

Page 32 - From Italian Lives, Cape Breton Memories: From the Memoirs of Thomas Cozzolino ISSUE : Issue 74 Published by Ronald Caplan on 1999/6/1

oven, free of charge, to bake bread; between the selling of bread and my pay, I was

doing pretty well that winter. After settling everything in tile camps, tile company put me in charge of some excavation at the Coke Ovens to prepare for a small branch of railway. This was in January of 1900. The entire excavation project for the plant was being handled badly. The ground was frozen, and the men were being asked to dig with picks. It was very hard work for tilem. The Superintendent was a bricklayer; he did not know anything Home • Auto • Commercial • Travel Motorhomes • Motorcycles Boats • Blue Cross Farms • RRSP ??i • a.pcl,'d. • .h,.u • ,.?B,ok, Alarms Discounts SENIORS DISCOUNTS (over age 50) 676 George St., SYDNEY Main St., ST. PETERS 562-1988 535-1988 301 Pitt St., PORT HAWKESBURY 625-1988 about excavation. I spoke to him several times, but he said, "Mind your business, the company is not paying you to teach them any? thing." I was getting fed up with the way tile job was being handled. One day a young man came to the work site, and asked me how I was getting along. I said, "I'm not getting along at all; the work is costing four or five times more than it should. I can't do the work the way I want to do it. I am going to leave this place." Unknowingly, I was talking with the General Manager's son. I explained that, if a trestle was put up, eight men and a steam shovel could do at least three times as much work as the 80 men now working on the job. The steam shovel would not remain idle, because the cars could dump the material guickly and return for another load. Instead of using picks on frozen ground, we could use dynamite to make it easier for tile men to complete the work in less time. The young man told his father all I had said. The next day the General Manager sent for me to discuss my ideas about cutting work expenses. At the end of our discussion, he said, 'L' uome Tor ine summer '.' stay for the fall colours " vou are welcome to Newfoundlan< VICTORIA (COUNTY C' Brunswick Atlantic Ocaan you iVICTORIA COUNTY Make Victoria County tile centre of your stay in Cape Breton. Hiking, swimming and golfing, motels or camping, music and dance, museurns' and craftspeople • Victoria County is a world to explore. And it's an excellent' base from which to reach all