

Lucy Damiani April 25, 1972

Interview 1 1/2 hrs.

1. Carl Leslie Baxter
  2. Mary Nielson wife, born in Denmark
  3. 93 Galena Street Cobalt
  4. 679-5764
  5. retired road master on railroad means in charge of all track work and maintenance
- 6, Woodlake New Brunswick
7. Woodlake New Brunswick
  8. married 2 daughters, Enid and Margaret
  9. 69 yrs. of age
  10. My impressions of Cobalt is due to recessed price of silver it is temporarily in a depressed conditions, but it will come back it always has and I don't think Cobalt will ever die. It's already beginning to look better I hear some of the mines are opening up again, and the Smelter is now open even if it just employs 50 men it will all help. I don't think too much about new regional schools and busing students back and forth when we have schools right in town here. I do feel the standard of education has fallen down badly, at the smaller schools the Students stand a better chance of individuality. There was an old Indian Chief in Elliot Lake that spoke of the white man, many moons ago white man kill game, leave forest, come back cut trees, leave bare rock, now they're back for the rock, they have taken everything out of Cobalt now they're back for Grade 13, we've always had a good caliber of students at Cobalt High. It should definitely stay here, we have the teachers and we have the students so I hope we can keep it. I am happy to be in Cobalt, I am retired and on the money I make I couldn't live anywhere else so cheaply for all the facilities we have, I came to Cobalt from Dane in 1938 I wanted the girls to get High School, and even though I could have picked other place I chose Cobalt. Let me tell you when we were driving into town on the bridge my wife looked at me and said do I have to live in this dump? Now I can't get her out of here it's the spirit of Cobalt people that makes the town you'd never find a friendlier people anywhere. I remember when constable Jim Tappenden was down at the station one night, I was talking to his assistant and he said to me...Look at him standing there talking to that guy with his cap on the back of his head, his jacket unbuttoned and his arms waving he'll never be anything but a plain policeman today Jimmie Superintendant from North Bay, North area the other fellow is still a plain policeman, A temporary help for the economy of cobalt would be to subsidize silver so we can still mine it at a profit when price is low. but I don't know why all the noise people are still spending money and small as well as big businesses are opening up, Again I say this is a good town to live in everything you need is central right down town a new supermarket we have a new motel, chamber of Commerce, hourly bus service to Haileybury or Liskeard, hospital that is well equipped only 5 miles away. We have a good Municipal government for a town this size, taxes are reasonable so are water rates, the shopping area is small and we could use more stores, especially a drug store, but I wouldn't live anywhere else. I started working for O.N.R. in 1928 how did I come to be in the North, well in 1926 everybody was talking about the Red Lake gold strike, Well I saved some money and started out for Red Lake I got as far as Cochrane my money all gone so I stayed there never got to Red Lake started working for O.N.R. in 1928 then I went to Dane and finally to Cobalt worked on railroad 39 1/2 yrs. before retiring. When I came here to work the standard wage was 2.00 a day and board. During the depression I worked for \$18 or 20. for two weeks but that wasn't as bad as it sounds because in those days your dollar bought more. In 1934 a new Chevrolet coach was worth \$734. and I even bought one second hand for \$50. You pay was there finance in those days. Yes there was but let me tell you they were investigated you thoroughly and it wasn't so easy to get as it is nowadays. Something else I think IE all wrong our credit terms are made so easy no wonder some people are in debt up to their ears I think we should have small enterprise going. I'm not a business man but I see small businesses in town making a go of it so I would encourage more to come. We would have a general type hardware, such as the big

ones in Liskeard and besides a drug store I hear peep] lamenting we need children's wear and teen clothing stores. In the old days you could have bought anything at Blacks or Rowdon's hardware, these men were individuals today society would call them KOOKS and so we cannot be an individual anymore. I still say this is what has made Cobalt so Colorful.

We should stress more and advertise more this is an ideal town for retired people, we still have clean air, we are fighting to keep our waters non-polluted and we should also leave Cobalt as it is not too much restoration As this is what makes it unique right now, let's leave it that way.

The tourist trader could be encouraged there is so much we have to offer we could easily have boat trips going, if we don't have a large lake here, maybe Lake Temiskaming the building of tourist camps on the new lake created by the Hydro Dam project Matabitchewan, we need more accommodations for travelling families we have no park facilities close by, if they use this new Loon Lake park, they will not come into town they will keep going we could also use more eating places this all has to be in Cobalt or very near area so we can get the tourists in here off the by-pass. Some of our landmarks have been allowed to fall apart and trailer parks would be a good idea, how about Bass Lake. We should preserve our old mineshafts these a valuable land marks, tourists want to see them, artists want to paint them and when you say mining you right away think of mine shafts. It could be done on a small scale "pioneer village" type of tourist attraction pick a mine property and build it up with authentic looking buildings as in old days and pertaining to mine property have a caretaker on the property to look after it this could be site for one of the tours, you could arrange separate tours one going to the compressed Air plant and while down there take in the new hydro plant at Matabitchewan there is so much could be done, of course in town there is the museum and the Drummond Park then you could go to Drummond Cairn site of Silver sidewalk and along the way and stops on these tours have picnic tables so visitors can take a lunch. I hope to see some of this a reality in my day. We should definitely have recreation program I think Ribson did a good job recreation should be for every age group and this is what he started organized sports for the youngsters they need someone to lead them into this. I am glad to see the town working on Tourism and also hope the price of silver goes up, for this is the best old town and we want it to stay that way.