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Amy Coduti's
interview with Michael Coduti

me: Hi I'm Amy Coduti and it's the 10th of December and I'm interviewing Michael Coduti for the Red Dust project and it's at my home.

me: When and where were you born?

Dad: I was born on November 3rd¹⁹⁵³ in Ishpeming.

me: What are the names of your parents?

Dad: Leslie Coduti senior and Shirley Coduti.

me: What did your parents do for a living?

Dad: My father was an underground miner and my mother was a housewife.

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

Dad: Leslie Coduti junior and Barbara Johnson

me: Are you currently married?

Dad: yes

me: What's your spouse's name?

Dad: Ronette

me: What are the names of your children?

Dad: Nicole and Amy

ME: How long have you been working in the Iron Industry?

Dad: Right now 2 1/2 years

ME: Why did you choose to work in the Iron Industry?

Dad: laugh, for the money [at the time it was one of the better jobs around] *good quote*

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

Dad: lots of them from my father to my grandfather, uncles cousins *include*

ME: What are the names of the building or various mines you have worked in?

Dad: I've worked at the main office in downtown Ishpeming as a surveyor helper when I'd first started and I went to the Tilden mine as an equipment operator and from there I got transferred over to the Empire as an equipment operator and later went inside to work in the lab and also out on the floor in the mill

include

ME: Over the years what kinds of duties have you performed for CCI?

Dad: What I just described, ~~operating~~ running equipment and also working inside.

ME: In as much detail as possible please describe the main duties of your current job

Dad: The duties of my current job are to *include* control silica levels the dirt that we're processing to be the final stage of (2)

Dad: the concentrating part of it before it gets pelletized we control the silica by adding ^{correct sp?} (ammine) to the flotation system in proper amounts so we can maintain a silica level that's acceptable for the buyers and also we control the ^{include} water for the plant all the incoming water to the outgoing water it's got to be constantly monitored ~~announced~~ the outside tailings thickener ~~s~~ and the total tailings pumping operation.

ME: Did this job require any special training or higher education if so please describe it?

Dad: No, it was all on the job training ^{include}

ME: Please describe any special machinery or equipment that you use on the job

Dad: In our job we don't really use any special equipment it's all just pumping and a lot of computers.

ME: What is the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Dad: Trying to control the silica so we can get a product that we can sell

ME: Thinking back over the years what was the most challenging or difficult duty you had to perform and why

Dad: I think the most challenging duties that I had ^{include x 8 work} was a shovel operator because it was so dangerous and everyone else that was working around me was depending on my safety and my good work habits otherwise people could've gotten hurt.

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

Dad: I would have to say the money ^{enough} and all the friends that I've made.

me: What are the biggest responsibilities of your job?

Dad: Keeping tabs on the silica, silica is very important, it's the most important thing in there.

me: If it applies to you describe the most dangerous situations you have been in.

Dad: I really haven't been in any, I've been lucky.

me: Have you been in or witnessed any accidents or so please describe them.

Dad: I haven't been in any, but I saw one one day when a guy was driving an 85 ton production truck at the Tilden & for whatever reason he lost control fell asleep or whatever no one ever really found out what happened but he drove off of a bench & down to the next bench and each level the steps in the open pit of the mine called benches and he drove off of one and fell onto the next one about 65 feet in the production truck and he didn't get hurt. It was amazing.

includes

me: he didn't get hurt

Dad: Didn't but the truck was totally wrecked

me: Could you describe the most unique or humorous situations you've seen over the years?

Dad: I really can't think of anything that would pertain to that.

ME: Please describe your working conditions.

Dad: Well, work inside so we have what they call not an air purifier, but an air filtration system. They got a name for um but I can't think of it right now. They're called precipitators, so they keep the air pretty clean, there's a lot of in my immediate work there's a lot of chemicals so I have to wear protective equipment to protect myself from these chemicals, from the fumes, and from skin irritations. Otherwise the conditions are alright, they've improved.

include

ME: How have safety standards changed and what improvements do you see are yet to be made?

Dad: Safety standards have changed with O.S.H.A and M.S.H.A coming in and setting guidelines for the company to follow. We get a monthly safety meetings on different subjects we get yearly safety classes and it's pretty good um the changes that are yet to be made in my immediate job I really don't know they've got it covered pretty well.

include possible quote

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

Dad: everythings getting more computerized it's takes out the operator ^{error} when the products being made it's sent through what they call a no machine. It's controlled by a computer, the computer makes the adjustments and you just have to ~~monitor~~ monitor it and keep an eye on it make sure it's doing it's job right.

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

Dad: My co-workers are a bunch of good guys ^{laugh} ~~any~~ any special stories that really not anything in particular

ME: During your career have you implemented any new programs or involved in any programs? If so please describe them

Dad: well, I was involved in what they called
a job evaluation, a job reevaluation,
and also a committee for writing
procedures in operating ~~concepts~~ in the
concentrating department, I just
went through a series of meetings
where we discussed problems that
would come up and we as a committee
figure out the most efficient &
effective way to solve the problems.

include

MC: Have you ever won any awards or
have you been recognized in any
way for your job?

Dad: no

MC: At any time have you felt
like changing your job or your
career, why or why not?

Dad: Yah, I think there's been times
when I'd wished I'd done something

Dad: - different, because I think every
one who works feels that way, the
things about my job that I didn't
care very much for was the work
schedule the shift work, working
all the weekends, things like that
make me wish that I'd ^{pursued}
a different career.

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

Dad: well, recent as the mine tests
that they've done at both prop-
erties indicate that they'll prob-
ably be mining or they've been
up to about 30 years, at the actual
sites there's talk of the Republic Mine
starting to do some open-pit
mining again and sending the
dirt over to the Tilden to be processed

Dad: - the Empire also has a cascade pit which they talk that they'd mine the cascade pit and send the dirt to the Empire mine to be processed so I think the future looks pretty good for em for at least 30 ~~years~~ to 50 years. include

ME: What does the future look like for the non-steel industry in general?

Dad: I think the future looks promising for the steel industry it's a competitive market now and we have eliminated a lot of our competition, we have made a better ~~product~~ product at a lower price, and were competing world-wide and were holding our own so I think that it looks pretty good. include * good

ME: What do you feel must be done in the future for C.C.I. to remain competitive?

Dad: well, I'd say the main thing has to be making a good product & you have to make a good product and you have to be cost competitive, you've got to make a good product and not waste all your money doing it.

ME: what do you think has been the key to the success of C.C.I. when other companies have failed?

Dad: I think right off the top that C.C.I.'s biggest attribute is the employees they have working for them. They have outstanding employees who know their job and take a lot of pride in it & do their job right and C.C.I. is a good manager they do their job ^{well} right.

ME: Looking far into the future, how do you think history will remember the Cleveland Cliff's Iron company, and its workers?

Dad: Gee I don't know^{laugh} hopefully they'll remember us as good, hardworking people and they'll remember C.C.I. as a mine manager who was concerned about the community, which they were serving, the environment, and just being good for the balance of economy of America.

include & quote possible title

ME: How has the role of women changed in the iron industry and what direction do you think it will take in the future?

Dad: Well, they've got women working on the same job as men now and I think it's going to continue to be that way because they are good workers.

include

ME: What skills do the young people of today need to develop if they plan to work for C.C.I. someday?

Dad: Well, the way C.C.T is going ~~to~~ ~~to~~ right now with all their computerized equipment and machinery, I think that the young people would probably be better off getting into an engineering field if they were to be interested in working for Cliffs because that's what they're going to need is engineers not so much as operators and stuff they're going to need thinkers people that are problem solvers.

include

ME: In a related question what advice could you give in general to the students of today?

Dad: I think what I would tell students of today is set your goals high and work hard to obtain them and don't let anyone tell you that you can't be something, because you can be whatever you want to be!

include possible opening

ME: please describe what you like to do in your spare time.

Dad: In my spare time I enjoy all sports, playing and watching, fishing, a little bit of hunting, I enjoy spending time with my family, and I just love to plow snow!^{laugh}

ME: If you had to do it all over again would you make the same career choice why, or why not?

Dad: If I had to do it all over again, yeh, I think I probably would make the same choice because I've been fortunate I, every-thing turned out good, I've been able to provide ~~my family~~ ~~with a~~ good lifestyle for my family and I think those are the things that are important.

ME: Looking back over the years what impressions stand out most ~~with~~ ~~you~~ in your mind concerning your association with C. C. I. ? (13)

Dad: I think the impressions that stand out most about my association with C.C.F. is probably contract talks and how C.C.F. is very good at what they do and they like to juggle the numbers sometimes and you can't blame them for that because ~~the bottom line~~ it's a money game and the bottom line with everything out there is trying to make a buck for everybody and we've had some disagreements with them mainly at contract time and trying to get more for the working people. That's probably what stands out most.

ME: Before we end the interview is there anything else ^{that comes to mind} you'd like to add?

Dad: Not really, "laugh"

ME: Thank you very much

Dad: You're welcome

duties - ~~orange~~
blue

Safety - ~~orange~~
pink

Working conditions - green

future - purple

programs - ~~blue~~ orange

work requirements - yellow