

Roby Melka

Interviewing

Theodore Olgren

Me - When and where were you born.

Ted - I was born in republic of mich November
9 1924.

me - Did you live in the same place for most
of your child hood.

ted - no. We moved from republic to Ishpeming,
then to champion, and then back to Ishpeming,
we moved to barnem in 1933, I
was raised in the barnem location from
1933 on to 1943, and then I went
in the service

me - what was it like growing up then

ted - oh things were tough, father had a job
he never made good money but atleast
he worked, we weren't really depressed
during the depression, we got by ①

Me - Did you have any free time for play?

Ted - ya some quit a bit, after I got home from school, and milk the cows, clean the barn, and in the winter time, deliver the milk, and when we through with our chores we'd go out and play, and it would be about six o'clock in the evening

Me - What did you play? like what kind of games or other stuff like that

Ted - winter time ski jumping, summer time when out swimming, when't out the woods, no games in particular we just monkeyed around ~~around~~

Me - Did you dislike doing them or did n't?
you mind

Ted - dislike doing what?

me - the chores.

Ted - well I didn't like to do them
against my own will I didn't like it,
If I had to do things I wanted
it wouldn't bother me so much, but:
I had to do it against my will,
so I wasn't too crazy about my
chores.

me - Where was your school located and
how did you get there?

Ted - It was in Ishpeming, we had to
walk about a mile, we had no
buses them days

me - did you miss much school because
of bad weather?

Ted - No we always managed to find a
way to school, If there was too
much snow we skied, there's
no problem

Me - What about rain?

Ted - ya, we still went to school in the rain, no problem.

Me - were there many students in your class?

Ted - I'd say about same then as there is now. As far as the school population I don't think it's changed in the last 40, 50 years.

Me - What was your favorite subject?

Ted - geography, I got straight A's

Me - why's this?

Ted - why's what?

Me - why was geography your favorite subject

Ted - cause I liked it, I had straight A's in it, when you like something you can do it got, if you don't like it your ^{Just the} opposite. (4)

Me - overall did you enjoy school?

Ted - YA most of it, I was sort of inferior though, little bit backwards.

Me - when you got out of school what did you do?

Ted - Well I went to work in the mine, when I got out of school, I was 18 years old in the eleventh grade, and then they let you finish the school year and then they'd draft you in the army, so any way I left school and I went to work in the mine and I went in the army in 1943.

Me - In the army was basic training hard?

Ted - I didn't have basic training I was on special duty.

Ted - It was tough for those that had it.

Me - Was it frightening being in the service during the war?

Ted - No not necessarily, I was ~~one~~ young and it didn't bother me too much then. I'd probably know if I had to go in the service now, it probably would be.

Me - How long were you overseas?

Ted - 14 months, I was in the battle of the Bulge.

Me - Was there any part of this travel that you enjoyed?

Ted - Service travel you mean?

Me - YA!

Ted - Now, I really can't say it's so many years ago that I really can't say

Me - what was it like on the ship like what were the cafeterias like and how did they serve you

Ted - Oh! the food was good, but every one was sea sick, so you didn't have much of an appetite to eat

Me - did you meet anyone that you kept contact with during your military career?

Ted - you mean since I got out

Me - Yes, and during it too, did you meet any one

Ted - ya, I met my neighbor over
Seas and married France in a Bar-
one night, And there was a kid
I went to confirmation school
with I met him in _____ marines
France, And then when I got out
of the service @ 40 years later I
made contact two of my x army
buddies.

Me - Were you glad when you were finally
able to get out of the service

Ted - Ya, because things were pretty strict
then ya and I wanted freedom

Me - did you come back to Ishpeming
when you ^{were} discharged



Ted - Temporarily, I went back to the mine that I worked at, The Mary charlette, I went back to work there ~~in~~ 47, and they closed the mine there 6 months later so there wasn't any jobs around here, so then I went to Detroit.

Me - Did things change much from when you left this town?

Ted No

Me - Did you stay in the Upper Peninsula or did you leave

Ted - I left I went to Detroit, cause I couldn't get a job around here

Me - Were you able to find work
at this time? When you left
Down to Detroit!

Ted - Yes! There's all kinds of work
in Detroit. But there's no
work up here though. The only
jobs available was the mine, any
descent paying jobs.

Me - what were some jobs you found in
Detroit, that were openings that you
could or went to?

Ted - AH. Drives semi, Tractor trailer

Me - Going back before the war to the
depression, what memories do you have
of that time

Ted - not too much, In fact I don't
hardly remember any of it, because well,
father had a steady job, we didn't
have to worry, He wasn't making
very good money, but at least we
didn't go on relief, they called
it relief in them days, now they
call it social aid.

Me - So your' father was employed right.

Ted - Ya he was employed ya

Me - Since you lived on a farm did you
feel that because the depression
wasn't so bad, if it would have
been if you live in the city

Ted - yes because we had cows
we could slaughter our cattle
and get food, and we had
milk ~~at~~ all the time, so we
were more fortunated ~~ed~~ than
others to live on a farm,
cause at least you had food
all the time

Me - Did the deppression seem to
go on forever to you

Tad - well I was young and I
Didn't seem to bother me I
Didn't have any hardships
reilly because I Didn't have
to provide for my self, I
was provided for by other
people and my folks

Me - How old were when the Depression began?

Ted - Well it began in 29 I was Born 1924, five "5" years old.

Me - Were you even aware that things were different during the depression than before?

Ted - NO. Because I was too young.

Me - Do you feel that our current situation is at all comparable to what happened previously?

Ted - No not really because everybody is working most people working got jobs are making good money, I Don't know I really couldn't say I was too young to remember the depression.

Me - for example the way that the
mine are so shaky and businesses
are failing does the atmosphere feel
like an impending depression

Ted - Oh, well there's a possibility by
in fact were in a slight recession
right now they don't call it a
Depression any more now they call
it a recession.

Me - I the economy should fail again
do you ever think about what
you would do?

Ted, well not really because I'm
Retired now I get my steady
income and social security
and company contribution, if the
bottom falls out and we don't get any
money, I don't know what we would do then
so in the broad line, I suppose (5)

Me - Going back into mining how and
when did you start going into mining?
when did you think of going into mining?

Ted - I didn't think of going into
mining that was the only job
available up here, that's why
we took mining

Me - Where did you start mining?

Ted - The Mary Charlotte in 1942

Me - What part of the mine did you
work in? and what did you do?

Ted I work in the landings up on
the trussel

Ted - loading Railroad cars At
the Mary charlette

Me - Did you like the job you
did ?

Ted - It wasn't bad, Its JUST
a job, nobody like a job.

Me - Did you have any other jobs
in the mine ?

Ted - YA after, After I come back
from Detroit in 68, it went
under ground. The matter B I
went mining

Me- Were there a lot of people in the mine?

Ted- Oh I say a few hundred I would imagine, I don't know what the count exactly would be

Me- Did you have a lot of friends in there?

Ted- Ya everybody I knew everybody in the mine, I used to be cage runner, I used to take the men up and down, in the cage it like an elevator

Me- Was there a lot of ladies
working there then?

Ted- No ladies

Me- None!

Ted- Only on surface in the office

Me- Did they have a lot of Heavy
equipment

Ted- Yip, it all heavy equipment
it all heavy work, it all bull
work.

Me- You got to operate them didn't
you.

Ted- AHHA

Me- Were you a boss or any higher class?

Ted- NO, nope

Mc - What Did the mine, MING?

Mc - when you first started?

Ted - IRON ORE.

Mc - where you satisfied working at the mine?

Ted - yⁿ it wasn't a bad job, Its a job like any other job

Mc - what were some disatisfactions? in the mine

Ted - well you had to walk so far in, we had to walk with the way in and there no other out let. If the front end come down we'd be out of luck, we would not be able to get out.

Mc - what were some like about
the mine?

Ted - some things I like about the
mine

Mc - ya

Ted - well your up there mining with you
and nobody bothers you, just do
your job, you might see the
boss once or twice a shift,
that's all

Mc - what about eating or drinking in
the mine smoking or something.
when would you be able to do that.

Ted - you weren't allowed to smoke, but
you could stop and eat any time
you wanted to, we weren't
working on a contract basis. (21)

Ma - What's he allowed any alcoholic
Beverages

Ted - NO! That reflects out.

me - Are you Retired or still working?

Ted - Retired,

me - Do you think mining is a good career?

Ted - Yes it's a good job all right I guess
It's the best part job a round table
why everybody's working at the same
other w. so you work for minimum wage

Ted - The mine is thirty five hundred feet
down the vertical shaft on twelve
level had to ride in on a man
car 2 miles and when you got
off the man car you would have to
walk a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile and when you got
in place you had to climb
to your place ^{mine} and you worked 100 ft (2)

Mr - Did you have too bring big lunches with you?

Ted - not necessarily.

Mr - How long were your hours?

Ted - 8 hours

Mr - 8 hours!

Ted - Ya 7 to 3.