

Mindy Snider's

interview with Michael Johnson

me: This is Mindy Snider on December 28th. With Michael Johnson (off) and at Barb Lawry's house. First question, when were you born?

mike: April 29, 1957

me: And where were you born?

mike: Green Bay - Wisconsin

me: what are the names of your parents?

mike: Roger & Helen Johnson

me: what did your parents do for a living?

mike: my mom was a house wife and my dad worked for the Marquette county road commission

me: is up like that one place (pointed)?^a

mike: ya, he's retired now

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

mike: I have one sister Barb,

me: Are you currently married?

mike: Yes

me: what is your spouse's name

mike: Terry

me: what are the names of your
children?

mike: (making a funny face and me
laughing) Greg, Mike, Josh,
Tom, and Jesse.

me: How many do you have?

mike: (held up 5 fingers)

me: "5"

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

mihe: little over 18 years,

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

*mihe: Good money right out of high school. *possible quote*

me : thats what my 5th grade talked about that alot of kids just went there for money. Please name those relatives who have worked in the iron industry?

mihe: I don't think I have any relatives in there.

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

Mike: I worked at the Tilden for about 16 years and the rest of the time at the Empire mine

Me: 2 mines?

Mike: yup!

Me: Over the years, what kinds of duties have you performed for C.C.I.

Mike: well I've been a truck driver, a grater, a grater operator, dozer, a drill operator, worked on a blast crew, a crusher, um almost anything to do with in the pit and the mill, and right now I'm in a liner crew. *crew*

Me: thats alot!

Mike: theres more (kind of laughing)

me: In as many detail as possible, please describe the main duties of your current job.

mike: I'm a line rig for the Empire Mine now and a in the big primary mills we change liners inside of them that wear down.

me: what are liners?

mike: Um the mills have big round things and they got liners that the rocks grind against and they're metal liners and they wear down and we got to change them. they're really big and really heavy.

include

me: Oh. Did this job require any special special training or higher education? If so please describe it.

mike: No, just on the job training.

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

mike: Um, just an impact wrench that has a 2 3/4 inch driver on it it's really big it's about all ply bars and stuff. *include*

me: Um. number nine. what is the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

mike: *include* It has a lot of heavy lifting & pulling and you got to really be careful cause all the parts are so big and heavy

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

14 chkd
 mike: Well probably being on the
 liner crew because you
always have to watch what
you're doing because the
parts are so heavy or if
something drops on you
your not going to make
it, you got to watch
what you're doing.

me:

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

mike: Just all the different people
you meet.

me: Were there alot of people
from different nations,

mike: Not so much nations
Just all around the
U.P. and stuff though.

me: What are the biggest responsibilities of your job?

mike: Just to make sure that you do your job that's the equator that's all

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

mike: *include* Um coming down backwards
down a hill with a load of
dirt on the dump truck
75 ~~ten~~ ton truck backwards
with no brakes.

me: No brakes?

mike No brakes.

me: (laugh kind of) Have you been involved in or have you witnessed any accidents?

Mike: Um just what I told you about before I had crunched the Boss's pick up.

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

Mike: how long is the tape
I don't know um

me: Oh it takes for how long ever long, I can stop it if you want

Mike: Ya cause I don't know
(He shipped this one)

me: Please describe your working conditions, conditions

Mike: Well I'll be working inside the mill in the winter like this last week it's been really cold and in the summer it's really really hot no happy medium at all that's it.

include

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

Mike: Safety standards are really improved in the 18 years I've been there and there continuing to improve year by year.

me: Do you see any improvements for the future?

Mike: You um a larger liner handle and all that's suppose to make the job a little easier.

Mike! (cont.) everybody works a little safer now a days.

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

have they become harder or

Mike! no, mostly easier almost everything has become easier now a days bigger equipment easier equipment.

possible
quite

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

Mike! I work in a crew of four other guys including myself and each one of them are a little different it's fun at work.

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

mike: um. Not really one of the guys I work with I went to school with since kindergarten. so I know him really well and one I've known for almost 16 years and it's a good bunch of guys nothin special.

me: Did you start to go to like work at the same time as that one?

mike: He started um the guy I went to school with started a couple months after me. I didn't start going to work them no.

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

mike: No not really no.

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

mike: Not that I know of (laughing)

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

mike: Ya, I went to Nevada for a while for about 6 years I worked out there in a gold mine. The weather was warmer but the town was really small out in the middle of the desert

me: Nevada was that

mike: ya Northern Nevada

me: I went to Arizona and it's really hot and dry

mike: well it's better than this stuff out here though

me: what does, which one was I on?

mike: number one I think

me: oh, oh

what do you think the future holds for the tilden and the empire?

mike: well bigger equipment and easier work procedures they need less people and I think the empire looks really well.

include

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

mike: um it's a very competitive industry so got to keep on our toes and hope we keep working I don't know

me: Does like the Tilden and the Empire compete about making more iron?

mike: Not really they are ~~the both~~ both the same pair company C.C.I owns them both SE

me: Oh.

mike: ~~matters~~ manages them both

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

Mike: Oh boy well there down
it looks like they're down
sizing their work force
which will help quite a
bit you know all kinds of
new equipment, bigger
equipment which means
less people so that should
quite a bit

include

me: what do you think has
 been the key to the
 success of C.C.I ~~to~~
~~remain~~ where other
 companies have failed

Mike: I think alot of it is
 the work force the
 people have been working
 here for generations
 after generation that
 helps so that and

include possible good

mike: (cont) investment for that
their putting in it
Lately for new equipment.

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

mike: well as far as Marquette
and the Upper Peninsula
I think it will be well
remembered for a long
time to come C.C.I
will be. For quite a
while.

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

Mike: when I first started there was only 4 or 5 women working in the mine now there's quite a few they fit in you now it's they want to get a job there they can work

me: do they work on the heavy jobs where you really iron the ore

Mike: um I haven't seen them, I don't know what a lot of them do, a lot of them drive the truck and stuff like that though

me: Oh really

Mike: Oh ya

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

mike: Oh, they're always looking for good engineers you know I mean any kind of machanical engineer, electrical engineer stuff like that welding cutting.

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

mike: what advice in general if they wanted to get a job there?

me: Ya, I guess.

mike: um, Any kind of mechanical or electrical or a mathematical back ground helps so they're always looking for stuff like that. Um that's about it.

include

me: um. Are you related in a Union Activity?

mike: No, Just a member

me: I forgot to ask that question.

mike: OK

me: I had this little thing up here and I forgot to ask.

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

Mike: Well, reading, photography, canoeing in the summer.

me: photography?

Mike: Ya

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

Mike: Um, probably, probably yes because I've been working 18 years now and a lot of companies have folded in that time and I'm still working so I'd probably stick with it.

me: Looking back over the years, what impressions stand out most in your mind concerning your association with C.C.I.?

mike: Oh, just ah steady work lately it's been, good money good benefits, um, I enjoy living around so I don't really want to move away from C.C.I. at all.

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

mike: Not that I know of (laughing)
No, I don't know I'm not very popular.

me: Thanks alot

mike: No problem

④ Job duties —

Belongings/Safety —

④ future —

④ equipment on the job —

④ kids need to know —