

Lucy Damiani April 17,1972

Interview time: 1 hour

A Cobalt Pioneer - Through courtesy of Denis Houghton
Eddy Houghton and his sister Polly arrived in Cobalt in August 1912 from their home in Wigan England. At that time the Nipissing Mining Company was washing the loose overburden off the hills across from the station and the noise of the hydraulic hoses added to the busy confusion of a rapid growing mining town. The buildings were all wooden frame and spectacular fires were quite frequent. A fire the day before he arrived had leveled' the old Herbert Block and teams of horses were attempting to pull the heavy steel safe out of the wreckage.

Police Chief Burke directed the two newcomers down Argentite Street to catch the street car for North Cobalt, A small log cabin was the first home, then in 1914 when their parents from England arrived a new home in North Cobalt was obtained. They lived here from 1914 until the Haileybury fire in 1922. Polly's husband Tom Pinder was already working in the Cobalt Mines when they arrived. Later on they moved to Kirkland Lake and were well known residents for many years. Eddy worked for a few months in the machine show at the Nipissing and then with his training as a pattern maker obtained _employment at the Foundry in Cobalt, operated by O'Brien Mines. Joe Evans was the Foundry superintendent at that time and the local mines provided plenty of work for the Foundry. In 1938 as the Cobalt Mining Activity was diminishing Art Moss, Pete Leigh and Eddy bought the Foundry business from O'Brien mines. With other mining areas starting up the Foundry business was very good. Then in 1966 Canada Iron Foundry purchased the Wabi Iron Works in New Liskeard and the Cobalt Foundry. Soon after that Eddy retired from the business, After the Haileybury fire in 1922 Eddy bought a house on the Nipissing Property and has lived there ever since. He has seen many changes over the years, but still considers Cobalt the best old town. Mr. Houghton Eddy is one of our pioneers and raised his family here, a son Denis who is still connected with the Cobalt Foundry lives in Haileybury although he has not taken an active part in service clubs or organizations he is a constant donor. This is one enterprise that made money in Cobalt and stayed in Cobalt.

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Omitted from interview

In 1963 the Cobalt Foundry made a Memorial Plaque for Legion Branch 44 of Cobalt to be used for their cenotaph situated in a small park across from Imperial Bank.

This is a Memorial Park dedicated to the soldiers of Cobalt who gave their lives for their country. This Plaque was designed by George L. Cassidy retired school principal

and the wood pattern was constructed by Jim Henderson a pattern maker, employed at Cobalt Foundary.

It was constructed in three pieces and bolted together a wreath of leaves on either side and torch of everlasting light in the middle. Once the pattern was made up it was sent to Rhan Metals in North Bay and finished in a bronze casting. This is now on the cenotaph for which local

Branch 44 of Canadian Legion is responsible.