

Andy B. Hill

NINE

Glen's Life

Glen Bjork was born on January 14, 1925, in Guinn, Michigan. His parents names were Evert A. Bjork and Emma Jones. Glens father put in over fifty-four years of work for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. Glen spent his childhood time around the Guinn area. He has always loved the outdoors, and in his spare time he enjoys hunting deer and partridge at his hunting camp south of Guinn. He also likes working in his garden. Glen has a twin sister, Gloria.

In 1879 when Glen's father, Carl Eric Bjork, came to this country from Sweeden. In the early 1900's there was a lack of work so Glen's Grandfather (Carl) went to Alaska to mine gold. Glen's dad came and was employed in the mining industry for nearly fifty five years! Glen followed with over forty four years of employments. Glen's two sons Edward and Carl are also employed in the mining industry. Glen's grandfather did a-lot of dimand drilling exploration to find where the ore body was. He drilled in Guinn to find out where the best place to put the townsite; he also drilled where the Ishpeming Hospital is now and North Lake at the Loide Mine. Glen's grandfather built a house in National Mine in the 1880's, it was last owned by Martin Wuorenmaa who passed away in the last few years. Glen's grandfather also worked at the Klondike Pit (which was an open



pit mine) for a while.

He has been married for forty-two years and has four children: Edward, forty, Linda is thirty-six, Kari thirty-four, and the youngest is Carl, who is thirty. Son Edward has worked for CCI for twenty years, while his other son Carl just started working for CCI in 1992. Glen has worked for CCI for over forty four years. Glen's reason for working for CCI was: "I love the country, I wanted to stay here, and the iron mining was the best!" he explained.

While working for CCI Glen performed many duties. At first he was a contract miner. He also put in six years as a shift boss at the Mathar B mine. Glen was in the original shaft sinking crew for the Mathar B mine. Sinking the Shaft was hard, and when the miner got down there, he had lots of things to watch out for. They sunk the shaft down 3100 feet, so safety was a big part of the job.

Glen's grandfather's son, Albert Bjork, who later became a funeral director, worked with his father at the Klondike Pit. He got his finger caught in the cupplings on the ore cars and it was just about cut off. His dad said you save that finger, and brought him to the doctor in Ishpeming and told the doctor to save that finger! They sewed it back on, but it was always crooked.

One moment that really stands out in Glen's mind is when he and his partner, Sam Correlo, were working at the Mathar B mine around 3100 feet down. There were six levels cut out of the shaft, they started to drift over towards the Mathar A mine shaft. Glen and sam made the final blast that connected the Mathar A to the Mathar B!



The way Glen looks back at CCI is: Where many other mining companies have come and gone and CCI has stuck it out 150 years. They must have done something right!

I asked Glen if he had a chance to do it all over again would he make the same carrier choice? His reply was "I'm shure I would."

Glen is a very nice man, and I really enjoyed speaking with him.