FINNISH FOLKLORE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES MINING REGION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1972-1978
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**COMMENT**

Shaft House Mob

Enjoyed working, pay i what was accomplished, not money

Which owns McCullah Ha

Bad price
SUBJECT: Quincy Mining

SOURCE: W. Parsons Todd, President

COMMENTS:

Interviewer: R. J. Jalkanen

I: Can you tell us when you were born and where?

R: Born in New York on November 18, 1877...next month I'll be ninety-seven years old and I'm at my job as President of the Quincy Mining Company here in Morristown every day. It's amazing how well I keep...haven't any pains, able to sleep and not on any diet.

I: So you're really in the best of health, aren't you?

R: Yes! My eyesight is bad and that's all; but you can't become ninety-seven years old and have everything in the world. God has been good to me, very good to me. Has blessed me in many many ways and I'm tied in to the Quincy Mining Company in Houghton County, Hancock and Suomi College.

I: In what year did your father have an interest?

R: My father...we were a Philadelphia family. We were Quakers but moved to...his father was in the Navy and Father was born in Boston; but his father died. When his father died he was only twelve years old and he went to live with his uncle, Uncle Sammy Todd...Samuel Todd, who was in the Navy also. Samuel Todd joined the Navy in 1813...we were Quakers, we didn't fight and so he joined as a paymaster.

I: Oh, I see.

R: A paymaster in the Navy.

Stop in tape.

R: I'll start there...we were a Philadelphia family

Quaker family.

And Quakers and in the Revolutionary War we were there also in Philadelphia and I have a certificate from the Philadelphia Library in 1778 they made my great-great grandfather one of the members of the Philadelphia Library and it's amazing but it says in the certificate that he "done well"..."that he also has an interest in the books of the Library subject to the rules and regulations of the Library" which probably means he doesn't have a real interest in the books...but the certificate says he has an
interest in the books of the Library. At any rate, that was in 1776, and so I know where our family was during the Revolutionary War...my family in Philadelphia.

I: He was paymaster, you say, because he didn't want to carry arms.

R: No, that was his...one of his grandchildren was paymast. My great grandfather was paymaster in the Navy and he joined the Navy in 1815, in March, 1815. The squadron was going over to wipe up the Algerian pirates and was about ready to leave New York. I think he joined really to go over there with them as a paymaster because he joined the Navy in 1815 in March and the squadron left New York in May, 1815, to wipe up the Algerian pirates; but the little ship that he was on of the squadron got in trouble crossing the Atlantic...of course in those days they only had sails...and had to return to New York. So, when they wiped up the Algerian pirates over there in the Mediterranean, why he and his ship were not there; but they joined the squadron shortly afterwards and we've been tied in with the Army and Navy ever since. My father had two brothers graduate from Annapolis and his only sister married one of the Annapolis graduates in the 1850's.

I: When was your father born?

R: My father was born on June 15, 1837

I: In Philadelphia?

R: No, my father was born in Boston...his father the paymaster was stationed in Boston at that time, he was a paymaster in the Navy.

I: Your father's name was...?

R: William Rodgers Todd...and the Rodgers the ship that he sailed to the Mediterranean to help wipe up the Algerian pirates, the Captain of the ship was Rodgers and with all those names why my father was named by his father after the Captain of the ship which he started for the Mediterranean with a squadron to wipe up the Algerian pirates. Isn't that funny?

I: Yeah...good!

R: That's where his name came from...William Rodgers Todd. William is a normal Todd name in the old days.

I: Where did your family come from in England?

R: We are Scotch...that's all I know. I don't know where they came from over there.

I: About when did they come, do you know?

R: Well, about 1730...1730. The first documents are letters I have addressed to Mary Todd in Philadelphia in 1756. That's going back some time and my great-great grandmother who married James Todd in 1788, her father and mother were married in 1757, and I have the wedding certificate with it endorsed on the back of all the children and the time they were born
all that.

I: Is that so!

R: Alyce Fultney Todd, his name was Fultney Todd, Alyce Fultney Todd; he was born in 1767, ten years after the wedding of the Father and Mother; and she married James Todd in 1788. And that's the story and the way... the way we got tied in with Michigan and the Quincy Mine, my father had in those days what-you-callit, tuberculosis when he was twenty-two years old working in New York...living in New York.

I: What was he doing?

R: I don't know. Was only twenty-two years old at that time...might have any kind of a job.

I: Just started out.

R: But he got tuberculosis and the doctors told him he had to get out of New York, he had to get in a better climate; and his sister who married in the Navy, was stationed in Detroit. He went out to see her in the summer of 1859, and while he was there she suggested his taking a trip on a lake. On a boat he went up the lake from Detroit and he met Mr. Mason, President of the Quincy Mining Company; and he told him he needed a job in a good climate and he says he wanted to work up at the Quincy Mine he'd give him a job as clerk up there. And so he went up in September, went up to Houghton...didn't have any Hancock in that day...Houghton in September 1859, and as clerk in the Quincy Mine. He stayed up there five years until 1864, and regained his health.

I: That mine had just begun, right?

R: Quincy Mine was organized, incorporated in the lower State of Michigan on March 30, 1848, but they were trying to find copper to the left of the highway. The Quincy load is to the right of the highway...what do you call the highway?

I: Yes, 41.

R: Highway 41...and we were the first mine going up the hill. The Hancock was set aside later...Hancock Mine as the Sheffert Mine going down by Hancock and I've forgotten how many shares, I think they've got... distributed ten thousand shares of dividends to the Quincy stockholders.

I: From the Hancock Mine?

R: That's how the Hancock Mine was organized.

I: Is that so!

R: Yes, and then the Quincy set aside Hancock as a city, City of Hancock they called it. In those days, you know, a small town was a city. Now we have to have a hundred thousand people or so before they call them cities.

I: That's right
R: ...in 1865. What's that?
I: I was just going to...your father was there already eleven years after the founding of the company, right?

R

I: And the mines were open just about then?
R: No, we were the ones trying to find copper up there. They were digging holes here and there on the hill when they hit Pewabic Mine, another property just beyond. There were three properties, Hancock, Quincy, Pewabic, Franklin and then Menard and Pontiac. One after the other out trying to find copper.

I: So they were exploring really
R: Yes, but then
I: Your father was clerk while you were exploring?
R: Yes, he was just in the office there. He went up there just for his health. He needed it, you know. He needed a job. His father and mother was dead and he had to make his own living and so, I don't know, he was just up there. They didn't have many employees in those days, I guess he was financial going to Mr. Mason. He met Mr. Mason on the ship on his trip going up from Detroit.

I: And he stayed there for...
R: Five years.
I: ...five years.
R: Yes, and then his brother-in-law whose wife was his sister, was blockading the inside of the...Confederate and Union they called it...for the Union Army. He was blockading in charge of the command of the Blockading Fleet off Charleston trying to stop running in supplies...war supplies...for the Confederates. And he got a job...I don't know if it was enlisted or how it was...as his brother-in-law's assistant on this Blockading Fleet; and he went when Charleston surrendered, he went with the Marines...my father and the first boat load of soldiers and sailors...to restore order in Charleston.

I: And he was there?
R: He was his brother-in-law's assistant
I: 1864?
R: '65...spring of 1865. Then after the war was over, my father came back naturally to New York where he was born and his health was fair although because of his having tuberculosis...now as they call it, in those days they called it consumption...in his early days, my father could never get any life insurance. Could never get any life insurance and yet he lived to be eighty-seven years old minus three weeks.
I: The companies didn't really know it, did they?
R: The insurance companies? The insurance companies wouldn't insure him.
I: Wouldn't take him.
R: That worried him somewhat because when you have a family, you want insurance as protection. I mean, worried him during his life...every life, I meant, after you get married. There were three boys, my brother John four years older than I, myself born 1877, my brother in 1874, and I have a brother Jim born 1882 and my mother died in 1890 and to have three boys, not too much money and unable to get any life insurance made a problem for him.

I: And that's when he was in New York, right? Your family lived in New York at that time?
R: At that time we moved out to Morristown where I live at the present time for my mother's health...in 1882, and I've lived here ever since 1882.
I: 1882 and in that same house that we passed since...?
R: No, 1882 and then my father decided...he told me...when he came out to Morristown he decided he wasn't going to do anymore moving. We'd been in Englewood and several different towns outside of New York; and so he decided in 1883 in June, he bought the piece of land on 56 Hill Street and that fall he started to build his house which was completed in April 1884, and that's the house in which I'm living at the present time.

I: Is that so
R: Yes
I: Ninety years since!
R: Ninety years...he started it in 1883 in the fall but it wasn't completed until 1884. So that's just ninety years from now
I: Ninety years, yes.
R: And I'm still there.
I: Now, how did your father...is that his only connection with the Quincy Mining Company?
R: No, when after the war, Civil War, he had Mr. Mason, he went back to New York...apparently he went in to see Mr. Mason. Mr. Mason was President of the Quincy Mining Company and he got a job at the Quincy Mining Company back from his old (?) from Hancock, Michigan.
I: Oh, but then in New York.
R: Then in New York
I He worked in New York after the...coming back...?
R: From then on until he died in May, 1924. He just joined the office, I suppose as a clerk; but in 1870 he was made Secretary of the Quincy Company and a few years later Treasurer. So from that time in 1870's until 1900 when he was elected President of the Company on Mr. Mason's death, why he was Secretary and Treasurer of the Quincy Mining Company and from 1900 to 1924 when he died, he was President of the Company and on his death...he died in May...next month at Quincy's Annual Meeting, I was elected President in June, 1924, and I'm still President in 1974, for fifty years. Quite a history.

I: Well, that's congratulations are in order.

R: That's quite a history

I: That is quite a history.

R: I might add a word that if my father hadn't regained his health in Houghton County, the pure air of Houghton County, then as well as now I wouldn't be alive.

I: Now, he accumulated shares of the company from the time he was clerk?

R: No, we never had money, unfortunately or fortunately...maybe fortunately My father had a good job but had three children, my mother was sick for seven or eight years and we had other members of the family to help and my father had his job because of his ability and from Mr. Mason who apparently as President of the Company stood right back of him from the time he met him on the ship there outside of Detroit in 1859.

I: Oh, that's a good story...that's a remarkable story. Then how did you become connected with the company? Were you before that time?

R:

I: Before 1924?

R: Yes, I wasn't too well when I finished school...I never went to college. I wasn't too well. In my younger days something funny, I wasn't too well. Now my health is good. I don't know how that come about so that I'm ninety-seven years old. So that when I finished...I only just finished school in June 1894, and my health wasn't good so I didn't go into business until 1898 and then I went with the firm of Hearly and Wainwright in the metal business in New York; and I was with them until 1901 until my father...no, before my father was elected President I joined the Quincy force to look after the sale of their copper. Before that we'd been selling through brokers so my father wanted to...he was more or less Mr. Mason's chief assistant...and he wanted to develop more business direct for the company with those who use the copper. So, in 1900 I joined the Quincy to sell the copper and we wanted direct connection with the people who use it and my first sale was two hundred and fifty thousand pounds to a wire mill Phillipsale, Rhode Island. I went around to see some of our former customers and the person who was president, I forget his name, said, "Have you made a sale for Quincy yet?" And I said, "No!" "All right, I'm going to give you an order."

I: That was a big day...your first sale
R: He gave me an order for two hundred and fifty-thousand pounds. I was going around to see if those who'd used the copper before, just to make their acquaintance not expecting really to sell any copper on my trip, it wasn't for that purpose. At any rate,

I: From then on you were...

R: I was in charge of the sales... I forgot the year, but I think about in 1910 I was elected Vice President of the company.

I: Its headquarters were in New York then.

R: On 52 Broadway... Quincy Mining Company was always located within a short area some how or other; back in the early days we were downtown... but in 1859 our Annual Report was... I'm awful on names... at any rate, Quincy's Annual Report for 1859 was printed by a printer at 59 Wall Street and our office was just around the corner at that time... 1859. I remember we had to move... and then from there we got over to 45 Broadway, 32 Broadway and then back to 52 Broadway and in 1942 when World War II was on, the government took over the building... it's only a twelve-story building, 52 Broadway... and notified all the tenants to get out in a week. That's when we got... the start of World War II; so fortunately we found offices on the top floor of 63 Wall Street and that office stood on the same ground where our office was in 1859. So, we've been right there until my eyesight got so bad in 1970 the doctors told me not to keep on going to New York, the offices moved to my hometown of Morristown to a building that's on Route 24, right opposite Memorial Hospital and I have a nice office here. The building was built in about 1860 with high ceilings, thirteen-foot ceilings. A beautiful office; and that's where we're sitting and talking at the present time.

I: Who was the mediator? Who went back and forth to Hancock? Or did they come...

R: About the time my father was elected president, we only had a small force in New York; just my father and W. A. O'Fallas, Secretary and Treasurer at that time and myself as Vice President with a stenographer. We didn't need much here in New York. Our whole operations were in Hancock, Michigan. Just Mr. Mason lived here, he lived on Madison Avenue, New York, and he wanted the office here in New York as he was president and large stockholder.

I: Then did he travel back and forth?

R: Yes, he went back and forth. My father did the same, in fact I went up to the Quincy Mine you might say when I was a kid in 1893.

I: First time?

R: Well, might have been 1892... I've forgotten the exact year; but I always went up often... a couple times a year.

I: What do you remember about the mines? Which ones were running at that time?

R: Oh, they had a lot of mines running in those days. Of our mines
Calumet and Hecla bought a half a dozen of them later. There was the Oseola...

I: Those were Quincy?

R: No, Oseola is out along side Calumet and Hecla.

I: But what about the Quincy Mines? Which were running?

R: The Quincy Mine, we were wedged in there close to Hancock and we had to expand. The vein seemed to be working a little bit north, so in 1894 we bought the Pewabic Mine and right to the north of us in 1907 we bought the Franklin Mine which is just beyond that; but a few years before...ten years before, we bought the Menard Mine and the Pontiac which is north of the Franklin. So Quincy is made up of originally, Quincy, Pewabic, Franklin, Menard and then Pontiac with the Menards, as we got deeper was very rich ground. That's No. 8 Shaft...Pewabic is our No. 6 Shaft and the Quincy Mine is our No. 2 and 4 Shafts and also No. 7 which was the south shaft, but it was really...wasn't necessary for us to sink that.

I: Were the shafts there as you went first as a boy?

R: All up to No. 6 were there.

I: How big was the operation then...how many men, about?

R: Quincy Mine, we were trying to find copper to the left of Route 39, on just the other side of the highway where the rocks clearly projects out; but when Pewabic started they found the old Pewabic Mine just to the right of the highway, that was in 1858.

Stop in tape

R: That part of the present Morristown High School, that's the one I built...

I: 19...?

R: Three stories in front and the ground fell away and four stories in the back.

I: The Morristown High School?

R: The Morristown High School.

I: In 1913?

R: '13...and as the war came along we had trouble...I was on the Board in 1913, but then we started hunting for a piece of land to build a high school and we started the high school in the spring of 1915. That was just after World War I had started on August 1, 1914...tough days...tough days! And unfortunately it took some time to build as the contractor went busted, wages kept going up and he had a contract and he went busted. And funny thing, the bonding company went busted too.
I: Did you have anything to do with building the schools up in Hancock area?

R: No, except that the Quincy had planning, you know, to build a high school there...they haven't gone ahead with it up on the hill, you know. And Quincy...we gave them, oh I've forgotten how many acres now, some twenty-five acres...gave it to them. In fact, we tried to encourage things in the Lake Superior Section and the runway, the extension of the airport completed a year ago in Houghton County, we gave them some forty acres. We didn't sell it to them, we gave it to them because actually we're part of Houghton County. We're part of Houghton County.

I: And always have been.

R: And I'm part of Houghton County too!

I: How was the war on the company?

R: What?

I: During the first war, how was the company? Were you going well?

R: You ask about the company, yes we were going well except you may remember...you don't remember it but you know the history...we had the unfortunate strike in Lake Superior Section.

I: When was that?

R: In July, 1913, and that strike lasted for seven months until March, 1914; and it was just after that in August 1 that World War I started.

I: What happened to create the strike?

R: All the companies...Calumet-Hecla, ourselves and all the companies in the lake section...always felt that our men respond to the company just the same as the stockholders. There wasn't any one-sided company. The stockholders in the company and the officers were all one. We tried to look after our men. We built houses...all the companies built them I guess; but we just charged six dollars a month for a six-room house, eight dollars a month for an eight-room house and we had our own medical staff too. And the men were charged a dollar and a half a month, married men. Single man, a dollar a month. That covered everything. It used to at one time there when we were really active, we had five physicians, five doctors and our own drugstore and we didn't sell anything at our drugstore...we wouldn't compete with other drugstores in Houghton, but our drugstore was merely to hand out what our doctor's prescribed for our employees and their families...we took care of the whole family.

I: What was the wage in that time? Can you remember?

R: No I can't

I: About?
R: It wasn't high, but dollars then were worth a lot...they went a lot; and we always worked from the time the company started there was always a job there. If a man was in on a job, he could stay.

I: But you don't remember the wages in any of that period...1905 or 1900 or 1915?

R: No, I can't.

I: But the dollar was worth a lot

R: The dollar went well and the point was we tried to keep the cost of the living of the families by giving them houses for six dollars a month. We had about three hundred houses then and doctors, a dollar and a half. Medical expenses for some families were very bad. We took care of all the hospitalization...every cent of any of our families or men or wives or anything to Mayos or down to Ann Arbor, we paid all the expenses. We paid the nurses, everything was paid. If a person was sick, they couldn't pay anymore than a dollar and a half a month.

I: How many men were working for you then

R: We had about eighteen hundred.

I: Eighteen hundred...and when the strike came, it cut off everybody

R: When the strike came, we never had any trouble with reducing wages somewhat to try to keep the company going, to meet and get a new dollar for an old at least, not to run into a loss and the men never objected because they knew just as soon as things turned and they would turn, their wages would go up without having to fight for it. And that's what our object was...the men and the companies all worked together as friends and we paid them as much as we could. The price of copper is a world price really. We don't make it, it's mostly made up over in England, you know, London and France and Germany. They were big users of copper and we exported a lot. Quincy copper is listed on the Commodity Exchange in New York and also in London Metal Exchange. Has been listed there for oh, a hundred years...if the London Metal Exchange was going and alive at that time.

I: What do you think they've never had a strike before, right?

R: Oh no, we had some of those disturbances but we always fixed it up because we talked to the men. We had some little disturbances that I
remember when we'd have them out for maybe four or five days. I don't remember any strike until that strike came.

I: What day did it come?

R: In my recollection, the 17th day of July; my father was on the way to the mine at that time, in fact he was just getting on the boat at Detroit he'd left New York on Sunday afternoon. It was on a Monday and I got to the office and they had a word that there's men gone out and I telegraphed him on the boat. The boat was leaving Detroit at noon and he got the telegram telling that the men had gone out on strike; strikes are awful. Creates all kinds of disturbances; some men were loyal, others...well, all our employees we considered loyal and they were loyal. But people came in and told them...must have told them various stories and got them to join the union and we were putting it in the west. In the old days it took two men to handle drills. One man used to hold the drill while the other fellow hit it with a sledgehammer; but then we got into automatic air drills and they were pretty heavy and still needed two men but as industry grew, we were able to...all the companies...were able to lighten the drills and in the west they were putting in what we call one-man drills. Really wasn't one-man drill because setting it up and all you need two men; so was a team, two men...had two men and two drills and when setting up drilled it to the right, the fellow to the left would help the other miner the two of them together set it up and them were those air drills, just have to feed them with air and water and setting up was the principal thing and putting in the powder and all that; but they worked as a team, two men and two drills. Before that there were four men and two drills and the fighting cry at that time was no one-man drill.

I: Oh, that was a part of the strike slogan?

R: Yeah

I: No one-man drill?

R: No one-man drill!

Stop in tape. End of Tape 1

I: Do you still find copper there or ore?

R: I believe we have a valuable mine still. We've been handicapped in many ways on account of the depth and we've been handicapped in a number of years in the past by being too close to Detroit. Detroit's automobile industry was growing fast, they required more labor. Up in Michigan one crying need is more work for the girls or some work for the girls. Men in the old days we have worked in the mines but there wasn't anything for the daughters, you know; and Detroit came up...scouts, you know, and come on down to Detroit to get a job for the husband and for the sons and for the daughters too. That pulled our labor away from us.

I: Oh, from the Copper Country.

R: Yes, from the Copper Country. Pulled our labor away from us and we had a great handicap because we weren't able to produce enough copper to
When did that begin? The out-migration of labor?

I think that began after World War I... before World War I. The people up there in the local district... well, they'd been wedded together, kind of lived together and know each other and they didn't know much about the rest of the world. Now when the boys got in the army in '17 and well they trained in different parts of the United States, most of them got over to Europe, they got to know the area not only in Michigan but throughout the other areas of the United States. And so they weren't so wedded to Lake Superior as they had been before and especially the ability of Detroit and other southern Michigan sections where automobiles were also being manufactured, you know, why they needed labor and they kept pulling our labor away from us.

Were they paying better wages or what made it...

I don't know if they were paying better wages or not; but our men loved the mines. They were satisfied with the mines, but their families were not so well satisfied because they kept hearing about opportunities for their daughters, you know, in the automobile plants. And they took men away from us so that in 1923, why the situation got rather serious... the Detroit people had scouts up there, had advertisements in the papers and they represented the automobile people in such-and-such a hotel, you know, and to come around to see them, better steady work, expanding for your daughters and sons and father, mother if necessary. And so that we had to do something up there, we decided to try to bring in labor. We got permission... I said "we", I think the Calumet-Hecla did it first or Copper Range, I don't know. They got permission to bring in labor from Europe under contract and they started bringing them over.

About what year was that, do you remember?

1923... spring of '23 and the summer of '23. Went down in Cornwall, England and the situation in England was bad and they wanted work... the society was trying to help the unemployed, help to encourage them to go to America; and we didn't do it first, but finally I decided the Quincy was in the same picture with the rest of them, we got permission from Washington to import labor and we had a contract arranged and I went to Europe in August, 1923... personally... for that purpose. Not to personally employ men myself, but establish connections over there with the workforce. And I got letters from Washington showing we had a right to contract labor, gave us permission, they knew the conditions up in Michigan, and they were helping not only the Quincy, but the Copper Range and the Calumet, I think, were the first ones did it. But when I went over I went over representing both myself, the Quincy, and the Copper Range. I went over in the middle of August, 1923. Went down to Cornwall first and gee, the men I found there hadn't worked... they'd been in the Army, England had been in the war some time... 1915 - 16 - 17 - 18 and the war ended in the November 1918, why they hadn't done anything but fight, most of them... many of the younger ones, you know; and they were soft, they weren't suitable. I was looking for hands and they hadn't worked since the war ended in 1919... I was over there in August. I said this isn't right, we can't employ these people. The Copper Range and some of the others had brought over some of the Cornish people. The Cornish people
are good people, but the mines were closed...they had the office where they handed out the dole right opposite the hotel. I stayed at the hotel and oh gee.

I: What town, do you remember?

R: I think Ponte Pray, I call it. Now I don't know if that's the exact name or not. Anyway, it's an important town down in Cornwall; and I was down there for a week and I saw nothing...no advantage to bringing those men over. They hadn't worked...I mean fighting during the war, they hadn't worked since 1919 and they all wanted jobs and all that; so then I went to Wales to see what the situation was over there in the coal mining section. And they were pretty well employed in coal; but Cornwall, you know, was where they had the old tin mines years before and they'd become abandoned for some reason or other and there was plenty of labor in the Cornish section and so I decided that, gee, no use monkeying around here. So then I went over to Germany where the labor was...men were unemployed and conditions very bad. A dollar's marks worth nothing, decreasing in value to I don't know how much. Well, it's worth ten cents today, it was worth about two cents tomorrow. I landed in... well I didn't land but I went to...oh gee, what's the big town there on the ocean?

I: Bremman?

R: No, I was...I went through Bremman but over to...on the shore, on the ocean there...North Sea I guess you call it there.

I: Yes

R: At any rate, I remember buying a...I happened to accidently have a...oh I guess five marks...I've forgotten how many marks there were, but it cost me a dollar and twenty-seven cents and I got away from the town, I thought...I found I couldn't pass the money anyother place...only local money. Everybody was issuing money...manufacturing companies were issuing their own money payable in ninety days. At the end of ninety days the money they passed out wasn't worth anything practically. Anyway there was plenty of labor available. I had letters to the Labor Department of the German government and I went to Berlin and stayed there a few weeks and then the head of the Labor Department loaned me a man to go into the (?). They arranged it in advance, the Labor Department, my trip into (?). Was all interesting, but it wasn't too interesting because I was alone. I couldn't talk German; but I had a number of friends over there who had been in America before with American Metal Climax and other companies and then go on back to Germany, so I didn't have too bad a time. But at any rate, I established the machinery by which we would import men. Down in Halverstaad I got the loan of a German from one of our Embassy to work for us in that line and then I came back to America in the middle of October...the last of October. And just before I left Germany, well I got some sickness and I was in bed in the hotel for three days. Had a local doctor who couldn't talk English, got a nurse that couldn't talk English; but the floor man could talk English in the hotel, so I talked to the floor man and he'd talk to the doctor and nurse. But then after three days I skipped over to France, then over to England and got the vessel home. And I got home the latter part of October...been home four or five days
I decided to go to...I had to go to Michigan situation and I got on the Century train, after I had dinner I didn't feel well and I always used to carry a thermometer. So I put the thermometer in my mouth and found I had a temperature of 104. So, I got ahold of the porter and told him I didn't want to land in Chicago the next day under those conditions...I decided to come home; so I got ahold of the car conductor and asked him where they had a car parked to come back to New York next morning and I've forgotten where they told me, Rochester or where, I've forgotten; so I got out of the train and I got a lower berth and came back to New York, came out to Morristown and I was sick in bed. I didn't get back...that was the latter part of October...I had acute arthritis. Well that was something I picked up in Germany and I didn't get back to New York until the middle of January from the latter part of October. November and December, about almost three months; but I got well. It didn't leave any traces. My father was along in years and he had two nurses, one day and one night in the house, so they looked after me more or less because that's the period when they had this infantile paralysis or whatever it was. That was in 1916...no, I was wrong. At any rate, I was sick; but the machinery kept going. We started bringing over men, about thirty or forty at a time.

I: Where? From Germany?
R: Yes
I: Did you bring any from Cornwall?
R: No
I: The Cornish miners came before that, right?
R: Yes, yes!
I: They came about when?
R: Within a few months...a few months. Calumet was bringing over, I think from Cornwall.
I: Oh, I see
R: And I didn't want them.
I: And you didn't bring anybody from Cornwall. Did you bring anybody from Wales?
R: No
I: Only Germany.
R: I wanted people who wanted a job. I found in Wales, why they were all pretty well employed and I wanted people who really needed a job and the government was anxious...encouraged us to take them.
I: About how many did you bring over from Germany?
R: Now I've forgotten, I brought them over for ourselves and also for the
Copper Range. I guess I brought over three or four hundred.

I: Is that so! How many miners did you have altogether in those mines at that time?

R: Well, we were short of men. We had the ability to produce much more, that's what hurt us during the twenties. Detroit and the automobile section taking our employees and because it's difficult to operate a mine successfully if the price of copper is high enough at that time, but we couldn't get the production out because we were shy of men. That's why I went to Germany on my own. I mean Quincy paid the trip I took and we established the machinery by which we kept bringing over men; and after that then we had to keep the men satisfied by the first shipment we brought over...oh, I was wondering if we lost many of them. But I brought them over for both Quincy and Copper Range at that time. And then we'd bring over the wives. That was troublesome...some of the men had to go to Canada to meet their wives before they could...under the rules or the immigration laws, they had to come in that way. It made it difficult really because we wanted the men to have their families as well as themselves. Come over first to see what the job was like...they were more or less mining people we brought over.

I: Did you pay their fare over?

R:

I: For the family too, for the wives?

R: Yes, but they were supposed to return it out of their wages, a certain percentage of it.

I: But the men didn't have to return it, right? Just for the wives.

R: Oh no, the men were over here for good. They were over here for good

I: And they didn't have to return...you paid their way

R: Yes, we paid their way. Same with Calumet and Hecla, all of them did that.

I: What was the peak employment in Quincy? Do you remember the total number of men?

R: No, I don't

I: Two thousand?

R: Yeah, well over a thousand, yes; and that's what we needed. We needed about thirteen - fourteen hundred men at least.

I: Did they go to Detroit when Ford announced the five-dollar day?

R: That was...the five-dollar day was previous to that

I: I see, about what year?
R: This was 1923 when we had the trouble in '22; but it developed really right after World War I when the men got acquainted with those living outside too, you know. They made friends in the Army and many of them they being from Michigan, others from Michigan even Detroit area, they got friendly...they got meeting people. They got to know others, you know, and I guess the Finns...I don't know if the Finnish people went down to Detroit or not much. Finnish were more or less wedded to the ground...the area...ground, you know. After they got working in the mines, first thing they wanted to do was buy a home; and we used to have a lot of Finnish people that worked for us in the wintertime...and worked in our mines in the wintertime and the farms in the summertime. They enjoyed being out and working a farm; that was not so much work to them, was pleasure being out and seeing things grow and raising their own vegetables and corn and other things, you know. The Finnish people took to the lake area as I remember it. it seemed to be an area that may have reminded them somewhat of Finland. I guess Finland has a lot of snow, don't they?

I: Sure

R: At any rate, the Finnish first and in the old old days we had the Irish and the Cornish and the Germans and some other nationalities; but then we got into the other areas. Their children grew up and went into being attorneys and educated and looked for jobs outside the mines. That's the trouble. The younger people, sons of the miners, lot of them didn't go back into mining, you know. You know all about that and I do really. You grew up there...you know what it was.

I: Right...sure!

R: It's an area though, I think, the Finnish people enjoyed. I don't know how it compared with Finland really...I mean the winters and the snow and all that...but Lake Superior section is a pleasant area to grow up in and work in; but there wasn't that much, very little for the girls to do, you know, very little. So that at any rate, during the twenties, Quincy had a hard time really and then we had troubles also with what they called the "air blasts". You know all about that.

I: Yes

R: You heard them go off.

I: Did you have a lot of them?

R: Well, they came more or less...not too much, no. We got, by that time, able to control them to a certain extent by leaving larger pillars underground to hold the hanging and also by using some of the ground to make a really legitimate fill that would help hold the hanging...not just throwing away extra rock to get it out of the way, but use it as an extra means of support you might say roof. I call it hanging, you know or ceiling, you know.

I: Was that in the stopes?

R: Yes, that was in our stopes. No trouble in our drifts, really, and in our shafts we didn't have any trouble.
I: So the "airblast" was always in the stope.

R: Yes, that's the place where we opened up, you know, and the ground pressure got or the ceiling wanted to come down why it wouldn't break quietly. It was all rock hanging, trap rock, was pretty solid and it held together until it came down with a snap. And that's what we called an "air blast" really, because as it came down it feed a large body, it threw the air out through the drifts, you know. Gee whiz, that's pretty big pressure there when the roof of the stope fell in.

I: How high were the stopes? How many feet up?

R: Well, we ran a hundred and twenty feet between the levels...hundred and twenty feet.

I: So you'd stope halfway at least?

R: No, we'd go right up and we'd have a stope maybe a hundred feet this way, then we'd have unmined rock, pillar we'd call it, pillar of rock maybe fifty or sixty feet wide and then we'd have another stope then. That was to try to hold up the hanging and we had very few "air blasts". Almost none in the area in which we were working. It was after we got away from it the air blasts used to come. In fact, I've been in Lawton's home, we'd hear night time, evening...seven and eight or nine o'clock maybe...men underground and we'd hear one go off and maybe two or three, Lawton would pick up the telephone and call underground and ask whether there was any trouble down there."No, everything's all right" and very often they used to tell us, "We haven't even heard it down here." Because they were working, you know. "We haven't even heard it down here." I don't know as we ever lost a man from an "air blast" directly because they were areas that we had more or less abandoned and we left wide pillars at the shafts so it was an absolutely safe place. The men felt that the ground was becoming a little shakey, they'd get back to the pillars at the shaft.

I: If they lost...if there was loss of life, how did they lose it normally?

R: How did they what?

I: In what way...if they were killed, how were they killed then? Not by "air blasts" usually.

R: Men being careless.

I: Oh, I see.

R: We used to lay a fuse and maybe we had a thousand men or more under-
ground altogether, somehow or other we used to lose...seemed to lose two men a year. Funny! I remember one year we went up until about the 10th of December...we hadn't lost a man and between that and the end of December we lost two men. Wash all this monkeybusiness, somewhat; lost one man out in the shaft house and he tried to catch a pigeon. Pigeon came in the shaft house and he climbed up on the rafters there, you know, and thought he could grab the pigeon. He'd get about a foot away from the pigeon and the pigeon would fly away from him, you know. And he went to grab it and one fellow lost his balance and got killed trying
to catch a pigeon

I: Oh, I see

R: And underground almost entirely...very seldom was it really anything but the men's own fault.

I: When did the strike end?

R: Officially in March, 1914.

I: Who were the leaders of the strike?

R: Western Federation of Miners, I mean the union

I: Well, there was no union, but there was...was there?

R: Oh yes, they'd been getting in gradually. We had a union there for three or four years.

I: Oh, before the strike?

R: Yes, oh yes! They were just trying to build up their strength.

I: I see, and it was Western Federation.

R:

I: And they brought in leaders?

R: They were what?

I: They brought in leaders who called the strike then? Or did your own men call the strike?

R: They did most of it...they built up an organization quietly and slowly. The men were local then that were heads of the different purians.

I: How strong was the union at its peak?

R: Very strong.

I: Several hundred men...half the men? More than half?

R: Oh sure, ten or fifteen thousand were ready to go on strike. There were about eighteen thousand employed in the mines at that time.

I: Oh, throughout the country

R: The Copper Country

I: Copper Country, I see.

R: The Copper Range, the Quincy, Osceola Calumet and Hecla were running strong...
I: Oh they were going to call them all out.

R: They called everybody.

I: When did they call them off?

R: The 17th of July, as I remember, 1913...Monday morning

I: And the reason for it you were saying last time was that they objected to the one-man machine?

R: That was the battle cry...no one-man drill.

I: What were they after?

R: The easy life, naturally. We had two men on a drill. The old days there was steam drills...well they used to have compressed air, naturally, not steam; but they were heavy. We kept getting them lighter and improving the drills and in the west, they had the one-man drill in the west...we weren't putting in something new.

I: Oh yes, I see.

R: But we didn't have them up there and had two men to a drill and we did practically the same thing. We had one drill in front of two men here, and two men over here and they helped each other. Now, all we did was take the extra men off...I mean Calumet-Hecla, all of us did it, you know...had one man to a drill but each one helped each other. There was two drills to the team. When they're setting up this drill, the fellow over here was helping this man and then this one over here would help the other fellow. They worked as two drills and two men working as a team, helping each other. You get me?

I:

R: And they were close enough there so they wouldn't be maybe fifty feet apart; so instead of having four men up there, they only need one man to keep the drill going. But when you were going to move it, you need another helping hand and setting it up in the morning and taking it down in the evening.

I: Were they satisfied with the wages?

R: As far as I know, that wasn't discussed...that wasn't to come up

I: Did you meet with the union heads and discuss with them?

R: No, we had nothing to do with the unions.

I: Oh, I see. You didn't meet with them or discuss with them.

R: No, we didn't have anything to discuss at that time. We looked after the men. We could look after them better than the union...we take the position. We looked after...we had the doctors, you know, we looked after their health. The men claimed we made slaves of the men because they couldn't rent a house downtown...couldn't have their own physician
They could but see we rented our houses a dollar a room a month...six-room house, six dollars a month. That included everything.

I: And that was a bargain for them...that was a very fair and easy rent to pay...cheap

R: Yeah, surely. And for doctors we only charged a married man a dollar and a half a month...eighteen dollars a year. He couldn't pay anything more...hospital, everything...all doctors, we had our own drugstore up there but we didn't sell anything. Only could get at the drugstore what the doctor prescribed because we didn't want a competition with the drugstores in the towns. The single man paid a dollar a month. We used to say, he got stuck, but it cost us more money than that. We had in 1918-'15...we had five physicians full time. Not allowed to take outside practice. Had to work for the company. That was the whole district, you know, that was built up from the old days in 1840's when there wasn't any physicians up there.

I: I see, you brought them in

R: So the mining companies brought in doctors that were capable of looking after the men.

I: What were wages at that time? A dollar a month was cheap compared to the wages...was it compared to the wages?

R: Now wait a minute...I can't remember what the wages were at any particular period.

I: nd wages weren't an issue during the strike any way, you did.

R: I don't think so

I: Conditions...were they fighting about conditions in the mine

R: Well, they claim so.

I: What were they saying There were not good conditions for men to work or...

R: They used to claim that, yes. That's just a...you know drill, you've seen a drill...

I: Yes

R: ...has holes through it and we forced water there under pressure to go down to the end of the drill so what came up came up as a muddy water, you know. The dust is injurious to your lungs...if you inhale the dust. But the companies were...well, Calumet and Hecla too, you know, they controlled most of the companies...Big Jim McNaughton.

I: You knew him

R: Yes, sure

I: What kind of a man was he?
Very nice fellow. He came from...after he left the district working for the M. A. Hanna & Company and Calumet-Hecla and M. A. Hanna were very friendly and they brought Jim McNaughton back to Calumet. I've forgotten what year...1906 or '07, I guess, to be in charge of their operations. And he was a fellow, liked his own way, I guess...didn't like the men to push him around.

And he stayed until when? The 40's or somewhere like that?

He what?

He was there for a good long time, wasn't he?

I forget when he died.

1940 or somewhere like that or after that?

I don't think so...I don't think so. Well you ought to know that.

I knew him but I didn't know that well

Well, you remember him at the end, you know, he was sick for two or three years.

Right

And tied to his home or his bed. I don't know if he was paralyzed or not.

Was Calumet a good operation?

What?

Was Calumet and Hecla a good operation?

Surely

Well run and he was a good manager.

Yes, I think so.

And Copper Range was too, right?

Yeah, Copper Range had good men.

And you knew all those people.

Yes

Did you meet with them now and then?

Not officially...only as a guest. Otherwise we had no agreement between the different companies; but when the strike came, we all stood together. Did you ever see the magazine "The Truth"? We issued a magazine, I say by we I mean the companies...they called theirs "The Truth". In cleaning up here they found a batch of them here.
I: So you told them what it was like...the company's side of the story.
R: Yeah, sure
I: And you didn't meet or recognize the union
R: No
I: How long did the strike last then?
R: From July 17th until the middle of March
I: How could they stand to be out of work so long? How could the men live?
R: Well, they lived in our houses...we couldn't get them out.
I: But what about food and how could they, when they weren't working...that closed down the whole operation, didn't it?
   All the mines
I: And there were no people working then...only on the surface.

The miners went on strike the 17th of July. There wasn't anything done for a month...we didn't try to operate. I said "We", I mean the whole district. I think by the latter part of August, the mines decided they had to do something and get started. I know my father wrote the governor of Michigan to tell him we were planning to get started and the governor wrote back and asked us to wait, give the men more time to consider the situation; and my father wrote back that gee we'd been idle now for about five weeks, I don't see how things are going to change and not continue idle, so we're going to give the men a chance to go to work again and I think the other companies did it about the same time.

I

R: I don't know if they wrote the governor or not, but I know my father wrote the governor to tell him in advance what we were planning to do because we had a good governor. See at that time, the third day after the strike started, this is the middle of July and I think the National Guard normally went camping to camp usually in August. You may not know much about the National Guard.

I: Yes yes...they still do.
R: Oh, they still do. So the governor, the third day after the strike started, ordered the militia to go up into quarters up in the mining section.

R: To keep the peace.
I: Oh, I see.
R: The entire militia of the State of Michigan was ordered up there on the
third day after the strike started

I: 'ell, was there violence?

R: Yes, somewhat. They that were running it had a hell of a time. I wasn't up there...my father was there. My father landed there the morning the strike went on effect, he and Mr. Devro, another one of our directors. My father landed in Detroit by train Monday morning and got on the boat.

I: And he didn't know there was a strike.

R: Yes, he knew

I:

R: I called him on.

I: Did he go because of that?

R: I telegraphed him on the boat and he got my telegram; but we knew the men were going out.

I: What could he say about it...your father about it?

R: Well, he wasn't in favor of strikes anymore than anybody else.

I: Un hum...he felt badly?

R: I used to tell my men in the 1940's, committee of men sitting around here, it's not in the company's interest to have the men go out and I don't think it's in the interest of the men to go out, we've got to reach an agreement sooner or later, we're not going to have them idle forever; so why can't we reach an agreement tonight. What's the use of the men going out. That's what I'd tell them.

I: And so your father took the same attitude.

R: I mean this is the 1940's I'm talking about, that's after my father died and I never had a strike of the men from the time they unionized in 1941 and we didn't appose it because I knew we couldn't, was no use in those days because the war was on. Why from 1941 until we closed mining at the reclamation plant in 1967, we didn't have any strikes. Calumet and Hecla, Copper Range, Isle Royale, they all had strikes. I don't know, I always got along with Gene Saari. Gene Saari, I considered him my friend.

I: Yeah, good for you.

R: And, if I have to get along with a fellow, I'll get along with him. I don't care to fight him. He's working in the interest of the men. I claim I'm doing the same thing for our men.

I: Yeah, in 1913 it wasn't...well unions weren't recognized in those days, right?

R: Well, through the country they were, but we didn't in Michigan...they weren't.
I: Yeah, right.

R: They had unions maybe it was three or four years, but they...I don't know what they were doing, they were just gradually increasing their power really.

I: Yeah! Then did your father...they opened the mines again or...?

R: Yes, we opened the mines in the later part of August.

I: What did the governor say? Go ahead?

R: I don't remember...he was up there about every three or four weeks. He used to come up there and the miners would throw a parade for him.

I: Oh! So, they opened the mines. Did Calumet open too? And Copper Range and Isle Royale?

R:

I: And then what happened to the men who were on strike? Did they finally just go away to Detroit or what happened to them?

R: Well, they gradually came back to us, but you know we were a little rough at that time. The companies announced when the strike started immediately there'd be no change in working conditions...no change in wages and no union man would be employed in the future.

I: Oh, I see. If they joined the union they were...you wouldn't hire them back.

R: Yeah, we'd hire them back if they turned in their card. Surely, that was a rule when we opened the mines. Any union man had to turn in his card.

I: How did the union feel about it when you opened the mines?

R: 'ell, actually they didn't like it.

I: But they couldn't do anything about it.

R: Yeah, surely, they had the mob at the shaft houses every morning.

I: Oh, they did. Was there violence?

R: No, not much; but most men have to have their wives take them to work and also come around to take them in the afternoon. Had a howling mob.

I: Their wives took them to work?

R: At the shaft houses.

I: s a protection.

R: The union men were shouting their heads off...sometimes stopped the men going underground and the men had to go through these men. They couldn't
get through unless they had their wives with them. Would let a man go through if he had his wife.

I: Oh, is that the way it was done. Never heard of that.
R: Never heard of that?
I:
R: Yeah
I: So most of the men were back about when...the end of the year or the beginning of next year or when?
R: They got in very few at the start actually, very few, but we had bosses you know, went to work. Was very few to start with. I don't remember how many.
I: But gradually they came back?
R: Yeah
I: Until...then did the union call the strike off in March, did you say?
R;
I: Of 1914
R: We so far won that time that it was merely a just an official calling off.
I: Formality too, yeah.
R: By the first of January why the company's had practically won.
I: Did the leaders go back to somewhere where they came from?
R: I don't know. I think they developed locally their leaders before they called the strike. I don't think they sent many men from Omaha or west.
I: Oh, I see.
R: I don't think so. I think they'd become very strong by the time they called the strike in July.
I: Did you have the feeling they were Communists?
R: No! No, I never had that feeling.
I: So, they were just workers..
R: Wanting their own way, that's natural...that's natural
I: Was mining big during the war...the first war? Copper was up and you were busy?
R:
I: And in the 20's there were good times?

R: The strike was called off officially in March, 1914. We practically won
the strike by January, 1914. But World War I started August 1, 1914.
In other words, only a few months after the strike was officially called
off that the World War I started on the 1st of August, 1914. That was a
calamity, naturally. All wars are calamities. Nobody gains anything.
The strongest may win but that doesn't mean they're right by any means
and the World War...how the danger of misrepresentation, why Quincy
directors, naturally, hard problem to know what to do. But they votes...
we were going to bring in strike breakers. We had a fellow in New York
who came to us to try to help get men...we didn't know how to get what's
commonly called "scabs", you know; and my father said to him...we had
several meetings...neighborhood agencies, you know, getting men jobs.
At any rate this fellow, he was a Jewish boy from Poland, had an agency
in New York. He seemed a likable fellow and he wanted to hire men for
us. My father told him, "You got to go up the mine...look over the
conditions first. Just go up there as an individual, wander around.
Then when you come back, tell me whether you want to help us get men."
So, that's what he did; but our directors were afraid to have any of
our neighbor agencies employ men for us because they might misrepresent
conditions. So, our directors voted, Quincy, that all strike breakers
I had to employ. So, every Friday night we hired men in New York every
week.

I: Through that agency? Through that man?

R: Yes, but we'd meet at different places really, different not necessarily
in his quarters; and I'd get help there. The rules of the State of New
York, we had to notify the Labor Department of the State of New York
that we employed men that afternoon and they sent a man to see that we
didn't misrepresent. Tough days! Tough strikes, tough!

I: Were there a lot of new workers employed that way?

R: Well, I had a mob there always. Place jammed full

I: And you sent them by train to Quincy?

R: Yes, I employed men only for Quincy.

I: Were the other companies doing it too?

R: Yes

I: The same thing?

R: Yes

I: So you had a kind of a new labor force when the strike was over, right?

R: Partly.

I: Half?

R: I wouldn't think so.
R: The more I tried to scare them off, the more they were anxious to get up there to get in the fight.

I: So all of them didn't stay up there.

R: No

I: They came for a short time only?

R: First batch we sent up, we lost the whole batch the third day they got there.

I: They turned around and went back?

R: Well they went...the union got them another job down near Chicago. They got...induced them to all leave.

I: Oh, so they didn't do you any good.

R: Not the first batch. It taught us a lesson though. We had to know more about what was going on in the car too, you know.

I: They you were more successful with the new batches?

R: Yeah, we were successful

I: How many...do you have any idea of how many went from New York?

R: Oh, every Friday night we sent them from the middle or earlier part of October right through until January.

I: A little group of a half a dozen or...?

R: Oh no, forty

I: Forty?

R: Yeah, a car load. We hired an entire car.

I: I see.

R: Put the food on, took care of them all the way up and we kept them in the car until Monday morning. It scared a few of them once in awhile because the car would be going up in Michigan that way then they'd cart it back away because we wanted them to land there Monday morning by six o'clock and we had them underground about an hour after we got them there. Didn't want anybody getting next to them.

I: So you did that for quite a few weeks, forty a week?

R: Every time...they'd get there Monday morning, get them underground. We wanted them to see what the conditions were. Not have anybody scaring them out in advance and along the line there from Houghton south, why there was nothing but a long line of electric lights...they stopped... cars being mobbed by strikers. Tough days!
I: I see. They knew they were coming, did they?

R: Oh surely...surely. Most of the cars got there without any windows in them. Cities...Detroit, other cities when the cars were in the station, had Eastern cars...New York Central, Lacawana, Erie...haven't got those in Michigan...it was known there were strike breakers in them and they'd throw rocks through or stones through.

I: Oh, I see.

R: We used to have the men lay on the floor and put the seat cushions on top of them trying to keep what came through the windows away from them. Awful! Any man showed a weakness, we gave him a ticket back to New York quick.

I: And you kept doing that for several months?

R: 

I: Forty a week?

R: 

I: Did most of them stay once they came up?

R: I don't happen to know...I don't happen to know.

I: Was 'arren Bell working for you at that time?

R: Now you've got me. I remember his name, but I don't remember just when he was working for us. Don't remember, somehow.

I: Then you took over as President in 1924?

R: That's right

I: You're father passed on

R: May 22nd, 1924.

I: How old was he?

R: Eighty-seven, practically. He was minus three weeks of being eighty-seven years old. If he'd lived the middle of June would have been his birthday...he'd been eighty-seven.

I: And then they asked you to take over?

R: Well, they had an Annual Meeting already called, you know. Father died just, oh, ten days before the Annual Meeting and the directors elected me President, that's all. I'd been more or less active...I'd been through the strike with them you know...the directors knew me well. I was Vice President at the time. I came into Quincy to sell the copper in 1901 instead of selling it through brokers...looking after our own business. My father had the idea that we should be looking after our own business rather than through brokers or manufacturers walking in the office.

And that worked better, did it?
against the company." And I've been instructed...I was up in Michigan...
to inquire and make sure that you're in active charge of operations
and we find everywhere and asked people in the street, who's looking
after affairs. I say, I went into a drug store just said, "Who's
with Quincy Mine up in New York...who's the managing man?" And they
told me, "Todd!" Michigan Tech went over and "Oh, we work for Mr.
Lawton, but he and Parsons Todd work as a team." Was well known that
I was in charge. All right, they say, "We don't care whether you take
the salary or not, but you've got to have the directors meet and fix
a salary for you and that salary must be part of the cost of how much
copper you produce. We'll pay you a certain amount per pound over the
cost." Do you understand?

I: Un hum

R: "And that salary of yours has got to be included. You don't have to
take it." They asked me why I didn't take it? I told them the company
couldn't afford to pay me. Where now they can afford to pay me.

I: So you...then did you begin to take a salary at that time?

R: They asked me "What salary?" I said, "I don't care how much, how about
five thousand dollars. Would that suit you?" They said, "Yes!" So I
had the directors pass a resolution paying five thousand dollars. No,
I didn't take it 'til 1947. I left the money with the company.

I: I see. And you continued until now without...

R: No, when we got prosperous and got the government paid off. See, I
borrowed a million and a quarter dollars from the government in 1941...
in the spring of 1942 to put up the reclamation plant and we needed all
the money that we had; so I didn't take anything. But in 1947 after I
got the loan paid off, it was going on our books, five thousand a year.
You know, that was voted by the directors and voted on our books. I
had that credit on our books, you understand, five thousand a year and
when we were making money, then I took it and I drew a salary after
that and most of the time since then. Sometimes I...the directors and
I had my McCullah Hall out here, you know, and instead of a salary I
asked them to make a contribution to my foundation and so, most of the
time in the 50's and 60's, yeah most of the time that time I got some-
thing...either salary directly or to my foundation which owns McCullah
Hall. I never drew anything large for it...and just, I was drawing a
salary in early...they didn't give me a salary, I never got a salary,
just during the year they vote to give me eight thousand or ten thousand
for the year...do you understand?

I: Un hum,

R: I'll vote to give it to my foundation. So that's the same thing as a
salary because I was interested. That money, you know, I can't touch
except to give away for regular purposes, I mean, charitable purposes
for McCullah hall and things like that. But I can't touch it myself,
I don't draw any salary from my foundation. I'd be in trouble if I
took it; in fact one time I did get in trouble for a few months. The
first of the year my foundation had money and I was borrowing a little
money instead of the bank, personally. And so gee...so I borrowed it from my foundation and paid them interest, you know. I paid it off in April but the government was on my neck because I'd borrowed money from my foundation; but still they passed it all right because the books showed that instead of paying the bank interest...

I: You paid them.

R: Yes, may have been twenty or thirty thousand dollars, something like that. Just I was trying to use the money in the foundation and get additional income for it. Do you understand?

I: Instead of leaving the bank there...no particular use for it for the moment...why I borrowed it myself so they'd get the interest on it.

I: Was your father the major stockholder?

R: No

I: For Quincy?

R: No, we were never...I told you before, we weren't rich. Good family and all that background, but we didn't have money. My father had...used to say, "Gee, I haven't got much money but I seem to have more than any other member of the family." So when some members of the family needed help, he was helping them. Do you understand?

I: Yes

R: Helping them. Mr. Mason was the major stockholder and my father...see, he got his job through Mr. Mason, I think I told you, in 1859 met him on the lake boat taking a trip on the boat from Detroit and he had tuberculosis and he needed a job in a healthy climate and Mr. Mason gave him a job. Then when the war was over and my father got back to New York, he naturally went in to see Mr. Mason, I guess. Mr. Mason gave him a job in the New York office and he became secretary in 1870 or the other, treasurer, I've forgotten which, I think it was secretary and a few years later treasurer. So, he was secretary and treasurer of the company from about 1870 until Mr. Mason died, then he became president.

I: Mr. Mason was the largest stockholder?

R: Yes, he was the one that controlled the company and had considerable stock.

I: Who got his stock after he died?

R: Well, his son got it first, then his son died a year afterwards and then his son's wife got it.

I: Does that family still have it?

R: No...no, I don't know what's happened to them. That was...oh gees...
seventy-five years ago...almost seventy-five...that was 1901.

I: What's the total stock-float of Quincy?

R: Number of shares out?

I: Yes, number of shares.

R: A hundred and twenty-seven thousand...in about, I've forgotten, '73 or something like that.

I: And the major part of that...it's a public...and the shares are exchanged on the New York Stock Exchange?

R: No, they're Boston Stock Exchange.

I: Boston.

R: Yes, Boston used to be an important financial center years ago. See, Quincy was in Boston Stock Exchange...I don't know...in 1860 or something like that. Stock exchange...I wrote them a letter and asked them whether they could tell us when the Quincy was listed on the Boston Stock Exchange, but they couldn't. They didn't have the record.

I: And it's still listed there.

R: Yes, yes we pay for the listing and the First National Bank of Boston is transfer agent and registrar.

I: Is there any activity in the stock?

R: Oh, a few shares sell once in awhile, not much.

I: But those who hold them keep them?

R: Yes

I: What was the highest value of the stock? What was the highest price the stock ever brought?

R: I think a hundred and eighty-five dollars a share

I: What was the lowest? What did it start at?

R: Well, its par value is twenty-five dollars. The people who bought the stock originally, the companies up on the lake used to call assessments, you know. They called a certain amount to get started and as they needed more money they'd ask the stockholders for something more. All the stock companies listed up there used to and would call it gradually as they needed the money to get started. The par value of twenty-five dollars, five dollars paid in or something like that and then they called on the stockholders some more as they opened up the mine.

I: So most people who had the stock early paid twenty-five or did it open at par?

R: Par was twenty-five...twenty-five dollars a share is the par. That's the par of today value.
I: What about when the company opened? What was it worth? Do you have any idea?

R: No! I know about...let's see. Betty out here one day saw in the paper, local paper of ours, stocks up there in 1900 and she asked me, "What'd Quincy sell for in 1900?" "I've forgotten," I said it quickly, "a hundred and five...hundred and ten, I don't remember." "Here it is, you're only two dollars off."

I: Is that right! What's it worth today?

R: You used the wrong word. What's it selling for?

I: Yeah, what's it selling today, I mean...yes, right

R: As far as I know, last sale I know of I heard was thirty-one dollars a share.

I: Well that's good isn't it.

R: No

I:

R: No

I: What should it be?

R: Fifty or sixty.

I: Well it's worth...well, like most stocks on the market, it's worth much more than it sells for, right?

R: In some cases we've got twenty-eight dollars a share in Treasury notes

I: You have?

R: Wait a minute, I made a mistake. About sixteen dollars a share...we've got a million five hundred and forty thousand dollars in Treasury notes at present time in our treasury. Stocks we own that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and others, we have over four million dollars. And we own 520 Fifth Avenue, worth a million dollars. At the present time we're only getting thirty-eight dollars a month rent; but by the first of June, we'll be getting about a hundred dollars a month rent. The old lease, we bought it in our lease, a twenty-five year lease of twenty-five dollars rental, I mean thirty-eight thousand dollars rental a year. Now we'll be getting the first of June about a hundred thousand dollars on the new lease. Well, in 1954 when we bought it a thirty-eight thousand dollar rental wasn't a bad rental. That covered all...in addition to taxes and insurance, net rental. At fifty---that's the way worth a million dollars, 693 Maddison Avenue we considered worth a million dollars also. Look at the store in New York when you're in there.

I:

R: Corner of Sixty-Second Street and Maddison Avenue. Quincy Fifth Avenue
store is at 520 Fifth Avenue. That's along side the Guarantee Trust Building at the corner of 44th Street and Fifth Avenue.

I: So the value of the company today is not only in the Superior Lake District, but also in New York.

R: We built up this company. At the end of the Reclamation Plant, we'd closed up the company, we didn't consider the values underground justified future operations and so I hung onto some of the money we were making during the Reclamation period and invested it in securities and New York real estate. The 520 Fifth Avenue, the Stock House standings is only a hundred and fifty-thousand dollars; it's worth a million. We own all the stock. 693 Maddison Avenue, the Stock House standing, that's two hundred thousand, it's worth a million. We have the mortgage paid off, we bought it with a mortgage. 66 Park Avenue when we sold, we got it in Treasury notes. We've got assets worth eighty - seventy-five dollars a share if you cashed them in.

I: Without counting any of the...

R: Without counting the mine...nothing up in Michigan

I: My goodness!

Stop in tape.

Can you tell something about how you see the future of the mining...I don't mean all the other assets which you say are worth seventy-five dollars on a thirty-one dollar stock...

R: Maybe they're seventy...I haven't figured it out

I: But anyway, worth double

R: Oh surely.

I: More than double.

R:

I: But what do you say about the future of Quincy Mines?

R: I don't know. It all depends on the future of the world to some extent. I believe that all the natural resources underground in the United States, oil and everything else, in time will be needed. I don't think they're going to throw away a lot of copper...there's a lot of copper up there in Michigan. You believe that!

I: Yes, and you always felt optimistic about it. I know you did.

R: The copper that Copper Range has...they're not making any money at the moment but they have an immense amount of copper underground there.

I: Yes, and Quincy has a lot of copper.

R: Yes, and Calumet and Hecla copper.
I: And some day they're going to open up? Would you be for the kind of thing that Calumet is doing? We're having Homestake come in and send their crews in to look at it?

R: I shouldn't talk to you! It's against all the rules; but confidentially, Homestake...I sat on this sofa when the First Vice President of Homestake was in a month ago...I've talked to Homestake and Homestake has several men underground two weeks ago, down on No. 8 Shaft on the tenth level. Haven't got anything in...we're about to buy a hoisting agent on our No. 8 Shaft. I'm going to get started in some way and see whether I can do something with Quincy...in a modest way.

I: Marvelous!

R: Not in any...I don't want to use much of a capital; but our extra income beyond our dividends I want to put in our mine. We've waited a long time idle...now that's not...I mentioned it in the last annual report that had a plan to do something in that mine and we've got more than the bottom of the mine and I don't know how we're gonna get it out at the moment. The laws in the State of Michigan are against, I'm told, dumping water from mines, well, don't meet certain water standards. I think I can handle it, I believe I can. At any rate, we've got to get down and get to the water and get some samples and analyze it, see what we got there. Amazing, the mine's been idle for thirty years and hasn't filled with water. We don't draw much water.

I: That's amazing! And it's a good thing too for the future, right?

R: I know we went down a thousand feet to the twelfth level, the men were down there a few weeks ago...several scientists...and some of the...Homestake were in charge of it really, this trip. That's confidential.

I:

R: It isn't out yet, really, although they must know it up there; and we're about ready, have been negotiating for a hoist engine and Louie thinks he's got one. Well, we've got to (?) him somethings. But we're only going to put a temporary hoist in there to get...take a look underground to see what we can do. But I've layed dormant as long as I...longer than I want to lay dormant. You understand?

I:

R: Whether we can successfully update the mine, I don't know. But we've got copper down there and I don't believe...I believe all the natural resources within the United States sometime will be desired. We're not gonna kill out all ourselves, are we?

I:

R: This country is going to grow, I believe. I don't rest on those speculation and all that...you know, from my standpoint, the New York Stock Exchange and the days of gambling, gild it in the world. Everybody wants to gamble you can go to the New York Stock exchange and either win or lose. It only goes one way, up or down.