

Lucy Damiani May 5, 1972

2:00 - 3:45

1. Michael Joseph Brosko
2. Genny Tevatio (wife)
3. 10 Argentite St.
4. 679-5966
5. shoemaker
6. born in Cobalt
7. Father in Ukraine, Mother in Poland
8. married - 2 boys
9. 52 years old
10. Cobalt is dead. The millionaires bled us to death for years and left us with nothing. Why didn't they put some of the money they made back into Cobalt? The government made money here. Spent it elsewhere and never did too much for us here. We are the forgotten people. What about this big new project that is going to be located on the Larose property Mike? That. I'll believe it when I see it. This new education system they have is also haywire. There'd no individuality. Those students are just going to be a number. The schools are too big and the teachers don't know the kids. It is losing the personal touch. Our schools in my day may have been smaller but I think we got a better education. And this is also costing the taxpayer more money because we are paying for new schools when our other schools in town are not being utilized, not paid for, w1 are they going to do with the empty schools? Our express and rail rates are out of this world. We have only a few hours service. There is only one passenger train a day in here. Also our freight only comes in once or twice. We small businesses are paying to have the railway system going to keep Sherman Mines, Texas Gulf, Adams, all the .per outfits who make money in business. If they paid their proper share we small fellows wouldn't have to pay such high freight rates and don't forget this (lower freight rates) would also induce small industry and we'll never get industry until we do something about our freight rates, on this government railroad of ours. Also we could have everything come in by rail except the perishables and this would keep our highways in better shape as there wouldn't be as there w many large transports bouncing around on them. Our system of government is all wrong. I don't say go all the way like Hitler or communist but they do have some good points. If you need education they see you get it, if a musician has any talent they put him through top schools here you have to do this on your own. This town should have been torn down and rebuilt. This is what should have been done, if lumber or wood were reasonable we could fix our homes or build. The working man can't purchase lumber or do a thing; it's priced right out of our reach. They have fixed up some buildings in town but it's still the old shell and this is the way all the town looks. When they first started building They were put up to last a few years and sixty years later some of them are still here. They are sending our ore out to be refined to the states. Why couldn't we have this industry here? My father was here in the early 1900's worked on railroad putting it through to points north. There were 8 children in our family and the hungry 30's were pretty grim for us. At times we just ate bread and vegetables from the garden. There were no benefits then as there are now. I started working at a young early age and so did the rest of the family. We had to my father worked hard to make ends meet.

He went into mining after he left railway that was his livelihood, and it took its toll. He died of silicosis. I started working as a shoemaker when I was a kid with Nick Costo, a Greek shoemaker who taught me everything I know about shoemaking. I worked with him for six years, for Mercier at Teronite Gold Mine, Young Davidson, Matachewan and then five years in the army. I went to England Scotland, France, Holland, Germany and Belgium. In Dec. 1945 I came home. I opened a shop Mar. 1st, 1946 right where I am today I was married in 1947 to Genny Tevatio a Cobalt girl. Lived with my mother in law for 5 years then I remodeled the place I am now living in - apartment above the shop and this is where we lived. Small businesses have a hard time surviving nowadays. It's a lot of work for very little money. I was checking some newspaper ads and Eaton's are advertising sale on zippers for \$4.50 and I am selling them \$2.50 and people still think you are robbing them. Women's half soles were advertised for \$3.50 a pair. I probably couldn't get that for soles and heels plus my work. In the 30's tried everywhere to get a job. Went to Timmins, Kirkland, Malartic, Val D'or, Rouyn Noranda, - big line ups at all the gates. Cousin told me to go to Teronite and that how I got on its 70 miles on the other side of Gowganda. Just a couple of cabins, there was a blind pig and small store. This town looked good when we had Ducks, TES, Woolworths, people used to come and shop here from Liskeard Haileybury, now it's the other way around. We have to go up there for lack of stores. I think it is very unfair to small businesses when big places like Sherman Mine, Refinery and the hydro project was like this. All these outfits bring in supplies and store goods which they sell at cost plus 1 % so the small business is sitting there not selling their product. These projects do not benefit a town. They come in with everything supplies included and they take off with everything when they leave. Tourist trade is only good for a few months of the year and good only for grocery stores, hotels, restaurant, and souvenir shops. In a town this size we need more than just tourist trade to help keep it going. I mentioned what might help in the foregoing paragraphs. We are too free with our laws. Look at our salmon industry. We will soon have lost all salmon mainly because we are letting other countries fish on our shores. The cost of everything is already so high that the average laborer has no money left after buying necessities so he is not spending freely which affects our prosperity. I say for a small community we paid too high a price for recreation. 39,000. is a lot of money to pay a man for the job. Why don't we get together with Township of Coleman they have been using our facilities and not paying their share, of together we could have better facilities. They get some tax money from our schools, our mines we are paying for their kids going to school and using our facilities. This amalgamation should have taken place a long time ago. There should be organized sports. I'm sure there are many fellows here in town who would donate their time towards an organized sports program. Look at Haileybury and Liskeard they don't have a recreation director. If all citizens pitched in with this little town of ours it would be a better place to live in.

I have an old building next to me that a real fire hazard and it's also four feet on my property and I just can't get it moved. I have been after the town to move it for years. It's not a museum piece. I don't know why they are trying to restore it, it's not yet twenty years old. Another

spot that's ruined is Cobalt Lake. The mines have been dumping in slimes and tailings. When people started complaining about the looks of the lake. So when the town began

demanding action from the Agnico Mines a body of men representing Agnico, met with town council and lawyer Sophia represented Cobalt in the action. Agnico agreed to clean up the lake and maybe if silver goes up Agnico still has lots of tailings to put through so it may never be the same nice lake it once was. They have started a road to the ball park which Lions Winter works is making at one end of the lake. They should have just built this baseball Park at West Cobalt where the old one once was there will be a lot of cleaning up to make a nice park of it. To me there should be some law that a home owner or business place should keep their own properties clean of litter and this would help keep the town cleaner. They could also put those garbage cans up around town again. I think people use them. Well I guess I've said enough Lucy except I'd like to see nothing better than the town of Cobalt go ahead. We have been held back and I hope it picks up again. Thanks for your interview and time Mike. If you forgot something for have other interesting things to tell me just call.