

Jenny Knight's
interview with Glen Adams.

me: this is Jenny Knight, I am interviewing Glen Adams
for the Red Dust book on Iron mining. I am at
his house in Republic Mi. It is December 4, 1993

me: When and where were you Born?

Mr. A. I was born in 1936 October 10, 1936

*You skipped too
much - gave
up too easily*

me: What are the names of your Parents?

Mr. A.: My father was Henry, my mother _____?

me: What did your Parents do for a living?

Mr. A.: Well my father was a farmer, and he also
worked with the agriculture department.
My mother stayed here, we had a resort here and
still have, we still have cabins. My mother
cooked for the people, ever since I was a kid

me: Do you have any Brothers or Sisters?

Mr. A.: I have one brother he is 4 years younger than me

me: Are you married?

Mr. A.: Yes I am

me: what is her name?

Mr. A.: My wives name is Barb

me: Do you have any children?

Mr. A.: Yes I have 3 children, from my first marriage

me: what are there names?

Mr. A.: My oldest is a boy he's Glen Jr., next child is a girl Marline, and a daughter merlen sp?

me: How long have you been working in the iron industry?

Mr. A.: since, well I worked in the mining company here ever since 64, but I worked for steen + will co. before that to and I use to bring oil to the Republic mine ②

too many blanks!

Mr. A.: I think I started in '56,

So I've been in mining

a lot since '56

Me: why did you choose to work in the iron industry?

Mr. A.: It seemed like the best job at the time, and ah

I was out _____ my Grandfather

*emphasize
family
involvement*

he came from Sweden ^{in the late 1800's} worked in the underground

mines he had worked in the mines in Sweden, in the
underground mines, my uncles

me: what relatives of yours have worked in the mines?

Mr. A.: well there you have it, my Grandfather, and my uncles

Grandfather _____ my uncle worked in the
Cleveland cliff mines ever since he was 14 years old his

name is Richard _____ my other uncle George Adams
worked in the Republic mine a short time

had it at two different times

me: what are the names of the various mines or buildings you
have worked in?

Mr. A.: Well I worked in the Republic mine first, I went all through the crushing operation in Republic I started in the _____ pressure worked most of the job as a helper or as an operating the pressure part then I went in to the grinding section and worked most of the job in the grinding section and filling in as a new employee ~~at~~ at the company I had a chance to work at a lot of the mines and I had a chance to go up & pick and I had to run my own bulldozer for about 10 years before I went to the mine and I kind of liked that better so I took a job driving a water truck down in to an open pit mine that was open at the time then after that I saw an opening for comming the shop as a mechanic, and I could either go as a electrician or a mechanic two jobs were open at the time but I had a bulldozing job that I was trying to finish up, and a home job and I could not go for the test for the electrician so I ended up being just a mechanic I think I would have liked to have been an electrician better, because I like to work with electric things?

me: Over the years what kind of jobs have you performed for C.C.I.

Mr. A., well as crushing operator in the Pacific Border
line. The crushing operation Primary's through
the secondaries I never
worked much in the ^{Pellet} plant been through
there on maple street

but I never worked much as a steady employ. at
the plant and then I worked as a mechanic
since about '60 and I've worked on diesel and smaller
trucks and all the other motor equipment CCI has I've worked on
most of them and that's been my job

me; In as much detail as possible, please describe the
main duties of your current job

Mr. A., I've probly got the best job at Tilden mine ^{possible quote}
I take care of the air systems air compressers
So I take care of the air compressers if they break down
I take care of them and get them back going besides that
I see to some of the other buildings, some fuel pumping
stations
and any thing they have on the bench I fix

me: Did this job require any higher education?

Mr. A.: A higher education that's probably in school hard
many many years of ~~education~~ ^{experience}

me: would you describe any special equipment or machinery
you use?

Mr. A.: on my particular job I don't think I use any special
equipment It's pretty much ordinary mechanical equipment
and tools that I've worked with I suppose to some mechanics
all they work with is special: we work I've had training
mechanical I've worked on bulldozers and
trucks special things well, some people would
call them special but I don't

me: what is the most challenging or difficult ^{part} job
of your job.

Mr. A: Probably for any mechanic and myself its
when you come in in the morning
and not sure what the job is going
to be. It all depends on what broke
down over night and it could be
an entirely different thing than what
you expected to work on so that's
kind of a challenge at times you
have to repair things that maybe you
have never seen before and there are
other things like maybe you have never
seen a certain kind of engine or fuel pump
and that gets to be a bit challenging at times
and that's what's kept the job interesting
me: looking back over the years what was the most
challenging or difficult job you had to perform?

include
& quote

Jenny

Mr. A.: well the most difficult duty is at
the changing tires on the (5 ton haul
packs we had to), the wheel — were hard ^{include}
Sometimes it would take us 6 hours
to turn one off we had to load um up

Sometimes we had to
reat um 2 or 3 times or 4 times or 5 and that
was difficult the challenge in a way all mechanical
work is challenging its trying to do something
maybe you have not done before everyday its
a little bit different

me: Over the years what have you enjoyed
most about your job?

Mr. A.: I think the challenge is one of the things ^{include}
that I enjoy doing and the people I work
with that makes a lot of difference I'd be glad
to have any one of them work for me

without exception I'd have any one of them
work for me

me: what are the biggest responsibilities of your job?

Mr. A.: That's quite a hard question to answer when you work with machinery other people
you're concerned about their safety your worried about how it's going to work

and if someone gets killed you'd feel pretty bad because you neglected to do something and somebody got killed

me: Describe the most dangerous situations you have been in.

include
Mr. A.: That's an easy one when I first started in republic that's probably the most dangerous situation I've been in. I drove a water truck, and being young, eager & dumb 9

Mr. A. and willing to drive that truck

it was partly the mechanical fault partly my fault

that worked the right front one was the only one
that worked It had 3 thousand gallons of water
on the back and I had to drive down

Some times twice for each
machine and they go on 3 thousand or 4 for each
shift but I had to bring that down hill

In the winter time and the transmission did not
work one day 2 truck drivers one empty
solowing me one empty coming up the hill

they stopped to visit in the middle of the road
and there was no place to go I played on the
horn as hard as I could the truck driver on
my left saw me coming & skidded right
between them I was going 15 mph.

That the most trying time I've had others
I've had other close calls

include

me: Have you been involved or witnessed any accidents?

Mr. A.: Yes, I haven't seen anybody killed
but I seen some accidents happen
fires on trucks & things I've seen truck
drivers jump out of trucks that were
on fire — could not come down the
ladder so he jumped off and did not hurt him
self. — and I've been involved
in some fires on trucks

Been to some accidents afterwards. A truck
rolled over

me: have any friends or relatives?

Mr. A.: sure

me: could you describe them?

Mr. A.: I had one friend who fell out of a truck
he was a friend and I had just talked to him
2 hours ago could not understand of it
(a truck was rolling and a guy got killed) (1)

Mr. A. had a other friend who had been off work
for a week & the road had been changed

He tipped right upside down

me: could you describe either the most unique or perhaps
humorous situation you have seen over the years

Mr. A.:

I kin tell ya what happend to me

(I could not understand him but it was about when
he took a fire extinguisher & sprayed it all over his face & in his
mouth when he was up on a truck) lots of funny things
we had a one time we had a boss we were feeling around
we had a web jump on it & go down a smooth
piece of ciment our boss came along & decided to
try it he said if you can do it I can do it he could not
have been doing it & we shouldnt have been doing it
but he had to try he went down & hit a little rock
& sell he skinned his leg from his knee to his ankle did not
dare report it & being a boss I impert around the mine
for about a month lots of funny things
my friend larun? these are serus things that happen
but are funny to us he stuck his head in between
shovel & bucket the guff moved the truck & smashed his head
that could have killed him easy he was bleeding all over
went to hospital in Ish. in morning came back afternoon & said
the doctor said there was nothing up there

include

me: Please describe your working conditions.

Mr. A: Smokey ~~_____~~ + diesel smoke, it's dusty all the
Time ~~_____~~ most of the time
~~_____~~
Pretty good really
~~_____~~

me: How have safety standards changed & what improvements
Do you see?

Mr. A: I see lots serious, I was on the safety committee at
Republic Did a lot of inspections & I see a big improvement.
~~_____~~

The training is much better
~~_____~~

When I started to work I had 0 min. training
~~_____~~

I had never driven or sat in the truck I had to
drive on midnight shift The boss just told me ^{include}
what to do & I did it
~~_____~~

that was my total training on trucking I did not
know where any thing was I could not start. I
no training or safety warning
you get much more training everything is different
~~_____~~

than when I started working & it shows ~~_____~~ It's 200% better
~~_____~~

me: How have you seen the duties of your job changed over the years

Mr. A: The job I have now is a little different I am more responsible now the old jobs haven't changed they have changed where the employee is more responsible on my job I make a lot of decisions on my own

I am pretty much my own boss

me: Please describe what your co-workers are like. Do you remember any special stories that stand out about them

Mr. A: thousands, (somebody said take the dipstick out & take the motor out)

as we get older our hearing gets bad two of my partners could not hear good

Bass & Regis sound the same so we write it down on paper

(cl)

me: During your career, were you involved in any special projects or have implemented any new programs?

Mr. A.: I guess so getting a new piece of equipment is a new project. The first was a big loader
Big machine

The underground tunnel a 1/2 mile tunnel underground

me: have you won any awards or been recognized in any way for your job performance

Mr. A.: no I have not

me: At any time have you felt like changing jobs or your career why or why not

Mr. A.: no more than one a week (ha ha) I was only going to stay in the mining for a little while make some money & get out of here

I wanted to go on the road with the band but I had 25 years with it so I wanted to retire with the band
This isn't the question
