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Victor Bertucci's



Interview with Fran Bertucci

me: my name is Victor Bertucci this is December 5 the interviewee is Fran Bertucci this is for the red dust and we're in Ishpeming at Fran's house

me: when & where were you born?

Dad: September of 49 in ^{Ishpeming} Ishpeming

me: what are the ^{names} of your parents?

Dad: ~~Salvador~~ father was salvador my mother was Rose

me: what did your parents do for a living?

Dad: my father worked in the mine & my mother was a house wife

me: what are the names of your brothers & sisters?

Dad: I had a brother ^{Rocco?} Rocco, Victor & Anthony & my sisters a ^{Christ sp.} Veneve, Nancy and Ann

me: are you currently married?

Dad: yes

me: what is your spouse's name?

Dad: Julie

me: what are the names of your children?

Dad: I have one child Victor

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

Dad: 19 years

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

Dad: for income & Benifets

me: Please name those relatives who have worked in the iron industry

Dad: I had several uncles, nephews & cousins that worked for cliffs ^{include}

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

Dad: I worked underground at the ~~mother~~ Republic ^{Filden}, Brown stone shops ^{at the mine Empire}

me: over the years what kind of duties have you performed for cci

Dad: ~~labored~~ ^{labored} in the plant laborer in the plant various jobs in operating, I also

me: in as much detail possible please describe your main duties ^{worked in different jobs in maintenance}

Dad: my current job is an auto motive mechanic ^{in your current job}

with an engine } good quote [I work on just about everything

me: Did this job require any special training or special education

Dad: I did take some mechanics training after high school

me: could you describe any special machinery or equipment you use on the job
Dad: we use a lot of hydraulic equipment hydraulic wrenches cranes everything you work on is big there is all kinds of big equipment we use include

me: what is the most challenging or difficult part of your job

Dad: [The challenging part is trying to figure out what is wrong with something when you have a problem with it - trouble shooting, it] good quote

me: thinking as back over the years what was the most challenging or difficult duty you had to perform.
Dad: I don't know I there are a lot of difficult jobs in the maintenance department hard to pick out an particular one

me: over the years what have you enjoyed almost about your job
Dad: the fact that its different from day to day you work on different things

me: what are the biggest responsibilities of your job
Dad: well you're working on all this expensive equipment you've got the responsibility of the equipment itself, & the people that are running it

me: um if it applies to you describe the most dangerous situation you've been in
Dad: well you get yourself into some dangerous situations on a pretty regular basis just because of size of the equipment you work on

me: Have you ever been involved or witnessed an accident
Dad: yes I've been involved a few myself & I've witnessed ones & some are pretty serious

me: could you describe anything that happened ...
Dad: ya I don't want to describe anything but there are some serious accidents including deaths nothing that I'd care to get into at the time

me: could you describe either the most unique or numerous situations you've been in over the years
Dad: well there are a lot of numerous situations ah everybody tries to have a good time just to make the time go by try and do it on a down keyed basis so nobody gets hurt

me: could you describe your working conditions
Dad: our working conditions we try to keep it in a safe matter & for the amount of equipment that goes in & out of the shop ah keeping it clean is probably one of the biggest safety factors include

(This is somewhat difficult to read)

me: have the safety standards changed or improved

dad: ya theres been improvements made on a regular basis ab over the years different items that get taken care of to make job work a little easier & a little safer] good quote

me: do you see any improvements that you see should be made in the future

dad: I dont know what the future is going to bring as far as safety like I said the equipment just keeps getting bigger so theres a lot of safety factors that go along with the equipment

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

dad: all the equipment keeps getting bigger & bigger your duties of a mechanic fixing it are becoming more & more strenous because of the fact that all the parts are bigger] good quote

me: could you describe what your coworkers are like

dad: well your ya the coworkers some of em pretty much some ^{characters} all right

But there all there with an education & a job to do try to do it best the can you learn to trust your partners to do the jobs safely & take care of themselves & you just like you try to take care of them & yourself] good quote

me: during your career were you involved in any special projects or implement in any new ones

dad: I've helped out in making a few special tools that we use on the job other than that no nothing so special projects

me: have you ever won any awards or recognition in any way for your job performance

dad: no the only awards I've ever won was safety awards

me: at any time have you felt like changing your job or career

dad: I have changed my job within ICI a couple different times some of it been voluntary & some of it has been involuntary but non the less the jobs have changed

me: oh what do you think the future holds for the hiden or the empire

dad: I really dont know as far as our manners what they tell us is a we have to be competitive

me: what does the future look like for the iron industry in general

dad: I think we'll always need iron steel an if we can get it out of the ground & produce a good product you know at a competitive price I think our future looks good] good quote



me: what do you feel must be done in the future for cci to remain competitive

dad: produce a good product at a reasonable price ^{good quote}

me: what do you think has been the key to success for cci when other companies have failed

dad: I think its just that producing a quality price at competitive price

me: looking far into the future how do you think history will remember cleland cliffs iron company & its workers

dad: I don't know I think looking back at it will be like looking back the cow men

me: How has the role of women changed in the iron industry

~~dad: I pretty much think its going to stay where it is~~

me: now have women working in the pit & the plants running equipment & we even have one or two women in maintenance

me: what direction do you think that will take in the future

dad: I don't know I think its pretty much gonna stay where it is,

me: what skills do yours people of today need to develop if they plan to work for cci someday

dad: Basically getting an education whether it be in an maintenance electrician any kind of a degree right now

me: in a related question what advice would you give to general to students of today

dad: Get an education get degree in engineering electrical engineering mechanical engineering any of that is where the future is & think include

me: ~~It~~ could you describe what you like doing on your spare time

dad: I like working with steel ~~the~~ welding & fabricating machining hunting fishing

me: If you had a chance to do it all over again would you make the same career choice

dad: I probably would

me: ah why

dad: well I think its been a good life I enjoy what I'm doing

me looking back over the years what impressions stand out
the most in your mind concerning your association with CCI

dad I don't know that's a tough one, I guess it's just the
fact that it is a good place to work *good quote*

me are you now or have you ever ~~member~~ been a member of the
steel workers union

dad yes

me Have you ever experienced being on a strike

dad yes several strikes ✓

me How does a strike actually begin

dad a strike is actually a labor dispute, between the company & the union
the union or company is making demands the other one don't want
to meet & they try to negotiate to resolve their differences & if
they don't do it by contract date they end up on strike

me How many employees does a strike actually involve

dad all union employees

me what is the purpose of a picket line

dad a picket line shows support for the negotiating team that's trying
to negotiate your contract & it also monitors what traffic goes
in & out of the property *include + quote*

me do you know any interesting stories about an incident on the
picket line

dad well there's always interesting things happening on the picket line
an it's a bunch of people trying to make the best of a bad
situation so you entertain your self any way you can
sometimes we have live music or little parties or get to so others
even family get to corners *include*

me what takes place at a union meeting or a union rally

dad well a union meeting is a discussion of all union business for the
month you have a monthly it goes into a grievance
or filed an safety blot or its safety

me in your opinion what is the steel workers union so important to
the workers

dad well we have the steel workers union ducting us up as far as
contracts & job evaluations or even all your wages & vacations
all come from the union fighting & bargaining as a body unit
with the union to achieve these things for us *include*

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me Is there any thing you would like to add over what
has just been said

Dad no

me: I thank very much for participating in the red dust
day ok thank you

job status
working conditions

~~union~~
union
strikes } together

working
changes