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David Krook Interview
with
Grandpa Krook

This is David Krook interviewing Donald Krook it is February 18, 1993 interviewing him on his occupation.

Me: When and where were you born?

Grandpa: I was born September 17, 1922 Negaunee Michigan

Me: What were your parents names?

Grandpa: My father was Adiel Krook and my mother was Edith Joanna Lundstrom

Me: What are the names of your brothers and sisters.

Grandpa: One sister still living named Pearl a year and half older than I am.

Me: Were you married?

Grandpa: Oh sure, I'm married that's how you got here

Me: What is your wife's name?

Grandpa: My wife is Mary Elizabeth Medlyn

Me: What did your parents do for a living

Grandpa: Well, that's kind of a tough one My mother was a full time house wife and the days that I grow up was depression

time and jobs were few my father worked almost all his life for the city of Negamnee

Me: Where did you go to school?

Grandpa: Negamnee High School

Me: Any special memories you have growing up in this area

Grandpa: Well I'd say that particular place that I lived it at, East K Street in Negamnee, and on one block there was 85 kids we had so we all we had all kinds of activities baseball in season football in season basketball when the time came and we spent a lot of time in the woods every variation all the boys, boys and girls were separate in those days we did our thing walked out in the woods exploring

Me: anything stand out in your mind about the cities of Ashpening and Negamnee when you were younger

Grandpa: Well not a great deal that's for my part now I don't think we even went downtown like they do these days and so called fool around when late high school we ever went before we went we went the only time we ever went downtown is if we got a dinner and

went to the show some Saturday

Me: Have the cities changed any?

Grandpa: Well the cities I don't know about the downtown parts expect in Regaunee they used to be 17 taverns on one block and now I doubt if there's half that many

Me: What kinds of things did you and your friends do for entertainment?

Grandpa: Well I did part of that I just said part of that and the season what we played and we made up our own games like hide and seek and kick the can maybe you guess don't know about that and a made sling shots and picked up rocks and were having different contests with the accuracy that's all

Me: Where was the big hangout place where you hangout

Grandpa: Hangout well I'll tell ya we never hung out at downtown we never went downtown except I said a couple times a year if we went to the show we stayed on our own block

Me: Is there, do you have any interesting or funny stories to share about then when you were younger?

Grandpa: Well at the moment I don't think of anything earthshaking

Me: How old were you when you got your first job?

Grandpa: First job well back up a little bit I started school when I was 4 years old so when I graduated I was or when I was a senior I was only 16 so I went back post graduate and took some more commercial course subjects and then when I was 18 I got a job as a bookkeeper in a coal company

Me: What kind of duties did you do on your first job?

Grandpa: Well that was looking back on it is kind of a peculiar because a I would take orders for somebody calling in for coal most people just had coal and wood in those days I think it was before natural gas

and a sometimes we go out and collect account
keep records of who owed what who payed what

Me: How many total years did you work in your
lifetime

Grandpa: Well 40 years

Me: When did you retire?

Grandpa: I retired at age 58 in 1981 after 40 years

Me: Where were you employed the longest?

Grandpa: Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company for about 39 and
a half years

Me: How or why did you choose this career?

Grandpa: Well that was a almost forced upon one
in negaerel at the time I was going school
in 1930's there was only 3 courses to select
from there was the college preparatory course
we didn't have any money so that was out
then there was a so call vocational course
which was a machine shop and carpentry and
that wasn't my bag so all that was left was
a commercial course and I drifted into that

Me: What were the main duties of ~~the~~ job.

Grandpa: Well record keeping like when I worked for the Mining Company we'd keep the costs on how much things cost and then I was at the Main Office collecting data for and from the mine so that at the end of each month we would prorate the costs by various methods back to the mines to see that they would figure out the cost per ton and see whether they made a profit or not

Me: Did this job require any training did you have to train any?

Grandpa: Well I took 5 years of Commercial subjects and in school and learned on the job besides

Me: Did you have to any special equipment or clothing did you have to wear?

Grandpa: No not in the office you just wore average clothes like if you were going to school something

Me: Is there any rules or stuff you had to follow?

Grandpa: Oh not particularly the hourly I was always on salary by the way and it was different from the wages because they they had certain or certain things that had to

follow but for the office now you were almost on your own

Me: What was the hardest part of this job?

Grandpa: I'd say when the first of the month came all month long you accumulated figures and costs and various ways of prorating expenses and then when it came to the last two days of the month you had to hurry up and work extra time so that you could get these figures so that they would you could get them out to the mine on a on a first of the month when they had to have the numbers

Me: Did the duties of your job change much over the years?

Grandpa: Well just in detail actual keeping figures and costs were the same whether you were 50 years ago or today you just kept accumulating figures and try to make money for what ever business you were in

Me: Did anyone else in the family work for the company?

Grandpa: Well lets see I think my oldest son who's name is Peter the fact is that he is your

father he worked 10, 12 years and he was the accountant for the electric power light company when he left for other vocations and I have a son Steven now that's a maintenance mechanic at the Empire mine and I have a son Kenneth that worked 6, 7, 8 years at the Central Shops with carpenter, welder, but he got caught in a layoff and never got rehired and well I suppose that's the main ones

Me: Did you have, Was there any ever dangerous situations?

Grandpa: Well that's kind of a funny thing we skipped a lot of this stuff cause I was working at various mines and at the Bunker Hill mine when I was down there I was called a cost accountant and we'd keep various records on the types of mining that they was going on below the surface rock drifts, timbering slopes, and to me they were just numbers and figures cause at that job I had to go underground once a

month to see what I was talking about and that was interesting

Me: ~~do~~ there any interesting or humorous events during your career?

Grandpa: Like I just told now I'd have to go underground once a month and before I got wise to it the old wise and weary veterans that were getting the cage going down underground and I don't know a thousand feet or what ever they go and they would maneuver me into position in the cage against the side of the plate which is all metal cage and they would maneuver me in between two guys who were so called goosy and then somebody on the other side of the cage would make a big noise and kick there boots into the plate making a lot of noise and the guys that were on either side of me jumped up and were hitting me and kicking me and hitting throwing their

buckets around because they were goofy
their arms and legs were just flying around
and that was it the joke was on me

Me: Did you ever feel like changing your career?

Grandpa: I just drifted it and stayed that way

Me: What were the biggest responsibilities of your job?

Grandpa: Well goes back to keeping the accurate cost
so that all the costs were supplied from
our main office into the mines. Who were
correct and reasonable

Me: Did you receive any awards from your employer
or recognized anyway for your job performance?

Grandpa: Not really you were kind of swallowed up
in the multitudes workers but after 25 years
in service you were given a gold watch
40 years of service yours stacked forgot
just what there is it what sort of an automatic
thing not an individual

Me: During the days of your employment as beyond
that what were your favorite hobbies or leisure
activities?

Grandpa: Well when I get through work I had

bowling in the winter time golf in the summer time went out to the camp fished, picniced did what ever you do at camp so we kept pretty busy 11 grandchildren so lot of company.

Me: Were you in any clubs or organizations or sport leagues or something?

Grandpa: Well let see I was in a bowling league and I belonged to the Newnanan golf club United Methodist Church American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars and well maybe some other I'm forgetting.

Me: Were you a member of a Union?

Grandpa: Never belonged to a union because those days even today I guess most salary workers are non-union.

Me: Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

Grandpa: Ya I'd like to say a little bit about my army service 1943 in February I went into the army and in about 5 months time I found myself overseas in Africa bounced around before I got assigned first fighter group a P38 fighter bomber attack unit and I was served in North Africa, Sardinia, Corsica, and Italy for a little over 2 years so that's where I was.

Me: Well, Thanks!! Grandpa: Okay