

Lucy Damiani April 15,1972 7:30 - 9:30

1. George Morin (Fritz)
  2. Adeline Bedard
  3. 104 Earl St.
  4. 679-8321
  5. shop foreman
  6. Argentite "Port Cobalt" as it was known in those days North Cobalt
  7. Dad came from Mason Que, Father came from Buckingham
  8. married with 8 children 3 at home, the rest of the family is married
  9. I am 62 years old born May 16th, 1910
  10. When I came to Cobalt I was just a few months old
  12. Two older sisters and I Father was working at King Edward for Cress Lake cutting timeer logs in 1898 - 1899
  13. Driving a team of horses for George Robitaille cutting and hauling firmwood
  14. My wife was ban in Ottawa
  15. Worked as a nursemaid before she got married and in 1937 we got married
  17. busy housewife
  18. Right now Cobalt doesn't change too much it goes up and down depending on the price of silver - but its not ever been as bad as the depression of the 30's. We should get a subsidy for silver when the price goes down or help stabilize the market. The farmers get a subsidy for wheat. The gold and uranium mines get a subsidy. Why not silver. Cobalt has been called a depressed area and with reason when the mines close up there is nothing doing.
- We we're cutting and' hauling logs we worked long hard hours. We used to have early in the morninggo back of Loon Lake to cut our logs brought a lunch to eat while we were in the bush. By the time we got home we'd have supper at 4 o'clock, saw & cut our logs and go out to deliver teem. Sometimes 9 o'clock by the time we got home. I used to work for \$2.00 per week,6days a week.In July 1929. I started working for PM Fleming & Son Ltd. at \$3. per day and thats where I've been for the past 43 years. I learned everything from the ground up Helping in the shop, welder in ship and for the past 16 years I have been shop foreman. When I married I lived in North Cobalt and then I: bought the house I am presently living in from Mrs. Sparrow. Its a large two storey building on Earl Street and through the years I have renovated it completely. Beginning with a foundation cement steps & verandah, new rooms furnace and siding. In the early days we used wood for cooking now its electricity then it was wood for heating also our new furnace is oil heat. Its a large 6 7 rooms. I would have bought in North Cobalt but there was no water in homes. My first doctor was Dr. Case, later we also room house and bathroom which is had Dr. Taylor whose office was in the Stadelman block.
- This new edcation system of bussing kids to out of town schools is not very favourable. I would rather see them utilize some of the new buildings we already have in towno If we do not have enough kids for the grades they should put

them into one school. It matters not French or English. Its already for over grade 8 students to go out of town but I think the lower grades are rather young to be away from home so long. Their day starts earlier and ends later. By the time they get home & have supper do their homework its bedtime and another day. I find too that in smaller schools the student gets more individual attention but in the larger schools teachers don't know some of the students I have heard that one of the schools in Haileybury is going to send some 200 students to B.C. on a trip. This is a stupid idea and I don't know what some parents are thinking. They will see some factories, historic sights, mines, mountains etc. which we have right here in Ontario without going way out to B.C. I am in favour of bus tours for students for education purposes. Right in this area we have a copper mine in Temagami, silver mines & museum in Cobalt plus the new hydro project at Lower Notch in Liskeard we have an agriculture farm and in Earleton there is a cheese factory, we have fish hatchery in Charlton and many more things to see right in this area. I'm sure other places in Ontario can offer interesting tours as well. Its hard to locate secondary industry here which is badly needed because of freight rates and service. There will be more business lost to trucking because of poor rail service. Did you read John Hunts article in the Nugget? Well I think he is so right in stating its time we got to the right channels. They are talking taking rail service out of Tri-Towns for years we have begged our MP's to do something about the freight & rail situation to locate industry in this area but no one has done anything for us. Not the Liberals, Conservatives or NDP. The way they are operating the mail service is putting us back in the early 1930's. It was better then a letter mailed here on the late train 11:20 p.m. used to get to Toronto the following day now it takes 3 or 4 days. Arnold Peters promised us the mail service would be every bit as good as before if not better when they started the new system of mail delivery. All goes to Liskeard then sent out to points north or south. I would at this point like to say the unemployment insurance commission and workmens compensataon need a very thorough investigation. This has nothing to do with Cobalt but so many laborers are affected. It also would take too long to go into detail as it has nothing to do with this story but so many poor laborers have trouble with both these civil apartments that I feel something should be done about it. Why should we have so much trouble getting our benefits. They are all deducted at source. We used to play ball on the slimes and hockey in winter. There was an open air rink for this end of town. As most of us couldn't afford to pay entrance to the town arena which was then on Miller Avenue. For skiing we user barrel stavings (these were apple barrel sections) and we sanded and put candle wax on them and this was our skiiis. Fellows always had to bobsled races and these things used to really go in the summer there was Pete Lake where everybody went to swim, on picnic and I wiener and corn roasts because it was close to town and you could walk out there in about 10 minutes. You could pick berries on the many hills just outside of town. We always had games and sports going. Now we need a recreation and organized sports program to keep our young people interested. The old

sentiment is there is nothing for us to do. I can remember picking nice big berries at Loon Lake and Martineau Bay. We'd camp at these spots for about 3 weeks at a time and when we sold the berries we got 50¢ for an 11 quart basket. Then when they were more plentiful the price went down to 35¢ basket. Many Sundays we'd borrow a team of horses from Northern Canada Supply and five or six families would get together take lunches and go out for a picnic. We could get to Church before going as masses were gang steady from 6 o'clock in the morning every hour on the hour until noon.

As for shops there were stores from one end of town to another. There were 5 stores in Frenchtown section half way before bridge and bridge area is known as Frenchtown. 3 stores on Third street, Sabourins confectionery, Poisson had a store at 104 and opened one on Lang Street, Joe Robitaille, Cholettes Butcher shop, Ravas, Zanins, grocery and bakery, Brewers had a butcher shop. There were many wholesales Northern Canada Taylor Hardware, then food wholesalers, Reckins, Sullivan & Shillington, Lowerys, Gamble Robinson, often went home from Gambles with bags of bananas or oranges for helping unload their cars. The Temiskaming mine had its own general store. There was a town hall large farmers market that was open every Friday and Saturday on and a jail town offices all in a large building which today has been converted into the Temiskaming Testing Laboratory. Then the palm Gardens restaurant where we went for our big double header ice cream cones for 5¢ there were only a few cars around. Just teams of horses and in winter we used to go sleigh riding on Prospect Avenue and we'd end up on Cobalt Lake. Almost any night of the week when we were younger but in later years the traffic was too heavy. The old colonial hill was another spot for sleigh riding and there was always a crowd on the hills.

I can see a recreation program for younger people and organized sport for young and old, for senior citizens there should be a main hall or room where they can meet to talk play cards etc. But hobbies should be self adhered. You can take up hobbies and have adult education groups. This should be separate from recreation. There should be a senior citizens home. Some poor old people have had a hard life and should have things a little easier for them at this age. Some are living in dingy little rooms due to high rental. The cost of living has gone up so high that I would say a miner's wages are not on an even scale. There should be a higher minimum for different types of employment. It should be regulated according to the work you are doing ie; a waitress's or clerks wage should not be on the same level as a hard working miner or laborer. I would like to commend the present mayor and council for their terrific job on municipal government the new parks in town, subdivision, new library, encouraging to see people set up big business places like Tressiders, Red & White and Bernies new Motel also the town has done a good job of renovating the old buildings. Considering in the early days all the mines made their money here and invested it elsewhere. mather than tourist attraction for just two months our pe seasons are short, it would be good to see a project for year round complex suchnas the Dep't of Tourism recently suggested in paper. Of course it has been denied down the line but I hope it is a soon reality.

We have some wonderful spots for fishing and hunting, mine tours could be arranged. The site of Despres store which was at one time Giachino's store would be a tremendous natural spot for an already made shaft. Would take very little to make this a tourist attraction and of course our mining museum is one of the finest and there are many attractions in the near area. So I hope to see something come out of your project no. 4. It has taken a lot of work and now they know what people want in Cobalt

My favourite pastime is fishing hunting and watching TV. I forgot to mention that all these wonderful spots and things we have as far as nature goes are all close by. You can walk to many of them and an important fact is they are absolutely free.