

Lucy Damiani April 4,1972 1:20 - 2:40

1. Michael Melnik
2. Mike
3. 29 First Street
4. 679-8346
5. TV & electrical appliance repairman
- 6 . Cobalt
7. Mother and Father came from Austria
8. Bachelor
9. 47 years old

10. It doesn't look too bright for the immediate future this new trend in mining theory that is going deeper below the diabase surface may prove more successful in extracting more silver from our mines then all we need is a stabilized price. It seems to me we were more affluent when American capital was freer and not so restricted as today.

Mr. Pilner of the Nerlip Mine Properties was always an active mining man and did a lot to keep the community going during the rough years. There weren't too many mines operating. When funds would run low he always went to the states and induced new investors. This went on for some 12 or 13 year so Sometime the men wouldn't be paid for 3 or 4 weeks but he always dug up the capital somewhere at one point there was a large ore body found and he gave the men strict orders to leave it there. Everyone said this was his safety vein in case an investment showed up he has the vein to back him up. There are more facilities available with new system of regional schools if students are not university material they channel them off to technical sources in different fields of training. This is an advantage for the average student. There are also some disadvantages for this system. The schools and classrooms are bigger and the teachers can't possibly get to know their students individually.

Another disadvantage is longer travelling time spent on the road, which leaves the student less time for extra curricular activities and play or sports.

It is still a wonderful opportunity for education which was not available when I was going to school. More jobs and job opportunities available now there are winter works programs. Also courses at Manpower in the technical and business field. While you're in training you get paid.

Wages are low and we are faced with a dilemma of low wages trying to meet high cost of living. Our laborer is reaching the poor man's stage the necessities of life are concerned - food, clothing, rentals, fuel and other expenses.

The standard wage should be brought up to consider the cost of livingo Many people are shopping out of town because our shopping area is small and limited. I found myself going to New Liskeard twice in a week for simple things like a bathroom scale and rubber gasket. We should certainly use more stores in town, clothing store, shoe store, drug store, and a few others.

Also better parking facilities. The new Red & White is really limited and hazardous. Couldn't we utilize the playground by the market. If small business

enterprise is to survive we should have better parking facilities lower freight rates and more encouragement from the municipal government.

I think organized sports and recreation with a good director is a must. We could have our festival every year but for a shorter length of time. We have the facilities in our arena and community hall.

Cobalt should take steps to annex with Coleman township. We could share works costs. It would make the town more prosperous right now we don't have too much co-operation with them. Its very difficult to get to plow the Bass Lake road in the winter or to fix it in the summer. This road is frequently used by many people to go to the beach or also to the residents of Bass Lake. There are the Villas, McNiff's, the Liscumbs, and quite a few other families living there. In the last few years the mayor and council have done a tremendous job of municipal government. They have torn up the old eyesore buildings made new parks and parking spaces, renovated old buildings in the downtown area all these improvements add immensely to the appearance of the town. They have also opened up a few side streets and this winter with all the snow we've had they are to be praised for their snow removal. Many larger locations are not getting the service we are. I am happy to see they are taking advantage of the grants.

I like antiques and I have no treasures because I buy and sell and consider myself a small dealer in this line. There was no organized sports activities when I was young. We created our own fun. There was always friends in those days to play games, go on hikes, swim' at Peterson Lake, sleigh ride on the O'Brien Hill, skate at the French open air rink at the O'Brien where everybody went on a Sunday night. We used to go sucker fishing at nights and come home with a big catch. We hunted in the fall. It was good times in those days now for the young people we need organized sports to keep them occupied and we didn't get an allowance every week. We worked for spending money by picking rock piles for Cobalt mineral and copper. It was good picking when they tore up the old street car tracks for copper contacts short lengths of cable that had been used. This material we sold to old Mr. Cohen. We also picked berries to sell for money. Every day when it wasn't raining 3 or 4 large truck loads of people would go to Martineau Bay and pick blue berries all day. The trucks would come back for us at night. We got more money by shipping them to Toronto and boy were we rich, when the cheques came in.

My first recollection of Cobalt was coming in the train from Silver Centre where we lived with my mother and father to shop at the stores which was a real treat. Our first store we'd head for was Woolworths 5¢ & 10¢ They had such a variety of everything. Sometimes we'd get a ride to town in the old touring coupe model with a canvas roof and celluloid windows. My dad used to come in on Saturday nights and play poker with his friend. Mr. Wasnick who was a local shoemaker. I thought this was really something because I got to staying up nearly all night. In the early days stores were prosperous there was no big companies or supermarkets or chains like there are today. 'When I left school in 1940 I took a wartime Emergency course in Kirkland Lake and later went to work for about one year. I came to Cobalt and worked for Northern Metal on a wartime contract then I went to Hamilton and worked for Canadian General Electric

Did piece work and got paid for amount of work done at 35¢ per hour. Some weeks I averaged 80¢ per hour. From there I went into Air Force and was an air frame mechanic which I thought might be useful in civilian life but it turned out to be useless to me. Took one year off upon coming home then went to Matachewan Consolidated for a few months. Kerr Addison for awhile then I came back to Cobalt and worked at Buckovetskys store. There I met the fellow who was manager for Singers Sewing Machines so I went to Kirkland Lake for Singers and stayed about five years. I came home again took time off drove a taxi to .kill time on my hands. I took a course on radio and TV repair which I have been doing since.

I really don't think there is too much to be gained by the tourist dollar we have terrific potential for rock hounds - a haven for artists, lakes for fishing and swimming good spots for fishing many scenic spots above all no pollution problems. All these are easily accessible. The tourist picture has changed in the past few years. I have noticed many tourists come well supplied they bring their own boat, gasoline, groceries and other supplies. So they really don't spend much when they come.

Secondary industry could be a big incentive for business here but again we would have to look into the lowering of freight rates. I hope to soo the town prosper again. There are strong rumors going around the mines will be opening up again and the Smelter has been purchased and will hire 50 or 60 men which makes the future of Cobalt look a little brighter.

Mike lives in Cobalt with his mother and is at present remodeling their 5 room house his hobbies are collecting and selling antiques which he has found very interesting. Being ethnic he has a flair for gourmet cooking and makes many interesting dishes. He is an active Kiwanis member and works on many of their projects.