

Helen Andriacchi's
interview with Martin D. Tasson.

Me: When & where were you
born?

M.T.: June 21, 1929, in ~~Chicago~~
Chippewaug.

Me: What are the names of
your parents?

M.T.: Michael & Teresa Tasson.

Me: What did your parents do for a
living?

M.T.: My father was a miner
for the CCI iron co.

Me: What are the names of your
brothers & sisters?

M.T.: Francis, ~~Bill~~ Michael,
Lewis, Salvator, Angelo
Catherine, Rose, Jenny,
Genavive, Elizabeth, and
& Teresa.

✓ Me: Are you currently married?

✓ MT: Yes, I am.

✓ Me: What is your spouse's name?

✓ M.T.: Bue

✓ Me: What are the names of your children?

✓ M.T.: ~~Gregory~~ Gregory & Bridget.

✓ Me: How long have you been working in the iron industry?

✓ MT: 43 years

✓ Me: Why did you choose to work in the iron industry?

✓ MT: If you wanted to stay around here, that's where you had to work for the Cleveland Cliffs.

✓ Me: Please name those relatives who have worked in the iron industry.

✓ MT: Well, I had uncles, parents & a couple of my brothers at various times.

Me: What are the names of the various mines or buildings you have worked in?

MT: I worked, I started at the Engineering Department of the Main Office at a CCF building in Clsh. I worked at the Atumoldt mine the Ohio mine, I worked at the Research lab in Clsh, I worked at the ~~Coal~~^{pellet} Plant down in Eagle Mills and ~~the~~ Empire & Tilden some of the underground mines.

Me: Over the years, what kind of duties have you performed for CCF?

MT: I was a Company ^{Chauffeur} ~~Couffer~~, I was a Surveyer, I was a drilling & blasting Engineer or foreman, & I think that's about it.

ME: In as much detail as possible, please describe the main duties of your current job.

MT: Well, my current job, I'm retired, but when ~~my~~ I left, my current job was a Blasting Foreman at the Tilden Mine.

Me: Did this job require any special training or higher education?

MT: yes, it did, we had a lot of education & training on the job, plus other educational groups from the Ish-peming School System and also from Tech and various other places.

include

Me: Please describe any special machinery or equipment that you used on the job.

MT: Well, I didn't use them, but the people I worked with used loaders, trucks, tractors, dozers, & the survey crews used instruments our selves, I used transits and the , and levels, and instruments of surveying & drafting equipment.

include

Me: what was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

MT: Well, getting the job done correctly and trying to save the company money and keep the job going.

possible quote

Me: Thinking back over the years, what
was the most ~~other~~ challenging
or difficult duty you had to perform?
explain why.

include
MT: all of your engineering work is
challenging and is difficult, and, also
the drilling & blasting is also cha-
llenging & difficult.

Me: Over the years, what have you enjoyed
the most about your job?

include
MT: Well I think being competitive & working
with people & trying to perform your
job right.

Me: What were the biggest responsibilities of
your job?

possibly quite
MT: I think the welfare of your people that
work for you watch their safety.

Me: Where you ever involved in any of the
most dangerous situations?

include
MT: Oh yes, I ~~was~~ involved in one that we had
a blasting accident, no one, fortunately, got hurt,
but it was quite dangerous & the situation
was quite serious.

Me: Have you been involved in or
have you witnessed any accidents?

MT: Yes, I have been involved in them
& I've also witnessed many
accidents.

Me: Please describe them.

MT: Some of the accidents were trucks,
dozers, some of them you'd get
cut or hurt in the field when
we worked with the surveying
crew.

Me: Could you describe either the most
unique or perhaps humorous
situations you have ever seen over the
years.

MT: Well, I think there's a lot of humorous
situations, actions of people, and the
different re-actions of the people.

Me: Please describe your working con-
ditions.

MT: They were very good, I had prob-
ably, the conditions were probably
made by myself, so, I insisted they
were good.

Me: How have safety standards
changed? what improvements
do you see are yet to be made?

MT: They have come a long way & the
CCF is very safety minded & the
welfare of their people probably
comes at the top of the list.

*include
& quote*

ME: How have you seen the duties of
your job change over the years?

MT: They have changed over the years
from 1948-1991-92 quite consider-
ably, in forms of different mat-
erials & different equipment &
the use & made it easier & it
made it more 'course it's more
technical, too.

include

Me: Please describe what your co-
workers were like.

MT: Very good, they were very good to work
with & you had to to keep the job
going.

Me: Do you remember any special stories that stand out about them?

MT: Oh, we have a lot of humorous stories, but, they're too numerous to mention.

Me: During your career, were you involved in any special projects, or have you implemented any new programs?

MT: Oh sure, I worked, I was an initial start up of Humboldt, & Tilden. I worked at various places like that I was initiated or was involved in the starting up of...

Me: Have you ever won any awards or have you ever been recognized in any way for your job performance?

MT: Oh, sure on various occasions and also a safety award for four years with no lost time accident for myself.

Me: At any time did you ever think of changing your job or career?

changing jobs or career?

MT: Oh, I guess everybody does at one time or another.

me: What do you think the ~~future~~ future holds for the Tilden & the Empire?

MT: I think the future is very great & it better be for this area & its a great ~~company~~ company & the 2 mines are very good.

me: What does the future look like for the iron & steel Industry in general?

MT: Well, It's going to downsize, but, their going to have to be competitive, those who are competitive are going to stay in the business.

me: ^{what} Do you feel must be done in the future for CCI to remain competitive?

MT: For any, not only for the CCI but
for any company to remain com-
petitive & ^{they're} ~~that~~ going to be kind of
cratailing their costs & keep progress
going: keep their research going & ~~their~~
they're doing this very well.

me: what do you think has been the key
to success for CCI where other com-
panies have failed?

MT: I think the loyalty of the emplo-
ees plus the ~~manag~~ management's
the employee cooperation.

*Possible
quote*

ME: Looking far into the future, how do
you think history will remember the
Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company?
it's workers?

MT: Well, they've been over a 150 years
now: I think ~~that~~ they're going
to be here for another 150 years, so, they'll
look at them as very good.

*Possible
quote*

Me: How has the role of women changed
and what direction will it take in the
future?

MT: well, there were very few women
working in the mining itself &
the offices and that they did, but,
I think right now, I under-
stand, they have women driving
trucks & tractors and I imagine
they're going to work right in.

Me: What skills do the young people
of today need to develop if they
plan to work for CCI someday?

MT: Loyalty, they'll have to have
loyalty. *include - quote*

Me: I'm a related question, what
advice could you give in general
to the student of today?

MT: Well-learned knowledge
is probably no wait, so,
learn all, take all that
you can get out there &
use it.] quote

Me: Are you now or have you
ever been a member of a
steel workers union?

MT: I have never been a mem-
ber of a steel workers union.
I've always been on
the management's side.

Me: Have you ever experienced
being on strike?

MT: I experienced our people
being on strike. I've been

on every strike for the last
I think I've only missed
1 in the last 45 years, so,
I was on the other side of the
fence.

Me: How does a strike actually
begin?

MT: Disagreement between the
steel workers & the department
of ~~Manufacture~~ the Cleveland
Cliffs or the management peo-
ple.

Me: How many employees does a
strike usually involve?

MT: Well, it involves 100% of
the bargaining unit people.

Me: What is the purpose of a picket line and describe what happens there?

MT: Well, it is to support their belief and what they're fighting for and what they're on strike for.

Me: Do you know of any interesting stories about an incident on a picket line?

MT: Well, not really because I didn't have to stay on the picket line, but, there were some when they would stop us from going in sometimes before my time in the strike of '46, at the Mather A, we had quite a few fights

emphasize that
key on the management side
include

out there, they turned cars
over, and I was just in
high school then. I ex-
perienced that because my
dad, my father, my uncle
were working at the mines
at that time, and, there was
the shooting, other than that
I guess they're pretty well
organized now.

Me: In general, what is the
most interesting or unique
story that you can remem-
ber from any time the
workers were on strike?

MT: Well, there's a lot of
stories, but I just probably can't
think of any good one right
now.

me: In your opinion, why
is a ~~ste~~ steel workers
union so important to
the workers?

MT: Well, because they need some-
body as an organizer;
somebody to keep negotiating
between the company & the
union members.

me: Please describe what you enjoy
doing in your spare time?

MT: Almost everything: hunting, fishing,
running around, out in the woods,
and working around the house
helping them out once in a
while.

me: If you had to do it all over
again, would you make the same
career choice?

MT: Oh sure, I would, they've
been good to me, that
was a good company as
far as I'm concerned.

Me: Looking back over the years,
what impressions stand out
most in your mind con-
cerning your association with
CCI?

MT: Oh, they've always been good
to me, I, of course, was ~~also~~
always good to them, too, so,
I think it works both ways.



Me: Before we end the inter-
view, is there anything else
that comes to mind that



you would like to add?

MT: NO, other than just work
hard & get smart.


me: Thank you.


MT: Thank you.


background info. - green 
union strikes - blue pink 


accidents: past - present safety standards - yellow 
jobs held - purple 

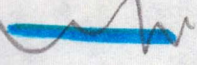
responsibilities - ~~blue~~

required training; machinery for ~~class~~ jobs - blue 

co-workers; stories about them. - yellowish 

special projects, openings - orange 

future - brown 

~~light blue~~ 

green
purple/blue
~~green~~
yellowish
yellow
pink
brown