

Mike Duhame

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LOVING THE LOCATION

Mr. Duhame was born October 1951, at Bell Memorial Hospital in Ishpeming. He grew up in down town Ishpeming, and before graduating he moved to West Ishpeming and finished school at Westwood High School.

Soon after graduating he joined a training program before entering the workforce at the Empire Mine. His reasons for joining the local Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company are reflected on his love for the area, as well as his father's involvement with CCI. Mr. Duhame's father shared his involvement in underground mining and the hard work which he had to perform. These stories and his feeling towards not leaving the area to find work, really lead Mr. Duhame to work for CCI.

In the years working for CCI Mr. Duhame has worked for maintenance. For instance, he worked in a crew which repairs certain machines that the mine uses. Just a few years ago Mr. Duhame joined with management, and he has been working in this department from that time. "This transaction was hard to perform because, instead of working with a crew I'm assigning them what they specifically have to do." His job is mainly based around clerical work and the use of a computer.

When Mr. Duhame assigns the men to a job, his most concern is their safety especially if he assigns them to an uncommon job. When talking about the men's safety, Mr. Duhame stresses



the fact that safety standards have changed drastically. "MSHA

and OSHA both a safety inspection company, help companies greatly with safety standards," he stated.

Accidents happen and fortunately for Mr. Duhamé nothing has happened besides a few scrapes here and there for him and his crew.

One of the most important topics which my interviewer talked about, was his involvement in and leaving of the union. Mr. Duhamé has been in the union when he started a career at CCI and just recently in the past four years has become apart of managment, he has left the union.

If there is a disagreement between the union and the owners of the mine, one of two very important things can happen either an agreement is met or a strike is called. "If higher management does not come to an disagreement when a topic is brought up about such things as wages usually union or gruop of steel workers will strike."

I was very fortunate to have had a chance to interview my father. Not only did it give me a chance to learn about my father, but my grandparents past life was introduced to me.