

Lucy Damiani April 11, 1972

7:30 - 9:30

1. Borden Seward Price

3. O'Brien Property

4. 679-5607

5. Purchasing agent, Agnico Mines

6. Cross Lake Cobalt

7. Nova Scotia

8. Bachelor

9. 55 years old

10. It's going through a recession and as soon as silver goes up and there is a market for it we'll be in a boom again. They have proven with the experiment at Silver Centre that going down deeper than they ever have before brings silver finds.

Education

As for regional schools I don't like them and I don't think they are gaining anything by it. Kids are away from home for a longer period of the day. There isn't any discipline from home or parents. There is no individual attention like in smaller schools or the same closeness between teachers and students. In the old days the teacher got to know her student individually and their families as well. And as for the separate schools we should still maintain both French and English and people would have a choice of whether they want to send them to the English or French School

Economy

The economy of Cobalt in general is at present a combination of depression all we need for the economy. The other small industries we have TTL and Foundry are affected by closure of mines in the area. This area is too small for a Technical School or University there is a mining school close by for those who are interested. & unemployment one offsets the other, but if the price of silver goes up it's It has been rumored a university in the states is buying a local mine for the students to take practical experience in mining. This would offer the town quite a boost even though it would be for a short time. But if we make it easier for them this could be a start in summer courses in Cobalt. We could utilize school buildings and arrange billet for the students; it would certainly encourage the project. Small business enterprises has trouble surviving now-a-days as everything is corporation or competition from large takeovers,

Recreation

We should definitely have a recreation program and organized sports but not under one person. It should be done differently perhaps organizations should take over the organized sports. Everything has to be organized for the youth

today and even so it lacks the interest needed. They have all the facilities made available but don't seem to make use of them. With our festival Mr. Ribson be hard to replace. We must give him credit for being a pusher. He has a tremendous public image If you hadn't heard of the Cobalt Miners Festival you would sure hear about it after he has through with it. There has to be an adult program as well as a youth as both are very important. My father and mother came in 1907. Capt. Fancy was mine manager and lived in what today is Walter Hylands home being a Nova Scotia when they needed miners he went to Nova Scotia and brought back quite a number of Nova Scotians for work in the mine. When we arrived there were four children in the family and there was a house in Kerr Lake for us. My father worked at the Kerr Lake Mine and Crown Reserve until his retirement some 40 years 1910 first street car went to Kerr Lake

Housing

In those days water was carried from the lake not too far away. No washing machines my mother used a tub and washboard for her laundry and there was wood for cooking and heating. There was always plenty of wood in area. My mother cooked and cleaned for 8 children.

When McKinley Darraugh discovered silver they were actually cutting ties to build the railroad. The silver rush started and everybody was prospecting for A-'silver. The story was always told about the cook at the old Temiskaming Mine, decided to go prospecting in his time off and he found silver vein and property which he sold to Mr. Hennessy of Haileybury for \$500. this later turned out to be worth thousands. J.R.Booth owned a couple of lumber camps buildings are still being used today on Kerr Lake and logs to lumber camps came through a chain of lakes to Lake Temiskaming. We made a fortune in lumbering contracting this

for the railroad that was being built. They said that Ottawa at the time had 32 millionaires. Well instead of six figures Booth acquired wealth to eight figures. Coniagas & Trethewey found 2 mines in one week, when most people in a lifetime only found one. The Beaver and Temiskaming mines are deepest ones in the area one went down 1600 feet and this other went down 1725 feet deep. Before the days of Cobalt there was a bush road already in use from the lumber camps which they used when they couldn't travel on the lakes in the winter.

I went to lower school at Kerr Lake. There was a school at Beaver Mine Property and one at Temiskaming Property which is now Silver Miller machine shop building and went to High School in Cobalt. After leaving High School started working at Crown Reserve want to Kerr Lake Mines and Val d'Or because there was no work.--So I went up there and worked for three years. I then went to Niagara Falls and worked in a war plant for 4 years back to Cobalt in 1945 when my brother and I were partners in a diamond drill business. I can remember at the time our school teacher at Kerr Lake was one of the highest paid teachers in Ontario making \$1000. per year and the time the township of Coleman was so rich that the government borrowed money from them. All the mines were on Township property and they became rich from taxes collected. The Temiskaming Mine was the beginning of the McIntyre Bomber Really was president and

money & profit made at Temiskaming Mine was used to invest in McIntyre. Beaver was the making of Kirkland Lake gold mine. A lot of revenue & stock went to producing gold mines and others invested in real estate. In Nov. 1948 I started working for Agnico and am still there today. Kerr Lake had a population of at least 20,000 in the good days. Had its own station and a train coming in daily from Cobalt. It was a five rail junction station. Tom McDougal lived next door to us and delivered coal with a team of horses even today they are digging up coal on some of the locations of mine properties at Kerr Lake, Mats been there for years. The streetcars were coming in from Cobalt every 15 minutes. There were 2 schools two theatres, several general stores, and 5 tennis courts. Every mine out there had its own dining halls and at night they used to move the tables out and it was used for a dance hall with hardwood floors. The halls were always filled up for dances a lot of people came from Cobalt and there were all kinds of piano players and musicians. Jimmie Marietti could play piano, accordion, horn, banjo and Jimmie Hassett played so did Danny Crookshand, Ralph Richardson. The food was so good at the Temiskaming mine that a lot of fellows used to pretend to be coming in for work because the mine never let a fellow go back home on an empty stomach. They always gave them a meal and we had our "Dudes" today known as gigolo or said escorts. Anyway there two fellows here who were the best dressers and most in demand. They were Cliff McKenzie and Tom Thomas. A tailor by business Ken McKay always acid when they were having suits made they would outdo one another with 1 meticulous detail. Cobalt had its beauty queen known as Cobalt Beauty and Kerr Lake had 'Minnie Shields who was a real looker. Good all-around sport, played piano, danced. She was the most popular girl.

Wages when I started working were as low as \$1.50 per day for students and \$3.00 a day was good pay. Some of the mines especially the Nipissing where one of my friends worked used to make the miners bag enough ore to pay expenses for the operation of that shift, no more and it was a common thing for some of the fellows to get 3 or 4 of them together and bring a bottle of whisky to drink while on shift because conditions were not always the best and it was always very wet underground for some of the crews working. I can remember sitting ' ; my sister's home and seeing Mr. Nolan come out on deck at the Temiskaming Mine. Houses, mines, mills and buildings were not too far apart. You've heard them talk about the Silver Sidewalk well in 1904 before silver was even discovered there was a narrow bush trail used, by loggers and fellows going back & forth. They started out at Lake Temiskaming from there to Cross Lake - Kerr Lake

on Crown Reserve. Property there was a bay and when they portaged from the Bay to the lake there was a dig float flat piece of rock this was the silver sidewalk they used for a few years before silver was discovered and when they found out what the shiny metal was in it possible became one of the most publicized veins in the history of the camp. I think I have a story on it in one of my 1909 newspapers. I keep them at the mine. I'll let you see them so you can get some interesting history from them.

Dr. Drummond owned Drummond Mine later became known as the Cobalt Comet properties. Some people think he died here. He died in Montreal kept coming back to Kerr Lake to his mine and in later years to his home for holidays. They erected a Cairn as a monument to him, the fireplace of his former home and did you know the park down

town was in his memory. A nephew was in Cobalt for the opening ceremony. This is all that comes to mind right now but I will let you see the old newspapers I have there are some interesting stories.

As I said in the beginning Cobalt will come back there is so much ore left underground yet, and some spots haven't been mined at all, through my experience and working with my brother Jim I know we have it here. All we need is a boost in the price of silver or maybe a subsidy. I have lived here most of my life and I like. My favorite pastime is fishing and hunting and there are no more beautiful spots anywhere than right here. If some people would only take advantage of the facilities on our back door step they wouldn't have to be asking what does a fellow do in this town anyway. This really gets me going. I have taken some interested parties through the years out fishing, hunting and tours of old mining properties.

I think the town has done a good job of building up the downtown area and giving due credit to some of our outstanding men Dr. Drummond & Dr. Dunning to name but a few.

Note: Bud's mother used to hook rugs with a picture of Dr. Drummond's home on them. He has one of the rugs as a keepsake. The Price families have been real pioneers in this area they are a credit to the community. They do a lot of things that people never find out about and could be called some of our unseen heroes. unsung heroes.