

Lucy Damiani March 24, 1972

1:30 - 3:30

Ernest Conti - Mary Conti

2, Mary Zanin

3. 170 Earl Street

4. 379-5535

5. Retired miner - retired housewife

6. Ernest born in Sacterano Province of Pavia, Italy. Mary born in Creighton Mines

7. Ernest's mother and father born in Italy. Mary's mother and father born Italy 3.

Married in 1936 and had 3 children - 2 girls, 1 boy. Louis is 3.5 years old, married and living in North Day, Angela 31 married and living in North Bay, Norina is married and living in New Liskeard.

9. Mary is 62 years old and Ernest is 67 years old.

10. I find Cobalt is an average town whose population has been affected by the economy of the country today. There are many places where unemployment is high and of course we would rather see it busy with the mines operating and people working. Our educational system makes us realize that we are the forgotten north - the ministers and cabinet at Queens Park have not the slightest idea how sparsely the north is and so there is no practicability in regional schools and regional government. We heard Grade 13 will be closing at High School and here they are busing students from Temagami and Latchford to New Liskeard rather than have them come to Cobalt. Some of the lower grades are going to school in Haileybury and we already have 3 lower schools in Cobalt. All this doesn't seem feasible is there a solution? University education is important but could we not locate a technical school where students and adults could learn a trade. To boost our economic situation we definitely need government help there are any grants available now for education small enterprise etc, could we not apply for some of the grants. Here are some suggestions as to how the monies could be used.

a) Jobs for younger people through job training programs Or summer courses, we have the buildings that could be utilized perhaps at a low rental cost for these courses, b)

Encourage art colonies music, the arts, dancing, adult education courses and similar activities.

c) The town could rent schools, halls to these people and also low cost billeting, to bring in students and people and get a government grant for this purpose.

d) We need secondary industry other than mining, induce small business ventures to locate here - our smelter has closed down - could this not be used of course as a smelter or small factory.

Small contracts should be up for public tender so local labour has an opportunity to bid. This in turn would create local jobs.

I think a recreation program and organized sports are very important and necessary to both young and adults, in the town. The past program was very helpful I took the pottery class and enjoyed it very much. I worked in Ignace Québec part time in 1932 during the depression. My brother was already in Cobalt and told me there might be a job if I came so I arrived in Cobalt hoping to find work. It was a year before I was able to get part-time employment at the mining Corporation. And a year later I got a job at the Ashley landing in Matachewan. I was there for five years and I came back to Cobalt to be married returned to Matachewan with my wife and stayed on for five years, we were

completely burnt out when the apartment house we were living in burned down. There was no fire protection so we had no insurance so we came back to Cobalt. T worked for about 2 years for hr. Pilner at the Nerlip mine then briefly for Cobalt Products and the McDonough brothers. I worked at Zanin bakery as assistant baker for 3 yrs, during the war. In 1953 I went to Silver miller and when it closed down I went to work for Agnico until I retired. Carlo Chitaroni was my captain.

Mary - I can remember as a young girl my father had a grocery store with a bar and a bake shop at the back of the Ate . The bar had a long counter with brass rails and spittoons on the floor. He served mostly draft beer pumped up from kegs in the cellar for two years he operated the bar. In those days there were no bread wrapping machines so Dad had a stool for me, I was small, only 10 or 11 yrs. old. I used to sit on the stool and wrap bread. I also worked hard in the grocery store. When the store was open I used to see my girlfriends going to the show or going out to play while I had to work. But I made up for it on Sundays when the store was closed. I was out playing red light, light, hide and seek or kick the can "with the gang. I can remember going to St. Hillarion French School across the bridge and when teams of horses would go by we'd jump on and hitch a ride. I also went to St. Pat's school but just the lower grades as I stayed at home and worked. When we were having fun it was hikes in the bush, swimming at Peterson Lake skating at the open air French rink "in later years, Italian dances, picnics, lots of hills for skiing too.

Ernie - When I was young I used to play soccer, but there never was a team over here nowadays we belong to the Caboto Club, play cribbage, and watch TV. I took pottery classes. I would like very much to see language classes to further my Italian and French. I bought the house I own now in 1941 a large two storey frame home that has 2 bedrooms upstairs and kitchen, dining room and bathroom downstairs. I remodeled it quite a few times until now it's a very comfortable home.

When you have a fire you lose all your prized possessions and this is what happened to ours.

We think our Mayor and council are doing a very good job of running the town. Taxes are fairly reasonable in comparison to other municipalities. The rates are fairly low, and we have a good garbage removal, an excellent snow removal. Other larger localities can't boast these services. We would like to see a registered nurse on call since there is only one doctor. He is very hard to see and does not make house calls. For a town this size there should be some facility for medical attention. You can't always go to the hospital its five miles away and some of the old are too sick to be moved.

There could be street signs. with numbers on houses. You can't direct a stranger to a place as there are no street signs or numbers, The two parks that the town has Vat up certainly improves the appearance of two bad corners.

They have also cleaned up and modernized some of the old buildings down town, we have a nice new library, new restaurant, and there is a new Motel unit and we now have a big supermarket Tressiders Red & White and it's a pleasure for shopping

These should also be a dentist and a drug store these are most needed. If you don't have a car it's quite a bothersome going to Haileybury to a dentist and to the drugstore. It's a good thing to see the park on the lake project Loins ahead. The will rave a place to play. Also should be a supervised playground for the youngsters.

This is a natural spot for artist's rock hounds and just visiting tourists.

We have to offer in the way of good beaches, plenty of lakes for fishing hunting for a small and big game, mining museum, old historic sites and of course our mines could be used for interesting mine tours. Speaking of tourists and visitors we have often had people come up on our street to the end of the road and the road is so narrow many of them are afraid to turn around. I have quite often gone out and talked them into going ahead they will make it. We have a dangerous spot up here if council could see anyway of widening the road it would help the situation.

I am a retired miner and I would like to see a pension for miners. It's tough hard work and some of us give the best years of our lives in these mines. It doesn't seem right that there is no retirement plans other than government pension

This is a good town to live in people are friendly and you can always count on your neighbour for help. This is something you don't find too much nowadays. We should if we have to get together and help keep our town going. We should be called on for help if municipal heads feel this is necessary.