

LL-3, "Foundry Work and Job Safety"

Transcript: p. 10

Text portion for pop-up/audio alternative

Time-line: Decade V, Decade V, Local and National, 1940-1941, "Bridgeport Brass receives orders ..."

Oh, yes it was hot. All foundries. Like my father, he worked in a brass shop for forty-three years on Housatonic Avenue, you know where Housatonic Avenue is. In that section there. That job was so dirty, when I was a kid I remember he used to have to wear long underwear, you know what the Italians used to call "muja..." --I forgot. I used to speak Italian pretty good when I was a kid because I had a tutor, you know. But now I can't. It's all past me. Well anyway, they used to wear that, the fellows there, and because of the fire, the sparks from the metal, they used to hit you or something like that. Lots of people got scars from there...

Oh, yeah, because it would be flying and at that time there was no OSHA there, you know, and these companies did work without any government behind them, as far as safety is concerned. The foundry was sometimes so black in there, the dirt, the dust and everything. But what gets me, I had seen some black fellows that had college degrees that came out, maybe around after the war or something like that, where they couldn't find a job. You know, a decent job, or anything. They worked at the foundry in order to live. They had college degrees and everything like that, it was rough...