

me: Red Dust History Interview date 12-5-93.

Interviewer Michael Duhamel and interviewee Donald Duhamel. Location is interviewee's home.

me: When and Where were you born?

Mr. D: I was born in October 1951 in Bell Memorial Hospital in Ashpeming.

me: What are the names of your parents?

Mr. D: George and Barbara Duhamel.

me: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. D: My mother was a housewife for most of her life and then she worked for a nursing home locally here. My father worked for the mine for thirty-two years before retiring.

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

Mr. D: I have two brothers and two sisters. Gary and Richard and Linda and Debbie.

me: Are you currently married?

Mr. D: Yes

me: What is spouse's name?

Mr. D: Linda

me: What are the names of your children?

Mr. D: Michael and Amy

me: ~~X~~ How long have been working in iron mining?

Mr. D: twenty-three years.

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

Mr. D: Well I didn't want to ~~X~~ leave the area and it was the best paying company around. Outside of going to school. It was a chance for me to make a career in the local here.

me: Going back to what you said about your father worked in mining could you describe his job and if one another relative in iron mining?

Mr. D: Well my father worked at the Empire mine for about the last twenty-five years of his career and he did do underground mining in the beginning of his career. And most after that dealt with management he was salary. I had an uncle he worked up in the Republic Mine, he was a boiler attendant. He had thirty plus years up there.

Emphasize family involvement

me: What are the names of the various mines or buildings you have worked at?

Mr. D: Well since I've started to work for C.C.I worked my majority of my time at the Empire and I have a little bit of time for the Tilden and a little time at the ore and prominent pioneer.

me: Over the years what duties have you performed for C.C.I?

Mr. D: When I joined CCI I joined their labor pool and I was put into a maintenance

Mr. D: training program and I'm still
into maintenance. include

Me: In as much details as possible, please
describe the main duties of your job?

Mr. D: Well my main duties, I'm a salary
shift foreman I have a crew people from
anywhere from eight to fourteen people and
my duty is to sign them work to get
them on their job and to assign them
work they can do or if their good in
that area. And look out for their safty. include

Me: Did this job require any special training
or higher education?

Mr. D: It required some local training and
CCI trained by having seminars and
conferences, and mini schools. include

Me: Please describe any special machinery or
equipment that you have used on the
job?

Mr. D: Well I use a lot of special or technical
machinery were into using lasers to align

Mr. D: Cuplinks. We have our IRD vibration
analyses machines, that's for changing
bairings, and we use strobe lights, we
magnafucks different metals looking for
cracks. I get hands-on-use on how to
use it.

check machine names with him

me: In your work do you use a lot of
computers?

Mr. D: Just in the last two years everything
has been going into computers.

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

Mr. D: Probably the last two years trying to
become related to the computers.

possible quote

me: Thinking back over the years, what was
the most challenging or difficult duty
you had to perform and Explain why?

Mr. D: Probably my transaction of going from
an ^{hourly} salary person to an hourly. That's
not an easy thing to do because you
going from working with the guys to

Mr. D: tell the guys what to do, and
you have to do that with a lot of
finesse. include

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

Mr. D: Working with the ~~peo~~ people, there a
good bunch of people.

me: What are the biggest ~~res~~ responsibilities
of your job?

Mr. D: I to sign men of different ^{Caliber} ~~classes~~ to
different jobs and to make sure they
will be safe. include

me: If it applies to you, describe the most
dangerous situations that you have been
in?

me: We don't get into many dangerous
situations. We work around machinery
and in machinery and make sure every-
thing is shut down in sequence. Again
watching out for the safety of the men.

me: Have you been involved in or have you witnessed any accidents around you?

Mr. D: I don't get involved in any accidents, but being in salaried person if men on my crew are hurt they come to me and fill out an injury report, but I have never had any thing serious. *include* Smashed fingers and toes, bumps, bruises, and cuts are fortunately the only thing which has happened around me.

me: Could you describe either the most unique or perhaps humorous situations you have seen over the years?

Mr. D: No not off hand I can't think of any humorous situations I have been in.

me: Please describe your working conditions?

Mr. D: My working conditions are really good.

Well like I said I'm salary and this means I based in an office, and I am in there

Mr. D: 50% of the time and then out on
the floor for 50% rest of my day. The
includes floor where I work is noisier because
of the grinding.

Me: Could you please describe or compare working in
the office towards working where they
grind?

Mr. D: Its like day and night in the office, its
clean and air conditioned and when
you on the floor its very noisier, wet,
and very big you do a lot of walking.

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

Mr. D: Well the safety standards have changed
drastically in the last years. They MSHA and
include OSHA come and make inspection inspections
four times a year. They visually inspect
and do a great job for companies.

Me: Could you describe MSHA and OSHA?

question Mr. D: These two company MSHA is the Michigan safety
company and OSHA is a national safety company.

Mr. D: They were created not only for mines but for all types of company, and they really do wonders of keeping people in safe places.

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

Mr. D: Well my duties have changed drastically of the years, because I'm dealing with so much paper-work now where I was in work with more of ^{include} a hands-on employee. Now my ~~of~~ job is more clerical work.

Me: Please describe what your co-workers are like?

Mr. D: Real good bunch of guys, they all very ^{conscientious} ~~consensus~~ and easy going people.

Me: Do you remember any special stories that stand out about them?

Mr. D: No more that I would want to bring.

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

Mr. D: Well special ~~proj~~ projects and some programs two years ago I was singled out to change a

Mr. D: conveyor at the Empire Mine and it was
a quarter of a million dollar conveyor steel
inforced. I was assigned to it and it came
in three pieces from the Good Year Rubber
Company and it was an ~~order~~ order, but
I enjoyed it.

include

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

Mr. D: Well yes we get called in and told we did a good
job. And at the ^{merit} merit program is how we
get our raises and I've done good the last years.

Mo: At any time have you felt like changing jobs or
your career?

Mr. D: No, I got into the maintenance program
and I have enjoyed it.

Mo: Are you now or have you ever been a member
of the Steelworkers Union?

Mr. D: Oh yes I have ~~to~~ belonged to the company
for 23 years and six are salary and the rest
I was with the union.

Pg 11.

Me : Have you ever experienced being on strike? If so how many times.

Mr. D : Yes three times, two of which I was an hourly person and last of which in 1993 I was a salary person. ^{- include} So I have been on both sides of the fence during strikes; very interesting, fortunately there has been no trouble and I have understood both sides and no what they were striking against.

Me : How does a strike actually begins?

Mr. D : Well a strike begins when the company and the union meet and negotiate different things like wages and benefits. And if they can not reach an agreement usually a strike is called.

Me : How many employees does a strike usually involve?

Mr. D : Everybody maybe not directly but in a way everybody is affected by a strike.

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

Mr. D : Well a picket is just a bunch bunch of people standing in front of the mines trying to get support.

Me: Do you know of any interesting stories about an incident on a picket line?

Mr D: No I've never ran into anything of importance out of one guy getting out of hand.

Me: What takes place at a Union Meeting or a Union Rally?

Mr D: Members get together and discuss their opinions and ~~given~~ issues.

Me: In your opinion, why is the steelworkers union so important to the workers?

Mr. D: It is important to the people because it keeps the terms between the company and the union balanced.

One doesn't get out of hand against the other one.

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

Mr D: That's a hard question to ~~or~~ answer, the future now is ~~so~~ shaky because the use of blast furnaces and reduction of steel. And the competition is great but we're staying competitive. But we have a high grade ore.

Me: What do you feel must be done in the ~~for~~ future for CCTI to remain competitive?

Mr. D: Well CCI just going to have to watch cost and produce a better quality product. ^{include}

Me: What do you feel ~~must be done~~ in has been the key to the success of CCI & where other companies have failed?

Mr. D: Well CCI has been catering to the other steel companies and we make pellets to give to them.

Well in the last three years we have been making three different pellets called vicroy, standard, and flucks. I think our ^{flux} flucks pellet is one of the reasons why we are still here. ^{include}

Me: Looking far into the future, how do you think history will remember the Cleveland ~~Cliffs~~ Cliffs Iron Company and its workers?

Mr. D: Well the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company done so much for the area so they will probably never ~~forget~~ be forgotten. They the only one here and they will be a hard act to follow.

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

Mr. D: Well in the last four or five years more women have been coming to CCI and not ~~so~~ much in the maintenance program, but clerical jobs.

They expertize there pretty sharp and do really well out there.

Me: Do there any certain job a women can't do at the mine?

Mr. D: No there isn't a ~~job~~ job they can't do, but they are better at the clerical jobs. There are women down in the grinders and they do a great job.

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

Mr. D: Well CCI always going to need geologists, ~~engineers~~ engineers, metallurgist, computer personal, and is going to take a lot for CCI to competitively national. *include*

Me: Please describe what you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Mr. D: I like to fish, hunt, go out camp, take saunas, and I like to lay around and soak up some rays.

Me: If you had to do it all over again, would you make the same career choice?

Mr. D: I think so, I have no reason to complain.

Me: Looking back over the years, what impression stand out most in your mind concerning your association with CCI?

Mr. D: Probably the people this area has a unique kind of people. [Call them yoopers but the people up here are on a caliber of their own and these wonderful people. They technically trained and they easy to get a long with.] ^{quote}

Me: Before we end the interview, is there anything else that comes to mind that you would like to add?

Mr. D: No, only that if a person plans trying to get with the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mining Company & kind of lean in the fields that they would most be demanding.

Me: Well I want to thank-you ~~be~~ very much for this interview!

Mr. D: Thank-you

topics

