

This is Yutchen Feldbauer interviewing Mr. ^①
William Latva ^{manager of} Robbins Flooring Mill
in Ishpeming

Q. How long have you worked at Robbins Flooring Mill?

W.L. For Robbins yet. I haven't lived here since 77~~th~~ but I've been with Robbins since 1967.

Q. How long has Robbins Flooring Mill been here in Ishpeming?

W.L. ~~th~~ since 1947

Q. When the iron mines opened did it affect the mill in any way?

W.L. ~~th~~ I wouldn't think so

Q. When the mines ~~lay~~ laid off did it affect Robbins at all (pause) did you have to lay off any people? [⊙]

W.L. Over the years once in awhile we'd have to lay them off (squeak), there is only two right now, one of them will be coming back Monday

Q. What types of wood do you make?

W.L. Oh its primary 90 percent, 95 percent of maple on the strip line and the other 5 percent is pine. On ~~the~~ ^{our} parkay line its got 90 percent oak and 10 percent maple.

Q. What was the difference in price of a board when you first opened the mill compared to now? (door slam)

W.L. No idea

Q. How does the method of making flooring different from when the mill ^(door slam) first opened?

W.L. I would say that now we have it now modernized Oh, before it was push carts around the mill but now it is conveyed by belts. (draw squeek) Oh, we use to have load our railcars by hand, but now its done with a forklift ^{then} we gotta stay the wiring, now its a stamp machine

Q. Is all the flooring made and finished here?

W.L. not quite all of it. Parquay, some of our parquay ^{is} sanded at white lake (door opens) Our strip is finished on the job sight. ship it out of here unfinished but its too for white lake.

Q. What other parts of the mill are there?

W.L. power house, strip line parquay line, warehouse office

Q. What is the price of parquay compared to strip?

W.L. based on how long the strip is.

Q. How long is parquay expected to last compared to strip?

W.L. NO idea

Q. What are the methods of applying a floor to a
appling (laugh) what are applying to a rough floor?

W.L. We have lock tight, is put down ~~with~~
~~perforated~~ in channels, a strip board is
nailed, parquay floor has a regular nastic.

Q. are your floors marketed locally?
an individual could buy them from Robbins

W.L. ~~we could put that~~
Q. Is there anyplace else you send it to ~~the~~
~~stores~~ sold?

W.L. We send some to different contractor all
around the United States. (Door slam, door squeek)

Q. what is the trail of a rough board to a
finished board?

W.L. a woods man will be out ~~in~~ the woods and
cut a log down, send it to the sawmill, sawmill
cuts it down, ~~into~~ usually a bring it to the sawmill
and have a ^{lumber} inspector grade (door slam) the lumber out.
usually 2 3/4 sometimes more. Then bring the truck
and big rails, then bring the truck in here unload
it, then put it in a stack of sticker, each
layer then put it in the dry kiln, dried for ^{then}
six ^{to the} ~~days~~ ^{cooling} ^{rooms}, or til the moisture is gone. Then it
goes G 50, ~~rips~~ it. when you rip it you are
trying to get about a 2 foot board, and
in our next section will be 1 1/2 most of
the time it will be 3/4, then it's gone through
a certain surface. bullhead piece of board
1 1/2 wide, then we try and get it 3/4, then
it goes from there to the knot saw. knot sawer
cuts the defects out. Take the knots out of
there. Then into a side matching

W.L. Where the tongue and groove is put on (9)
Then it goes from there to a tongue end
matcher puts the tongue on the flooring
Goes from there to a groove end
matcher, groove end matcher goes to
a greater grade 1st, 2nd or 3rd or personal
grade. Next it goes to a rest. its put
into a ~~rest~~^{bundle} comes out and goes to
and is put on pallets then put into
the warehouse. when it leaves here
either by rail or semitruck

Q. Do you have any idea of what a single
piece of strip flooring would cost?

W.L. I would say about a dollar forty cents
is the average rate. I would have to say \$1.40

Q. What would a one foot square of parquay
cost?

W.L. I would say simply around a \$1.00

Q. What is the difference in the grades of flooring
cost wise?

W.L. I would say, just off the top of my head, say
dollar ~~thirty~~^{fifty} for first grade, second grade
would be a dollar thirty five, third grade would
be 90¢

Q. What is the difference in cost ~~of~~ of wood
types ~~of~~ of maple, oak, and pine?

W.L. I would think maple and pine are the same
maple might be a little higher

Q. How many owner has the mill had?

W.L. 4 that I know of

Q. Who are the owners now?

W.L. Jim Stoehr

Q. where does he live?

W.L. Cinchinnati

Q. Has Robbins Flooring mill ever had a different name?

W.L. Not that I know of

Q. How many manager has the mill had?

W.L. Nine that I know of

Q. How long have you been the manager?

W.L. three years

Q. What do you do with the scrap?

W.L. Its put into the chippers and then it is burned to create the steam to produce to power that is needed.

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Handwritten text at the top of the page, including "W. J. ... 2100 ..."

History

composition of
flooring

↓ nail of board

↓ cost & selling
applied to floor

↓ different
kinds

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