

The following transcript of  
William “Bill” Regan’s interview  
on

*Memories and Music*

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## ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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## THEME:

D.M. Now friends and neighbours we're going to have a little chat with a friend and neighbour of yours and ours in the Sudbury area. His name is Bill Regan. Now Bill when did you retire?

B.R. I retired in 1972.

D.M. And how long had you been with the company?

B.R. Thirty-eight years.

D.M. And what were you doing when you retired?

B.R. I was the regional foreman in Garson.

D.M. And what age were you then Bill?

B.R. I was sixty-three.

D.M. Good. Well now Bill, let's begin at the beginning. I guess your home town is pretty close to where we are now. Where is your home town?

B.R. My home town is Creighton Mine.

D.M. Now, Creighton Mine at the time you were growing up wouldn't be a very big place would it?

B.R. No, it would be a pretty small place.

D.M. What do you remember of it? I mean, do you remember any of the stores, any of the people there, any local politicians or anything? Tell us about it.

B.R. Yes. I remember the general store.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. J. C. Kelly.

D.M. Right.

B.R. ( ) Sellastini.

D.M. Good.

B.R. Jack Hogan and the barber shop and the pool room.

D.M. ha ha ha, you're getting full marks. Keep going Bill.

B.R. And oh there's many more, I can't just think of any more right now.

D.M. Mind you, you're talking Creighton Mine in <sup>about</sup> the year 1910 now are you? This is.....

B.R. No. That would be from 1915, 1920, in there.

D.M. Oh you're talking, we're getting a little ahead of ourselves.

B.R. Yeah.

D.M. Well that's alright. None the less, you did start school in Creighton Mine. Is that right?

B.R. I started school, my teacher was Miss Black, when I was about five and a half years old.

D.M. Now I know that we've had other people on this show speak highly of Miss Black. She was, in your view, a great teacher. Is that right?

B.R. Oh yes. She was, she was one of the landmarks.....

D.M. Well now.....

B.R. ....in the teaching profession.

D.M. ....you father and your mother, now, where did they come from?

B.R. They came from Quyon, Quebec.

D.M. Where is that roughly?

B.R. Well it's about fifty miles from Ottawa.

D.M. And what kind of a community is ~~that~~ <sup>it</sup>?

B.R. It's a farming, lumbering community. It's pretty quiet now.

D.M. Your father then had come to Creighton looking for work. Is that right?

- B.R. Well he was hired as a timekeeper. He was hired, he was a graduate from a business school.
- D.M. Right. And your mother, had he met her in Quyon before they came here ~~of~~ after they came to Creighton?
- B.R. My mother was a school teacher in Quyon.
- D.M. And, of course they were then married and you were born around about 1908. Is that correct?
- B.R. Right, 1908.
- D.M. Any, it seems to me that before the broadcast, you were telling us some of your early memories of getting between Creighton and Copper Cliff in those days Bill, with the roads blocked and so on. What was that story.
- B.R. Well in those days there were no snowplows in the winter time and to make it possible to drive between Copper Cliff and Creighton, they gathered all the automobiles ~~to~~ in Creighton and started out to break the road as they called it.
- D.M. Alright.
- B.R. One car would drive a mile over and then break up part of the highway ~~and-the-next-car~~ and then he would go off the road and the next car would break the road.
- D.M. And you know, when we think of it Bill, we complain these days, sometimes about the roads. Now you did not go to, at least there ~~was~~ would be no high school in Creighton.
- B.R. There was no high school in Creighton, no.
- D.M. So where did you go to high school?
- B.R. Well for the first three months 'til Christmas I went to Sudbury High School and then my dad sent me away to boarding school, to St. Michael's College in Toronto.
- D.M. Well now that's a pretty famous, pretty well-known institution Bill. Any, who were some of your school-mates at that time? Any that we would remember now?
- B.R. Well I don't, I can't ~~remember~~ recall any of national prominence. Dave Trotier turned out to be quite- a pretty good hockey player. He played with the Montreal Maroons. One of the great natural hockey players....
- D.M. Right.

b.r. ....of the time.

D.M. Now that would be, we're talking '21, or '22. Is that right?

B.R. No. That would be in '27, '28.

D.M. '27 or '28.

B.R. Yeah.

D.M. Alright. But you didn't finish at St. Mike's. You transferred to another school.

B.R. Yes. I went, I spent one year at St. Mike's, three years at St. Joe's College in Kitchener and back at St. Mike's for another three years.

D.M. Well, and you played a little <sup>hit or</sup> hockey with St. Mike's, didn't you....

B.R. That's right.

D.M. This would be in the '20's?

B.R. That's right. I played....

D.M. Who were some of the hockey players that you played with and against?

B.E. Well I had, Eddie Convery was centreman, Gordon Pubioux, a famous family from this area, was a left winger. I played against Charlie Conacker of the Toronto ( ), Harvy Jackson, Red Horner.

D.M. Well this is pretty good company.

B.R. Yes it was, very good company.

D.M. Now I want to, I've many times wanted to talk to somebody who'd played with and against ~~like~~ players like Conacker and Jackson. Now, Jackson has been a controversial hockey player. A lot having to do with his, what he did or did not do off the ice, but ~~was~~ on the ice, how do you rate Jackson as a hockey player?

B.R. Very good. Jackson was a great natural hockey player.

D.M. Could you compare him with any of the hockey players today?

B.R. Well he's be a better, better than average. He'd been in a class of Mahovalich.

D.M. But he didn't play like Mahovalich did he?

B.R. He didn't play like Mahovalich, no.

D.M. Mahovalich looks like he's loaping out there, but he ~~was~~ isn't really. We know that.

B.R. Mahovalich plays better in ( ). Jackson is a pretty steady, regular hockey player, but he was big and fast and ~~best-of-~~ lots of know-how.

D.M. And how about our friend Conacker?

B.R. Conacker was not quite as shiftey as Jackson but he had his shot and he was, he was....

D.M. He's got to be one of the all time ~~favourites~~ <sup>greats</sup>.

B.R. ....one of the all time greats, yes.

D.M. Well we've got you playing hockey then Bill, around '28, the late twenties and so on, then I believe that you, in '29, which would be just before the start of the depression, you moved somewhere else. Where was that?

B.R. Well I played, I moved up to Kirkland Lake for one winter. I played senior hockey on the northern ontario hockey league.

D.M. Do you remember any of the players you played with or against in that league?

B.R. Bob Greasy comes to mind.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. Bob played later with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

D.M. The Leafs, that's right. Is there only one that comes to mind immediately?

B.R. ~~whom~~ <sup>Fern</sup> Dumpling.

D.M. That's a name I've heard.

B.R. He's a....

D.M. He's still around here isn't he?

B.R. ....<sup>Fern</sup> ~~error~~ <sup>(is a pensioner w. it)</sup> Inco.

D.M. Fern's, I think Fern's been on this broadcast Bill.

B.R. Probably.

D.M. Yes.

- B.R. Probably.
- D.M. Right. Well now, let's push on then until 1930. What happened in the '30's?
- B.R. 1930, I turned pro with the Boston Tigers.
- D.M. Now I don't remember the Boston Tigers, mind you, this is a few years ago. Any other names of hockey players on that club?
- B.R. I don't remember any name hockey players. The Tigers were an independant ~~hee~~ pro hockey team in Boston....
- D.M. Right.
- B.R. ....but Eddie Powers was the coach at that time.
- D.M. That's right.
- B.R. He was a famous lacrosse coach and player of that era.
- D.M. And did you, the Tigers sold you I believe.
- B.R. The Tigers sold me, I first went to the New York Rangers.
- D.M. Well now we're getting somewhere. Who were some of your playmates on the Rangers in that year?
- B.R. Well on the Rangers, we had such ~~the~~ famous names as Bill Coke....
- D.M. ~~Yes~~ Right.
- B.R. ....Benny Cooke, ~~Re~~ Franky Buchy....
- D.M. Yes.
- B.R. ....King Johnston....
- D.M. Was Murray Mardock....
- B.R. ....Murray Merdock, Paul Thom~~as~~<sup>son</sup>....
- D.M. I think....
- B.R. ....Bill Regan.
- D.M. ha ha ha. That clout at its peak, at its best. How would they compaire against Boston today.
- B.R. They wouldn't be as good as Boston but they would be in there.

- D.. You don't think they would. This club at its peak?
- B.R. Well.....
- D.M. Now you're going to get arguments here, but you go ahead. I'm asking the questions, you're giving the answers here.
- B.R. Boston was a winner a year and the Rangers the year I was there, the two years I was there. We weren't winners so I would presume they would be.....
- D.M. Alright, that's very interesting to get a.....
- B.R. ....superior to Boston.
- D . ....comparison by somebody who played in the different eras. How about against Philadelphia today?
- B.R. Well I think they should beat Philadelphia and maybe they wouldn't.
- D.M. We're going to talk a little bit more about Philadelphia in a minute because I know ~~you have~~ you've got some strong fuses on Philadelphia, but before we do that let's move on here. You were sold then by the Rangers?
- B.R. That's right. I was sold to the Americans the next year. I played one year with the New York Americans.
- D.M. Who was on that club with you?
- B.R. Well Len Dutton was one of the main players there and.....
- D.M. And was there a fellow named McVade. Did he play in that.....
- B.R. McVay? (I think he did,) yeah. Robert McVay.
- D.M. ( And..... )
- B.R. And the goaltender was a famous goaltender.
- D.M. Yeah. It wasn't Red McLusky by any chance was it?
- B.R. No. He's dead now. I.....
- D.M. Roy Warters.
- B.R. Roy Warters. Right, that's right, yeah.
- D.M. The old Americans. That <sup>Len</sup> takes care of '32, and we're moving onto, and you played minor league hockey in '33, and 4. Correct?



B.R. That's right.

D.M. What were some of the team<sup>s</sup>?

B.R. I played with New Haven and Springfield and the next year with Buffalo and ( ) and Cleveland.

D.M. Well, and then I, this is depression and everything and I think hockey wasn't paying all that well, so you decided that maybe you'd settle down and go to work. Is that true?

B.R. That's right. I came home and I got a job at Creighton in the time office.

D.M. And that's where the career <sup>then</sup> with the company started eh?

B.R. That's right.

D.M. Well now Bill, I'm going to, let's see now, we've got you, but they were playing some pretty good hockey in and around Sudbury about this year eh?

B.R. The Nickel Belt, The Senior Nickel Belt league was <sup>or</sup> organized about that time and I had the job of gathing a team at Creighton. I coached and then, well I got my amateur card back, I played with Creighton the last year.

D.M. Now, to get all our facts on the record here, the, was it the Frood Tigers around about this time that won themselves the Alan Cup. Is this not right?

B.R. That's right, yes.

D.M. Who were some of the, some of your, you I understadd, played with Frood in the final Alan Cup series out in Calgary.

B.R. That's right.

D.M. And you claimed that you were not a ringer put in at the last minute that you were legitimate <sup>that</sup> <sup>being</sup> in there.

B.R. Yes, I think so.

D.M. ha ha ha, we can't go back and reverse the decision anyway. Bill, who were some of your teammates on that club?

B.R. Well we had Jim Dewly at center, Merf Chamberlain, Abe ( ), Mell Hill, ( )Price.

D.M. Those are names that bring a lot of memories.

B.R. Harvy Teeno....

B.M. That was the goalkeeper.

B.R. Bingo Crampman.

D.M. Right, and the coaches of the club?

B.R. Red ( ).

D.M. Fair enough. That then I guess was about your last big effort in hockey? Was Would that be a fair statement sir?

B.R. That would be a fair statement, yes.

D.M. Well now, we have you, a man who has played hockey against Conn....at least Connicker and Jackson and who has played hockey with Bill Cooke, and ( ) Cooke, and ~~Mer~~ Murray Merdock and Red Dutton, and so on. Item one, your all time number one hockey player.

B.R. Well I would think that Bobby Orr would be, is the best hockey player I ever saw.

D.M. I don't think anybody would give you an argument on that/

B.R. I don't think too much.

D.M. He's, well what has he got, when he gets the puck and starts out with it, nobody even ~~tries~~ seems to try to take it away from him.

B.R. Well he seems to have, to me, he seems to have the ability to pass the puck very, very well, to know where the, his teammate is, and to, he carries the puck well. He's a very fast ~~player-saker~~ skater....

D.M. That he is.

B.R. ....and he has a hell of a shot.

D.M. He doesn't look ~~li~~ as if he's skating fast, but he's leaving everybody behind him. Well now Bill, I'm going to really put you on the spot now, and I'm going to ask you to name for me, and you'll probably hear from your friends about this, and ~~all~~ all-time, all-star hockey team. Now you've got problems. Who are you going to put in goal in that.

B.R. Well I've got, I think I'd take this Parent from....

D.M. Barney Parent eh?

- B.R. ....from Philadelphia in goal, Bobby Orr and Harvey... ✓
- D.M. Jackson, that one we were talking about?
- B.R. ...Harvey from the Canadians.
- D.M. Oh Doug Harvey the defense, alright. Pretty good defense, Doug Harvey and Bobby Orr. What's the forward line?
- B.R. Centfeman I think I would pick this fellow from Boston.
- D.M. Which one?
- B.R. The big ~~one~~ *fellow*.
- D.M. Mel Smit or Bill Cowy or Espasito?
- B.R. Espisito.
- D.M. You think he ranks right up there with the rest eh?
- B.R. I think he does yeah. And right wing, Gordy Howe.
- D.M. O.K.
- B.R. I've got a row of these later ones.
- D.M. Yeah.
- B.R. And left wing Berger Jackson.
- D.M. Berger, ha ha ha, well all you hockey fans, you'd have to pick quite a hockey club to beat that one at its peak. I can just see Esposito out there in the center and Howe at one wing.
- B.R. They would give, they'd give any other team a pretty good fight anyway.
- D.M. I think they would. Now Bill, about this last series between Philadelphia and Boston. We've all, a lot of us have watched it. I ~~hi~~ think you would agree that Boston had more class, there were more talent, but Philadelphia beat them. Now what's going on here?
- B.R. Well I think Philadelphia are introducing a new era into ~~hete~~ hockey and I don't think it is going to do hockey as we knew it, any good.
- D.M. Well you better explain yourself because there's got to be some Philadelphia fans listening.
- B.R. Well Philadelphia by there own, their own ( )

went after a bunch of muscle men and I think beating the team championship this year they used their muscle and you might say they used to advantage but I think even if the referees had been a little stricter, it would have, backfired on them and ( ) would have killed them but the good lord saw to it, that they weren't called too often, and I think they got away with a lot of interference and holding and hooking and ( ) checking.

D.M. Bill, you're sounding like a Boston fan to me. I suggest-- to you, as we did when we were talking earlier, that when Philadelphia had to play hockey out there and they were a man short, they didn't do too badly.

B.R. Philadelphia played good positional hockey and good hard checking hockey and as far as that goes, there's nothing wrong with that.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. But it's another thing, this punching and fighting by ( ) that reminds me too much of this roller skate derby on the ~~te~~ T.V. and wrestling. I don't like that fighting in hockey. I don't think a good hockey player has to be a good boxer.

D.M. Friends we're having a little chat with Bill Regan and we're kicking around the ~~ete~~ latest Stanley Cup final and we're hearing his views on Philadelphia which are his own views. If you don't agree with them, get in touch with him. Bill, I thought that Scholtz, when he decided to carry the puck once in awhile, that he could play good hockey if he ever made up his mind.

B.R. He's a fair hockey player.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. He was improving.

D.M. I thought he got better through that series.

B.R. He was a fair hockey player yes, but....

D.M. This Clarke is quite a hockey player, this centerman.

B.R. Clarke is a super hockey player. One of the best in the business.

D.M. Now, a lot of people think that Esposito didn't play quite up to his potential in this final. Now what do you got to say about that?

- B.R. That's right. He didn't. He had an offstear. You see, it's pretty to critisize a fellow though that leads the league by ten or fifteen points in the individual....
- D.M. In the regular season eh?
- B.R. .... in the individual scoring....
- D.M. Yeah.
- B.R. ....statistics. I guess there was something wrong with Esposito. He didn't do, he didn't do, he didn't play up to his potential.
- D.M. Yeah. As far as we're concerned, he tried to play up to his potential but it wasn't there.
- B.R. That's right.
- D.M. I think, most ~~u-~~ of us will agree that, in the eyes of a lot of hockey fans, Esposito can not now or ever do any wrong because how he saved Canada's bacon I think in the last Russian series.
- B.R. That's right. He just carried that whole team on his shoulders during the Russian series.
- D.M. Ball, what doe you think about this new series that is coming up against the WHA. Are you in favour of that, or against that, or what do you think?
- B.R. Well I'm in favour of it. I think it will be interesting. I don't expect, I don't think the WHA are going to beat the Russians....
- D.M. Yeah.
- B.R. ....but it would be interesting.
- D. You think we should go out there and play the Russians and lose, maybe badly, in our national game, this doesn't bother you?
- B.R. Well it doesn't, they won't lose too badly. I guess it's possible for them to win, but I just think that the Russians will beat them. I don't think that they can field as good team as we had the last time, and we just squeezed through the last time.
- D.M. Right. Well we'll know in about two or three months time....
- B.R. Yeah.

D.M. ....came along. Well Bill, leaving hockey, and friends we've had the all-time great and the all-time all-star hockey team picked for us here by Bill Regan who has played a lot of hockey himself. Bill, you're a married man. You were married after coming up here in '39 or thereabouts. Have you any family Bill?

B.R. Yes, I have five, six children.

D.M. Well what are their names? and what are they? What are they doing now?

B.R. Well Rose-Mary, a teacher married in Toronto. Marina, a nurse of bachelor of science ~~and~~ nursing in Montreal.

D.M. mmh.

B.R. Jimmy, a practicing lawyer in Toronto. Emmeret, a high school teacher in Windsor. Sheila, a nurse married in Toronto, and Billy, a student at Boden College in Maine, United States.

D.M. Oh, did we, I guess we got them all in there? That's six.

B.R. That's six.

D.M. O.K. What's Billy doing down at Boden College in the States?

B.R. He's taking his bachelor of science.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. He hopes to get into medicine.

D.M. Right.

B.R. He's doing very well.

D.M. Well you would say then, I guess, that hockey has been pretty good to you then Bill? Not too many complaints?

B.R. Not too many complaints no. Not like, like what it is today but....

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. ....it was, got me over the, those tough depression years.

D.M. ~~That's~~ That's right. When ten dollars was ten dollars eh? In the middle of the thirties?

B.R. That's right.

D.M. Now your hobby, I think, is golf. ~~Is~~ Correct?

B.R. That's right, yeah.

D.M. And have you not won the senior title?

B.R. I won the northern Ontario Seniors twice now.

D.M. Well that's not bad. What were your scores?'

B.R. Well scores I don't remember too well what they were.

D.M. What is your handicapp?

B.R. I'm an eight and nine handicap.

D.M. ha ha ha.

B.R. Right now I'm a nine.

D.M. That is not bad, and did you not win something in the RCGA Bill?

B.R. Yeah, the Royal Canadian Golf Tournament in Toronto. Last year I won the group, the age group from sixty to sixty-five.

D.M. Right. Friends and neighbours, it has been our privilege to have as our guest Mr. Bill Regan who retired in 1972 after thirty-eight years with Inco. He ~~reite~~ retired as divisional foreman at Garson at the age of sixty-three. Now Bill has had a colourful career, certainly involving hockey, ~~as we ave~~ As we have stated before, he played with and against some of the hockey greats. He's picked his own all-time all-star hockey team, and Bill since you're going off we're going to put you on the spot as we did with another chap as we did before, now let's get, name me your two or three all-time golf stars.

B.R. Golf stars from this area?

D.M. From the last thirty years.

B.R. Oh well....

D.M. Jack Niclaus, is there anybody else?

B.R. Well both fellows are away, a longe- ways away from here. We see them on T,V,

D.M. I know we do, but you watch them and you probably ( ) like them so....

B.R. That's right, I ~~mean~~ Jack Niclaus I guess is one of the real greats. Bobby Jones of course is dead, but he was one of the great ones. Walter Higgin....

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. ....and that south African Gary player.

D.M. Quite a golfer.

B.E. Yeah, he's quite a golfer. Dedicated, intense little fellow.

D.M. He's just a little guy but he hits them hard and he keeps his eye on it eh?

B.R. That's right.

D.M. I'm thinking of Ben Hogan.

B.R. Ben Hogan yes, yes.

D.M. Sometimes ( ) player eh?

B.R. That's right. One of the really great players

D.M. ( ) didn't he?

B.R. Well he was more on the accurate, very accurate player. He was from, what they call Teeder Green.

D.M. Yeah.

B.R. He was one of the best they ever had.

D.M. Until he started to putt, then he had some problems.

B.R. Then he had a little bit of problem yeah.

D.M. Do you have some problems putting sometimes?

B.R. Right, right.

D.M. ha ha ha ha , thanks again, and once again friends our guest today, Bill Regan.