

INFORMANTS: MRS. ROSE GAGNON  
MRS. HAZEL GONZALES  
nee: STEPHENSON

SUBJECT: autobiographical

PERIOD: 1914 - 1921

INTERVIEWED BY: Arlene Borgstede  
Keith Bell  
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November 29/76

LENGTH OF TAPE: 45 mins.

- 000 - 007 Four Stephenson sisters were born in Lacombe: Elizabeth (1894) Rosa (Gagnon) December 12th, 1897, Hazel (Gonzales), January 8th, 1899, Catherine (1901). *Feb 7th*
- 024 - 028 Father and mother came from Nebraska by covered wagon to Lacombe.
- 029 - 040 Family moved to St. Albert in 1914. Father had prospected in the Klondike, had packed through St. Albert, liked the town and felt this was where he would like to settle. Father was Charles Ernest Bartley Stephenson.
- 041 - 077 Lived east of the St. Albert Trail about Belmont Drive. Father had the mail route east of St. Albert (RR #2); delivered by horse and buggy, every day til his death in 1942. Post office was located at LaFranchise's. *no street names at the time*  
*car in the later years*
- 078 - 096 Mrs. Gagnon was 17 years when she came to St. Albert; worked at Royal Hotel. Married at 19 years. *(where the bank was in 76)* Mrs. Gonzales worked at the confectionery in Legault's Store on Perron Street for a couple of years.
- 097 - 117 Impressions of St. Albert: wooden steps going up to the church; Perron's Store and Butcher Shop, Lambert's Store and LeChambre's Store in the Dawson Block. The Livery Stable, Mr. Leonard's Blacksmith Shop behind the Legault Block.
- 118 - 129 Hazel left St. Albert late 1921. (No recollection of the Inter-urban Railway). *Before they were in St. Albert*
- 130 - 140 Edmonton Canoe Club situated on the Sturgeon River about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of the Railway bridge. Owned by the Edmonton Canoe Club; used by the young people in St. Albert who would dance there on Sundays. *while someone played piano*
- 141 - 147 Paddle Wheeler - no recollection.
- 148 - 177 Special days in St. Albert: 24th of May (picnics). Picnics were held at Alberta Beach. Indians would gather to get their blankets and pemican at Lac Ste. Anne. *west through St. Albert*  
*last pilgrimage*
- 178 - 186 Attended the Pilgrimage at Lac Ste. Anne; travelled by train.
- 187 - 206 Many half-breeds in the town but did not feel the French influence. *More French in 70 no French in business or advertising!*
- 207 - 242 Entertainment: dancing at the hall near the railway station. Had a dance there every Friday night, music supplied by violins, *pack-egines*

- guitars and piano. *Down Hall (no official name)*
- 243 - 254 Skating on the river. *Used talcum powder on floors, also muddy, no refreshments*
- 255 - 294 Flu epidemic (1918 -19). Hazel returned from Chauvin to nurse the family who all had flu. There were many deaths among the Indians and half-breeds and Father Simard tended to them in the area of St. Albert known at the time as "Little Chicago". *Hazel was called 'flu-proof', sick at home, quarantined*
- 295 - 319 Rose married Hector Gagnon, son of Georges Gagnon in 1916; met him at a dance. Married in the church in St. Albert, small reception at home. Lived across the street from her parents. Hector joined the army in 1917. *gone for 2 years (she had 2 child by then), early settlers*
- 320 - 346 Husband returned from the war in 1919, bought a farm 6 miles east ( on correction line). Bought  $\frac{1}{4}$  section thru' the Veteran's allowance and rented another quarter. Did mixed farming for about 7 years. *Government land had to be cleared. mixed*
- 347 - 354 Sold farm. 1923
- 355 - 400 Hazel married Hermidas Gagnon, son of Georges Gagnon, Dec. 1921, and moved to Edmonton for a number of years. Separated from her husband, worked for Great West Garment Factory. Moved to the U.S. during the depression, has lived there since. *brother of Hector, during depression, Portland, Oregon & worked for tailor*
- (long pause)
- 401 - 417 Hector Gagnon was not well since the war ( had been gassed), had a pension, did odd jobs, in + around St. Albert.
- 418 - 466 Pemman was distributed in St. Albert one year. Buffalo were slaughtered in Wainwright, carcasses brought to St. Albert where a factory had been set up in the ice house. Distribution of blankets by the government: *two stripe / four stripe blankets w band of ABC south side of river*
- 467 - 479 Mrs. Gagnon had nine children; all attended school in St. Albert. *(too young while on farm) block*
- 480 - 497 Lived near Belmont Drive close to her parents.
- 498 - 518 The Gagnon family: old farm is now a commercial area of the city of Edmonton (Yellowhead Hotel is built on part of their farm).
- 519 - 564 Cunningham family: (Mrs. Georges Gagnon) one son Edward became a priest, Alfred, farmed west of St. Albert. *relationship, 4 messes, not close*
- 565 - 643 Christmas: attended Midnight Mass, Christmas Day the family would gather, have a large dinner. Mother baked mince pies, fruit cake and gingerbread for Christmas morning. Santa Claus brought gifts to the little children ( 4 younger children were born in St. Albert: Edward, Delores, Cyril, and Louis.) *2 brothers stayed in Danneville, other bro in St. George*
- 644 - 673 Clothing worn as teenagers: long hobble skirts, blouses. Heavy skirts, sweaters etc. worn skating. Bought clothes in Edmonton.
- 674 - 706 Travelled into Edmonton to the Streetcar Line by horse and buggy, occasionally by train to CNR depot in city.
- 707 - 722 conclusion.