

Lucy Damiani April 28,1972

1:30-3:00

1. Enrico Matioli
2. Ida Matioli (wife's maiden name)
3. 22 Earl St., Cobalt
4. none
5. retired caretaker
6. Fano Pesaro Italy
7. Fano Pesaro Italy
8. married and two daughters
9. 72 years old
10. June 1923
11. Came on the steamship liner Colombo
12. Docked at New York came by train to Toronto, North, and Bay and ONR train to Cobalt
13. My father was coming back here so I came with him. My father had first come over in 1901 and was employed putting in water lines and working on the railroad. When we arrived at the Cobalt station your father was there to meet us and drive us to our friend Mr. Ricci's house
I went to work with Alfred Seed for three months on the farm this was a government contract and you had to stay and work on a farm for three months. Then I started working at the Nipissing Mine and stayed there for a few months. After this I went to the O'Brien Mines and stayed with O'Brien Co. 22 years. They sent me to Miller Lake O'Brien at Gowganda and Cadillac O'Brien close to Amos Quebec. Then I went to Silanco Mill in 1943 and worked here for about 2 years and then in 1945 I was hired by Paul Morissette in Haileybury as a gardener caretaker and landscaper and I worked there for 15 years before retiring
In 1927 I went to Italy for a trip and married rented a house on the O'Brien Property and my stepmother came over here with us to join my father. I bought a two storey frame home in 1950 from Tom Despres I remodelled the house and put in a heating system its a five room house and I have a nice big lot beside it which I use for a garden.
When I arrived the mines were all working and there were about 13000 people in the area inclt ding Kerr Lake and Silver Centre. In the 30's Silver went down to 27¢ an ounce and things were not so eood, but they slowly picked up again. When I worked in Cadillac there was gold everywhere in those days .There were stores, blacksmiths, tailor shops, bake shops, hotels, halls theatres. There was furniture and second hand store down by the bridge to the O'Brien. We bought a lot of furniture there to get settled. We had a big fire when the Nipissing Mill burnt and Cobalt had a lot of big fires. I don't remember what year they were all in but there were two big ones, on Lang St. and three years ago the whole dmns black burnt to the gr undo For entertainment I like fishing, bowline, hunting some card playing. I pick berries. I like it my wife and I have been picking for about 14 years now. This and going fishing is how we spend our spare time. I have two daughters Ines and Eva they were both born in Cobalt and they

attended Cobalt High School both worked out as secretaries now they are married with a grown up family of their own. One lives in Cobalt and one lives in Toronto. I say its a good town for retired people. Its the best town I know with good facilities friendly people and reasonable prices on taxes, water rates etc. But for young people there are no jobs opportunities - so they all go away. It might be a good. place for tourists if it was on around basis it would pay. We have lakes, an excellent museum, mine tours, ski and snowmobile trails. All this is an attraction to the tourist. There are still some places on Lang street that are pretty rundown and detracts from the nice new buildings, old buildings boarded up right on the main street. Its a shame to see Canadian furniture building all boarded up and Hermistons museum too people going by can see some of the interseting antiques he has on display. Also the garage on the hill is in front of my place - the Esso has a car wash and without the proper rain so water is running on the sidewalk all the time. The town has certainly improved in the way of parks and new buildings. Everybody should be made to clean up their own properties to keep things a little cleaner looking. Especially downtown where you can see it. Most of the stop street signs are all bent over nd don't look good, its too hard to keep them decent looking well I can't really say take them down because it is a stop sign and a necessary road signal. There is also a bad spot at the garage where the sidewalk is all broken up and in the winter the snow is piled so high there on the corner you can't see any thing coming and going. I am proud of Cobalt and. I would like to see it looking nice so I hope they take this criticism with steps in mind to adjust these things. This is some of the things that would make the town look better as I see it. There is still lots of silver left underground, they should do more prospecting and exploration work so the government should give us grants for this. They would find some good ore. The O'Brien mine was almost one of the last mines to close and they say there was still ore left undeground. They simply closed because they got orders from head office to clean it up and close up. So there's wishing you lots of luck in your project and I hope my interview has been some help. Thank you Mr. Matioli for your wishes and cooperation. I hope like y~ou, to see Cobalt go ahead again.