

Walter Steffl

- 0:54 people from Czechoslovakia
- 1:16 how he fell in love with steam engines
- 1:36 rr he fell in love with is torn up now
- 2:28 talks about love for steam engines
- 2:35 2300s, 2200 passenger engines, remembers them well
- 3:00 first engine he remembers was a 5999
- 3:48 small Mallets of NY Central ran where he lived
- 4:24 last passenger trains he remembers were 4750 class
- 5:06 explains the term "Mike" – Mikados, 2-8-2 engines
- 5:20 H10s were the biggest Mikes
- 5:28 mentions Mallets
- 5:48 decline of railroad: "now it's all torn up"
- 6:18 "rest of the property is all gone." Some old ties still there
- 6:50 talks about Mallets – 2-6-6-2
- 7:02 train yard used to be full of empties, now no yard at all!
- 7:13 "never thought everything could be wiped out like it is now"
- 8:13 story about hobo camp; used to "mess around with them" as kids
- 8:54 "always something cooking" in hobo camps
- 9:34 explains erie-wheeling line
- 17:00 used to ride train to wheeling with family and go shopping
- 17:55 big 2300 engines on this passenger train
- 18:22 talks about where mother went shopping in wheeling
- 19:27 those trains built at alcove plant (or alcoa?) in schenectady
- 19:43 mallets built by Baldwin
- 20:18 talks about working as machinist's helper in Brewster (?), OH
- 21:46 laid off because of diesel trains, so went to work at mines for 8 years
- 22:00 talks about work at mines
- 24:47 worked in mines for 25 years
- 25:20 father went to work in mines at 12 yrs.; injured when roof fell in on him
- 28:00 three siblings
- 29:00 sister and father (or grandfather?) died on same night
- 30:09 mother came from Czechoslovakia; father born in Illinois of Czech descent
- 30:33 doesn't know how parents met
- 31:30 talks about Czech music and dances. Everyone had an accordion.
- 31:58 some got so drunk they couldn't play
- 32:34 mom spoke English and Czech; spoke Czech at home
- 33:10 but forgot how to speak it after getting married
- 34:40 talks about Near Central RR
- 34:54 talks about Dillonvale
- 35:35 talks about train yard there
- 36:34 explains what a sandhouse is
- 37:42 talks about turning trains by hand on the turntable
- 40:00 explains how mines coordinated with railroads
- 40:56 also went to Mingo to get steel for the mills
- 41:19 sometimes trains jumped tracks; talks about wreck in the 40s at Unionville

42:46 talks about other kinds of wrecks

43:33 cousin got run into head-on once while driving a train

44:33 tells story about Old Man McHenry getting hit by train when he was little