

Lucy Damiani April 12,1972

6:10 - 7:50

1. Leonard Anthony Cassidy
2. Vera Moore (wife)
3. 30 Park Street
4. 679-8362
5. Security officer at Temiskaming
6. Born in Cobalt in 1914.
7. Madawaska Renfrew area
8. Married and had one boy passed away at age 5
9. 58 years old

10. Right now we are going through another recession the price of silver fluctuates too much. It should really be standardized or they should give us a subsidy here we are with other places trying to take the credit for being the cradle of the North when its Cobalt. We should get help one way or another. Have always sustained ourselves and never went around crying for help. Always manage to pull out of one recession after another. We have more building going on that we ever had. The trouble with the price of silver is you mine it and its worth \$2.25 an ounce when you go to sell market price going is only \$1.75 an ounce. This doesn't help matters any. The Temiskaming Testing Laboratory processes ore for the mines and the prospectors are allowed samples per claim free. Our department is working with mines Resources Ministry. Prospecting is still quite active in the area and they tell me after so many years of being a prospector not sure how many, you get a free license for prospecting.

We don't have enough industry going for this place when the mines close up everything stops with them. Haileybury turned down a Johns Mansville factory. We should have gone after it as we have plenty of available space to locate one. If we could persuade the government to locate their big year round recreational project here it would help the area tremendous whether its official or not the news has leaked out now everybody wants it. North Bay is trying to get it - the "Soo" wants it. You wait and see we won't get it. No wonder everyone around here is skeptic about it. We've had more things taken out of here. Indirect mail service goes to Liskeard first. Then its trucked back here. We lost our telephone exchange. The Hydro office also went to Liskeard. The customs office at Timmins has been chosen for the North, so the office in Cobalt may soon be obsolete. The mines won't be prosperous forever we have to look to other things. If we don't have enough children for grade 13 rather than have higher taxes in the community they will have to send them out of town. I wouldn't like to see these things happen but sometimes it can't be helped. I am not in favour of busing little kids out of town to go to school unless its a specialized course. These kids are too young to go out of town and we should make use of the schools already here. And we could also save some of the taxpayers money by having Catholic & Protestant French or English all under one roof rather than three separate schools and it might make for a better education system. Religion should be taught in the home or in your own church not at the school.

More jobs and more businesses and this all goes with making a prosperous town. The shopping in town is very limited and what there is have too high prices we could use more stores, a drug store, a dentist, a shoe store and maybe a large department store like Woolworths or Zellers. There is so much shopping out of town. This hurts Cobalt

business places. We should definitely carry on with a recreation program but not necessarily members of the same family working for it. Kids need organized sports. They won't do too much on their own. The last recreation director I think did a good job while he was here, majorettes, girls hockey, a marching band and he started our summer festival. If he was trying to be dictatorial its up to the council to stop him.

My mother came to Cobalt in 1907 and I was young only 4 years old when my father died and my sister also died when I was 3. I went to school in Haileybury before the fire then after the fire I went to the French School here for 1 year. St Hilaron School across the bridge. Went to the states to stay with my uncle then I came back to Cobalt and went to boarding school in Montreal. I also went to Sudbury College for 2 years and in 1928 I quit school and went to work. Jobs were hard to get it was the 30's depression and I had an assortment of jobs worked at the airport for 25 cents a day, meals clothes and a pack of tobacco, worked for Department of Highways building the Canipta Road for 25 cents an hour. Started working steady in 1937. I went to the Northwest Territories for Eldorado Mines with John Hutman, Elmer Johnson and Walter Purdy from Cobalt too. Its beautiful country up there daylight all the time except for two months in winter its dusk. Then I came back to Cobalt and worked at Cross Lake Lease Nipissing-O'Brien, Agnico North Cobalt and TTL where I am today. Always had a lot of fun in our gang. No cars but we still had a good time always went to dances in a gang. I have always liked bowling and I play]d hockey and softball, fishing is a real pastime and I like the summer best. You don't have to put on big boots and heavy clothes to go out. Now I still bowl and play cards or go visiting and I enjoy fishing very much. I can remember when I was young going down to the station to see the train come in. This was a big thing in Cobalt ad everybody went for something to do. There were often time when the silver 'bars were piled up on the station platform ready to go. These silver bar shipments went out often cause there were quite a few mines working then. Nobody guarded them. They just stayed there. Travelled mostly by street car or horses. Not many cars around then. They had this big fountain at the square with running water and everybody drank from it kids, horses, dogs. The stores were open until 11 o'clock and everybody was downtown on the streets. You would meet the gang, there and go on to a party dance etc. The old saying on a Saturday night was "see you downtown".

In 1944 I got my army call but went down to enlist on my own for active service. I was only in 3 days when they told me I was better off in civilian life.

There is not much point in encouraging tourist trade unless we can go all the way. That is have a good reasonable eating places and more trailer or park facilities or low cost rooms for nights lodging. Also there should be some attraction like the Moosenee thing. Polar Bear Express, or even right here we have to offer them something to keep them here. We have much to offer lakes for fishing, swimming, mine properties, hunting spots and also not overcharge on prices this is what killed the Temagami area. Some of the mines that were here made a lot of money and took it all out and they didn't put a cent back into Cobalt. Some invested in gold properties others went into real estate and so today we are left naked so to speak with very little encouragement. I think the "Mayor and council in the past few years has to be commended for all they are doing - giving credit to Dr. Dunning by naming Dunning

Drive after him. They are calling the park downtown Drummond Park and they have cleaned up some of the old buildings renovated the downtown section and the new subdivision is an asset to the town. I am in favour of all these changes and would like to see the town continue we have good garbage collection, snow removal and taxes are at a fair rate. Some communities our size are not as well looked after. We could use a Senior Citizens, a low cost housing unit and maybe a recreation hall for the older people to meet, play cards or just talk.

I would like to keep living in Cobalt my wife & I both like it very much. We have always liked the lazy friendly way of people and our relatives and friends are here. There have been many changes we have completely remodelled our home, at least 3 times now we are comfortable in it. I have added a glass verandah put in a complete foundation a new 3 piece bath furnace, roof. You can say almost a new house it might have been cheaper in the long run but its got sentimental value.

When I think of my early years in Cobalt I have but good memories. The gang I played cards with the bowling team I'm with the same bunch of fellows for about the past 7 years. We have taken trophies for top team and I have had individual trophies. Then too when we were young and dating girls there was always Marie's we could go for good clean fun and a drink there was always

a piano player and we'd dance or have a sing song. I feel sorry for the kids nowadays they can't make their own fun it has to be organized for them but there is no use saying to them when I was a kid we did this or did that. The best thing is to help them along and do something for them.