

Les Burnett

Fifty-eight

AN EXPERIENCED MINER

My dad, Bruce Burnette, was born May 5, 1948, in Ishpeming, Michigan. After my dad got out of the service, he began working in the mines.

Dad first started working on the high wall at Republic. "There was never a dull moment, never a moment where you could forget where you were or what you were doing," stated Dad. After working on the high wall at Republic, he transferred to the Empire Mine where he worked in the pit running heavy equipment. Dad now works at the Tilden Mine where he has been working for the past eight years.

Dad works as a shift foreman at the Tilden Mine. He has to set up the individual crew that he happens to be with. Dad also must work with a special computer system which controls and monitors everything that happens in the pit.

The most challenging part of dad's job is setting up the individual crew and getting the best production out of an eight hour shift.

Dad's job has many responsibilities but he thinks the biggest one is having as many people finish the shift as started.

When I asked dad if he had been in any interesting situations he recalled an incident when he was driving a loader over some uneven terrain. He had the bucket too high, and when he went over a bump, the back tires left the ground and the was

litterly standing on his head behind the steering wheel trying to get the loader on all four tires by letting the bucket up.

The conditions at the mine are favorable compared to back when the underground mines were still operating. Most of the buildings are air conditioned. Almost all the trucks are new with power steering and power brakes.

Along with good conditions and hard work. With them being able to mine many different kinds of ore rather than some mines that can only make one type of ore. Dad says that they "must be the lowest cost highest quality producer" and this will keep the mines open for a very long time.

Over dad's twenty years in the mining business he has seen more and more women beginning to work in the mines. He said that many women that he has talked to seek the higher paying jobs.

Dad enjoys working with all the different people and teaching the newer employees who have only been at the mine for a few years.

Dad also talked about how if the young people of today want to get a job with Cleveland Cliffs, they must have good work habits and must enjoy working and have proper schooling.

Dad has enjoyed working at the mine and had accomplished almost everything he's wanted to do and he hopes to retire from Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company.