

Lucy Damiani April 10, 1972

Interview: Time: 2hrs.

1. Helen Fernholm
2. Helen Dolan
3. 160 Lang St.
4. 679-8283
5. Housewife
6. Eanily Hill, Ottawa
7. Father in Quiel Quebec

Mother in North Shore Ontario

8. Widow
9. 63 yrs. old
10. They can see what they like about Cobalt but I think it's OK, would like to see it a little more prosperous than it is right now.

There is still a lot of silver here and if the economic situation here is going to keep going downhill they should definitely get more grants of exploration works, as I said there is a lot of silver left underground. We had a claim once in Silver Centre that had a good showing of silver but we lost it, it was situated between Coral Lorraine and South Keora. Then there were also good silver deposits at the Keely mine that lasted just a little while when it was closed up. My father was hoist man in 1909 and he took me underground. I was only 17 then but I still remember what it looked like.

We used to take the train to Silver Centre often then we'd go to a show there the train left from the Cobalt Station and went out there several times a day.

## EDUCATION

As for education I think separate and public schools should be under one school it would be easier on the taxpayers money.

I don't think they should close grade 13 at the local High School, we have always had top grade students and many graduates come out of this school. So I hope some effort will be made to keep it going. I am in favour of a university and a technical school here or very close by as all the young people from the North have to go to Toronto, Kingston, Montreal or Ottawa. Also, after high school you have to leave and go away to further your education, why not

change the system and have available trades and courses to be taken right here. Then they could go to work as soon as they are out of school.

Tuitions are going up-my belief in education has always been of high quality. If a student has top grades and can't go to college because of money drawbacks-there should be government funds available for these students and I don't mean just a small grant that is repayable.

## SPORTS AND RECREATION

I do believe in sports organized. It has to be that way with the youth today, they can't seem to make their own fun like we used to do-we have to have a system for getting them together and seeing the proper sports program is supplied-it would be beneficial to

have one large main building, we have much available space with all the facilities within a small area. We could utilize our present arena its going to be torn down and replace why not in this spot. its an ideal location for such a complex.

We also need a recreation program for young and old with a qualified director. This town has always been enthusiastic and interested in what is going on. We have had pottery classes, art classes, majorettes, marching band, and bowling. Really there is a lot doing if you would like to get involved.

#### Business:

There are two businesses in town utilizing material we have here, rocks and hones available at Gem Shop, Pottery business is suing local clay small business enterprise could be encouraged in these lines for the wire silver and ruby silver that is available could be made up into many souvenirs items. Something to do with the industry that is going would create local jobs, another item that could be made are postcards another suggestion is large size rocks and stones for fireplaces look quite unique, these rocks could be sold there is original rocks from Cobalt Private enterprise is a growing concern, it could proper with these souvenir ideas. We have some local artists who are making money maybe not a lot, but they are painting local scenes and selling the pictures.

#### Shops

There is too much out of town shopping for the economy of Cobalt to prosper so we should have a better shopping area a large department store like Kresge's would be a real boom to this town, we also need a drug store, a large department clothing store, shoe store, when I think of all the stores we used to have here.

Something I would like to see in Cobalt is a Senior Citizens home and I think low cost housing is quite important if we are to attract people here, miners and laborers wages are too low here for higher priced apartments.

I would like to see a park and swimming facilities closer to Cobalt. Bass Lake is a lovely beach area, but not so easily accessible if you don't have a car and children have to be bused back and forth. While we are at it we also need a supervised playground.

Has anyone told you about the dynamite factory on the West Road, right hand side of where quarry was the limestone quarry they used limestone to treat paper at Morris Cote. Shedite Factory and was an engineer there, one day a fire started and my Dad tried to evacuate everyone but when it blew up there was a loss of lives about a dozen.

Mr. Tom Duncan on Helen Street, Cobalt, had the dynamite contract for many yrs. his truck used to go to haul for the dynamite when Mr. Duncan died the contract was taken over by Hubert Audette.

#### Impressions:

We were in many fires first of all in Haileybury 1922, and another time the bush fire was so bad we all left for golf course and slept there over night.

In Kirkland Lake my father blew the first steam whistle at the mine we lived there one yr. then we moved to Haileybury. I didn't want to go to school that day but my mother said not to worry if it gets bad I will come and get you. After awhile she did come to the school

to pick me up, we walked part of the way to Cobalt, when we got to Cobalt box cars were waiting to take people away from the fire. There were such a rush for the box cars my

mother and brother and I didn't make it but they told us relief trains would be along soon. There was one came soon after and we boarded the train for Ottawa, the fire seemed to have gone farther than Cobalt the bush along the railroad track was on fire and the smoke was so bad the train had to keep stopping, when we got to North Bay there were people at the Station with food and drink, but we were sick from smoke and tired and you couldn't eat. When we got to Ottawa my mother said we have to go in and eat so at the restaurant when the proprietor. found out weld come from the Haileybury fire he ordered the cook to give us the best meal in the house, we were treated like royalty. In the meantime my father was coming back from Silver Centre on the Meteor when at one of the stops they were told Haileybury was on fire and they couldn't believe it but when they got closer they realized it was true, dock was burnt, they could hardly get ashore he nearly went crazy looking for us but then a provincial police had a list of names and told him we had gone to Ottawa. He was gifting to come and get us but they wouldn't let him leave he had to stay and help pull in street cars that people were going to use for homes, finally we came back to Cobalt moved over Lavery's wholesale, it was so cold there that winter we nearly perished, my father build a new home for us in Haileybury.

On Sept 1929 I married and moved to Cobalt and in 1941 my husband bought the present home I am living in now, my husband really took care of the home when he was alive but now on widows pension I can barely keep up the necessities.

## TREASURES

We were burned out a few times so I lost any treasures I had out in 1923. I bought a wrist watch from Mr. Belchium the Jeweler. I paid \$7.50 for it and it's still in working order you don't but things like that nowadays.

I think we should have another industry besides mining as long as we are careful not to be letting industry pollute our beautiful lakes. We should do our utmost to guard the beauty of our lakes and countryside as this is nature's gift and should be cherished.

Also, the government could offer loans for development and help us establish another industry so we can create jobs keep our young people here if Cobalt is to prosper and not die as another ghost town.

I want to congratulate to town municipal government they have done a very good job working with the conditions they had to overcome. Also much praise should go to those who were influenced to get mastermet to sell.

We should have a miner's festival every year. I think people and especially the visitors to the area like this and enjoy it, we have a nice museum for tourists to visit, the air plant' at Hound Chutes, and the artists and rock hounds are crazy about the place.

## ENTERTINAMENT AND SPORTS

I like sports and played hockey for Haileybury girl's team when I was 16 yrs. old. Marg St. Louses and Isobel Day were teammates. We used to skate across Lake Temiskaming

nearly got lost once when a blizzard came up in a hurry. Now I still like to skate, swim and I bowl. I also like swimming...

I don't think I could leave Cobalt my friends are here and since I have to watch my pennies it affords a cheaper way of living. I like to take the occasional trip but I am thankful for a home to come back to. I have two daughters. May and June. One is living in Cobalt and the other is in New York.

I nearly forgot to tell you my husband's father worked clearing land with C.C. Farr for the building of the railroad; it was just a little bush trail then and railroad men were working clearing the land.

My husband was born in North Cobalt and his father owned about 160 acres of land where the site of Blue Top Cabins is today, and you may not believe this but a brother of Dr. Drummonds asked Mr. Fernholm for 10 acres on which to build a smelter my father in law offered it to him for nothing but when it came time to build a smelter he had taken the land from him. There were a lot of swindlers. then.

My father worked in Ottawa valley before coming up here, the core of silver boom brought him up to this area. I came with him. I was only a baby, My mother bought a beautiful baby carriage with her that was a gift but when we arrived there was so much mud everywhere she couldn't use it,

In 1916 the flu epidemic was so bad that very few people escaped it, my mother caught it bad when she was nursing a neighbour that was sick.

We tried to get along as best we could my father brother and I as she was very sick for three weeks and we thought we were going to lose her.

Well that's about all I can remember and I hope they are going to do something for Cobalt