundry and Wong ( Is that the one that was beside Alice Maitland's store? ) Yah, I pack water for 5 yrs. and I pack water to O K Cafe, for long time, 9 yrs. ( who for? ) You know Lee Jo, I call him Wii Bun ( means big belly ) After that I go back to restaurant for 7 yrs. again. ( Do you know BC Jimmy? ) Yeah I cut wood for him, a dollar a cord. ( was that cafe there all the time? ) Yeah ( was that where SAM from Sunrise Cafe born? ) Yeah, B C Jimmy was Sam's father. Yeah , I quit, he only pay 1 dollar a cord. I cut 5 cords and get 5 dollars. I said the money is not enough for the work .

The water was 10 cents a trip. ( Do you remember Cora Sterritt - Grey working at Le Cheung ? ) Yeah sometimes ... I get \$ 2.50 after that and I was the last person to haul water. After that, I just walk around. I got my old age pension now, I just walk around.

The only work I do now , is in the garden. Every year.

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What kind of chores did you do around the house?

The same as work, I cut wood, and get water. I don't pack water anymore. I used to pack water and cut wood all over.

I didn't move into Steve's place, until 2 yrs. after our mother died. In 1960 when my mother passed away.

Do you remember the flood in '36? No. not really.

After pipe was put in, I wash dishes, at mourning, at suppertime, I get two dollars - that's good enough for me ( what did you buy with the money? ) I buy food and what ever I need. Sometimes I save 60 Dollars and buy lots of groceries.

What kind of games did you play, when you were small?  
I never play when .. just chores. I get wood all the time.

Where did you go to school?

I went to school down by the Anglican Church. Ms. Stonegate was the teacher. Then I went to Edmonton for 3 yrs. 1935. Then I went to work. I worked first at a stable, cleaning out manure for 1 yr. At suppertime I feed them. I never go back to school after that. I come back here and worked since then.

Did you play old Tom?

Oh yeah we played beside the old church ( Salvation Army ).  
We played for a long time. Everytime I go to bat, I hit a homerun, ha ha, no umpire.

Did you play baseball?

No, I just watch. They had some pretty good games. No drinking everyone drinks now, I don't like to watch now.

In 1950, I cut poles - After that I worked on the river-drive, for 3 years. Riverdrive - that's when you skin wood and dry it. You ride the logs, no steering, just go. They too much trouble, so I quit. We used to start at Kispiox, right down to here. (so you ride right down to Hazelton?) Yeah. ( And you quit because of the danger? ) Yeah. I just want something to eat, the cook is no good ( laughs ). That's why I pack all my blankets home. They call me back in the mourning, but I didn't want to go because I like to eat ( ha, the cook wasn't too good. ). ( When did you go on a river drive? ) You know I'm getting too old to remember, when you get the wood ready and put it in the water and then you go. I quit that, I never go back to riverdrive, anymore. ( Who were your partners when you riverdrive-ed? ) All the older people, Austin Martin, Steve, Steve Moore, Johnny Moore, Alec Green.

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Do you know anything about the Simon Gunanoot story?

My old man tell me that he kill a man between Two Mile and Hazelton. He killed two men, ( but it was self-defence, wasn't it? ) Yeah. Everyone look for him, and the ole' man, he still around, all the policemen who looking for him walk right passed him, in town. After that he go on the trapline. He come and the trial start. you know Connie Cooks and Lawyer Hanson ( the guy that owned the big store. He get off, I hink he served his time while in exile. You get the book, and you see Lawyer Hanson. He told me to stay away, someone get murdered. He get mad at me so I stay away. They never found him, before he turned himself in.

I buy one for Steve, 1 for Bruce, 1 for Capt. Douglas ( He is talking about the book; Run, Indian, Run )

Let this be an edited version-

Robert's father told him Simon Gunanoot shot a man between Two Mile and Hazelton. He killed 2 men, as a result of self-defence. The police party looking for him , walked right passed him while in town. He went out to his trapline, and stayed there for 13 years. He was exiled, and finally turned himself in. Lawyer Hanson ( + Connie Cooks ) supported Simon and he got off due to his selfdefence plea.

My Father told me to stay away, because of the murder...