

Lucy Damiani March 27,1972 1:30 - 3:00

1. Wilfred Moriarity
2. Rose Browne
3. 48 Russell Street
4. 679-5554
5. bookkeeper
6. Haileybury
7. Mother was born in Eganville. Father in Mount St. Patrick
8. Married - 3 children. Marylin, Glenn, Michael deceased
9. 65 years old

10. We are in a depressed period and the future of Cobalt is in the hands of the government. I am not favour of our educational system. The idea of closing up schools in a town and bussing children to out of town schools is ridiculous. One day we will have to utilize the schools we have for other than education. All this is costing the tax payer money. The only part of the present educational system I am in favour of is helping the youth with grants to further their education. When we were young there were no such opportunities. We have always had a local high school and we should keep it here, Why are the students from Temagami going to Liskeard for grade 13? When we have it here in Cobalt. There are no job opportunities or training schools so our young people have to leave which means we are losing the "cream of the crop" our future citizens. Our population doesn't warrant a training school but we could have courses (summer) going and advertise in this way we could carry a set of courses in the local schools all summer. We could make available low cost accomodation as an incentive to these students. With the mining school in Haileybury and the Technical school in Kirkland Lake I doubt the government would locate a training school here. New Liskeard to the north of us seems to be expanding in localizing small industries. Business advances as it is in a central location with all the nearly farmland and small communities. It has been the location of many of our own offices that were situated here. The hydro office, the telephone office, our telegraph office all have gone to New Liskeard and we seem to be unable to do anything about the situation. Only with Government aid could we boost our economy. Firstly there is a shortage of silver on world market. USA are minting coins with a lower content of silver. We have lowered the standard of our coinage. The gold mines receive a subsidy so do the uranium mines so why not subsidize silver when it isn't on a demand market - not only for coinage but also for industrial use. Our raw products are going to the states, Colorado to be refine. We should encourage American capital as they are the worlds free spenders - even German capital has proven a satisfactory investment so why not encourage these people to spend some money here. The only way we could have secondary industry would be to amalgamate with Township of Coleman. They called all the taxes from the mines and residential houses on the mine property. I am in favour of organized sport. This is a

good program for the young people. We could have much more going if we had the population for instance a juvenile hockey team but there aren't enough youngsters to pick from. I played hockey for Cobalt 48 years ago. In 1923 five fellows and myself came to Cobalt to play hockey for Cobalt. There was Rusty Hughes, Stan Lemon, Rus Lemon, Ken McLeary and J. P. Dolan and myself. We played with Pat Bennett, Keith Bennett and Dunc Munro from Cobalt. We should definitely have a recreation program, with a director as this is an important project for the town. We have the facilities, school halls, an arena a community centre and parks, baseball field also. Bass Lake could be utilized in conjunction with Kiwanis Club. In my opinion on enterprise unless its big capital it is almost hopeless. Its too hard for a small business to survive in the trend of modern bid take-over". The competition is much too ~strong unless again the town were to expand and become a better risk for small enterprise. 1. As long as we have the high transportation costs.

2. We are too far north for good climatic conditions

3. A drastic cut in transport and freight rates we will not be able to encourage new industry.

The change in Cobalt that has affected me most is due to depressed economic situation. I am out of work as are most of the people in Cobalt. I lost all my treasures and relics in 1968 when a case which held a coin collection, jewelry personal effects were stolen from my home.

In 1938 I came to Cobalt and went to work for Mr. Pilner at the Nerlip Mine.

I would like to say this man did a lot for Cobalt in keeping this mine operating, under difficult conditions. He always strove to find capital to keep it operating even when employees thought it would be cleeing down. I was an accountant and Bob O'Gorman was auditor. When it closed up I went to work with Steve Bond who was a leaser at University Mine Prop. for about 4 years.

While playing hockey in Cobalt I was employed by mining corporation under the ca~tain of Frank McKay. Also worked with Cobalt Chemicals for Eddie McDonough and Roger Gareau. A number of years with Agnico Mine under Harold Kenty and Jim Armstrong. My last employer was Glenn Lake and there I worked under Milt Halstead, who was another mining man that should be acclaimed for his, part in helping Cobalt Mining along. He was always interested in Cobalt and played quite a part in working for the interests of Cobalt and its people. Also worked for a time O'Brien Prop. leasers in 1938 the leasers were Dunc McLeod Tom Jackson, Lorne Umphreys and Carm Donegan. What I remember most about Cobalt was the gratitude and kindness during the Oct. 4,1922 Haileybury fire when my mother, father and family came to Cobalt. We were fed and clothes at the old Cobalt station most of the larger buildings in Cobalt were being used as head quarters for fire victims. We always thought there were no similar or thoughtful people than those of Cobalt. I bought the house I am now living in about 1940 a large duplex with 11 rooms in all and the family moved in, My wife and I lived in one half and my mother, father and sisters lived in the other half.

I was a member of the Algonquin Regiment and joined up 3 years previous to the war I was in the reserve Army. In all I was stationed at various bases

throughout Canada. There was always more stores in Cobalt at the time than there were in Haileybury or Liskeard. They used to come here to shop, now we have to go there because of a limited shopping area. We had a large Woolworth Department store, Buckovetsky was a 3 department store. One building was shoe department one was men's wear and the other was ladies wear.

In the earlier days in Cobalt the streets on a Saturday night were so jammed with people you could hardly get by. I can also remember Zanins store and Bakeshop. Peerless bake shop many hairdressing salons, hat shops, mens wear Koury's, Battahs, Lebovitz Vellis, 2 dep't stores, ladies wear and menswear Cains furniture later handed down to Cain (Phil) Jr. several Drug stores Moore's and shows, two hotels, miners, Fraser House, the - Bijou theatre and two others we had for entertainment the old Town Hall, Orange Hall, Finn Hall and of course many house parties sleigh rides, Peterson Lake in summer, Bass Lake and Loon Lake always crowded many a corn and weiner roast. Many excursions with the Italian people for mushroom picking. They knew the ones to pick. I was a boxer and taught boxing to a 16 & over group, played hockey and baseball. Transportation was cars, buses, railroad and street cars that went from Liskeard to Kerr Lake every half hour - 4 cars coming and going and they passed at North Cobalt and old Pulp Mill. Now I like to watch TV, broke my leg last fall so I don't do too much but I play cards like to bowl and I am an avid sports fan-follow hockey, baseball and rugby closely.

I want to say that our municipal government is doing a terrific job. Snow removal is very good. They are following a w~er works program and have been responsible for many changes downtown the parks on the corner are a credit to our town also want to congratulate the people who have undertaken such a large project as the Tressider Bos. in building a nice new supermarket as you would find in any city and to Bernie for building a new 10 unit motel. These all help to make the town a better business place. The Mastermet settlement further encouraged people to improve their homes and properties.

I think we have much to show the tourists. There are all kinds of lakes for fishing, good hunting spots. Our museum is one of the best in the country and this is due to the efforts of Paul Hermiston who did a terrific job of getting it built up to what it is today. It is one of our main attractions in town. The mine tours are also very popular. Drummond Cairn a monument to one of Canada's great poets. Cobalt is also ideal for artists it is a natural and picturesque spot. And I'm sure the rock hounds would be in their glory here. No doubt the saying in the Cobalt Song about this being the cradle of mining in the North is true it opened up the North and

the great find during the building of the ONR railway by Mr. Fred LaRose was the beginning of our mines in Cobalt. Now I almost forgot to tell you I also worked with Art Brocklebank who really had one of the aggest leases aver to be pulled out of hereo He pumped out Cobalt Lake and worked the Mining Corporation of Canada along with the Coniagas mine property. Ambrose Murphy and Pete ~Landry were his partners.

I wave made some good friends in this town and I want to make special mention of the Chitaroni Bros. who were like pioneers in the early days. They opened

a camp at Portage Bay that is a beautiful spot. They built all the cabins  
9 of them and a main two storey lodge with bedrooms upstairs a kitchen, small  
store and large recreation room. Some of the cabins are 2 and 3 bedroom size  
and this site is situated on the Montreal River there was a tremendous amount  
of work as they had to build about 5 miles of road by themselves using big  
trucks for the hauling of rock and sand. It was a credit to them to have  
accomplished this, without outside help or financing.

Cobalt has given me many good years this is where my home family & friends  
are, of course old ties are hard to break but I would like to stay here

We have seen Cobalt go down and under quite a  
few times but it always manages to make a revival and with the forest statement  
I hope silver will be given a just price and we can rise again