

ROADS

The Road Commission in the early 1920's. [Oiva Svensk.
4 December, 1975. R.S.]

When the Road Commission was first formed about 1920 or '21, I was the secretary. [Note: Oiva Svensk would have been 19 or 20 years old. Older members of the community had been educated in Finland and had come to Canada as adults. Oiva had had his schooling in Canada and could deal with correspondence and records in English. R.S.] We got a copy of the Statute Labour Act. It was just a pamphlet.

We sent every property owner a bill. He must contribute in cash or else do statute labour.

William Dickie had patented parts of lot 8 in concessions V and VI as a mining claim. The man was some kind of mining promoter. He got a notice from the Road Commission but he didn't pay any attention to it. There was some other balkers too, but we picked on him to make an example. We only had money enough to lay one warrant.

The Justice of The Peace was Charlie Hyatt. He lived on the Chicago Mine Road the other side of Worthington. I went back there with the horse and buggy. Charlie Hyatt had a farm and a sawmill. When I got to his house, his wife told me he was back in the bush getting logs. I found him away back across the Algoma Eastern track three miles or so from his place. I guess it was Crown land there.

So we laid a subpoena against William Dickie to appear in court in Sudbury. I went to Sudbury by train for the court case. If you went by train then, you had to stay overnight in Sudbury. In the morning, before the case was due to be heard, I met Dickie at the court. "I got that bill," he said, "but I didn't pay any attention to it." So he settled out of court. He paid the amount of the bill, with the five dollar penalty for lateness.

Of course I didn't get any expense money for my trouble.