

Name of Interviewer: Lucy Damiani Date of Interview: March 22, 1972

Interview: 7:00 to 8:30

1. Joseph Chitaroni
2. Pep
3. 1 Frasken Street
4. Georgette Campeau (wife)
5. 679-8532
6. Pesaro Prov, of Ancona Italy
7. Pesaro Prov, of Ancona Italy
8. Wife and six children 2 boys 4 girls
9. Boris in 1916-----55 yrs, old
- 10, Came of Cobalt in Nov. 1924
- 11, By steamer Azonia it was a long rough voyage that took 2 weeks
- 12, Halifax and Montreal
13. My mother, Carlo, Elio (my brothers) and myself, we came to join our Father who was already here.
- 14, About 7 yrs, of age when I started working on the Canipto road from highway 11 to Canipto Mine, that was in 1932 for \$140 a day, we were lucky this was the depression 30's and some of the fellows were working at the airport for .20 cents a day and a package of tobacco.
- 15, My wife came from Haileybury and she worked at Local Long Distance telephone there.
16. unemployed
17. housewife
18. My impressions of Cobalt right now are not very encouraging if the price of silver doesn't go up there isn't much future for this town, it has always been known strictly, as a mining town. and as for a secondary industry, the government doesn't even help to keep some of the ones going that are about to close up. We have asked for intervention, just like we did when the Smelter was closing and it didn't help,
There are few job opportunities because mining is petering out and it cuts back on some of our local foundries right now. They are talking of closing the foundry too so where do we go for help now. We certainly can't expect our young people to stay and work here for about \$2.00 an hour, when there isn't work for a family man.
It makes me quite angry to see the money that was and is being taken out of Cobalt and money of it left here to be put back into the town, We have had everything taken away from here and situated in Liskeard or other places for instance the Long Distance telephone, our hydro office, freight and express offices have been moved, they are relocating the Customs office and soon it will be gone from here, our mail is delivered to New Liskeard then brought down to Cobalt.
My hopes and aspirations are to see the price of silver go up and have Cobalt, make a comeback. Better still if we can encourage people coming in will at least have enough employment to keep those who are in Cobalt here.
22. Working hours when I first started working in 1936 were 8 hours a day, 6 days a week and in 1950 they went to a 44 hour week, by 1962 it was the 40 hour week we now have

23. I started working at the Lake Shore gold mine in Kirkland Lake in 1936 because there were no available jobs here. My friend Real Mercier and I got the job by a chance meeting with John Conlin, who was superintendent of the Lake Shore at the Lake shore picnic at New Liskeard, My friend and I had .60 cents each in our pocket and we hitched to Kirkland to see Conlin and try for a job. The first night we were there we slept under an old building and the next day we met another friend Ted Rosicki who wanted us to stay at his house. After getting to Conlin at the Mine office and filling out our applications he told us to hand around he would try his best go get us on It was a long "hang around" nearly four weeks before we were hired and we were lucky—everyday there was a line up at the gate of about 200 men waiting for work.

In 1940 I came back to Cobalt and worked for the O'Brien Mine Leasers—these fellows were partners and had leased the O'Brien property the partners were Dune McLeod Lorne Humphrey (who now is Managing Doherty Roadhouse Haileybury). I am Jackson and Carta Donegan, and I worked here until 1942 when I went into the army. Took my basic training in Halifax for 4 months then was moved to Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara on the Lake and came home in Dec. 1945. I started working again at the Nerlip Mine for Mr. Pilner and our first pay cheque was 2 1/2 months coming in. You have to give Mr. Pilner our credit for always finding a promoter for his mine which he kept operating for 18 yrs. He was an Oxford graduate and he did a lot in his era for this town. He was of Negro descent and his favorite saying was, when I'm making money they call me Mister Pilner, when I'm not doing too well they call my Pilner, and when I haven't any money they call me a black bastard.

After the Nerlip closed down I started with consolidated Beaver, Cobalt Lake and Agnico Properties. I went to Brady Lake for Silver Miller in 1949 in the fall of 1950. I was transferred to the Larose, still for Silver Miller until 1959. At the Larose I was shift. boss at the time we were mining Cobalt ore oily. In August of 1957 there was a strike at Silver Miller which lasted 6 wks. So I was shifted to Lawson Prop. and the Conisel all Silver Miller properties until 1962. They slowly started closing up the properties so I was taken on at Silver Patricia as shift boss. This was the old Temiskaming Shaft. I was at Silver Summit when they put on this big walk for stock promotions and they built a head frame on a mill that was supposed to mill 300 ton and there was nothing there to mill. When this closed I went to High Ho Silver and they hit two big ore bodies in 1965. This find was bringing in 5000 ounces of silver to the ton. I worked here until the fall of 1970 when I started working with my brothers at Chitaroni mineral.

In early days we used to have lots of parties dances and good times, we used to walk down town gather at the Boston and meet the girls there, then we'd all go for a ride to Haileybury or Liskeard.

We always attended the Saturday night dances at the town Hall with the country Club orchestra blowing.

When I worked in Kirkland my friends and I would come down every Sat, night for the dance. We knew most of the boys in the orchestra, Eddie Assaf, Bob Baker, Freddie Johnson, Eddie Stewart, Moses Assaf and Ray Jabour,

I am in favour of organized sports and we certainly should have a recreation program it helps the youngsters and the adults. We have adequate facilities in a small, recreation centre and a large arena, also the Community Hall which could be utilized.

I have a 22 rifle I purchased for \$4 when I was 14, at Northern Canada Supply, Georgie, my wife, has an old antique wash basin in porcelain which my mother gave her. When I was younger both sides of Lang Street were lined with stores, theatres, restaurants, ice cream parlors, ladies, men's wear, jewelry and hardware store, Woolworths bake shops, grocery stores, tailor shops, livery stables, drug store---we had many rooming h houses, hotels, candy stores, souvenir shops, plumbing and tinsmith shops, Chinese laundries and many more shopping centres which are sadly lacking today. We badly need a drug store, shoe store, teen wear in girls and boys, a doctor, a dentist and perhaps a lawyer.

I built my first home in 1949 with the help of my relatives and friends, I am still adding finishing touches to a 5 room split level home.

I believe the towns administration is doing a good job and although the employment picture is not too bright new homes and buildings are going up in the downtown area we have the library, a new restaurant, a new Red and White supermarket a 10 unit motel and a new Chinese restaurant, the new sub division has encouraged many new home owners. The town has cleaned up some of the old buildings and added 2 parks, everyone seems to be taking more pride in their homes and premises.

The past that price of silver is so low and miners are closing means. I am now unemployed. I would like to see Cobalt go ahead my family and my home are here and I don't want to move away. We'll never find a friendlier spot.

This is the first time I have been on unemployment Benefits and I don't like it, I would rather be working at one time when prices were lower it was easier to manage, but now with the high cost of living it's hard to make ends meet. So I am hoping for the revival of Cobalt one way or another.