

Lucy Damiani Feb. 28, 1972

7:45 - 8:45

1. Theodore Bilodeau
2. Ted
3. Aurora Brazeau
4. 108 Lang Street
5. 679-8706
6. 50 years old
7. Cobalt
8. Father born in Capelton Quebec. Mother born in Victoriaville
9. Thetford Mines
10. I was born here my father came to Cobalt in 1908
11. He came by train to North Bay
12. By way of North Bay
13. Father was here in 1908 came as a widower with friends.
14. I worked at the Agnico Mine
15. My wife worked in Buckovetsky's Shoe Shop
16. Own a grocery store - storekeeper
- 17a. Storekeeper.
- 17b. 3 years in Infantry.
18. My father came the year after the strike and then it was all built up around the square and downtown area.
19. Wooden sidewalks and Lang Street then extended to the tracks
20. Came here because my dad was working in the mine so I came to get a job.
21. It was mostly mining and between big and small ones there were some hundred mines operating. I got a job at the Temiskaming at old townsite.
22. My father worked about 10 hours a day.
23. You could make 32.75 a day laborer, machine man \$3.25 a day. I worked 8 hour shifts for 350 an hour seven days a week. Went to Queenmont Noranda in 1945, stayed there for 2 years, from there went to Timmins for 3 years then came to Cobalt and worked at Silver Miller Mine for 6 years. Then I bought the store and have been here ever since.
24. One winter I stayed in a frame house, then later I bought Nadeau's house on Lang Street and when we moved to the store we lived upstairs.
25. With family, gifts for the kids, meat pies, everybody coming in for reveillions after midnight mass.
26. Mr. Bilodeau Sr. said they had to get their water from the well and they also used to buy it from a vendor
27. Ted had electricity. Ted's father says there was electricity in very few places; most homes had coal oil lamps.
28. Wood stove for cooking.
29. Wood and coal for heating - wood was plentiful - used to go outside and get winter supply in.
30. Lang Street was full of shops on both sides, hardware shops, grocery stores, general stores, clothing shops, bake shops, jeweler wholesale of all kinds.

31. Mr. Bilodeau Sr. played mouth organ went to dances and played cards for entertainment. Ted says they had the Allouette Club going and it was a lot of fun. - he went to dances and played cards.
32. We had a gym in the house and pool table. Ted also played broomball.
33. In North Cobalt.
34. Eight hours.
35. Mr. Bilodeau Sr. says in his day there was only horse and buggy. Ted has 2 cars and one truck.
36. Ted had Dr. Kane. Mr. Bilodeau had Dr. Mitchell.
37. We use the Haileybury Hospital.
38. George was born in Haileybury.
39. The girls quit school at age 18, George went until he was 24.
40. Girls are married. George is part-time teacher.
41. Mr. Bilodeau worked in the mines by candlelight with shovels - it was hard work no machines like to-day. Ted says there is a difference in safety measures working with machines and kerosene lamps.
42. The contests haven't changed they still have mucking and hand drilling contests
43. They both say that people ate just as well then as they do now perhaps plainer food but nourishing.
44. They have always eaten together at supper after the store closed.
45. Christmas is always a gay time with everyone coming in after Midnight Mass.
46. Dressed in work clothes through the week.
47. On Sundays we always wore nice clothes everyone dressed us to go to Church
48. In the summer to the beach in the winter sleigh riding on nice days or games and card playing indoors.
49. I have a rifle which I got from a good friend of the families, that is about 70 years old - other than that we have some old family pictures.
50. Cobalt is a good town to live in.
51. People are friendly you know nearly everyone my home and business are here and I enjoy all this friendship has to offer.
52. The town has cleaned up some of the old lots and built nice parks most people are taking better care of their properties - I think after Mastermet cleared the lots they were holding, people right away started fixing their homes and taking care of land soaping.
53. I like the changes made and hope they will be for the betterment of Cobalt
54. No. I like it.
55. I like it.
56. Yes
57. There is still too much out of town shopping - more stores & certainly a drug store would help - could we get the town to clean up a few more of the old shacks left.
58. I like the fall, for this part of the country it is the most beautiful time with the trees changing and all the splendid colours.
59. Play euchre, dancing, enjoy small house parties
60. Fishing & hunting.
61. We need another industry besides mining.

62. I think our season is too short for tourist trade only 3 months sometimes it rains a lot- we should work on something to encourage people coming in and people living here.

63. Museum, mining tours, could fix up the corner store with the natural shaft house for another attraction-we have new library, good motel accommodations many many lakes for swimming and fishing - good hunting grounds, These are all easily accessed.

#### Highlights

We have gone through some rough periods in Cobalt with new systems coming in all the time perhaps the government, could sponsor some program for Cobalt to keep it alive. It is really one of the most historic towns of the North.