

Ending on  
page 13

Andy M. Hill's  
interview with

GLEN  
BJORK

P. 8-9  
useful  
!!

Me: What is your name and when were you born?

Glen: My name is Glen Bjork, I was born on Jan. 14 1925, Quinn, Michigan.

Me: What were the names of your parents?

Glen: My parents names were Evert A. Bjork and Emma Jones.

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

Glen: My parents worked for Cleveland City Iron company, My dad worked 54 1/2 years

Me: What are the names of your brothers and sisters, if you have any?

Glen: I had one sister named Gloria, a twin sister.

Me: Are you currently married?

Glen: Yes, I've been married for 42 years



Me: Do you have any children?

Glen: Children, the oldest is Edward, he is 40,  
We have a daughter Linda, 36, a daughter  
Kari who is, 34, and a son Earl, who  
is 30 years old.

Me: How long have you been working for the  
Iron industry?

Glen: I worked for CCI for 44 years and 2  
months.

Me: Why did you choose to work there?

Glen: Because I love the country up here,  
and I wanted to stay here and the  
Iron mining was the best. *include*

Me: Could you name <sup>your</sup> ~~the~~ relatives that  
worked in the Iron Industry?

Glen: ~~that~~ Well, Beginning in 1879 when  
my grand father, Carl Eric Bjork came  
to this country from Sweden,  
he started to work in 1879 for CCI.  
*Emphasize this*

Me: What are the names of the various  
mines that you worked in?

Glen: Well, I started at the princeton mine, in  
Mich. in 1943 then I was drafted  
to World War 2, after the war I worked  
for the Mather A, under ground mining.



Glen: → and when they began sinking the  
cont.

*include*  
Mathar B shaft in Negavnes, I went  
there to help sink the shaft. Then in 1961  
I was laid off for a couple months then  
transferred to Humbolt mine in Humbolt  
Mich. 1963, I was transferred when they  
began to remove the earth from the  
ore-body at the Empire mine, then  
I was at the empire until 1972  
then I was transferred to the Tilden  
mine, by National Mine, then that is  
where I retired from in 1987.

Me: What kinds of duties have you performed  
for CCI?

*include*  
Glen: I was a miner, contract mining, I  
did have 6 years as a shift boss  
at Mathar B. Then mining again  
after that, (that was in the underground)  
then I went to the Humbolt pit.  
and drove production trucks and  
bulldozers, and I was a shovel runner  
for several years at the Tilden

Me: In as much detail as possible could  
you describe the main duties of your  
Job, well you kind of all ready did.

Glen: Well naight now I'm retired I've  
been retired 6 years now. ③



me: Did this job require any special training?

Glen: No, you were "broke-in" with older men and you learned from them.

me: What was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Glen: Bulldozers and production trucks, and the shovels, Electric shovels.

me: Looking back over the years what was the most challenging or difficult duty to perform, if you didn't already say that?

*quest*  
Glen: Well, I think underground mining, I think was the most challenging.

me: and why?

*include*  
Glen: Well, I guess sinking the shaft was the most challenging, there was a lot of things you had to watch out for, when going down vertically, we sunk the shaft down 3100 feet. Ya, there was a lot of things you had to look out for in underground mining.



Me: Over the years what have you enjoyed the most of your job?

Glen: Well, I guess I enjoyed all my duties. I guess I just enjoyed going to work.

Me: What were the biggest responsibilities of your job?

*include*  
Glen: I think one of the biggest responsibilities was as a shovel runner, the responsibility of that shovel, and the truck your loading and the man driving that truck. Not to hurt him or destroy the truck.

Me: It applies to you describe the most dangerous situation that you have been in.

Glen: I think under ground mining is the most dangerous situation you would run into, you gotta watch your ground, and gotta cover up your sets of timber and steel, and make sure you don't get crushed by falling ground.

Me: Have you been involved in or witnessed any accidents?

*include*  
Glen: Well, there been a few. I was in one kind of an accident at the Mather B, it was in the winter, the cage we ride down in, it was a winter day and there was a lot of ice formed on the cage. I stepped over to stand on it and I was gone, that quick, my feet slipped and I fell at feet. (5)



Glen; I caught the last steel set, otherwise  
Cont. → I would of fell about another 30 feet.

Me! Did you get hurt?

Glen! I got brused up a little bit, ~~but~~

Me! could you describe the most unike or  
perhaps humuros situations you have seen?

Glen! well, I dont know if you could call this  
a unike situation, but I told you I  
worked at the Mathar A after the  
war. I was working with someone  
and we were driving over to the shaft.  
So I left the Mathar A and I went  
over one into the shaft sinking  
crew to sink the Mathar B shaft.  
When we got done with the shaft  
(3100 ~~feet~~ feet) we began to cut out  
the levels, actually there were  
6 levels to the Mathar B and we  
started to drift over to the  
Mathar ~~A~~ A, my partner and I  
(Sam Corrello) made the ~~#~~ Final  
Blast that connected the drift  
from Mathar A to Mathar B, that  
was kind of a unike situation.

include



Me: Could you describe your working conditions?

Glen: Well, your working conditions have a lot to do with, well there is a lot of dangerous conditions. But in a lot of cases a man's got to make them safe as he possibly can, in other words you can't take chances.

Me: How, have safety-standards improved, or what improvements do you see?

Glen: Well, I think there has been a lot of strides made to improve safety, and there probably will be yet. But in a lot of instances ~~is~~ the mining now, open pit mining is so much different than underground mining. But anyway there are ways where they will come up with new safety devices, or new safety ideas in the mines.

include

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

Glen: I think in a lot of ways the work has become easier, with so much more newer modern equipment, that's easier to operate and much much safer <sup>①</sup> equipment.



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

Glen: Well, my co-workers were all a bunch of fun people to work with, we all got along good. Well there is one story that really stood out in my mind is connecting Mathar A and Mathar B, but I already told that one. That was kind of a highlite ~~is~~ in my life. Well, kind of an interesting too our son Edward he started 1973 underground at the Mathar B he's a miner, he's at Tilden Mine now after the Mathar B closed, but I was in the original shaft sinking crew for the Mathar B shaft, started it, and my son Edward closed the mine in 1973 he was in the end of it, so that is kind of an interesting bit of information. My grandfather now, he a, did a lot of diamond drilling for CCI, that's exploration drilling finding out where the ore body is and whatever. He drilled in ~~Quin~~ before Quin was built to determine where the best place for a town-site would be. He also drilled where the ~~F~~ Shpeming hospital is now to see what kind of ground they had down there. He also drilled at North Lake ⑧ where the Lorde mine went.

include



Glen - My grandpa also built a house in  
National Mine in the 1880's it was  
last owned ~~by~~ by Martin Worma who passed  
away in the last few years, and he  
worked in the Klondike pit for a while  
too that's a open pit mine. One interesting  
thing His son Albert Bjork who later  
became the formal director worked  
with his father at the Klondike pit  
and he had one finger caught between  
the couplings on the ore cars and it  
was just about off, and Grandpa said  
you save that finger. He took him to  
the doctor in Ishpeming and told him  
to save the finger, he sewed it back  
on, but it was always crooked. He  
also drilled diamond drilling at the  
Mathar A shaft way back when 1909  
he moved to Guin with his family,  
the town was starting to be built then.  
He lost a brother too called Aldolph  
Bjork he was killed at the cliff

shaft mine too, 1908.

Me: During your <sup>career</sup> ~~career~~ have you been involved  
in any special projects?

Glen: Ya, I think the one big special project  
is the shaft sinking, the ~~start~~ start  
of a mine

next page (9)  
has more  
safety

included



Glen: I have won a safety award, 40 years  
with no lost time accident that comes  
from the federal government  
It's called the Joseph A. Holmes Safety  
Award.

Me: At any time have you felt like  
changing your job?

Glen: No, I never have... I just enjoyed  
going to work.

Me: What do you think the future holds  
for the Tilden and Empire Mines?

Glen: Well, they have a good future, a lot  
of it depends on the economy.  
Now it's beginning to be a world wide  
competition now. I think they have  
a good chance to keep going.

Me: What does the future look like for  
the Iron and steel industry, in  
general?

Glen: Well, that's pretty much the same as  
what I just told you, a lot of it  
depends on the world market.



Me: What do you think has been the key to success in CCT? Where other companies

Glen: I think that CCT <sup>have failed?</sup> from day one has had a good work force, good people a good product, which they do, and good sales people it all hinges.

Me: Looking far into the future how do you think history will remember the ~~CCT~~ Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company and it's workers?

Glen: Well it's pretty hard to look into the future and say what they might think then, but the way I look at it now is for a mining company such as CCT to be here 150 some years says a lot for them, they must of done something wright.

Me: How has the role of women in the mining company changed and what direction do you think it will take?

Glen: There is a few that work at the pits now. I've never worked with any, but I've always that that the womens place ②

include



Glen! <sup>☹️</sup> was at home. (chuckles)

Cont!

Me! What skills do the young people of today need to develop if they plan to work for CCI?

Glen! It depends a lot on what they want to get into, computers, Office Management or whatever, what schooling they have or college they have would really help them in any job they get into.

Me! What advise could you give in general to the students of today?

Glen! Well, people that graduate from high school should go ahead and get some further education, along the way for whatever they choose for education.

Me! Please describe what you enjoy doing in your spare time.

Glen! I enjoy being in the woods, hunt deer hunt partridge. We have a hunting camp south of Quinn and I spend a lot of time there. (12)



Glen: and I enjoy working around home,  
cont: graden,

Ending { Me: If you had to do it all over again  
would you make the same carrier  
choice?

Glen: I'm sure I would.

Me: Looking back over the years what  
impressions stand out ~~the~~ most in  
your mind ~~is~~ In association with CCI?

Glen: Well, my impressions are, or I've  
always thought they are a good  
Mining company, and I've seen  
many Iron Mining Companies come  
and go over the years and  
CCI stuck it out here, They've  
been a good fair company  
to work with.

Me: Is there any thing else  
you would like to add?

Glen: Well in the early 1900's the mining  
was bad so they (My grandfather) went  
up to Alaska to mine gold, My dad  
Evert Bork worked for 54 1/2 years, 13



Wen: Then I came along and worked  
Cont: 44 years and 2 months, our son  
Edward, he's got 20 years in now  
and our youngest son Carol started  
At the Empire mine a year ago  
last April. ~~155~~ 155 1/2 years!

Me: Have you ever been involved in a strike?

Wen: Yes

Me: How does it begin?

Wen: Well, Management and or labor, where the labor is looking to get higher wages, or benefits, or working conditions improved. Then they have to get together with management and Iron ~~out~~ out an agreement, and if the ~~agreement~~ agreement isn't exactly what the labor wants then they go on strike.

Me: How many imployees does a strike usually involve?

Wen: Well raight now I think it's up there around 1800 to ~~2000~~ 2000, but back when all the undergrounds were working it was up to 5000.

Me: What is the purpose of a picket line and what is the purpose?

Wen: Just to keep anybody from going in there to work



Glen: Although they did allow salery personnel  
Cont to work.

Me: Is there anything else you would like  
to add, or any stories about the picket  
line that come to mind?

Glen: It's pretty quiet on the picket line  
They respect it

Glen: I have a couple of papers that  
I will give you a copy of that  
came out of a book that they  
did a story on our family. Maby  
you can get something out of it.  
Nice talking to you, I hope you  
~~do well~~ do well on your  
paper.

Me: Thanks a lot.

Glen: Your welcome.



2 Underground mining - yellow

3 Job duties - blue

5 Safety - pink

8 Unique situations - Brown

7 Dangerous situations - Green

4 Working conditions and ~~tasks~~ markers - black

Union strikes - Purple

Glen's life; About Family and Friends  
and what he does in spare time  
And his opinions

~~Dark~~

orange

Skills needed  
for Job → Red

#1 Orange