

Christina Palomaki

THIRTY-NINE

MY GRMPS

Calvin (gramps) Palomaki was born on November twenty-second, 1923, in North Lake Location in Michigan. He was the child of Dina and Nels Palomaki. He has two brothers Rudy and Irving, and one sister Mildred. His father was a miner, and his mother was a home maker.

In 1946, Gramps married Theresa Dallas. They have one girl Julie, three boys Wayne, Bruce, and Keith who has been deceased since 1972. Gramps started his job at the Cliff Shaft in Ishpeming, Michigan. One of the biggest responsibilities of his job was, "Earning money to support my family", stated Gramps. His most challenging part of his job was to keep ahead of the boss.

My Gramps worked in the iron industry for over thirty-five years. He chose to work in the iron industry because there were no other job's available, and he needed a steady income.

Gramps has worked in the Cliff Shaft in Ishpeming, Michigan and in the Republic Mine in Republic, Michigan. At the Cliff Shaft his job was a raise miner and at the Republic Mine he was a maintenance man. As a maintenance man he had to learn how to use a welding machine, migrometers, and have the knowledge of bearings.

My Gramps was in one accident himself. He fell one-hundred-thirty-five feet. Fortunately nothing too serious

happened. He was also present when a fellow worker fell down a shaft incline.

On the job he also designed a roller impact to retract wire rope into a drum. "For this job performance on the roller impact I was awarded five-hundred dollars", Gramps told me.

Gramps had many of his relatives that worked with him: Herel Kaukkuri, Sandfri Kaukkuri, Rudy Palomaki, Nel Besola, Allan Besola, and Eve Besola. Gramps favorite thing out of all of his jobs at the mines were the people he worked with. When I asked my Gramps to please describe his co-workers he stated, "I had many intelligent people that worked with me but none of them were ever reconized for their talent."

I asked Gramps to describe what he thinks the children of today should develop he thinks we should learn some kind of a trade, and he also thinks that we should have at least a high school education.

Right now my Gramps is helping my dad with his business, repairing heaters, and furnaces. He also enjoys playing cribbage, playing cards, and anything he can do.