

Lucy Damiani April 3, 1972

7:45 - 9:00

John Conti

2. "Toni"
3. 202 Lang St.
4. 679-5928
5. mill operator
6. Born in Ignace Ontario
7. Mother and Father born in Italy
8. Married and I have a 2 year old daughter
9. 44 years old

10. My impression is that we are going through a slow period. But it will pick up. Right now there are rumors of some of the mines opening up again. The Smelter is going to open also. So the economy of the town looks better. I must say our winter works projects have helped to keep people occupied. Although I would have liked to have seen it put to better use. I am in favour of regional school system. It offers a better opportunity for the students nowadays and I also think the provincial grants for students offer a tremendous opportunity for those who have more technical schools for trades these would be popular

here. Everywhere they are crying for trained technicians. Also manpower program courses that are available to all are very helpful and you get paid while on course so a family man can take it too. A few years ago we didn't have this. These courses give a person more perspective and initiative there are also more opportunities for adult education. I think miner's wages should be brought up

to the level of work they are doing. It is hard dangerous work and they are not by standards being paid enough, in comparison to other work and other towns. Cost of living has gone up tremendously and it's hard to make ends meet. There should be private enterprise and small businesses as there is too much takeover by the big companies corner stores still flourish and so do small businesses. They should be encouraged. If individuals have money to invest it should be invested in small industry to create more jobs. We should definitely have organized sport and a recreation program with a good director it's important to keep our young people occupied and active. We have many facilities large skating rink, community hall, these could all be used. I'm sure many of the schools would be willing to let their gyms be used for recreation and games. I can't think of any changes that should be made but we could have a ball park there hasn't been one for years except Bass Lake and this is far to go. A Senior citizens home is a necessity so many of the older people are

living out a meager existence because of high rent, high food costs. We do need a drug store as it is very inconvenient to go to Haileybury for a prescription. e town is doing a good job of municipal government and it's nice to see the new parks, the town has cleaned up all the old buildings and they are renovating the downtown area. It certainly has improved the appearance of the town. When I was younger we made our own fun, played games, some of the boys got together and we butt a Ferris wheel that worked like a real one on a

miniature scale. In winter we went skiing, sleigh riding, skating in the summer, hikes and swimming at Peterson Lake there was always a lot of the gang around to go out with and

have fun. I think fun for the young people none has a different meaning. I asked to used to pile cords of wood to go to a show in the afternoon admission was 100 no allowance in those days. You worked for your money. We have picked berries in the summer to make money. I have always played a guitar and I like to sing, summer nights and Sundays sitting around with a group playing and singing. I cherish my guitar though I don't play it much anymore. I also have an old pair of skis and skates I used when I was a youngster. There is a lot of out of town shopping because we have very few shops or shopping centre left in town. There's 'room for clothing store boys, men, women, children, big hardware supplier, dentist, doctor, drug store and a large department store would do well. You have to be interested in a business to keep one going. The first place I worked was a splint factory in 1944 at .30 cents an hour worked a full two weeks, 2 days overtime and I ended up getting \$28. for a pay cheque. I went to Hill Clark Francis in 1950 Wabi Iron Works, Cobalt Foundry for a few years, Silver Miller, old construction jobs and Glenn Lake LaRose Mill, Harry Bambrick was my boss, then and he was a terrific boss and a super mill man really knew his work. In the earlier days there were certainly more stores than now. Giachino's, Damiani's, Rava's, Malouin Grocery stores, McEwen's, TBS, Cherry's Clothing, Bucks, Boston Grill, Minerva Restaurant, Chinese restaurant, Cain's furniture, Rowdon's, Blacks, Hardware, Lemon's grocery. It was a sad period when our business places closed up one by one. I am living in a large 3 room apartment and may buy a house later. I am back to work at Silver Shield and I hope to see more mines opening up and the economy of Cobalt prosper. I've always lived here and I like the atmosphere and the people are friendly my dreams are to see Cobalt boom again and grow and prosper. We should encourage tourist trade they find it interesting to come north but we will have to work on something to keep them here or they go further north. We should have more trailer parks and camping grounds; make our mine tours more interesting, keep our festival going every summer. Offer more site tours to Drummond Cairn, Old Mission, air plant at Ragged Chutes, new hydro project at Lower Notch, we already have the nicest lakes around for fishing hunting spots, beaches for swimming, all these are easily accessible.

There should be a subsidy for silver mining some of the mines could put through a lower grade ore and make it pay. We should be able to get grants and subsidies, this would create more activity and the mines could operate profitably if subsidized. Secondary industry is a must we have lakes, timber spur lines all the available needs for small industry could lower freight rates to help out. I think this idea of Mayor Piche of Kapuskasing to have the North band together and take over the railroad reduce freight rates would automatically stimulate industry in the north. I would like to see the town pick up and have more businesses open establish a definite recreation program for young people.

There could be a technical school looted here. We have many schools with available space for summer courses without going out of town. They could induce students and adults to come for courses by advertising arrange a low cost rental apartment or billet services. This would all encourage them coming in so I hope the right sources do something about it. Let's keep the best old town on the map.