

late

Eric Konsters  
interview with Wayne Talus.

Eric - This is Eric Konster it is the 4<sup>th</sup> of December  
and I am interviewing Wayne Talus for Red  
Dust

Eric when and where were you born

Wayne - I was born in 1914 September 11 in Cloacane Minnesota  
It's about 21 mile west of Duluth.

Eric - What are your parents names

Wayne - Michael & Heliate Talus

Eric - Do you know where they are from

Wayne - They are both from Europe Central Europe somewhere  
I wouldn't know Pacificaly, Edjackly the name of the  
areas But in central Finland I should say  
Central Finland

Eric - What did they do for a living

Wayne - My mother did house work and I guess my father  
did farming argecuttural work over there  
Thats over in Europe are you talking about in this  
country

Eric - Both

Wayne - In this country my mother was a house wife  
Domestic work and um my father was a miner

Eric - Do you have any Brothers or sisters

Wayne - yes I had da Brothers and sisters one lived in  
minneapolis and da he is passed away he was a  
next to me and he is I am the youngest of em  
and da he passed away ~~at~~ about a half a dozen years ago  
or so and then I had another older Brother and he lived  
up in northern minosotta By Virginia minnesota and he  
Passed away to in a early age

Eric - are you currently married

Wayne - no I've been a Depated five years my wife  
Passed away five years ago I was married  
48 1/2 years up to than

Eric - What are the names of your children

Wayne - I've got one child a wayne willame  
Wayn willame Talus

Eric - How long did you work for the iron ~~mining~~  
Industry.

Wayne - I worked a 31 1/2 years for Iron car People

Eric - why did you choose to work in the mines

Wayne - well Can I go into other detail a little

Eric - sure

Wayne - I worked in the copper mines before that  
and I worked 10 years in the copper mines  
I was an underground Foreman there then  
I decided um they closed down this one  
mining company and da I heard the wages  
were better and da Iron mines so I  
decided to start in Iron mines and I started  
up in near Hibbing Minnesota I started  
working for the Iron ore Industry then  
I transferred to Ishpeming and I read about  
the modern mines over here more modern  
mines than we had over there so I decided to  
ask for transfer so I was transferred and  
here I am

Eric - what mines did you work in at Ishpeming

Wayne - I work um Mather <sup>A</sup> mine and of course

I worked in ~~Begawee~~ I don't know if that  
comes under there I worked in <sup>Jones + Laughlin</sup> Joe Joe ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~plant~~  
a short while in between layoffs the Tracy  
mine they called it

ERIC - Why did you choose to work in the Iron Industry

Wayne - Well I think I thought the wages were better which they were and ~~the~~ I think the working conditions I know the working condition were <sup>very much</sup> ~~much~~ better very much in fact I liked working in iron <sup>ore</sup>

ERIC - Did you have any relatives or Brothers and Sisters that worked in the mines with you

Wayne - No no I was the only one

ERIC - What was your job in the mines

Wayne - well when I was in I was a miner a contract miner and da mother <sup>in</sup> mine and I also a and when I went into the plants they I was in charge of the conveying up there took care of them took care of ~~the~~ all the maintenance of them and all the repairing I was in charge of everything

ERIC - did your job require any special training or a higher education

Wayne - yes yes it did there's some things in there you had to know and da I first worked

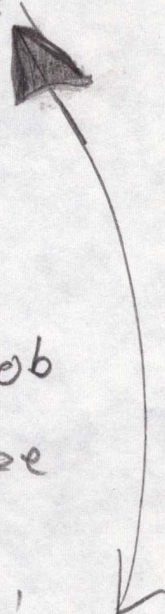
Wayne - With I must say Before I Before I was  
when was layed off from the underground mine  
58 and I went to white pine I worked I  
year there I worked with ~~two~~ engineers on  
conveying two ~~engineers~~ <sup>engineers</sup> who travelled all  
over the world and they were very very  
brilyant fellows I learned a lot from them  
so when I come over when they opened the  
Plants here thats were they put me with intention  
of working on conveying and da I needed all  
the experianc I knew ~~to~~ and then I also  
took up welding I the first year I worked  
I asked da super vision if I could work all  
my sundays and weekends when every I had  
days off so could go to welding school during  
the week so one year I never had a day off  
I was going to school welding school during  
the day and wren every I had a day off so I  
had to put in 8 hrs always at the welding school  
in marguette so that was one skill that  
~~very~~ was very handy there and plus I had to learn  
I was trained about volconizing the belts and  
all different things like engineering any engineering  
was good two know and I studied a

Wayne - lot on that I had books on that at home  
engineering

Eric - What was the most challenging or most difficult part of your  
job

Wayne - well I don't know that I found any thing  
really that I didn't like I always I feel like I  
always had a were ever I worked on some jobs  
I never really different companies I worked for  
I really didn't like to work in there that type  
of minning or any thing but I made the best  
of it and I got through with it without  
really any dislikes

include



Eric - what was the biggest responsibility of your job

Wayne - well I had my biggest responsibility was to see  
that all the conveyor belts there was over a  
hundred in this one plant so they all kept running  
they were just like your arteries if anything  
plugged up or got stuffed your heart will stop too  
and that's the way it was in the plant if you  
conveyers stopped everything stopped so that  
was my responsibility if they if they broke down  
during the night or anything I had to go and see  
get at the troubles

include

Eric Donster

ERIC - Have you ever gotten hurt on the job or witnessed any accidents

Wayne - yes I did I did I worked in copper mines I flew it caved in in the shaft. the shaft caved in and we were in the shaft doing some repair work and then I went flying down there I don't know how I ever got out of there alive There was a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile more to drop and this was we were a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the surface the shaft was a mile deep That was lucky I don't know how I came out of that alive at all That was one of the worst experiences The one I had in Cleveland cliffs we were we're gonna bring in rope steel rope cable into the end of the drift as one who will know what a drift is it's like a tunnel going in to bring the cable in to the pully and back we could pull that squig back and forth and while we were getting the cable in two or three more minutes we would've got squashed the whole thing caved there was a crash in the bog and all come clay and I think we'd probably been there too dry if we would've been in there in fact that was one of those things that you never know in mining days

include

Wayne - it was no fault of safety or any thing cause safety was there Cleveland cliffs had good safety But it was just one of those unknown things can happen in the minning game

Eric - what were your working condition like

Wayne - with Cleveland Cliffs they were excelant I got to say of all the mines I worked I used to say that I worked for quit a few companys I worked for CNH, white pine, I worked for um Jones and topland neganee and da of course I worked up in hipping That was Cleveland Cliffs and here Cleveland cliffs and Cleveland Cliffs was the best of them all They had the safety and I thought they were very good good company to work for in plan English

include

Eric - what were your co workers like

Wayne - Very nice Follows The nice's fellers I found was when I came to Ishpeming and da There They every body all the underground miners undery round were calling each other pard every body was pard they Pard want some help pard would you like to come over here and so on so they were very very friendly people to work with



Eric - Have you ever recieved any awards

Wayne - yes

Eric - or have been reconized in any way

Wayne - yes I a ~~did~~ over at the plants because of a many of my ideas were used to improve the production and so I had quit a few awards for that

Eric - were you a member of the steel workers union

Wayne - yes I still am. realy retired in the retired steel workers union

Eric - did you ever go on strike

Wayne - ya we were on strike I was on strik with everybody when they went on strike I was with them ~~was~~ ever it was where

Eric - useally why did you go on strike.

Wayne - well we'd be asking for higher wages was the biggest thing practically and than working conditions and other fring benifets and stuff like that thats about the main reasons I'd say Pensions sometimes Pensions

Eric - how many people does a strike occur

Wayne - Well most of the time well they fix practically everybody at the plant or what ever there some salary workers will stay on and maintenance But the biggest part of em are on strike all the hourly workers are on strike of course

Eric - So it affects the whole community then

Wayne - Oh it sure does absolutely it get everybody especially a prolonged strike fix the businesses everybody

Eric - At any time did you feel like changing jobs or your career

Wayne - Not when I was working in the mines I did though I didn't want mining I wanted Art

I wanted commercial Art is what I wanted

include  
Because I was naturally talented but I didn't have the money to go for that when I was younger and I had no money there was no way I could do that so I ended up in the mines and the jobs were hard to get depression so you had to take anything you could find so when I got married that's where I stayed but I'm not sorry I made out all right

Eric - what do you think the future holds for the  
Tilden + Empire mine

Wayne - well I think they're doing all right I think they'll  
be there a long time yet I think there  
I think the company and the men are getting  
to work together more much better than they did  
years ago more friendliness between than  
I think they bargen things better now

Eric - what do you feel must be done in the future  
for us to remain competitive.

Wayne - well the only thing I know is I would think  
that we try to improve the method of the  
producing products the way that's about the only  
way I can see I think the fellows all cooperate  
the most of them to work and I think that's  
I think of every body throws in together  
they can do it

Eric - How do you think the role of women has changed  
in the iron industry

Wayne - well I don't know I didn't see ~~any~~ no  
special change in ~~the~~ that because I used to  
superuse women in there in mya in my cab  
at all the big repairs I used to always have ladies  
working for me I don't know it didn't make a difference

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Wayne - They done there Job well tho compant coming atall and I don't see a difference

Eric - what skills do the young people today need to develope if they plan to work for C.C. I someday

Wayne - well I think I think to more un technical training is one thing alot any technical training will help of course and training will help it is always better to have some un trainis behind you *ndull*

Eric - Please describe what you enjoy doing in your spare time

Wayne - ~~and~~ I sketch I draw I sketch paint and I make hand earrings and I belong to a lot of clubs in fact a lot of them. I dropped out there was too many I belonged to the elks lodge and reganee I belong to the steel workers union. and I belong to the open heart club I visit patients who are in heart surgery and after surgery I go and see them again I belong to the SS club seniors I know we had a club there a group they call your like story group were we got together a group of us so I um I dropped some out because there were getting too many I love to read I'm a book worm I always like to say my neighbor asked my wife if her husband was a book worm she said no just a plain word

Eric - Did you just start painting and sketching  
just recently

Wayne - no I did that through high school  
I did some of this before a when I was  
going to high school I did some commercial  
work I even used to paint some of  
these signs ww II These a signs that they had  
all the names on them boards and all that  
all the soldiers that are over there

Eric - ya

Wayne - Victory signs what do they call them a gel?  
I did a lot of work I did some for painted  
Bars and Business Trunks and I used to do quite a bit  
of that

Eric - is that a picture on the wall of your wife  
that you painted

Wayne - ya it is ya that's her

Eric - that's pretty good

Wayne - yep that's her

Eric - If you had to do it all over again would you pick  
the same job

Wayne - well well I did it all over of I had to money  
I would go to art school that I know for  
sure because I loved art I still do I never  
missed an art show on Preskale

Wayne - eather and I I a just used to a paint out in  
a world of my own I didn't have much I could  
say a variety of pants to work with or material  
but I used to get in a room and just draw in  
a world of my own when I'd be painting  
I used to love it and I would look forward to be  
an commercial artist and I used to have  
a friend he was crippled and da I used  
to take him out fishing when I was first  
married because he couldn't walk a half a  
block and da I would see him sitting on the  
porch I'd say come on paul paul lets go  
out come on fishy he only had to walk a little  
ways to the dock to cast ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> furrow

include

Eric - ya

Wayne - and I was drawing I did a lot of drawing and he  
got interese so he started drawing and I talk  
him ~~how~~ how to draw I did know that much  
about it either and I used to show him how to  
make horses and how to draw buildings  
and he took up art and he was one of the best  
artist for Ford motor company designing cars  
the state put him through cause being a cripple  
and than he got help from his sister later though  
picked up and he had way advanced courses  
ya and he was really sharp very good friend  
he passed away he was a lot younger than I  
was he was gonna come up here we were gonna  
go press the he was gonna bring me some art books  
he went to Hungary he married an artist wife to  
from Hungary and come from there vacation from

Wayne - hungry and come home and dropped died  
never had any heart problems ~~never had~~  
but all the sudden died ~~near~~ that ended our  
I used to take to him every week and every  
week I would get one back every other week  
I'd get one back one week I'd take and the  
next week he'd answer

Eric - before we end the interview is there anything  
you'd would like to add

Wayne - well I another thing I'd like to say is I  
enjoy these kids like I say cause I come from  
a broken family and I know how it is to  
come from a broken family and to be with out  
a father these boys around here we had a lot  
of broken families and da they used to come over  
here and I enjoyed there company and I showed  
them magic stunts and da taught ~~them~~ them  
how to paint draw not paint because they didn't  
have the money for painting so we had classes here  
we had a lot of fun and if they had all A's on there  
report cards I'd always give them they'd come  
over and collect candy bars at the Juice A's and  
B's if the had that's right and da. at the end of  
the year I'd take them out to mc donald and we'd  
have a party and then we'd come home and finish  
up with ice cream sundage over at home so  
we had a bunch of fun together the kids  
they all been disabled all my kids know I don't  
know if I'll have anybody this year or not

Eric - how did this all start with the drawing

Wayne - I don't know they just a well boy I think it started  
they saw this picture I had my shirt back in the garage  
and I'd be sitting in there I had that shirt back so they  
seen me looking at that and they asked if ~~they~~ they could  
have copies of that I said sure



wayne - and they got interested can we draw like that and I  
said well I can teach you best I can and that were  
we started and I got more and more birds and we  
had a lot of bun & we ~~you~~ used to tell stories  
and the birds enjoyed it you know and Benzayie  
brought them here to they were nice birds all of them  
so that the way it goes yes I travelled to Russia  
to me and the bird went there a few years ago we  
went to Europe we went to Scandinavian countries  
Denmark Sweden I even went to Russia and we  
we wanted to see what it was like and I questioned  
the people about there I asked them about living  
conditions Finland and Sweden I asked them about every thing  
how much money they earn all the different stuff  
you know how much your food costs and all that  
I got mixed and da I found that the Swedes and the  
Germans were very crude to strangers walking in different  
cities up there I talked to the people I'd say good  
morning ladies or good morning sir wherever it  
was they wouldn't even answer you and like  
in the US you go in a bus or a bank cashier you  
travelly check good day sir they wouldn't even answer  
in a store in a store would ask if you needed any help  
they would just walk by they don't come and  
ask you you never hear love a good day sir  
it was nice to hear that again when I came to the United  
States Russia the people were the most friendly next of  
them all I got to say that the Russian people were very  
friendly warm they liked Americans American Tomids  
Tuvids That's friend in Russian and they grabbed  
me them fellas and they hugged and kissed me like  
the Arabs one on each cheek you no and da  
But the laws made it scary and the train going  
in there they there were 6 people sitting in separate  
rooms your door was shut there all rooms like

Wayne - and russians would come in and start digging around under your Benches and start throwing your bags and checking every thing and you didn't know what they were up to and going and coming they did the same thing and the last day we were in Russia we were going to leave the next morning and a suitcase disappeared out of our room

Eric - your own room

Wayne - they come in sure there locked to I asked the girl there at the hotel the number 1 hotel where Gorbachof even stayed I said is every thing safe here O ya I said were going to travel from here were movin out O every things safe you got the key we came the last day and we were going to leave the next day at 9:30 next morning come in at nine that evening no big suitcase "What in the gosh now" so finly I found out they said the suitcase was on it's way to Moscow that's 330 miles from Reentrax I said my god Moscow I said were leaving Russia tomorrow morning I said at 9:30 they said it's headed for London what? London I said well do you got a bag we can put our cloths in we had a closet there we had our suit cloths and stuff like that they said you go in your room and at 9:30 your suitcase will come back ok what am I gonna say they got the fiddle you gotta dance so were in our room 9:15 the door opens up a little and a hand shoves the suitcase in and pulled the door shut we never saw who it was or any thing to this day I looked right away it didn't look like it was opened I think it was X rayed that what I think it was

Wayne - so it was kind of scary and when I stepped off the plane in Dulth first thing I said I put my hands up I said Thank god I'm ~~not~~ American and in America that the adject words I said soon as I stepped off the plane

Eric - was it real strict over there in russia

Wayne - you can't take pictures of books or anything and you had to be carefull I was writing a ~~daily~~ diary in russia but I didn't dare to write anything in there over in russia not till I got back over in hell sinke than I wrote all that stuff I remembered you know I've got it all written down I've got a diary day by day you know no I didn't dare to write anything they might find something in your room they can go in there any time they want I spose and they'd think your some kind of adient or some thing sent you to siberia or something nope I don't think I'd care to go over there any more in russia but we seen what it was like run down run down when you left finland right away you could see the difference it was a decaying thing when you went in a decaying thing run down Big difference Finish & swedish ~~citys~~ citys are very clean russia is run down Big difference

include  
the  
russia story

Eric - is there any thing else you would like to add

Wayne - ~~well~~ well I don't know much of anything really that um How much tape do you have how much can you write in your book

Eric - I have enough tape to last 2 hours

Wayne - 2 hours

Eric - ya

Wayne - well you can't put that you only got one page in  
the book hey

Eric - ya

Wayne - well whatever but any way I don't know I all  
I can say is that I enjoy living here and I  
wouldn't ~~want~~ want to live anywhere else I like  
it here in this area I attempted to go to Minneapolis  
to live my brother lives there and he offered me a  
good job where was a supervisor in a big factory there  
I said no I don't like the bigger citys this is good  
enough for me if I want to go fishing I can go  
fishing out here and not too far and I can enjoy  
a Sunday drive or whatever I want to do I ain't  
bumped to bumper traffic or anything like that  
about 600 cars lined out there going vooom  
vooom That's scary well how did that sound  
do you think we got anything worth while  
in there

eric - yes