

# Rachel Sundblad

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## Key to Success

"Go to college, your opportunities are there", is one of the many statements that I heard from my father, Stephen Sundblad, as I interviewed him about his work at the Tilden Mine in National Mine, Michigan.

My father was born on August 5, 1954, in Ishpeming, Michigan where he currently lives. His parents, Ray and Colleen Sundblad were very supportive of him and his three brothers, Ray, David, and Charles as they grew up. His father worked in the Peninsula Bank for more than thirty years, and his mother was mainly a housewife. Before my father worked in the mine, he worked at Simon's Brothers stocking shelves. He explained that he has worked in the iron industry for nineteen and a half years. He said that he chose to work in the iron industry because at the time when he was working in the candy store, some of his friends were working in the mines. They were making more money so he thought that was the place to go. When I asked him about the duties of his job, my father said that over the years he has been on maintenance for a few years, but he has worked on operating, running loaders, unloading railroad cars, working in the lab, and doing the work of a laborer. Currently my father is assigned to the maintenance department, but for the last year he has been working on computers implementing a new program of operating the maintenance program which will help watch cost and improve

efficiency.

Working conditions at the Tilden Mine are pretty dusty. There is a lot of noise, but workers are given protection to wear. If the protection is not worn, workers may suffer a loss of hearing. The conditions are not the best explained my father.

One of the stories my father told me about safety was, "Back in the mid 80's when I was on maintenance, we were working in the pellet plant. We were midnight shift and there was three of us working together. We were up seventeen feet on a scaffolding. I was cutting a piece of steel when I heard my partener holler for help. I was proceeded to look what was going on. He had fallen off, and he happened to hit his head on the cement floor below. He happened to die two days later. That is something I will never forget."

My father then comented about the key to the success of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company as a business. He said that because they have been in the business so long, they know how to run the business and they have been able to make a quality product. "It's been due to the location, we have the Great Lakes here for shipping, and I just think there's a lot of things why they've been successful.

With being successful in mind, I then began to ask him about education. My father said "If you plan to work for C.C.I. someday, hopefully you will end up going to college and getting some kind of engineering degree. If C.C.I. is still here and still working I really would encourage you to go to college and get a management degree or something because that is what to do."

I asked him what advise he could give students in general. My father emphasized, "Stay in school and get a good education,

it's your key to success. Go to college and pay attention because you are going to need these skills as you get out of school."

I was very glad I interviewed my father because I learned many new and interesting stories about safety, working conditions, and duties of his job. I know I will never forget these stories.