

Brandon Dodge

29

A STORY AS A MINER

My grampa, Ken Koski, was born on June 28, 1932, in Negaunee, Michigan. He had five sisters and four brothers. His wife passed away in April 19, 1993. My grampa had three children.

Grampa retired from C.C.I in 1993, after working for forty-two years. My grampa chose to work in the mine because of better wages.

He knew a lot of people that worked at various mines. His grandfather, Mike Numakoski worked at the Blueberry Mine. Frank Junior worked at the Mather A and also Waltzs. His uncle Paul, uncle John Numakoski, his brother Terry, and his uncles John, Uno, Ano, Lori, Laho, and Marvin Kangas also worked at the mine. My grampa had three brothers in-laws that worked there. Malcolm Nelson, Charlie Brown, and Chip Carlson that worked in the Mining Industry.

Some of the mines my grampa worked at were: Mather A, Mather B, Ohio Mine, Humboldt Mine, Pioneer Mine, Ore Improvement Plant, Empire Mine, and finally the Tilden Mine. He retired from the Brownstone.

Some of the duties Ken Koski performed for C.C.I : was a brakeman, motorman, a scrapeman, and a skip tender, a skimmer, a trackman, and a track supervisor. At his last job he was a salary supervisor at the Brownstone. He received work orders from various mines and plants to order materials. He had a erasher job, personel follow up job progress and make up, work schedules for men mostly on day and afternoon shifts. My Grampa

ordered welding materials, machine, rods, safety equipment, and he handled the chief inventory on steel and welding material. He would charge out the steel that was being used had a whole business meeting once a week. The main object was to keep plants operating.

"Bits and peices threw out the years." Some classes were in Madison, Wisconsin to learn a little about the automatic welders functions and maintenance.

My grampa had special machinery or equipment that he used on the job. At the Brownstone they had a 500 ton break. This was a machine that would bend steel at different shapes and angles. It could bend plates two and a half inches thick if it was not wide! They had a sheer that would cut off one inch thick plates and they had a roles machine that could role a plate four inches thick at different widths. They had an iron worker that could punch in holes up to 1 inch or quarter inch which depends on the metal. They had an automatic welder that would build up wheels, pulleys, humps, and shafts. In the blacksmith shop they had couple of guys assigned there that would make pry bars and boils. In the tin shop were the guys made duckworth pipes and cabinets.

The most challenging or difficult duties was when he was working at the well shop. He started there working as a well shop foreman after there was some layoffs. He had never read blueprints to find out how much steel to be needed for the job and to order it.

All of his co-worker were cooperative and friendly. Some used to play games on each other. For instance, a worker might be working with a blueprint when a worker put his hood down to weld, and grampa would subsitute an old one for the new print and would

set it on fire when they weren't looking.

I know that Ken Koski loved what he did when he worked.
Today he likes to watch his grandkids kids do things that we like
to do.