



THE COBALT LODGE

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Baseball Anyone?



This photograph, 1943, pictures the members of the Cobalt girls' softball team called the MINERETTES taken on the Buffalo Slimes, now Trailer Road, looking east towards Galena Street and the area known as "The Little Buffalo".

See page 2 and 3 for more on the Minerettes.

Minerettes



Front Row- left to right:

Mercedes 'Maisie' Gauthier, hairdresser, served in the WRENS 1943-44 as a hairdresser, married to 'Red' Rody, later to Bill Montgomery; her establishment for years was on Lang Street across from St. Patrick School, later on Jamison Street.

Elma Baker, married to Cyril 'Cy' Bazinet; they raised their family on Nickle Street in Cobalt, later she lived in Orillia and North Bay.

Annie Taylor, her father was Bill Taylor, a mine operator. She worked in the office of Woolworth's 5, 10 and 15 cents store on Prospect Avenue in Cobalt. Marrying Fulton Purdy, she worked in their hardware store.

Ernestine Gauthier was Maisie's sister and pitcher for the team. She worked at Sam Bucovetsky's department store on Lang Street. Her husband was Dario Gabbani, a mechanic at the Temiskaming Testing Laboratories in Cobalt.

Vern Montgomery, in this picture was 14 years of age. When she went with Colleen Moore to work in Kitchener at Kaufman Rubber Wares, she played fastball. Later the two women worked in Toronto but unhappy with city life she applied to work in the Cobalt Post Office and spent 23 years there.

Nora Beeson worked in the office at Woolworth's. Married to Roger 'Butch' Bouchard who worked for Ontario Hydro, they lived in Haileybury, Timmins and North Bay.

Kay Rody worked as a secretary at Norlip Mines on Crosswise Lake. Married to Albert Riley she was the Secretary of the Cobalt High School for many years.

Back Row- left to right:

Thelma Cook was a hairdresser with her Central Beauty Parlour on Lang Street just north of Bucovetsky. Married to Edgar Adshead, later, married to Leo Laferriere, she lived in Temagami with her business next to Ted's Store of Little Things. (Leo played guitar with Dorothy Huston's band where they performed for the dances at Goddard's Hall and the Minnawassi Hotel in

Temagami.) Now Thelma is in Lindsay near her daughter Carol Martin.

Doris Cote married Kenneth 'Kenny' Monk. She died in their home as a result of a gun- cleaning accident.

Frances Despres clerked at the counters in Woolworths. She married Alan 'Sonny' Plain of Plain's confectionary store on Lang Street near the bridge-later Silver City Grocery Store now Prism News Corp.

Aline Fleury growing up lived on Laird Street; married- her husband was from Sudbury.

Jean - This player's last name is not known.

Claire Belanger worked at Woolworth's. She was 'scouted' by Hubert Audette who saw Claire playing ball at Ste. Therese Elementary School. Eventually she married Allan Brown of Cobalt; they lived in various towns in northeastern Ontario. Claire is now living in the community of Haileybury at Place Ste. Marie.

The MINERETTES uniform: long-sleeved white sweatshirt with a centered crest, red skirt, baseball cap, white socks and white running shoes. Their Manager was Phil Cain of Cain's Furniture Store on Lang Street; their Coach was Dario Gabbani.

The LOCATION of the Photograph: house to the upper left is 102 Galena Street home of Gladys and Donald J. Russell. Mr. Russell sold mining machinery from his office in the Inch Block on the Cobalt Square. The house across the Street is that of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Scully. Mr. Scully worked for Northern Power at the compressed air plants. The house farther to the right is that of the photographer Sid Wilkinson. This house is undergoing renovation and a newspaper clipping found recently from The Mail and Empire Toronto, May 17, 1916 has a notice in the following advertisement from the Toronto stock brokers Kiely, Smith and Amos re West Dome Consolidated- "Private Wire to Cobalt and Porcupine". Figure on the rocks in the background is not identified.

Note: The Sports Room at the Cobalt Mining Museum has a photograph of three Cobalt women's softball teams including the Minerettes but there are no names of players.

Many people were interviewed in order to try to identify the name of the unidentified player; efforts even to looking at microfilm of the Temiskaming Speaker for June of 1945 and 1946. There was a paper shortage during WWII and no sports reporting in the 1945 editions and few photographs. Eventually in 1946 Mr. Smylie in New Liskeard organized some sports and the Speaker began to report various ball games in the District. Perhaps a reader will recognize this player and let us know. The photograph will be placed in the Cobalt Library Photograph Collection and the names submitted to the Cobalt Mining Museum.

A second photograph (page 1) of the Minerettes was provided by Claire (Belanger) Brown. The location is the same and the date 1945.

Front Row:

Annie (Taylor) Purdy

Marion Johnston married Dave Lingenfelter

Dario Gabbani - Coach

Nora (Beeson) Bouchard

Lina McCrank

Kay (Rody) Riley

Phil Cain - Manager

Back Row:

Margaret Tucker

Rita (Beeson) Cook married Arnold Cook

Vern Montgomery

This next player not identified

Claire (Belanger) Brown

Ernestine (Gauthier) Gabbani

This next player not identified

Cecile (St. Laurent) Despres married Sebastion (Sab) Despres.

Spring Event

The Spring Pulse Poetry Festival was held at the end of May with eleven poets coming from Toronto and the winner of the Poetry Contest from Madoc, Ontario. The weather was warm and the week's events of poetry readings from New Liskeard to Cobalt were enjoyable. Our Poet Laureate Anne Margetson was inducted into the Poetry Hall of Fame- her favourite tree is the Tamarack so one was purchased for the Pollard Poetry Park with a small boulder at its foot for the plaque with Anne's name. For next April David Brydges is organizing a Poetry Train to travel from Halifax to Vancouver. If interested telephone David at 705 679-8930 or e-mail mybrydges@yahoo.ca

New Mining Museum Van

The Cobalt Mining Museum has a new van to take visitors to the Historic Silver Trail Sites. To raise funds they are presenting The Great Silver Nugget Race, a 50/50 draw at 2:00 Saturday August 23 on Bunker Lane in Cobalt next to the Cobalt Historical Society Office Shaft House. There are 500 tickets at 10.00 each – call The Cobalt Mining Museum at 705 679-8301.

The Nuggets are golf balls painted silver and numbered to match the tickets; the golf balls will be rolled down Bunker Lane hill in groups of 100 at a time with a runoff of the five winners- so if 500 tickets are sold the winner will receive \$2500.00- not bad eh?

M. Lavigne Mining History Collection

The Cobalt Public Library has placed in the M. Lavigne Mining History Collection, volumes of the Canadian Mining Handbook from 1934 to 1990-91 as well as Annual Reports of the Ontario Dept. of Mines 1940-1959.

This old photograph shows the aftermath of a 1909 conflagration at Prospect Avenue and Presley Street, Cobalt, Ontario.

