

Lucy Damiani March 8, 1972

1:15 - 2:30

1, Charles Ferris

2. Boston Blackie

3. bachelor

4. 91 Lang St

5. 679-8340

6. 59 years old

7. North Bay

8. Sheba, Lebanon

9. Syria

10. Oct. 4th, 1922 from Haileybury after fire

11. Car and truck

12. by highway 11, First arrived in Timmins in 1911 from Timmins went to North Bay from North Bay to Sudbury from Sudbury to Haileybury and finally to Cobalt.

13. Selma was born in Sheba and so was my brother, we came to Cobalt with my mother to join my father.

14. I worked in the store

15. not married

16. Still operating Boston Grill Restaurant in the early days it was known as Boston sweets.

17. no wife

18. Lots of fun, lots of Syrian friends and always something to do, and some place to go. We used to have professional baseball teams at west Cobalt Ball Park when I was 10 they had a fairly good sized grandstand and they used to hold fairs under seating capacity in back of grandstand, used to skate at the old rink and went to Junior professional hockey games.

19. The population then was about 6 thousand people - gravel roads and wooden sidewalks.

20. Came to Cobalt because my parents where were going to be in business here.

21. Mining, Cobalt, Foundry Brewers livery stables, 'Morin & Freres, who had their own horses and livery stable they operated a big wholesale warehouse and grocery store. All kinds of work in the Bank, Bank of Toronto, Bank of Commerce and Nova Scotia all employed people.

22. Worked after school for one hour and in later years it was about 10 or 12 hours a day.

23. \$5. per week

24. Always lived in the house we are in now and it's been renovated twice and in 1949 completely renovated.

25. Playing in the snow skating always skated the old year out and the new year in, some presents but not toys it was always clothes, shoes, socks, sweaters and if you got a sleigh for playing it was really something

26. Water in the home, later on both hot and cold.

27. Electricity for lighting and for now all the commodities that go with

TV, washer, & dryer, iron, toaster, stove, mixer. 28, wood stove to cook on and for heat too

29. oil heater later on - in the early days we used to chop wood and carry it up to Blights of stairs,
30. Auger's fruit store and ice cream parlor, the beautiful Palm Gardens restaurant with marble, floor owned by Mr. Giachino, he also owned the Bijou and Lyric Theatres, Zion's Grocery, Zanin's grocery and bake shop, Damiani's grocery, Rava's grocery and Joe Robitaille's grocery all at our end of town. Pool room on one corner at top of our hill and under takers at other corner was Gibson's Bata shoe store, Vellis clothing, Dobouse Bros.had 3 clothing stores, Koury's ladies and mens wear, Ansora shoemaker Ledovitz mens wear and many others.
31. All the theatres, dances Rose bowl and Easter balls at the old town hall which had one the of the nicest dance floors in the area this building also housed town offices, police offices, jail. In 1924 we had an old boy's reunion that has root been surpassed since - parades, going steady, fireman's drills, fireworks, contests and there have been none like it since. Mr. Giachino took movies of it he was the legend of his time - if some one could only get the movies he took the man lived in and around an era 50 years ahead of our time. He lived a friendly life frugal life also owned a grocery store and in later years sold steamship tickets.
32. Baseball, skating, hockey, badminton, bobsledding, and skiing.
33. Cobalt public school
34. up to grade 5, 5 years
35. street cars, horse and buggy you saw the odd truck or car maybe 5 or altogether in town.
36. Dr. Mitchell
37. Hospital was where Buffam's is today.
38. Bachelor
- 40.
41. never went under ground but always went to mine properties, Coniagas and mining corp. with friends to wait for their fathers_ coming off shifts. We used to bicycle to the mine property and do you remember the ore buckets coming across the lake from the Nippissing Prop. to the old 4th of July shaft. these ran on cables.
42. Hand steeling contests and racking contests all held at West Cobalt at Ball grounds - they used to have a wooden sidewalk all the way from town and fenced all the halfway between highway. There was a West Cobalt school for the kids there. I think it went to grade 3 or 4
43. Used to go to Kerr Lake often it was a big community and had a big railroad station there. The Dabouses one was my brother-in-law had a store then and we always went there to visit my sister was only 18 when she was giving there 1926 model Studebaker touring car with no windows and a canvas top* She used to drive us out to lick berries and once I remember the car stalled on the hill. She yelled at everybody to get out. She wasn't taking any chances while backing it up. We sometimes packed lunches for the miners at the restaurant. It was the usual sandwiches, fruit or cake and cookies with a thermos of hot tea or coffee.

44. The miner's main meal was nearly always supper that was when everyone was home. And we ate well in those days, everything was dirt cheap, eggs, chicken, beef pork, vegetables all kinds and we had a farmers market where you could have bought anything.
45. Through the week we wore work clothes or sports clothes
46. and on Sundays we always dressed up, everybody used to walk downtown to show off their new Easter finery we always had something new for Easter.
47. Playing dice out of some rock in the woods where no one could find us smoking cigars for fun, until we got caught, fishing, swimming and we walked the big air pipes learned to swim at,; Sass pond and Pete Lake. There was a YMCA: but I didn't go there too much in the early years because in 1923 my brother drowned in the pool there.
48. Some old photos of my friends and younger days.
49. I like Cobalt because it has a good municipal government we have one of the best we've had in a long time.
- A good municipal body should do something for the town.
21. Its good enough for Trudeau it's good enough for Charlie Ferris.
52. . like all the changes think they were for the best.
53. yes.
54. Lack of money for business places to keep going.
55. yes.
56. would like to see a ball park on the lake with light and a small grand stand.
57. Summer of course, winter is too long and this is the best part of the country _ for this season.
58. I belong to the Kiwanis Club and have been a member for 32 years - still goes to dance club night, bowl, watch hockey games and a little TV and 3 like walking.
59. no,
60. We need other industry besides mining - we could encourage American capital and tourist trade dollars count. You don't have to go out of your way just be nice to the tourists, cater to them and they'll come back again and tell their friends how nice it is here.
61. the tourists
62. Mining tours we could have a model mine and take them underground to see it, we have lots of lakes for swimming and fishing, historical sights, mining. museum. I could go on and on but just look at all the natural beauty we have this is an asset.

Highlights

Several years ago some American tourist came up to go fishing at Lady Evelyn Lake and when I opened the store one Sunday morning this fellow had been sitting there since early morning, he said to me hurry and open up. I'm starving, I was fishing at Lady Evelyn and there is no restaurant up there.

I would like to pay tribute to a friend and one of our past distinguished businessman. Larry Stadelman owned a small book store which was in a block owned by him; the downstairs in the years went through grocery stores, jewelry shop, clothing store a hardware store and Eaton's on the corner. In the Stadelman block upstairs there were about 10 apartments for rent. He was the main developer, of the tennis court out at Sass Lake which was the first in the area, he was also membership convener and was responsible for the upkeep.

He encouraged the youngsters playing hockey and was a team supporter. He also donated a large sum of money to the Kiwanis Club to be used for a playground project at Bass Lake for children. He was quite an avid poet enjoyed speed skating right up to his years. Having given so much made us a better people just knowing him. I am proud to have been one of his friends.