

me { I'm Nick Roberts, and I'm here at the
M.C.B. Ranch in National Mine on December
30, 1984 and I'm about to interview
Mathew Clifford Baslo on logging.

First Matt, I'd like to ask a few
questions about yourself. When were you born?

him { March 31, 19 hundred and six

me { ~~where~~ where were you born?

him { I was born on a high hill six and three in
Tilden Township } *quad*

me { Could you tell me a little about your family?

him { ^{yes} I had six sisters and two brothers and I
was the youngest one of the family.

me { what did your ma and dad do for a living?

him { well, they had a few cows and they raised potatoes
and milked cows and, and raised pigs, and cut firewood
so we could get a loaf of bread, they sold the firewood

me { I heard you did alot of logging?

him { yes I did some in my younger days

me { how old were you when you started logging?

him { I really don't remember, about 32-33 years old

me { when did you start?

him { I think in 1932 when I started

me { where did you start ?

him { in Tilden Township on section 33 }

me { where exactly is section 33 ?

him { It was ~~at~~ south of the Tilden pit about one mile south of the Tilden Pit in National Mine }

me { how many hours did you work a day ?

him { oh we used to work from six in the morning till seven at night or eight whatever time we got home }

me { Well, what kind of trees did you cut ?

him { we cut mostly spruce + Balsam they went for pulpwood }

me { if you start cutting trees at six or dock in the morning how did you know what kind they were when it was dark ?

him { well, ask your great Uncle Dan, we used to have these kitchen matches and we would light a match to see what kind of tree it was }

me { logging sounds like hard work did you enjoy working in the woods ?

him { well, we sure did for one reason because we had to earn a dollar where we could get it }

me { how did you cut the trees down + how did you get them out of the woods }

him { well to cut the trees down we used a finlander
buckeaw and we used a team of horses to haul them
~~to~~ to the landing }

me { "Oh" you used horses, well could you tell me a little
about them? }

him { yes, we had ole Gady + Tom the top team in the
township + then we had ole Jerry to skid em
with a chain and the wipple tree }

me { how far did you skid the logs? }

him { well at that time we sleigh hauled with Tom + Gady,
it was about three miles to the landing +
Jerry used to pull em down the bluff where we
could use the team }

me { did you have anybody else to help you? }

him { oh yea I had some of my nephews + my brothers + a
few ^{good} drunken lumberjacks }

~~me~~ me { my great ^{uncle} Dan, he's your nephew, did he work for
you too? }

him { oh yea he's my right hand teacher drivin ole Jerry
+ the horse turned around + looked at him goin down
the hill the sleigh passed up ole Jerry + Dan,
and turned around + looked at uncle Dan }

me { what kind of wages did you pay those drunken lumberjacks? }

him { a dollar a day and board venisen + potatoes }

me { what kind of wages did you make ?

him { oh I made a whole, ten dollars a month I suppose }

me { if you made ten dollars a month, how did you pay those drunken lumberjacks a dollar a day?

him { well see it works this way after we payed everybody there we had to figure what we had left for ourselves

me { did you have any other equipment in the woods or did you mostly depend on your horses?

him { well, in 1935 I bought a tractor for \$150 from the Northwoods dealer then we used the tractor in place of horses

me { I heard you quit logging

him { yes I did quit the pulp business & then I was in a sawmill business for a few years }

me { well could you tell me a little about that ?

{ well yes we cut lumber for ourselves and sold em we done alot of custom sawin for people

{ well who did you sell it to

me { well mostly local customers that built garages & houses and

me { how much did you sell it for

him { well we sold some as low as \$18 a thousand during the depression. for Joe Wellushki when he built these saw mill business

me { how was the sawmill run?

him { it was run by a gas motor

me { what size blades did you have?

him { well we had some 48 - 50" blades

me { did you work long hours?

him { well most of the time 10, 12 hours a day.

me { what kind trees did you use for making the lumber?

him { well the biggest part was white pine & Norway
pine & some cedar and little bit of hardwood
not to much

me { since you were out in the woods alot, did you do
any hunting

him { yes I done quite a bit of deer hunting
in my days

me { I see a big picture of a buck on the wall
did you shoot that?

him { ya I sure did I had to shoot it for self defense

me { how

him { because he was coming through the swamp and
figured I could run as fast as a goat so I turned the
gun & pulled at him and he fell dead.

me { how many points does he have?

him { I guess he had 24 points

me { what did you do with the rack?

him { well I'll tell you things got kind of tough
that was dull season so I traded the rack for 1 ^{cup} of whiskey.

me { that buck looks pretty big, sure low heavy was it?

him { I think I remember right he was 360 lbs on the city
scale

me { that's a pretty big buck, are you sure you didn't
shoot your horse?

him { no it wasn't a horse it was a buck it was really
only 280 lbs.

me { uncle Dan told me that you had a dog that helped
you deer hunt, what's that all about



him { oh that was ole cubby I first day of season
seen a 10 point buck over the hill + I found
3 rutted bullets or moldy bullets + I went + shot + I
hit him in the head + knocked the horn off + he fell
down so I took my pick-up truck + drove down
there and here I figured the deer was alive so
I chained him to the lumber then I took the ax and
I was gonna cut its throat and he jumped up
+ dragged the truck back almost over the dump + ole
cubby he hung on to his hind legs + wouldn't let
him go or I would have been over the hill.

me { that sounds like you lived a pretty interesting life do you miss
those good ole days?

him { oh yes things like them days will never come back again

me { well the good ole days are gone but we still have alot of memories
to share in glad we have nice people like Matt to
share a part of the past, thank you Matt

him { your welcome, I really appreciate this being with you young
guys at this age