## The following transcript of Bruno Taus's interview

on

## Memories and Music

(broadcast in November 1974)

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INTERMIEWEE: RM Bruno Taus TAPE NO: 98

INTERVIEWER:

THEME: Ousebell

Well now folks we have an interesting guest, another interesting guest on "Memories & Music." Mr. Bruno Taus and we can give us a little hint right at the kg beginning at we're going to talk alot of baseball. Because in many ways baseball has been Mr. Taus' life. He's played ball, he loves it, he, kkk its, its been very much part of his life here in the North. But we've, k to start out with sir, when did you retire from kk Inco?

B.T. 1972.

And how long had you been with the company?

B.T. 26 years.

As I understand it that . . . khak there was some problem that you left the company. But that Mr. Parker rehired you.

- B.T. It was just a misunderstanding between a few of the boys and myself and I was let go. Mr. R.D. p Parker from found out about it. He brought me back to work. X O.K. he knew the whole story, he was told that the km truth and I was brought back and I went back to work at the concentrator where I first started.
- Now Mr. Taus so txt that we know you better, where are you from X, where's your place of birth?
- B.T. Copper Cliff, Ontario.

  Another of the real natives of the area, that we've had.
- ACT. You were there for, you would go to school in . . . or at least what year were you born in X Copper Cliff?
- B.T. In 1910, I went to public school at Copper Cliff.

  Who was some of the fellows kkt that you went to school with?
- B.T. Roland Pullal, Ted Wilson, Jack Bradley, George MacKerry, and Chakato brothers.

I know Mr. Taus, that some of these fellows will, maybe be listening to this war broadcast and as I think you in told me. We're getting a little bit ahead of x ourself 'cause some of them played pretty good ball in here. What about Longfellow?

B.T. Roy Longfellow played third p has base.

Was he a good hitter or not?

B.T. He was a very good hitter and also he had a terrific a m

for a third base man.

Good.

B.T. And a,

And a, maybe we'll k have him on, we're going to ask him about your kikking pitching because he can only say something nice about it now, eh. You're handling this very well Mr. Taus. How about . . . Mr. McKay, George MacKay, did he paay ball?

B.T. Well he was, yes he was a catcher, and he was terrific and I always xxx x said he wasm one xxx of the best catchers we ever had in this district. Why he xxx quit, I'll never know and you can't get x it out of George.

Fair enough. Excuse me what about Mr. Wilson and the Chakeo brothers.

B..T. Well Ted Wilson, he's a d the druggist in Copper Cliff. We used to get all, all our, you know, like . . . ledamente for all our ailments and he was always at the ball game and his father was a great . . . baseball fan, also.

Those were great years for baseball, eh Mr. Taus? Those were great years for baseball.

B.T. It sure was. '

Well we now we have to get to you, to know you a little better Mr. Taus. You're a . . . your father was from Italy, is that correct?

B.T. Right.

When did x he come to Canada?

- B.T. Well he came to Canada, well I was born in 1910, he came to Canada . . . 1909 or 1908 or 1909 or 1910 as far as I can remember. Well now what about your, your, first of all what family, did you have brothers and sisters did you have Mr. Taus?
- B.T. I have sisters and five, four ker brothers beside myself and five, five and five, eh?

Now you were telling us that you, that your mother and some of the children went back to Italy for a while. Then eventually came back here again. What was that story?

B.T. Yes, I, I had two sisters and a brother, I they were going back to Italy with my mother and my brother and myself and while she was to school and while she was over there she had a baby girl and when she was must better to travel we came back to Canada.

O.K. well now Mr. Taus when you finished school, what did you do

Did you go to work?

B.T. No I just stayed at home at the store and helping my father and my brothers.

Oh that's correct your father had several stores at around here.

B.T. Right.

Where were the stores?

B.T. The store was in Copper Cliff. We had one in Coniston and he had another in Sudbury, a little one in Sudbury and another one in Garson.

I know that old timers will remember them a, the Taus Grocery stores. No, no doubt about that. But now when you were still very young, you got interested in baseball. About how old were you when you became a I think a mascot Mr. Taus?

B.T. Well if I x xxxx remember right I was 7 years old.

That's, that's a pretty good age. Were you, were you number 1 mascot or were there a couple of khusz others?

B.T. No there was number 1 mascot was (unintelligible) and his assistant x was Roy Longfellow and I was Roy Longfellow's assistant.

Right.

B.T. And we just chased balls and
And make yourself useful, eh?

B.T. And x make x ourself useful around the ball park.

And dox you think that this is where you, you developed your, this life long interest in baseball?

B.T. That's right.

Did you play . . . ball at school as w well?

B.T. A kittle. The park was so close of to the school that we didn't have to go to far.

Well now when you finshed, at what age did you finish school or did your father not want you to go to college here in town? Or just what was that story Mr. Taus?

B.T. Well I didn't want to go to public school any more, I was interested in baseball and hockey. So he tried to put me, going to this college here, Sacred Heart College in Sudbury and I ran away. . . I went back home and I, my father well then he got a, peeved with, at me and he, I worked in the store and helped around and, and played ball and a little bit of hockey.\*

B.T. I coached a hockey team in 19 . . . the Vadakinnes in Copper Cliff.

But now you're getting a kk kk little bit ahead of, here Mr. Taus.

B.T. Oh

Well you may not be but you started playing ball now about at age 14 wax with the junville team in Copper Cliff, is that correct?

B.T. Right.

What position were you playing?

B.T. Left fiedk field.

What did you not, were you not given a xxx chance to be a, to be a pitcher? Now want what, what brought that on?
Mx Or how did you, how did you find out that you could pitch, could be a xx pitcher?

B.T. Well it was a ball hit deep left and a man running from second and I wanted to throw him out at home plate and I threw the ball from left fx field, x right over the grandstand and Mr. Flind didn't like that very mx much.

So tell us more.

B.T. And he asked me why I throw it over the grandstand, well a I didn't mean to throw it over the grandstand, I wanted to throw it to the catcher to throw that were runner out. So then he, the next day or at practise he kept me out in the left field, for an hour, an hour and a half throwings the ball to the catcher on two jumps and when he thought I was ready, he put me back to play.

(unintelligible) Well whow we, we got you, we got, you started some formal training as a ball player now. But we haven't got you pitching. Under what circumstances in x did you pitch your first ball Mr. Taus?

B.T. Well I put pitch the odd game that in, that didn't mean too much in Copper Cliff. But the first real game I putched was in Espanola. When one of our pitchers, a the only pitcher we had was Ronald Lapeare and something happended to his car that he couldn't not get to the game. So Mr. Todd Lee put me into pitch, oh I blew that game.

Well how didxx you blow it?

B.T. Well my control was bed and I didn't know how to deliver right, make until I came back home and I practised kepts practise, practising my throws and M my pitches and until I got much better.

Well you got ... we moved on now, we talking about 1927 and you're about 17 years old

or there abouts. You get some pretty good coaching Mr. Taus, did you not? Was it from

B.T. YEs

Bert Flin or some of these people.

B.T. Well, well Mr. Flin, we call him Mr. Baseball, he was one of the best and not only coach, he was one of the best ball players I have ever seen and . . .

But now . . . again as we were getting ready you told us about going down to Lemington and getting x into a ball game down there.

B.T. Yes we had two pitchers and one of the pitchers, his xxxx arm was pretty sore, he had pitched the day before and our very good pitcher was Art Choley. He was a left-hander and he had a blister on his finger and he, he was bleeding and & he couldn't go on. So Mr. Xxx Flin put me in which I, I was really scared (unintelligible) pitching against a pro ball club like that. But I went in and he, he encouraged me an awful lot and I did all right. I was in xx for 3 innings, I struck out 3 and I was doing O.K. and Father Alaurie came over and he said, son you did pretty good. I said, "Thank you, Father."

(unintelligible)

B.T. "I always do my best."

You couldn't, you couldn't wx go wrong with that answer so carry on k with the story if you will Mr.

B.T. So then a, there was a friend of mine that a, well a he was born in Copper Cliff and he knew me when I was a little boy, little baby, for John Desfeno. He was a h shortstop and a very good one know also. And when he come over to see me with these two gentlemen, they asked me if I'd go down to Detroit and pitch a game. Well Ixxxx said, "In Detroit, my god I, not me." "Well x they want you to come down and pitch a game. Win or lose they'll give you \$200." So I, I xixx said, "I'll go then Father, no Father Alairee, pardon me, Father Alairee said"you go son, you'll be all right. I'll have ax nice prayer, I'll say prayers forx you and I know you'll do all right." So I went with a friend of mine, Leonard Corvilla. He came with me and wex were to this hotel room to go to sleep and I couldn't sleep all night thinking about pitching down here in Detroit, my god I was scared. So at 5 o'clock in the morning I woke Leonard Corvilla up. I said, "Come on Len,"I said, "we're going home." He said, "No you're going to get \$200." Yeah all he was thinking about was the \$200. I said, "No Indom don't need it." I said, "My father mx got lots of money." I said, "I'k don't need that money." So away we went back to Windsor we had a little trouble getting across but a, the boarder but we made it. We got across all right, got into the street car and went right back to Lemington.

Well now Mr. Taus if you had gone down and pitched a game and pitched a good ball game in Detroit. You might have been picked up, you might wave, made it to the big league, do you think?

B.T. Oh I don't know. I think I was too xxxx small, I was scared anyway. I wanted to come back home to old Copper Cliff.

Oh, oh I suppose so but if it's, it's one of those little interesting . . . crossroads in x life, isn't it?

B.T. That's right.

There must be times when you say to yourself, you know I wonder what would have happened if I had stayed down there, to you?

- B.T. I did, yes, yes. I dreamt about it, too. But

  I think everyone of us, xxxx xxx everyone of us have come to
  a, to make a drawing decision one way or another, have we
  not?
- Well of course in your case there's nothing wrong to coming back to Northern &xxxx Ontario
- B.T. No I was glad to get back.

I think you (unintelligible) even better. Well now after you got back here to a . . Copper Cliff and we're kak talking around about 1928 I believe. You . . . you were, you got into one ball game and then you wax walked 13 men. Now that's axt alot of men to walk without being pulled (unintelligible)

B.T. K Well it's true.

What was that story?

B.T. Well I started to pitch and Bert had alot of faith in my pitching with my fast ball but I could not get it xxxx across thex plate. So he told some of the ball players and a gentlemen I, I don't remember his name. "I'm going to keep him in there, until I break him." And he did break me but I walked 13 men, I was sweating and he xx kept me in there until I got away from that walking so many men. And that was it, I was O.K. x from then on.

Now Mr. Taus we don't often get a chance to talk to a pitcher as you and I are talking, and I hope there are alot of ball fans listening in. What were you doing wa wrong and W what, what did you, how did you was correct it?

B.T. I corrected myself, I knew my pitches were wrong and my, my stanza at the pixts at the plate and my arm wasn't at the right spot, at the right time. So I start timing my pitches the heightand that means an awful lot. The height, if I was too higher'd come down a couple of inches and I trained my

arm to do so and then I was O.K. after that.

So that, that is how a pitcher thinks and that's how you were also able to correct it (unintelligible), eh?

B.T. That's right.

Mr. Taus we're around '29 now and as we were again as we were preparing for the kem broadcast you told me, I thought an interesting story about . . . how you're doing pretty well. 18 strike outs but you still lost to Sudbury, m now what was that story?

B.T. Yesk that was, we were all set to go to Timmins to play off with Timmins for the Northern Ontario & Mak Championship, which we were so sure of beating Sudbury St. Louis. The score was XXXX 2, 1 and \*\*\*xwxxxxxxxx I had two, two strikes on the batter and two out. The batter was George MacKay, I threw the pitch as hard as I could throw it, as I can \*\*x remember the ball hit the ground and George \*\*x \*\*x swung at it and knocked it over and my center fielder Jimmy Davidson, and \*\*\* \*\* right \*\*x\*\* into the creek. As a matter of fact, I, \*\*xxxxxxx\* I'm laughing at Jimmy Davidson. He comes in one day with an old ball, this was about 25 years after, he says, "Here's that ballx", he says, "That George MacKay knocked into the creek."

Mr. Taus, old ball px players they have a million stortes and they love to, to tell them and keep them alive. Now about a few years later, we're moving onto a 30, 40est or so, did your not get involved in a series down in Anthonie or something.

B.T. Yes. 1934 we went down to Antoine for to play for the southern Ontario Championship. All m kmrate local boys except one and we were we sure we could beat this team. Bob Deacon started the series which was the first game I we ever seen Bobby Deacon lose the first time he faced a ball team. So I went in for 3 innings and x in that game and I struck out 6 and the next day I went in and I pitched.

I beat Anthonie 1 nothing. I got 18 strikeouts and the next day I went in and for 5 kmmminnings and I was knocked out. Bobby Deacon went in and the score was 2, 1 for a Napanne although we still think we should be won that series and Bobby Marson, & Deacon held them back and they never got a hit and the game ended up 3, 2 mr I think it was or 2, 1.

Now after that series Bruno were you not offered jobs in Belleville and Kingston and some of these spots.

B.T. M Yes one of the referee, one tof the empires father came up to the hotel and he wanted me to sign a contract. I don't remember exactly what it was was for 2 years or a year to pitch ball for Belleville and another chap from Kingston and . . . but I told them I sooner go play ball in, in, in up in the North country because we played better ball up there and a wa it was honest baseball.

Indeed, indeed sir. Well now I don't know if I asked you this but we're up around '34 so you were now started with Inco, is that correct?

B.T. Yes, that's right.

What were you doing with Incox then?

B.T. I was working in the concentrator as a fitter.

Right, but you're also playing some ball.

B.T. Oh yes. My boss was Tom Strong and he was also our coach at this time.

O.K. so we moved along if we, for a few years to about 1937 and something interesting happened that year, sir.

- B.T. Yes I got married that year, 1937, April the 24th. And who was the lady.
- B.T. Miss Anthenet Caseo.

  Well and . . how did you met Anthonet?
- B.T. Well I knew Anthonet before she left Copper Cliff and she was 11 years old and she went down to Windsor with her family, with the school down there and she happened to come on a holiday and we met again.and So max naturally I started to go with her and, and in night we went out about 3 years and in 1937 we did decided to get married, April the 24th.

Mr. Taus when xx you were courting Anthonet, what did you do go to dances, movies or anything like that?

B.T. Oh yes we went to dances wherever we wanted to go and.

A Did you and Anthonet have a favour song or anything?

B.T. Well I did.

What was it?

B.T. She used to sing that, she sang several favours.

Are these popular dance tunes we're talking about?

B.T. Yes, no. Some of them were, some of them weren't. Cherry, Cherry Bing.

I, did you . . . do much dancing Mr. Taus?

B.T. Oh yes we danced everyone, we'd never sit down. Shax Cause she was a wonderful dancer and I used to love to dance myself.

Right. Of course, Caseos is a, is a well-known name around these parts. Whave you any family Mr. Taus?

B.T. Yes I have 3 boys.

What are their names and what are they doing now sif?

The oldest boy remodels as pars which he's well-known in B.T. Sudbury, he's a bowler, he's got 4 or 3 or 4 perfect games and he mwm owns the, the Pine Hill Bowling, The Waldon Sport Shop and he's a pretty good bowler as far as I, I know.

All right, baseball was not his game though, eh?

Yes he war played baseball for Copper Cliff with Joe Wallace, B.T. and Pert Payago was the, was the coaches and team. \* But then How meny of the boys inherited father's iron arm though, eh?

No, no, no they didn't. They all wanted to pa play in the infield. B.T.

Dow you think Mr. Taus that an arm like that is something you're born with? You've either got it or you haven't got it?.

I think so. Some have weak elbows; some have weak . . . shoulders. I have one boy Johnny, he would ve been a B.T. good pitcher because he's got a terrific arm and so would Paul. But Mono, Remono was different, he used to like to bowl.

Well www.kowd everybody to their own game, eh? So now its Remono and Johnny, what's i Johnny doing?

B.T. Johnny, he's works for Falconbridge And a, Paul?

Paul, he works for the Sudbury Hydro. B.T. Well now what about grandchiddren Mr. Taus?

B.T. I have two boys and two girls. Think we have any ball players coming upx among your grandchildren, I guess you, hard to know at this time.

B.T. Oh I, oh I think so. Both boys, well one of the girls, she wants to play goalie in hockey. So there's, xx there's sports in, in those two and

Sport in the blood here somewhere.

Yes, and my youngest grandson, he likes to play them all. B.T. Well friends if you, if you been listening & to our show you know that we're talking baseball because we have a, have a man whom, to whom baseball has been . . . much contributed

a great deal to his kef life, to his interests. As we say baseball has almost been his life apart from a fine marriage and a fine wife, grandchildren but getting back to baseball. Mr. Taus. Now . . . where and when do you think you pitched your best game of baseball?

B.T. Well first game, first game I pitched in Espanola I struck out 20 out of 21 for Sudbury St. Louis for the Rubbleskie & Cup and that was the only game that was ever paid for pitching.

You were, you were a real amateur than in the best sense of the word.

B.T. That's right, sir.

Was that entirely your own idea or was there not just that much money around.

B.T. Well I, I still don't know whyt they give me that Mr. Lafora, he was the mayor of Sudbury and he had, I think he was president of the St. Louis Club and he's the one that gave me the money.

He must have been a real sportsmen and a real fan.

B.T. He sure was.

K Very fine, now a, get a little bit sentimental now. When did you . . . when did you pitch your last full scale game?

B.T. Well the last f game I pitched. It was in Creighton Mine and I went up more or less w to k help out Copper Cliff, My old team mates. I went in to pitch this game and my catcher, no Garly Bartole was my catcher and I had two strikes on my one batter was Bob Jurrette and Jimmy asked k for a curve ball. I was wondering why because he knew I couldn't throw a curve ball, but he told me to throw that little wrinkle. So I threw it and it broke on the outside corner and Jimmy stood there and watched it go by. And the empare said, "You're out, Bob."

Is a, ix it's just a xx good xxxxx chance that Bob is listening to this broadcast right now, eh?

B.T. I hope so.

Go ahead tell mx him, kw ask him, how'd you like that Bob?

B.T. How'd g you like that Bob? So Bob Jurette, he stood there looking at me and (unintelligible) was playing center field. He ran in and said, "Bob just imagine what would happen to you if, when Bruno was ink his prime." He said, "You could hardly see his ball, and this one he threw now has struck you out and you could zouth count the (unintelligible from center field." So Bob Jurette started chasing Boggie all over the field and Bog, and he couldn't catch Boggie and he was taking zww summersaults and you know Boggie was a great acrobat and there were three or four to lousand

people there and they just roared x laughing.

Friends, we told you that ball players were great people and had axx alot of kmx laughs and there is an, an inside story, an inside story for you. Well Bruno this is going to be a baseball show . . . speaking now the of the American p Professional Leagues here, any leagues? Who do you rate among the best pitchers of all time?

- B.T. Well there was two brothers, Dizzy and Dafaden.
  Right.
- B.T. And down Larson and the old fellow

  The ka black pitcher, there's
- B.T. Yes that a, Sachal Payne.
  Sachal Payne:
- B.T. He wx was the greatest.

I think there, many of our ball fans would go along with that. He may have been the best

BoT. I think so.

He, he pitched in the, in the big kang leagues when he was about 10 years or 15 years past his prime as I recall.

B.T. That's right.

When he was about 10 x waars wor When he was 20's

B.T. I think he was 60 6, 60 years old when he pitched a game where not very long age.

I think they wouldn't have k seen that ball going over in his, his early when his early days, right.

B.T. He was very good.

Mr. Taus again for some of our fans who may not know that much about it. When a pitcher is up there, he looked at his catcher for signs as to what to pitch. Now what kind of signs might a catcher use and what might he call 1 for?

B.T. Well Mode Goody always, always tried to keep the ball inside or outside corner when I was pitching. Because M he knew I didn't, I couldn't throw a curve but I was depend depending alot of my control. But Goody I used to pitch to him so well because he knew me so well and he m knew what I could do and what I couldn't do.

What, what I'm getting at were they hold one finger down or two fingers or three fingers or how would they signal like that?

B.T. Well we had one was a straight ball, that was only natural for us and then we have other signals like three or four for a fast ball or a pitch out or throw it to first base or something, or something like that.

Great & ball

- B.T. That's the only, themm only time we ever used fingers.

  If again for our fans if you see a catche, a pitcher on the mound shake his head, that means we he doesn't like the call, here eh?
- B.T. That's right. But that didn't happens very often fx with Ginny because Ginny once he saw better, he'd never forget them.

Well now Mr. Taus I have now in my hand and you brought with you to our littlek show a kkk ball, on it is written 1934 and Bruno Tau Haus, Taus rather and what's the significance of this baseball I I've got here.

- B.T. Well that's the last ball I pitched in 1934 against Napanee. I got 19 18 strike outs in that game and I still kept that ball, it still, I still have it. I guess I'll have it here til, now to ever.
  - For. . . marvelous. Now the, we talked about favour pitchers Mr. Taus, what about favorite ball teams? You known ball fans like to talk about the greatest teams of all time, who did you like?
- B.T. Well I used to like New York but after Stor, Stingo left.
  Well I didn't know who to go for. But I always pulled for
  the underdogs in any sport.

Friends we, our guest today has been Bruno Taus. If you've been with us through the show you know that Bruno has been a ball player, he's been a pitcher. He's told us what it's like to be up on the mound there and, and have lost your control completely. You told us how it feels to, to throw on there and have a, have a batter put it right out of theps park, we want to thank you for coming and talking with us. Mr. Taus, was with Inco for 26 years . . . he retired in 1972 at which time he was in the machine shop. Thank you again Mr. Taus for coming and chatting with us.