

Lucy Damiani March 7, 1972

8:30 - 10:00

1. Dario Gabbani
2. Noger
3. Ernestine Gauthier
4. 80 Earl St.
5. 679-8232
6. 53 years old
7. Born in Turbine Sudbury area, wife born in Callandar
8. Father and mother both born in Pesaro
9. Italy
10. Dario's mother and father married in 1912 came to Montreal Que. in 1914 then went to Sudbury and in 1920 came to Cobalt.
11. came by train to Cobalt
12. by way of North Bay
13. Mother and father and another brother and sister all came together.
14. I was working on a mine property lease with my father at age 17. At 19 started working in my cousins garage Gabbani's Garage as a mechanic
15. Worked at Buckovetskys as salesclerk until I married.
16. Mill maintenance operator.
17. hairdresser and housewife
- 17a. Joined the Canadian Army ordinance Corps. in 1941 and was discharged in 1945. Was stationed in Vancouver and BC
18. Was too young to remember I was only a year old when we came here but as I grew up remember on both sides of Lang Street was all stores Vellis, Koury, clothing Bata's Shoe Store, Ansara shoemaker, Auger fruit store, Buckovetskys was a large 3 store department store one was shoe section, ladies clothes and mens wear. It employed about 10 people not including managers, Aimones poolroom, Quality Lunch, Cain's furniture, Rowdon Hardware, which was one of Cobalt's unique stores, everything was piled up and when you dug in and found a good bone china cup and saucer or genuine Japanese tea pot Mr. Black would come up with "What do you want with that piece of junk" I'm not selling it and when Mr. Black said I'm not selling it you might as well go because he meant it.
19. When I was growing up I remember Cobalt was always a great sports town we had the YMCA for bowling, dancing, swimming, badminton, basketball and there was always a gang of kids to go everywhere with and play together
We had a nice big are .4a- for skating there were wooden sidewalks and dirt roads for highway - later on we had them all paved and I remember in 1956 when John Damiani was Mayor we got all our back streets paved.
20. When we first came to Cobalt in 1920 my father was looking for a job. His brother was here before him and told him it would be easy to get a job. We lived in Giroux Lake for awhile and it was a good size then with its own school up to about 4th grade and streetcars came to Cobalt & Haileybury. The only means of transportation in winter was walking or horse sleighs and skiing, my mother often skied into Cobalt to visit and pick up supplies it was almost 3 miles into town.

21. There was mining at O'Brien mine, Nippissing Agnico, Larose, Silver Miller Coniagas, McKinley-Darragh, Buffalo, Mining Corp. and there were Lumber Camps in Latchford. We also had a foundry here.
 22. 8 hours a day and 6 days a week.
 23. \$3. a day
 24. When I got married we had a small house we rented at the Fraser House rented from McGarry's on Earl St. Sestos on Earl St. and finally in 1953 we built the home we are in now. It's a two storey building with 5 rooms downstairs and one large double bedroom upstairs.
 25. My wife is French and we used to celebrate New Years more than we did Christmas we hung stockings and got fruit and clothes for gifts - there weren't too many presents in those days but all the relatives and families got together and we always had a good time. Anyone that had a shotgun used to go outdoors and shout a couple of shots to bring in the New Year. At one time my father told me they used to blow all the mine whistles at midnight and even the ground shook with the sound. Now we celebrate the traditional Christmas with our children exchange gifts, have a tree, traditional family turkey supper and gathering.
 26. Water in home with all conveniences, 3 piece bath. In the early days we used to carry pails of water into the house from the well outside.
 27. Electricity with all the appliances it brings. TV, washer, dryer, mixer, toaster, iron, hair dryer, shaver, sewing machine, stove, refrigerator & freezer.
 28. Early days it was all wood stove for cooking went into bush to cut our own wood. Now we have an electric stove,
 29. Wood and coal for heating used to get up to keep coal on the heater for cold nights now its central heating with gas furnace.
 30. There were stores and shops up and down both sides of Lang Street, Martins, second hand store, Ledovitz mens wear, Morin Freres, Coutu Rava's Damiani's Giachino grocery stores in later years Dominion store and Red & White, Zanin bakery, Harrison Fikery, Trudel Bottling works, Sparhams & Charboneaus Jewelry, Murphy's blacksmith, Chenier Funeral Home, and later Smarts funeral Chapel, we have always had a French and Irish Catholic Church the Baptist Presbyterian Gospel Mission, Anglican Salvation Army, a small Synagogue, we 1'e known as the town of the churches.
 31. Some theatres, community Hall, where we all went for sports and dancing any night of the week to the musical the nickelodeon, we used to sigh ride and skate at the French Rink, swimming at Pete Lake, the old town hall for dances, the Finn Hall for gymnastics, dances, parties. Used to pick berries in the summer to make money and take baskets down to the train to ship to Toronto
 32. hockey, baseball, bowling
 33. Dario Public School Ernestine French School.
 34. Dario to grade 9, Ernestine went to Convent in Haileybury.
 35. There were street cars; buses, cars.
 36. Dr. Case
 37. Had to go to Misericordia Hospital in Haileybury.
 38. born in Cobalt
- 394, Billie was 18, Louise was 17, Therese is in grade 9

40. Billie is working as a linesman for Hydro.
 41. There were waterliners and stoppers, no mucking machines. It was all done by shovel. It was dangerous underground then, now we have safety measures.
 42. Hand steeling and mucking contests held on the slimes by West Cobalt.
 43. Took a lunch pail to work sandwiches fruit, cookies
 44. 'Main meal is supertime because everyone is home by 4:30 p.m. Wife is a good cook. We have good home cooked meals.
 45. We wear sports clothes through the week.
 46. And on Sundays we always dress up to go to Church if we are going fishing or to the lake, change back to _ sports clothes.
 47. Go out in the bush to hunt fish or pick berries and mushrooms.
 48. Have old snaps of ourselves as children some of our mothers and fathers.
 49. I think we have a better system for snow removal there's a big improvement from years past. Our kids are lucky to have organized hockey and longer periods on ice than anywhere else. I have a married sister \$n North By and her husband has to get up at 5 a.m. to take the youngsters to their hockey practice.
 50. Because it makes for a better to live in everyone enjoys it. There's a good recreation program.
--. Recreation has improved greatly since it is organized therefore more things going on sports, majorettes, drum band, handicraft classes, Miners Festival every summer.
 52. The changes have all been for the betterment of the town.
 53. Yes the High School situation
 54. There is much discontent among the students and it is being run a little bit like a dictatorial regime, maybe the caliber of principal and teachers could be better.
 55. Think you should have street signs and make people put numbers on houses and sometimes I find the garbage pickup , throws the cans back into the yard rather than bring it back.
 56. Mining municipalities should have something else going for them. I'm not sure if it should be from a government level but I think so could we encourage other industry to come in.
 57. Summer and fall is very pretty in the woods around here its nice to be out
 58. Both bowl, watch TV, and like a night out once in awhile
 59. He does car repairs and bodywork. She does hairdressing and sewing.
 60. We should do something about the mines or another industry, and then work on tourist trade. Could encourage American industrialists to come in.
 61. Maybe the tourists would find Cobalt and area interesting - we have much to offer.
 62. Fishing, hunting, mine tours, museum, new library, a fantastic book shop down the highway the best Chinese restaurant from Kapuskasing to North Bay, many historical sights Old Mission, compressed air plant at Ragged Chutes good beach area at Bass Lake and many more things to do and see. Perhaps we could get some help from Dep't of Tourism.
- Highlights,

We would like something done for Cobalt so we can keep our people here if there isn't work. many will move away, the town suffers, the business places don't do well, while we are on it be we should definitely have a Senior Citizens for those on limited income..Hope our dream comes true, we'd like to stay here and we'd like to see our friends stay.