

Lucy Damiani Feb. 28, 1972

7 - 8 p.m.

1. Joseph Avit Despres
- 2.
3. Elizabeth Bourque (Mrs. J. Despres)
4. 5 Laird St.
5. 679- 8381
6. 62 years old
7. Gaspé, Que.
8. Gaspé Peninsula
9. Great Grandfather from France Grandmother and Grandfather from Gaspé.
10. In September 1906
11. By boat to Quebec City by train from Montreal
12. By way of North Jay T.N.O. railway (Temiskaming Northern Ontario)
13. Mother, Father and ten children
14. Started working in a grocery store at 11 years of age part-time, later full time
15. Born in Corbeil - wife came to Elk Lake by boat from Latchford. She was left without mother and father so an aunt in Elk Lake looked after her then she went to North Bay to live with another sister -came to Cobalt to be married in 1920.
16. Retired - worked for Hydro (then Northern Ontario Lighting Power) for 47 years before retiring.
17. Housewife.
18. I thought it was a really booming community.
19. It was so busy you couldn't even walk on the sidewalks. There was all tar paper shacks wooden sidewalks, big log buildings and the road was mud everyone wore big boots.
20. Came because of the boom and everyone said it was easy to get work.
21. Mining and logging - cutting posts for shacks.
22. Ten hours a day
23. Muckers were making \$1.25 per hour helpers \$1.50 per hour and machine men \$2.00 per hour.
24. A log 2 storey building on Railroad street.
25. We hung our socks at the end of the bed and were lucky to get an orange or an apple.
26. Water from "Long Lake" now Cobalt Lake, good drinking water.
27. No electricity just kerosene gas lamps. There was gas lamps downtown for lighting operated by charcoal.
28. Wood stove for cooking.
29. Wood for heating too - it was plentiful and we hauled our own wood for winter supply.
30. All kinds of stores and some wholesale - Taylor Hardware, Northern Canada - Sullivan and Shillington wholesales.
31. Baseball and skating dancing roller skating, swimming
32. Baseball and hockey - our baseball team was something with a lot of imports from Iron Mountain Michigan.

33. Ste Theresa's School before fire. English & French after fire in 1909 they separated and there was a French School and an English School.
34. Grade 8
35. Horse and street Cars, no cars until later years.
36. Dr. Ruthier
37. Pest house for fever cases at mileage 104 and a well equipped Red Cross Hospital in town.
38. First child born in Cobalt
39. Francis 17, Jean 16, All the boys went to High School and quit at about age 17.
40. Francis at Woolworths. Albert at Cobalt Foundry. Tom at Dominion Store Roland Salesman for Canada Packers.
41. In those days they didn't have safety measures and more men lost their lives.
42. Hand drilling, mucking contests fireman's tournament. The rocks they used for drilling are at Clear Lake and the contests were always held July 1st.
43. Plenty of meat, vegetables, sold by market or venders, and we used to get free fruit when they were going to throw it out at Gamble Robinson wholesale.
44. Depending on what shift you worked sometimes the main meal was dinner sometimes Supper.
45. Christmases you looked forward to Santa Claus and when we got an orange or an apple it was something.
46. Work clothes on weekdays we wore running shoes in summer and moccasins in winter.
47. On Sundays we wore good clothes but we always took them off to go and play.
48. First we had to go to church then baseball, swimming or skating depending on the season.
49. Just pictures lost everything in 1908
50. Like it here, it's quiet and we have good municipal government
51. Because I've been here and it feels good to be here.
52. People are looking after their building and property
53. I think all the changes that have been made were for the betterment of the town.
54. No I like it the way it is.
55. I like it.
56. Just changes that would boost our little town and bring people in. I'm not too sure what could be in - perhaps the governing bodies have some idea.
57. Well maybe, tourist attraction is one answer.
58. Fall first because I like to hunt. Summer next because it's great to get outdoors after being in all winter.
59. Fishing and hunting, watching TV
60. Fishing and hunting.
61. Another industry I think would definitely help keep people here and bring others in
62. Tourist industry.
63. If we treat the tourist nice they'll come back also we have much to offer in the way of natural spots, lakes for fishing, bush for hunting and many historical sites like Old Mission, Drummond Memorial, Ragged Chutes and many others.

