

Lucy Damiani April 26, 1972

10:15 - 11:00

Lloyd Doan

3. 12 Silver Street, Cobalt

4. None

5, retired

6. Manitoulin Island, Shequiandah. Lake port post office, grocery store it's a little farming area with about 100 people.

7. Mother in Hagersville. Father in Norwich - close to Tillsonburg area

8. married

9. 72 years old, born Jan. 1900.

10. The town I think is in fair shape. It's been a long time since I've seen so much building going on the 30's were a lot worse than things are now because in those days there were no benefits or welfare. All you could buy were some beans and a piece of salt pork and you lived on them. I feel there isn't too much we can do to change things around Cobalt. We are too far away from the markets down south to get any industries going all we can do is count on our mining lumbering, and farming in the area. There are not too many job facilities, when the mines slow up so does everything else. We have small industries in our smelter,

Foundry and Temiskaming Testing Laboratories. I think it's a good thing we have Sherman mine to take up some of the unemployment and it helps us out because there are a few men from Cobalt employed there. I come from a real tourist area, Manitoulin Island and I believe me they have a lot to offer a tourist. Here everything is on a small scale.

There isn't enough to see and we would have to build it up tremendously to make it attractive to tourists, if you are driving on a holiday and looking for a place to stay you'll have to bypass Cobalt as there isn't

too much in accommodation and our season is so short it would have to be a year round attraction with winter sports as well as summer activities. You know Henry Ford and Lady Astor have summer places on an island close to Manitoulin they have their own island and have a caretaker there the year around. You have to be able to show them more than just a mine shaft, or a small museum. I'm not knocking the museum it's a very good one but it wouldn't take a person too long to go through it then where does the tourist go. I think municipal government is doing a terrific job for a small town. I am retired and I pay taxes and they are reasonable The education facilities or recreation are of no interest to me, but I'm sure it's a good thing for the town to have a recreation program and also keep up

standard of the schools. I first came to Cobalt in Dec. 1923. How did I come to be in Cobalt? It's a long story. I was working out in West Regina for a whole sale horse dealer - in fall when freeze-up came I wanted to go home. I had saved some money and the boss made a deal with me. Deliver this team of horses to a mine in Silver Centre called the Cora Lorain and then you can go home. When I got to Silver Centre with my cargo the man offered me a job driving the team of horses so I took the job and have been here ever since. About 7 6 months later I bought a team of horses and started working on my own - general delivering.

I remember you delivering for our store when I was a youngster Mr. Doan. You delivered for us in the winter months because there were no plowed roads like there are today for

cars. I also delivered for other stores, Pete McEwen, the Dominion Store, George Taylor, Tommy Black and Rowdon hardware sometimes, I also worked for the Nipissing Mining Corp, O'Brien Mine - the mine used to truck the men to their shift and for 7 years I brought the 4 a.m. shift home, I drove a truck for. Hubert Audette in 1951 - 1952 for his dynamite contract used to go to Nobel load it on and deliver it to the mines here. I was driving the town fire truck taking turns at the 3 shifts in late 1952. I started. I was a paid driver. The volunteer firemen were only paid for fires they went to I stayed with the town as fire truck driver for thirteen years. I worked for two summers on the railroad extra gang. I retired in 1968. I think the fire department in Cobalt started in 1905 or 1906. It was a team of horses then. I think they bought their first truck in 1923 and I'm sure they bought the second one in 1929. When I started Hubert Audette was fire chief - then later it was Harry Cooper - he quit the same time I did.

Well I guess that about all for my life in Cobalt. Oh yes, one more thing, I remember very well just a minute I'll show you this newspaper clipping.

Some people don't believe it, but I'll let you keep the clipping for a while so you can show people - here it is.

Special to the Star - Dec, 5

Ship silver Cargo Valued at 330,000. Reported largest bullion consignment from Cobalt. By far the largest shipment of pure silver ever made from the Cobalt camp left here, in a special express car last night for New York. Made by the Nipissing Mining Co., it consisted of 450 bars of refined bullion containing 505,038 troy ounces valued on today's prices of \$330,000. The shipment is a portion of the reserves held in storage since the drop in price several years ago.

You know people still don't believe when you tell them that all this silver was unguarded. I know when I made this shipment delivered to the station to be sent away I was the only one accompanying the silver, Now at the station that day there was a travelling salesman leaving on the same train and he said to me what's that When I told him it was silver he didn't believe me said you think I'm crazy or

Something that's just Babbitt nobody would transfer or ship that much ore unguarded.

And that's the end of my story. Thank you Mr. Doan for your interview and the clipping. I'll see you get it back.