

Interview Outline
For
Valery Zrebiec

*Feel free to write notes on this outline.

- I. Introduction- Age, Where born, brothers- Jack, John, Frank, Walter), sisters.
- II. What do you know about your father's Polish ancestry?
 - A. Discuss Joseph Zrebiec's old country connections.
 1. Origin of the Zrebiec name.
 2. Where he lived in Poland; what he did for a living; education.
 3. Why Joe immigrates to America?
- III. What do you know about your mother's Polish ancestry?
 1. Origins of Maggie Zrebiec's maiden name.
 2. Where Maggie's parents lived in Poland.
 3. How Maggie met Joseph and where married?
 4. Why Maggie returned to Poland from time to time.
- IV. Describe Joseph's arrival in America and where he settled.
 1. Joseph works in the Penn. coal fields
 2. Joseph works in Ironwood, Michigan
 - a. Gets citizenship papers here.

- V. Describe Joseph's arrival and settlement in the local area.
- A. Settlement in Cle Elum and working in the coal mines.
1. Where Joe worked? Working conditions?
- B. Why Joe left the mines and settles at Nelson Siding c. 1918.
1. Discuss how the land was obtained (Finley Bolton) and what you know about the settlement site. (Buildings, home, water, timber, transportation, ecology, how labor was organized)
 2. Discuss how the land was used over time-crops, harvest methods, preparing the land, storage methods, gardening, use of the woods as a food source -- berries, mushrooms etc.; animals and livestock-sell milk
 - a. Preserving food w/out refrigeration.--bury hams in wheat
 - b. Focus on the construction of the Highline Canal and changes in land use.
 3. Discuss marketing of farm products vs. home use. (any links to the coal mining economy? railroads?)
 - a. Describe the Nelson Siding depot. Section House
 - b. Focus on flagging a train.
 4. Discuss pioneer families in the Nelson Siding area.

- a. Andrew Markuson
- b. Swan Peterson c. 1894-location of homestead.
- c. Gustaf Nilson
- d. Old buildings on Little Creek

VI. Describe what life was like when growing up in a Polish immigrant family.

A. Discuss Polish traditions in the home.

1. English vs. Polish (Val, can we have you say something in Polish?)

2. Polish Lodge activities (PNA)

a. Polish weddings and burial customs.

3. Mom and Dad sing Polish songs.

4. Focus on Polish recipes.

5. Focus on religious holidays--Church, Christmas, Easter

6. Focus on holidays- Labor Day, 4th July, New Years, Thanksgiving.

B. Describe your education years.

1. Focus on the Nelson Siding School

a. Comment on Joe's school board activities.

2. Focus on what you know about the Fowler Creek School.

3. Focus on your education in the Cle Elum schools. (Show old video tape on Cle Elum schools c. 1932 and narrate on tape-Val was in track)

a. Bring out how the 1932 strike affected school kids.

b. Bring out graduation and work on North ridge lookout.

C. Describe the business activities in Easton.

1. Johnson Bros store.

2. N.P. and Milwaukee RR.

D. Describe the business activities in Cle Elum.

1. Movie House

2. Independent Market

3. Hazelwood Grocery

4. Pricco's Bakery

5. Canfield and Wilcox

6. Post Office

7. Livery and Blacksmith

8. Skating Rink

9. Horse watering trough

E. Describe how the following events affect home life.

1. World War 1
2. Prohibition
3. Great Depression
4. World War II- Val enters the war
5. Development of roads and highways.
 - a Seattle Walla Walla Wagon & Trail Road
 - b. Indian trails and roads
 - c. Car dealers and Ballard Hill
 - d. Rise of Inns and roads
 - e. Rise of campgrounds and roads.
6. Building Cle Elum Dam
7. Natural disasters
 1. What you remember about the 1916 snow.- transportation in the winters
 - a. Rise of Cle Elum Ski Tournaments
 2. Epidemics
 3. Cle Elum fire c. 1918

VII. Closing- What advice would you give a young person in order to cope with the future? What should a new resident or visitor know about this area so as to preserve our local traditions?