



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society



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Cobalt, On P0J 1C0

Current News

A business has opened in 104 on Highway 11B called the 104 Store. They sell leather goods such as belts, chaps and sheep skin products. Their telephone number is 705-679-5232.

"This and That Antiques" operated by Anne Marie Perry is located on Highway 11, Coleman Township heading South before the Highway Book Shop and on the same side (right).

The Past and the Present

"Hound Chute Station In Service". This was the headline of reporter Diane Johnston's article in the Temiskaming Speaker of December 15, 2010 on page 3. She wrote of the rebuilding of the four new Hound Chute stations on the Montreal River. "The four stations will produce enough hydroelectricity to supply more than 22,000 homes each year".

This would double the power of the former station that opened 100 years ago. Below is reproduced that announcement as it appeared in The [Cobalt] Nugget October 9, 1909.

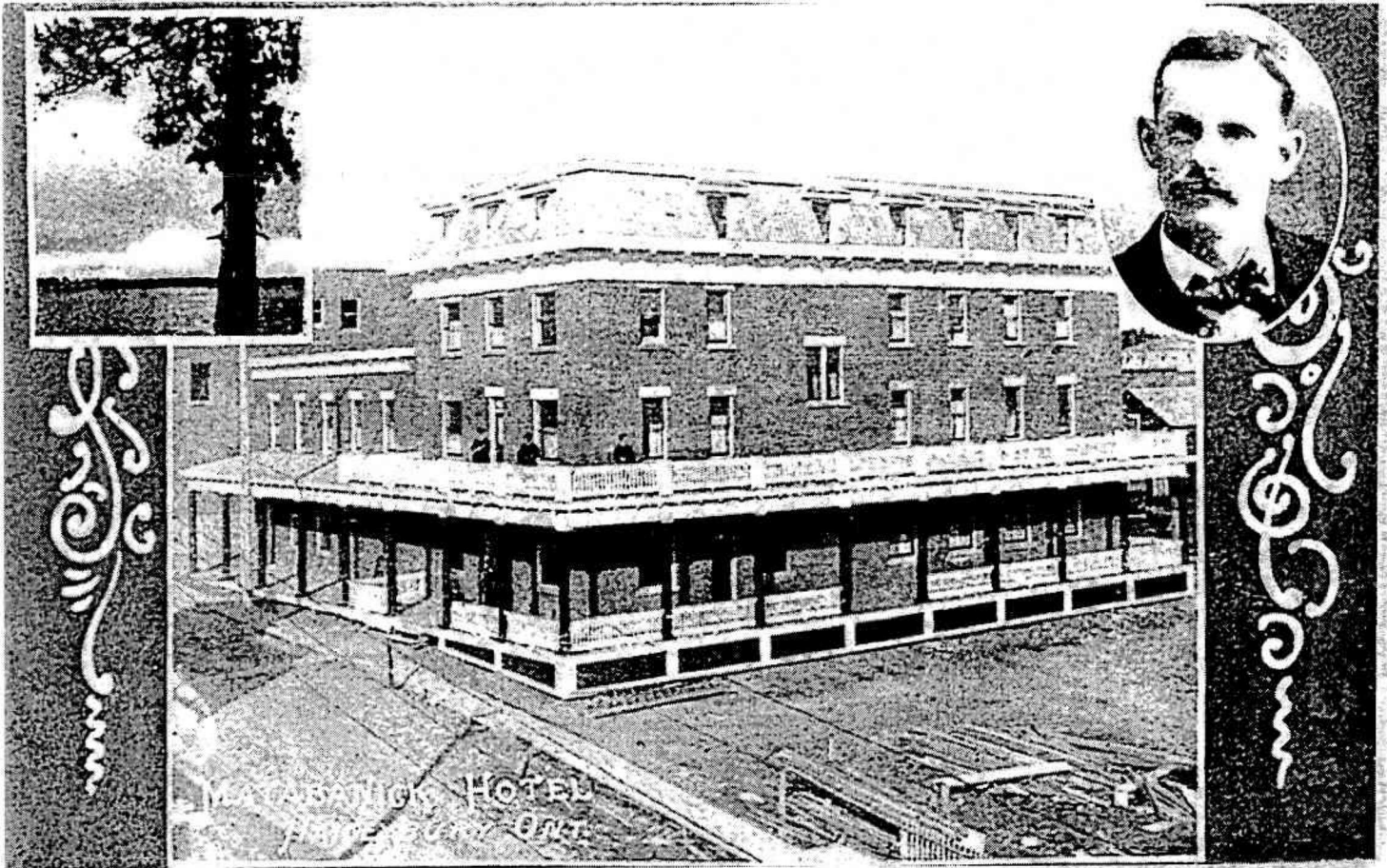
1000 Men Working for Mines Power Company

Sub-stations at Cobalt and Brady Lake now being built and poles are up.

The work on the sub-stations of the Mines Power Co. at Cobalt and Kerr Lake is making good headway. At Cobalt the company are building on a site on the Nipissing Property just behind the camp buildings of the Cobalt Lake. They are working on their foundations now and the work is making good progress. Along the right of way the poles are strung clear from the Matabitchouan to Cobalt. The buildings being erected will be the terminus of the main transmission line. At Brady Lake too another sub-station is well under construction to serve the Kerr Lake part of the camp. The buildings will be fire proof and brick walls. Altogether there are 1000 men working on the Mines Power Company plant now, about 700 at the works at the Matabitchouan and 300 more distributed over the transmission lines and the sub-stations.

News of Past Businesses

The Cobalt-Haileybury Connection, 1908



Matabanick Hotel

The Matabanick Hotel was home to “The Haileybury Club”, the second largest mining club in North America after the mining club of New York City.

The Club was an offspring of the great silver boom in Cobalt and its 500 members were mine owners, shareholders, brokers, engineers, geologists, prospectors, lawyers, and local businessmen.

They occupied the penthouse floor of the Hotel and were from every mining district in the world; they met here at all hours negotiating stock and property deals with financiers and promoters from major stock exchanges. Prospectors flocked to this site seeking grubstakes for their sorties to the fields.

Some of the famous names associated with the club include Timmins Brothers, Noah and Henry, Clem Foster, Arthur Ferland, H. Lang, R. Shillington, The Wright Brothers, Benny Hollinger, and Sir Harry Oakes to name just a few.

The Haileybury Club also accessed the main floor dining room of the Hotel which could accommodate 600 patrons for dinner. Anson Gard in his 1908 book “The Real Cobalt” rates the Matabanick as the finest hotel north of Toronto with rooms “unequalled in size and appointments in any town in Canada”.

The building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1922.

It was located at Main Street and Farr Drive behind the present day Matabanick. An apartment building and the Hailebury Beach Motel are on the site now.

from Ernie Scully

Trip Through Advertisements

1. A Giachino - The Grocery Store Summer evenings when we were kids watching movies that Mr. Giachino would show on the store window facing Prospect Avenue. "Rin-Tin-Tin" (German Shepherd dog series was one of my favourites).
 2. Peerless Bakery - on Lower Galena Street The best fried honey soaked donuts. Nothing has even come close to them since, including Tim Horton's.
 3. Cobalt Cartage - Alec Nadeau delivering parcels for years.
 4. Fraser Hotel Great place to meet and enjoy friendship over a beer. After leaving town and returning for a visit you could always find someone to jabber with over a beer at the Fraser.
 5. McIsaac Transportation - We never owned a car so McIsaac Buses provided regular transportation to and from Haileybury and New Liskeard. On Sundays in the summer, they provided bus service to and from Bass Lake. When we were kids, my mother would pack a lunch and we would spend the day at Bass Lake. In later years we hitchhiked, walked to the tracks to get to Bass Lake for the day. A lot of great times at Bass Lake ball games, trying to swim to the raft, etc. (and cold water).
 6. Northern Nash Motors - MacMillan's Garage on Silver Street across from the Fire Hall. Remember the little Nash Metropolitan car; Paul MacMillan sitting in front of the garage "holding court". I enjoyed stopping to "chew the fat" with him at times when I was returning to Cobalt for a visit.
 7. The L. Stadelman Co. - Store on Prospect Avenue - I used to pick up the Toronto Star at noon and deliver to Mrs. Cain on Nickel St. (Upper). If I ran I still had some time to leaf through the comic books providing Larry was in the right mood, then to Mrs. Cain's on Nickel St. to sit and listen to "Big Sister" on the radio with her. When Larry wasn't around and "Mary" was behind the counter she would let us spend more time with the comic books.
 8. Cobalt Taxi Service A bunch of us would pool our resources and pile into a taxi (Pete and Jim Gabbani) to go to New Liskeard to a hockey game.
 9. Boston Grill - Charlie, Alma, Laura and Mrs. Farris. The best milk shakes in town. During the teen years sitting on the stools at the front and ordering what else "a cherry Coke" of course - small. As a kid my dad would give me a nickel and I would go to the Boston Grill to buy what else - some black licorice pipes, etc. with Mrs. Ferris or whomever behind the counter being somewhat patient as you picked out what you wanted. Then home to sit and listen to a Saturday night hockey game with my dad. Celebrating a birthday at a young age, my mother gave me a quarter for my birthday; I spent the whole quarter on a banana split at Charlie's Boston Grill. Extravagant eh!....but tasted great!
 10. Gamble Robinson Ltd. - I believe it used to be across from the Community Hall next to Robinson's Garage. Stan Tresidder and I believe Mr. Frank Richards worked there (wholesale grocery distributor).
 11. Lemon's Grocery - Corner of Prospect and Nickel St. - on the "hill". It was close for us (living on Baker St. just around the corner) to pick up some of our groceries. Once when I was quite young I guess I was bugging my mother about wanting another baby brother or sister, so she wrote a note for me to take to Mr. Lemon with a request to purchase a baby.
 12. F. C. Shaw Druggist - John and I were (and still are) close friends and grew up together. We used to spend a lot of time in the back of the Drug Store and used enjoy watching Mr. Shaw making up prescriptions/ medications, and developing films/ photographs. Mr. Shaw was a patient man and was very good to me. John and I still try to get together and do the "Mosher Walk" in August.
 13. Eric E. Smith - A very good person. I took violin lessons from him for a few years. In high school he taught the "High School Orchestra". He would give freely of his time in the evenings. Our orchestra was an integral part of the Cobalt High School Literary, Commencement and other exercises. He also was the leader of our Adult Tri-Town Orchestra of which I was a member "The Hayden Orchestra". He later opened a Menswear Store where the F. C. Shaw Drug Store was [ground floor of the Legion Building]. I bought my first sports coat and pants outfit from him in my mid-teens after a summer's work. Shot the whole wad!!!
 14. Sam Bucovetsky Ltd. - Men and Ladies Wear on Lang Street. A large store with not much competition until the TBS (Toronto Bargain Store) opened up just down from it on Lang St. Johnny Scully was the manager.
- P.S. I have a lot of great memories of my growing up years in Cobalt and look forward to getting up and visiting often. When people ask where I was from originally, I proudly say "Cobalt" and if they say where is that I proceed to tell them, and I say, "Your education has been sadly neglected".