

4

bulk of the inhabitants would work for the railroads. He did not include an industry section. Before the arrival of the residents, the surveyors had traced the streets, lanes and lots on the heights along each side of Lake Commando. The town was on the 'Old Overland Packet Trail' to Moosonee. Charles Bernstein had been to Cochrane as early as 1907.

1908. On November 26, first Anglican service conducted by Archdeacon Renison on the shore of Lake Commando, Cochrane. All the lots between Railway and 5th St (the streets had been cleared) were sold at a giant auction which had been advertised widely. There were about 600 people there. They had walked from the end of the line three kilometres south of town. There was plenty of mud. 146 lots had sold by mid afternoon at an average of \$350.00. (In about 1947 A.Murray Young paid that amount to Dalton Smith for the lot at 375 Third Avenue). Frank Cochrane, the provincial minister was there to baptize the town which would carry his name. One lot sold for \$1500.00.

December, 1908. The Sigouin family built a log boarding house on 6th Avenue to house and feed over thirty people. At the same time Augustin Anderson and his wife opened a log boarding house on Fourth Avenue. This continued for many decades (1960's or later?) as The Anderson House. The first north train to pull into Cochrane (December 18, 1908) had E.T.Ord as engineer and Jim Hamilton as conductor. The Transcontinental railway was built from Cochrane to the Abitibi river. Olivier Genier visited the area in 1908.

1908-9. During the winter, the bridge over the Abitibi was built. The railroad was continued east and finally completed in 1916. It is important to underline the importance of the railroad for the people around 1900. There was no road linking Cochrane with the rest of the world, so the transport of passengers and merchandise was entirely by rail. The true importance of the railroads continued. Cochrane survived the early years thanks to the money spent by the Continental and the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario. The employees were of five or six types. Conductors, engineers, chauffeurs, brakemen, station agents, ticket agents, aiguilleur, telegraph operators, pullman conductors, employees of the dining car, sectionmen, mechanics, firemen, men who loaded coal, water and ice for the passenger trains etc. In addition to employees, the railroad companies purchased water from the town, wood fuel from the contractors, and many other things. With their pay, the employees purchased lots, houses, furniture and raised a family. The railroad was the base of the economy of the town during the early years.

1909. First women to come to town on their own were Miss Tiggs and Mrs Whiting in 1909 from Matheeson, to establish a restaurant. On January 22, 1909 the first mail was delivered to the Cochrane Post Office. Seigle & Levanoff general merchants, Perkus, Leandre Boivin, Ippolito Amendola, Niccolo Fasano, Joseph Chamandy, A.Valee, Charles Bernstein opened stores. (Chas Bernstein dealt in horses, produce and tobacco. Chas had been in Latchford, then Englehart supplying the railroad construction camps with their needs). There were 400 houses and other buildings. A 40,000 gallon water reservoir, a wooden TNO station, a roundhouse, section houses and coal reservoir were built. Gideon Bradette, wife Anna Cousineau and son Fidele Bradette, Ernest Genier, & Murray Young came to town. G. Thorning settled at Abitibi Crossing.

Spring of 1909. Boivin was contracted to cut trees for the road to what would become Genier. Olivier Genier came to Cochrane, followed the surveyor trail between Lot 18 & 19 in Glackmeyer. Took possession of Lot 18 & 19 in Con X and Lot 19, Con XI. Statute labor built corduroy roads. The first road to Clute went west of Lillabelle Lake. The first school was opened on 5th Ave. (burned in the 1911 fire). Timmins Press reported that the first doctor came to town in 1909 = Dr A Henderson. Jim Palangio came to Cochrane, built a bakery and general store. He had already started stores in Englehart and McDougall Chutes (Matheson). Fire destroyed his Cochrane buildings in 1909. Revillon Freres Trading Company had a 2 storey wooden false fronted building built in 1909 across Fifth Avenue from 1950 Geo Taylor Hardware. It was never rebuilt after the 1911 fire. The Imperial Bank of Canada stood at Fourth Ave and Third St.

April, 1909. Andy Segouin, his wife and daughter came from Blezard Valley, near Sudbury by train to Cochrane at Lot 18, Concession I, Glackmeyer township. He built a shack, then plowed for seeding and is considered the first permanent settler to the area. (CNP,431104).

June 14, 1909. Cochrane Board of Trade incorporated with Mr C.H.Lloyd as president, Mr F.L.Godfrey as secretary and a membership of 30.

November, 1909. George El Rainey and brother-in-law H.H.Powers were first settlers east of the Abitibi. Mrs Powers and daughter Alice (Mrs G,Crouch) came later.

1910. In spring, Olivier Genier brought family to Lot 19, Con XI Glackmeyer, where they set up a steam operated saw mill. The town of Cochrane was incorporated (founded) on January 1, when TNO transferred responsibility to a council of Mayor T.J.McManus (served to September, 1911) chosen by the electors and Leandre Boivin, J.Rumford, James Palangio and Benjamin Rothschild. The town name came from Honorable Frank Cochrane, then Minister of Lands, Forests & Mines. Ross A Dodds came to Cochrane. G. Thorning established the Northland Post. John M Penney came to town. Boivin's Mill located north of 5th Street at 6th Ave, east of Spring Lake. The federal