

Kevin Aho
interview with
Doug Aho

Kevin Aho interviewing
Doug Aho
Woods work
2-14-92
Our house

me: When and where were you born?

Dad: 1954 I ~~was~~ Michigan.

me: What were your parents names?

Dad: Ruth and Walbied Aho and my dad died so
I was raised by my step dad Albreid Schineck.

me: What are the names of your brother and sisters

Dad: Two brother Clarence and Bruce and two sisters
Karen + Debbie two step sisters Rose and Lisa.

me: When and where were you married?

Dad: 1975 in Ramsay Michigan.

me: What is your wifes name?

Dad: Marchel

me: What did your parents do for a living?

Dad: Step dad a woods worker and had his own operation and
mom was a house maker.

me: Where did you go to school?

Dad: I went to Wakefield township Wakefield, Michigan

me: What special memories do you have growing up in the Deegibis area?

Dad: Well it is alot of fun skiing, snowmobile,

me: Where did you go snowmobiling with?

Dad: My brother he is a few years older than me.

me: How old were you when you found your first job out in the woods and what did you work?

Dad: When I was 18 I got a job working for my dad, running a skidder.

me: What type of duties did you perform at this job.

Dad: Well I had to drive a rubber-tire skidder into the woods not on any kind of a road and had to get the trees out over hills and through the river and bring them out to the landing if I could not bring them over the hill it had a winch on the back of the skidder to pull ~~follow~~ the winch is 75 ft. of cable it would pull it up to the top to the landing I looked the tree over really carefully to try to get the best saw log out of the tree. Then I will mark it off 10, 12 to 16 foot log measurements and cut it up by the chain saw and then I would take the skidder and stack into a nice pile for the log truck to come and get ~~and then~~ ~~for~~ the saw mill.

me: Where were you employed the longest?

Dad: Well I guess that it was out in the woods and I worked the iron mines to but mostly the woods.

me: I'm as much detail as possible describe the main duties of this job.

Dad: I all ready tolled you earlier about that

me: Okay

me: Did this job requier any special ~~pr~~ ^{training?}
~~pr~~ so please describe them.

Dad: O ya there was a thud to drive on dibberent kind of ground. There was no kind of roads to follow and it was very rough. They had to train me as how to cut the best grad lumber out of it. to look for rotten spots on the tree and stuff so there was quit abit of training involved that more less.

me: hm

me: What special ~~clothing~~ ^{equipment or clothing} for this job requar?

Dad: Well I had to wear leather gloves because of the ~~leather~~ ^{cable} on the back of the skidder and there are bars on the cable and can stick in the hand and with the saw had to have steel toe boots in case of a log rolled ~~but~~ there was a chain break on the back the cable will ^{plus} stop the chain from going ~~around~~ and had to wear a hard hat and a screen from the saw and that was about it well I had to wear ear plugs because the skidder was loud.

me: What was the most rewarding part of your ~~job~~ as logging so far?

Dad: Well I do not know maybe getting the logs out around the little trees and kind of fun being able to do that with out hearting the trees that where always growing up. It was a challenge to do that.

me: What was the challenging or difficult part of your job? (4)

Dad: Definitely it was the weather was the challenging part because it was muddy and that would be slipping and the snow, the weather.

me: Did any of the family members work for the same company?

Dad: Yes, my brother he was the one who cut the trees down, my brother Clarence, he cut them down out in the woods and cut the top off and ready for me to bring to the landing so he was the only one besides my step dad, my step dad made the roads and stubble with the bulldozer to get us farther back in the woods.

me: hm

me: Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

Dad: Oh yes it is always dangerous out in the woods without any roads to follow trees are laying down and if there are lots of leaves on the road you can not see what's under them and you

me: Please describe what your co-workers were like.

Dad: My co-workers were hard workers because we got paid by the thousand board foot, so if we did not get any logs out we did not get paid at all.

me: Did you receive any awards from your employer and where you recognized for your job performance?

Dad: No not really I guess not.

me: ~~They~~ ever say you did a good job?

Dad: Well ya sure

me: Could you tell the people how a slasher works?

Dad: A Skasher, Well I also drove log truck in the woods
 in that was fun how to drive. Because every
 log truck has different speeds and transmissions anywhere,
 from 9 speeds to even a 18 speeds that was even challenging
 to I did that more less asked about a skasher ^{on a} partition boxes. Than you
 now a days it is all mechanized in the last 20 years now
 instead of a sower going in the woods a skan goes out and
 cuts the down lines the tree and cuts the top off and puts
 alot of those trees together and the ~~skasher~~ skider
 comes to get them there is a grapple on the back that picks
 them up and the guy dose not need to come out of the
 machine. to the landing and that is where the skasher comes
 into the ~~picture~~ picture and is in the landing an cuts into
 pulp days or log lengths and what ever you like out of
 it and now a days you do not need to use a chain
 saw to cut the trees down

me: Well remember that one day that looked like there
 was only ~~one~~ ^{two} machine ~~to~~ running the job instead
 of all those people working.

Dad: Yes that machine that we seen was a tree buer
 and I never worked with one before and that mach
 cut the tree down and cut it into log lengths and
 than put into pills and than the skider came and
 picked them up and brought them to the landing
 and so that was a two man operation and two machines
 and put out lots of production.

me: Do you think that ~~it~~ ^{it will} work for future use?

Dad: Yes I think that it will be the way of the future
 less and lesser men working out in the woods and it
 be safer

me: Do you have experance were someone got hurt?

Dad: Yes and it was no fun the guys running the chain
 saws usually got hurt and where in bad situation they
 trip on some brush.

Me: Lets go back to the log truck. Where did you mostly haul to? ①

Dad: Mead Corporation in Escamaba mostly they take soft wood mainly softwood at Mead because they make paper at Mead. I mostly brought hardwood to 2 sawmills in Champion. They make alot of Corrugated cardboard. Then I had to bring Jackpine boalitz to Land O Lakes and they cut into boards and that was about all.

Me: Did you ever haul to Louisiana Pacific?

Dad: No, I never did because it was not yet running when I hauled and now I am back to the Iron mine now but that was a good experience.

Me: Thank you very much in sharing this information and I hope that this will be good information.

Dad: Thank you Kevin.