

Brandon Michaud

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AS A MINER

"Well I think C.C.I. has been through some difficult times and hopefully we are pulling out of that. I think there are 7better days ahead." This sums up Glen Harvala's view of the future of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. Our conversation was just starting, and it was very enjoyable and interesting.

Glen has had jobs over the years that have helped him work his way up to assistant general foreman at the Empire Mine. When he got out of high school, he worked for D.K. Auto for several months. He put in a application to work for C.C.I. because of better wages. Glen quit his job when hired by C.C.I.

While at the Empire Mine working as a laborer in a pellet plant, he applied for a posting for a maintenance mechanic trainee. On April Fool's Day he started going through a training program which spanned four and one-half years. He became a mechanic in 1978. Next, he went on salary as a maintenance mechanic foreman. Glen was laid off in 1982 for about a year and then was called back. When Glen got back he went to the Brownstone shop as a foreman. He worked there for approximately eight months before being called back to the Empire in the concentrator. "Which I worked for about a year and one-half down there and I got transferred back to my original job as a maintenance mechanic foreman at the Empire



where I still am today."

he stated.

Glen's main job right now is assistant general foreman on the shovel and drill repair in the pit at the Empire Mine. He mainly sees that the equipment is repaired on time so that the pit operating can make the required budgets. Some of the things Glen has to do is make sure the needed parts are there, schedule the people, plan the repairs," and to see if everything is done in a certain manner so that nobody gets hurt." he stated.

Glen's job did not need or require any special training or higher education, and he got it from experience throughout the years. He told me he had to go through some two or three day seminars. " Also the Empire has been getting heavy into computers. We have had quite a lot of computer training, but that is about the only training I have had in my job." he explained.

"One of the most special pieces of equipment we have is a P and H shovel, it's one of the biggest shovels in the country. When we bought it was about four years old, right now it costs about five and one-half million dollars. It can load a 170 ton truck in about a minute and one-half. We had eleven shovels at the empire and this one shovel will produce approximately one-third of it's production."

Glen has told me that one of the new safety standards is wearing respirators and different face shields for the protection against dust and chemicals. After explaining new safety standards, Glen went on to tell me the need to learn and study computers.

"Well I would almost have to tell them to try and learn



some new computer things because it seems every time you turn around today theres different computer programs that we have to learn." I think this is very true, what Glen has stated, also all the trucks in the pit are computerized by dispatch systems, backlog work, history, are all on one computer.

Glen and his two sons, Brad and Jesse and the wife, as Glen calls her, like to go to their hunting camp in the fall. But Glen alone likes to restore old equipment. Glen just got restored a bulldozer, and had a 1940 Marmon dump truck which he restored too. His family also likes to snowmobile in the winter.

Glen is a very interesting and exciting man. He has made many very successful career choices, and I think he will be working with the Empire Mine for a very long time. I am very glad Glen could be the person I interviewed, and I thank him.