

2003.02.162

T976.07

INFORMANT: EVELYN PERRON
 NEE: HOGAN

SUBJECT: autobiographical, life
 in St. Albert, and her
 father, mayor for 23 yrs.

PERIOD: 1914 - 1950's

LENGTH OF TAPE: 1 hr. 10 min.

INTERVIEWED BY: Arlene Borgstede
 May 13th, 1976.

- 010 - 022 Evelyn Marie Perron, nee. Hogan, born St. Albert, January 18th, 1914. The the "Brick School" in St. Albert to Grade 9, began Gr. 10 at Morinville Convent, left in January to help father.
- 023 - 036 Schooling: Principal was Sister Surprenant. Four classrooms with about 30 children ineach class. The boarders from the convent also attended the school. *All Grey Nuns.*
- 037 - 049 Childhood in St. Albert: after schools had to do chores around home, took piano lessons three times a week from the sisters at the convent. *Recess at school was the fun time.* In the winter, skated and attended hockey games.
- 050 - 083 Started Grade 10 in Morinville, left in January 1928 at 14 years to work for her father in the office building behind the present Bank of Montreal where the Town offices were. *stayed 13 yrs* Mrs. Nora Donlevy was town secreatry until 1934, Then Mrs. Hogan took over. *- Her file* Father was secretary of Municipal District of Ray and mayor of town; had his insurance business in the same office. Evelyn did the tax rolls, sent out about 1000 tax notices for the District and 300-500 for the town, prepared the voters lists, etc.
- 084 - 101 She was trained by her father, assisted by the auditors and the municipal inspector's. Salary of \$25.00 per month plus room and board.
- 102 - 117 Michael Hogan: came to Alberta in 1900, taught at the Bellerose School, St. Leon School and a school in St. Albert for older boys. Was approached by the Local Improvement District to do their books after school until they amalgamated to form the Municipal District of Ray #459 when he left teaching and devoted more time to the job. Went into partnership with Lucien Boudreau, insurance and real estate. When Mr. Boudreau was elected to the Alberta Legislature, he sold his half to Mr. Hogan & he continued the business.
- 118 - 124 *Boudreau* Came from London, Ontario (with his wife Blanche Escallier,)? who was also a teacher.
- 125 - 137 Was elected mayor in 1919, Mrs. Donlevy was working there when offices were in the old NWMP Barracks building. The Flour Mill had put the town deeply in debt and was later sold to Mr. Gillespie.

- Interruption by male 11 m.

- 138 - 156 Personal recollections of her father: very strict but fair. Loved the town and its people, enjoyed his work. Had been given a chance for a position with Municipal Affairs, but refused it.
Was very religious, anxious to do anything to help the church or the Grey Nuns. Served on the Church Board, School Board and the Community League.
- 157 - 172 Mother: very strict, kept a good home, large garden, did a lot of canning (fruit, vegetables, chickens, meat). Worked full time at the office, but enjoyed the work and liked to help her husband.
- 173 - 177 Outtings with the family on weekends: would accompany their father on his business trips to visit the farmers he did business with. *No other outtings.*
- 178 - 194 Father's involvement in politics: Supported the United Farmers with Mr. Brownlee who he had much respect for. Ran in the Federal election c. 1928- 29 but lost. Also lost money in the Stock Crash of 1929. *Depression was hard but the garden helped them be self-sufficient*
- 195 - 203 Three younger boys in the family: John, Frank and Leo. All enlisted in the Armed Forces when they finished school. Frank was a bombardier and was killed in 1945.
- 204 - 224 Family home was a three story, brick house on the corner of Mill Dr. and Mission Ave, with a big yard and garden. *2 gardens lots*
It was built by Mr. Hogan in 1914. House burned down February 29th, 1944. *Lost everything.*
- 225 - 263 Evelyn worked in the office for about 13 years, through the Depression years. Remembers the farmers struggle to keep up payments on their taxes. Many did lose their land or portions of it. Social Credit passed a law allowing them to extend their taxes and mortgages.
In August, 1935, the area suffered a severe frost that killed everything, and the government supplied seed the following spring.
- 264 - 295 Her Father's efforts to keep St. Albert from coming under the jurisdiction of a Provincial Administrator. The town had wooden sidewalks and graded roads but Mr. Hogan would do no improvements until the large town debt was reduced. He began his term with a town debt of \$65,000 and when he retired the town had a credit of \$5,000.
Mrs. Donlevy and Mr. Pierre Bouchard were among the residents who provided loans to the town to help pay the teachers.
- 296 - 326 Entertainment: "Circle Grandin" put on plays *on holidays* to make money for the church, there were tennis courts in Mission Park, in the winter they skated and attended hockey games. There were club dances, church functions, card parties and socials. Evelyn and her brothers were not allowed to attend dances at the public dance hall unless it was a club dance that the parents also attended. *There was also a Tennis Club.*

Change in
tape volume
14m-14m50s

Pernicious Anemia

- 327 - 351 Michael Hogan died June 30th, 1943 of a heart attack. He died one month after Mr. Aberhardt and had felt very bad Aberhardt's death. In the summer of 1934, the Municipality honoured Mr. Hogan at a special function at the Tivoli Ballroom for the 35 years he had served the municipality. *Received gifts, but they were lost in the fire*
- 352 - 362 Evelyn married Gene Perron on October 27, 1941, a store-keeper in St. Albert. First home was in a suite over the present Bank of Montreal building at \$15.00 per month. Gene's store was situated where the Sports shop is now.
- 363 - 394 Gene enlisted in Air Force in 1942 and Evelyn worked to keep the store open. Problems: help and supplies were hard to get, rationing coupons and collecting overdue bills. *Hard to keep staff.*
- 395 - 415 Her mother was living with her until Gene returned; moved into suite above town office, worked til her death in March 1946.
- 416 - 444 Next home: Dr. Giroux's old house (corner Mission-Madonna) then owned by Mr. Roualt which they rented for about \$25.00 per month. It had electricity, cistern in the basement, was heated by coal & wood furnace. Coal was delivered from the Starkey Mine (then the McDonnell coal Mines).
- 445 - 464 Bought the house at 29 Madonna Dr. from Mr. Roualt in for \$4000. Brought up 6 children in this house. (Raymond, Elaine, Janet, David, Paul, Eleuri). *Also did books for the store.*
- 465 - 524 House was bought from saving from War Bonds and Family Allowances. *- Got 6 child, then 7 when they were 7, then up to 8*
Did not bother with garden.
- 525 - 544 As a child, family took shopping trips to Edmonton but a lot of their clothing was bought through the catalogue. Much of their clothing was remade.
- 545 - 572 Family did not take holidays, tho' when Evelyn could take over in the office, her parents would go to the coast for the Easter weekend. Travelled excursion on the railway. Evelyn's holidays as a children consisted of a week on the farms of friends.
- 573 - 586 Father bought a car c.1928-29 which was used only for business trips to the country.
- 587 - 598 Perron's first car was a panel truck bought in 1950.
- 599 - 625 Roads were graded dirt, hills were gravelled in the spring.
- 626 - 642 Gene was very active in the community: School board, Church Board, community league. *Anything to help St. Albert heal from the war*

- 643 - 669 Community League started in 1939 with 15¢. Raised money with a Sport's Day, picnics, etc.
- 670 - 712 All her children born at Misericordia Hospital. Medical services in St. Albert: Dr. Giroux and "Nurse" Kate Maloney who delivered babies in the country. Infirmary at the Convent if necessary. *May have been daughter of Dan Maloney*
- 713 End of side I 45min.
- Side II
- 009 - 021 Flu epidemic of 1919: all stayed at home except her father who went out with the priests, (Father Mèrèr), taking brandy to the sick, wearing mask. DeMarco's, a large family, near the CN station, lost many members of their family.
- 022 - 147 Influence of the church in the community: first consideration was the church, attended all church functions. Mme. Giroux organized concerts with the young children which were held in the second church (converted to a church hall). Father LaRose completed the third church. Functions included card parties, and bazaars.
- 048 - 051 Second cathedral (church hall) burned down in 1921.
- 052 - 057 Fires in St. Albert: Dawson Block in 1928, included Lambert's and Veness' stores.
- 058 - 084 Parish Priests: Father Cozanalt, Father Jan: organized the celebration of the unveiling of the statue, Father Bideault: during the war, he was notified of fatalities and told the families, Father La Rose: built the church, Father Tardif: first assistant, then parish priest, Fathers LaBonté, Gaudet and Maurice Joly. *First pilgrimage: 1938 Frank was one of the 2nd men killed in the war.*
- 085 - 095 Unveiling of statue: Hogan's had a large flag, the only one large enough to cover the statue. Many officials from Ottawa. *Flag left to the church.*
- 096 - 113 Development of Mission Park: Father Jan, had the road from the bridge to the church built, and the wooden sidewalk up to the church.
- 114 - 135 Comforts enjoyed today: all modern conveniences: misses the natural trees. Talks about the beautiful setting of the town.
- 136 - 153 Ringing of the bells for the Angelus at 6:00³⁰ am, 12:00 noon at 6:00pm, tolled for funerals, Masses; rang by the brothers. *Too heavy to be put in the church, kept outside.*
- 156 - 169 On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, her father never went to the office. Started the day with Mass, always attended the St. Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance at the MacDonald Hotel. *sounds + pause*
- 170 - Also always attended the Old-Timers Banquet and Dance, also held at the MacDonald Hotel in November. All the farmers would attend, buffalo steaks served. *Mr. Hogan spokeno French.*
- End of Side II 15m