Lucy Damiani

May 12, 1972
2:00 - 4:00

1. Harvey Campbell Plaunt
2. Mary McLachlan
3. 60 Wellington St. New Liskeard
4. 647-7158
5. retired
6. I was born near Renfrew Ottawa Valley. My wife was also born in Ottawa Valley.
7. My father was born in Ottawa Valley. My mother was born in England and came to Canada at age 6
8. Married two sons
9. 1898 Mar. 1st I was born my wife was born June 17, 1897
10. My impressions of New Liskeard are that its had a good growth. I frist came to New Liskeard in 1927 and the first year I worked as a herdsman at Government Farm same location as it is today with Mr. W.G.Nixon who later became a MLA member, Member Legislative Assembly during Hepburn days. When I arrived winter transportation was sleigh and horses. When Mrs. Plaunt came in 1928 the first year we were married, there was a green Christmas there had been snow but it had all gone. My second job was an auctioneer (independent) I sold the Savard Auction I auctioneered Ross Men's Wear, this cleared out all the stock of men's wear in Cobalt in 1928. Then I sold second hand used cars in Liskeard, the models just before the Model A, 1928. When the stock crash came the auctioneering business folded up nobody had money to buy anything. During the depression 30's in the Country I sold quite a few farm auctions. Then I was a dam tender and patrolman at Upper Notch for Northern Light and Power Company this was from 1929 to 1932. I came back to New Liskeard and worked for 6 months as a linesman. The Power Company turned me out in dead of winter. They didn't give you any advance notice of a lay off in those days and also there weren't the benefits we have now. Since there was no work available we moved to a farm above Uno Park in the winter of 1934. This was very hard on my wife & I as how could you farm in winter in the frozen north. We got by on a few eggs we got from our seven chickens ate frozen potatoes and frozen turnips and got by. We never asked for help and there was no welfare then. This farm was the Dowe Elliott estate, the executor was Walter Little. We stayed here 3 years and by hard work and close shaving were able to make a down payment on a farm of my own. Things in 1937 started brightening up and I was told by Mr. Nixon that there might soon be work. As they (the government) was going to build Northern roads with money from succession duties that the conservative government didn't collect. This was when they built the Ferguson Highway (now #11) in 1925 or 1926.

And in 1927 I took a ride from New Liskeard to Renfrew it took me all day to get there. The road was dirt gravel and full of hills and turns. I worked for McNamara construction for about five years farming and working at the same time. In the fall of 1943 I sold my farm livestock and equipment and moved the family to New Liskeard. I joined the Air Force and remained in ground crew as machine operator until the end of1946. I then worked for three years as a salesman for Riverside Packers. I was working for owner Bob Myers and when he sold out to Timmins Packers I left the company. In 1950 I had farms in Clover Valley and was working for Temiskaming Co-operative. In the fall of 1951 I started to sell Insurance for Cooperators Insurance Association of Ontario. When I had farms in Bucke Township I was breeding standard bred horses and breed racing horses. Learned to drive race horses at age 60 and won a first in my first race on a brank new track at North Bay. It was called Sunnydale Track and that was in 1961. I was with Insurance for twenty years and I sold my farmsin Bucke Township and I had a sale in 1965. all my beef cattle and standard bred horses. Since then I have been entirely with Insurance for cooperators until I retired in 1971. I received a nice presentation at a retirement party. They presented me with a nice leather chair. This company used me very good for and independent agent with them. I built up a good business in the area for them of course. Since I have retired I am looking after my wife Mary. I have made a long play record of Doctor Drummond's poems, which I expect willsoon be on sale. I have been active as a lay preacher in Church work & dialect verse. I'm on a self-improvement program for singing, reciting poetry right now learning to play accordian.

I have taken over the copyrights of Drummond's poems from McLelland Stewart who have had them since 1936. As for my political careet the first time I ran for candidate we didn't have a candidate in the field it was being contested by Bob Herbert for Conservatives and Doc Ames for New Democratic Party. As you remember Bob Herbert took this seat again. A year and a half later Bob Herbert passed away and there was a by-election called at that time. I was opposed for nomination by three others. Bill Begg, Fern Desjardins, E.M. MacDonell and I took nomination remember your brother John was chairman that night. This was a very lively election being a by-election we had lots of outside help. Phil Hoffman conservative member and Cal Taylor was then the New Democratic Party member. I came in a close second to Hoffman

I am still interested in politics but after my heart I do not take active part in elections.

I am proud that my wife served New Liskeard and District Hospital. The Old Lady Minto Hospital on the hill. She nursed here from about 1943 to 1952 then at New hospital until retirement a few years ago. She also took private duty work. Don my son left school and went to work for Northern Light and Power after graduating from grade 13 he is now 46 and has been working for Hydro over 25 years. Is now area foreman at Chatam. Daryl my other son is 43 years old went to school in New Liskeard received his Bachelor of Science at MacDonald University Montreal, Masters at Lexington Kentucy, received his Doctor of Philosophy at East Lansing Michingan. He also received other scholarships. He worked as an associate professor at Guelph for three years and is now with Civil service at Ottawa. Science of economics and agriculture. This department works in close collaboration with Minister and ministers aids.

Highlights :

Mr. Placent is very active for a man his age. Dabbling in a self improvement course in singingis taking accordian self taught - has all of Doctor Drummond's work some are extinct and he has recorded a recording of Drummond's poems, which will soon be on sale. He has also acquired the publishing rites to Drummond's poems in Canada. Still enjoys some politics I forgot to mention he and Mrs. Plaunt cherish a genuine Windsor chair.