

Jake Uhl's interview with Stan M. Moilanen

1. I am hear today talking with Stan M. who works for C.G.I. Ishpeming Michigan's iron mining.

2. When were you born?

A. back in the fall of the big ^{storm} in 1943.

3. What are the names of your parents?

A. fathers name is ^{alfred?} Elfred and my mothers name is Mary.

4. What did your parents do for a living?

A. Well my dad worked in the mines for up in the Copper mines up in the Copper country for oh a few years then he went and drove truck for Limburg out of Ishpeming.

5. What are the names of your brothers and sisters?

A. I don't have no brothers or sisters.

6. Are you currently married?

A. No not married

7. What are the names of your children?

A. Well I've got three children the oldest one is Chris he's about 28 years old then there's Kim she's 27 years old and my youngest one is ^{Darryl} Daryl he's 24.

8. How long have you been working in the iron mining industry?

A. I've been working in the iron mining industry for about 27 years.

9. When did you choose to work in the iron mining industry?

A. Well I was living in Illinois when I heard about the Tilden opening up back in 1972 and I was one of the first ones ^{there} there.

10. Name those relatives who worked in the iron mining industry?

A. I've got an uncle named Joe Scuffca who lives in Ishpeming and I got a cousin ^{Rain} member callie he just started here in the mines a few years ago and he's from the Copper country and my uncle Joe he's from the Copper country to but he come down many many years right before the Copper mines closed down so he's been down here since the late 50's but he's retired now.

your page 1

11. What are the names various mines or buildings you've worked in?

A. Well I started off at the Tilden then I worked there since 82 then went to the Empire and I've been there ever since and I used to be a shovel operator at the Tilden and I went to the Empire as a shovel operator but now when we had the cut backs in the early 80's I became an ^{auto} ^{mechanic} and that's what I'm doing now.

12. In detail please describe the main duties of your job?

A. Well I'm on what they call the bull ^{over} and all we thousand hour ^{maintenance} every time a truck gets a thousand hours on it we wash it off outside and make sure it's nice and clean then we bring it in then we go through it on an inspection and whatever we find wrong during the inspection we write it up and then when the inspection is all done then we start on that work list and fix everything on that work list and fix the truck.

13. Over the years what kind of duties have you performed for C.C.I.?

A. I cut down a lot of trees over by the dike over where they ^{dumped} the tailings and made log dormers I stood guard in the winter time up on a road up behind National Mine when they were blasting at the Tilden and some awful cold weather up there to stop the traffic from going through and during on snow time I even worked in a laboratory taking samples baking them in the oven and weigh them but most of the time I've been a ^{by loader} bulldozer or a shovel operator I haven't been a mechanic very long.

14. Did this job require any special training or special education?

A. Well I don't have any higher education but my dad came from a equipment manufacturer and that's why they ^{hired} hired me there because I was an experienced equipment operator.

15. Could you describe any machinery or equipment that is used on the job?

A. Well you've got a lot of special equipment out there we've got big drills that drill 15 foot holes we drill them ⁵⁰ feet deep and they fill them holes with powder to blow up the dirt. Right now we've got a brand new shovel but they all of are older shovels the biggest one is probably a 13 yard bucket on it this new one is got a 33 yard bucket and when I started here all the trucks were 85 ton dump trucks back in the early 70's then they went to a 120 ton dump trucks now their up to 170 ton dump trucks and the Tilden has some 190's and at the Empire we got a 240 ton dump truck and same thing with loaders when I started at the Tilden mine all we had was a loader with a 1 1/2 yards bucket on it and then the first big one that they had there was a 10 yard then a couple of years later they got a 92 CAT loader and that had a 13 yard bucket on it and now they got a big CAT at the Tilden and a dresser for 4,000 at the Empire mine and both of them loaders have 18 yard buckets on them so the equipment is just getting bigger and bigger

important - include these details
(Their size is amazing)

16. what job have you enjoyed the most?

The writing is too small!

A. well I'd say probably running shovel but with 27 years I don't have enough seniority to hold it at shovel job at the Empire mine. you've got to have some like about 26, 27 years

17. What is the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

A. Well the most challenging part is when we get a fresh 1,000 hour in their we usually see how fast we can do it. the most difficult parts are well any you get a major job on you know if you have to change an engine or a wheel motor or a generator that can be pretty hectic.

18. What is the most difficult duty you've had to perform?

A. Well probably when I was an operator probably making roads and that new roads that the difficult jobs are working with mud the mud sticks in the bucket it sticks in the trucks it's hard for the trucks to get around your knee deep in mud when you got to wash around when you come from work it's no fun sometimes.

19. What are the biggest responsibilities of your job?

A. well the biggest responsibility is safety because the machines are so big you've got to be so careful any time you move them, you've got to make sure that there is nobody there, you got to make sure there is somebody watching you. When your backing up anything because you sure can't see behind you.

20. Describe the most dangerous situation that you have been in?

A. Well a lot of times when I'm working on something and I've never worked on it before you never know if there's a spring in there that's going to come flying out at you or many years ago when I used to ~~work on it~~ work on the blast crew with the powder and the boosters and that and I used to be a little scared all the time when I was doing that stuff.

21. have you been involved or witnessed any accidents?

A. ~~I see~~ I haven't seen any first hand but I've seen a lot of pickups flattened out but no body's ever been in them. Guys come and park behind or upside a truck or behind a loader and liked said them trucks are so big and that they can't see everywhere and when they take off the pickup is just like driving over a 2x4 and they flatten out pretty good.

22. Have any of your friends or relatives been in an accident?

A. NO but the worst I've ever hurt myself was when I cut my finger real bad one day.

23. would you describe the most unique or humorous thing you have seen over the years?

A. The most unique situation was one night when we were going out in the pit to service a truck out there we came upon a doe giving birth to a fawn and as soon as that fawn but the ground a fox grabbed the fawn and ran away with it and the was inside the mine right where the trucks a parked.

24. Please describe your working conditions?

A. Working conditions are noise, a lot of times it's all dirty inside the shop and when you open up the door it gets awful dusty. Winter time it's cold summer time it's hot but we got ear plugs we got jackets so but you never get away from the dirt.

25. Has there been any standard conveyed and what improvements do you see ^{include} yet to be made?

A. Are safety standards are changing all the time but they are getting better. The safety standards are second to nobody's but if we need something we get it. ^{include}

26. Have you seen the duties of your job change over the years?

A. Since we've got bigger equipment everything has changed were hauling more dirt with less people and the bigger the trucks the more rooms you're got to work on them.

27. Would you describe what your co-workers are like??

A. My co-workers are a bunch of pretty good guys but every body helps every body. ~~helps~~ if you need help with something there always their.

28. Do they have any special stories that stand out about them?

A. Well we have some guys that we we laugh a lot at but you find that everywhere.

29. During your career, were you ~~not~~ involved in any special programs or have you implemented any new programs?

A. No not really.

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

A. Well years ago we used to have safety awards if you used to go a year with out any accidents you would get a ^{token} of appreciation from the company other than that NO.

31. At any time have you felt like changing your job or career?

A. Well probably 1/2 way through my career I was thinking about a few times in Nevada in the mines if I could have found one in Southern Nevada where it was nice and warm.

32. Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Steelworkers Union?

A. Yes I'm a member of the steel workers union its a condition of employment if you don't belong to the union you don't work their.

33. Have you ever experienced being on strike?

A. Yes I've been on strike 3 times 2 short ones and one long one the long one was 17 weeks and that was in 1990 in 1977 in was for 3 weeks and in 1988 we were on strike for about 5 weeks. ^{include}

34. How does a strike actually begin?

A. It's when the people want something the company wont give it so we take a vote to see if we go on strike or not.

35. how many employees does a strike usually take?

A. Well when the Empire & Tilden mines just in the mines alone it usually involves about 2,000 people.

36. What is the purpose of a picket line and what happens there?

A. Well a picket line is when all the guys go and stand at the gate of the mine and if a lot of trucks try to bring stuff in well ~~to~~ try discouraging them and if it's a union trucking company that union won't cross the picket line they'll honor it and then you have other people who don't care if we're on strike or not and they'll still drive in and to keep some people from going to work.

37. Do you know of any interesting stories about the picket line or an incident on the picket line?

A. Well since I've been on a picket line it's all been pretty calm we play games and sit and talk about things.

38. What takes place at a union meeting or union rally?

A. Well at the union meetings they talk about any issues or agreements at the mine or if there going to meet with the company a union is just like a company.

39. In your opinion, why is the steel workers union so important to the workers?

A. If there wasn't a union we would be working with really low wages, and might not have the health care that we do now or retirement programs.

40. What do you think the future holds for the Tilden and Empire?

A. Well I've been hearing rumors that the Empire got probably 30 ^{include} more years and the Tilden has about 35 more years of mining and their trying to open up the Republic in a couple of years but you never know what's going to happen if ~~to~~ some one finds a cheaper pellet, iron and if we can't compete with them their be some concessions but where do you draw the line?

41. What does the future look like for the iron and steel industry?

A. Well hopefully it's going to be real good they said that the Empire is going to be running for capacity next year and the Tilden will be running to there capacity ~~for~~ for the next year any ways but that can change with one phone ~~the~~ call.

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

A. Well there getting bigger equipment and that helps a lot if the guys work more or harder but in some cases it's almost impossible but every body does a pretty good job out their try to cut cost needless waste you no every thing adds up.

43. What do you think has been the key to success for C.C.I where others have failed?

A. Well one thing is they have a good product in the ground already and that's probably keeping the cost down and C.C.I. has been pretty good at that.

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

A. It's our location on the map that huts out and when the job seems to exist people will go else where.

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

A. There's more and more women up there but we got them hear now but their doing ~~every~~ they do shoveling by hand and drive truck with the guys in the mill they do the clean up right a long side them men and do whatever's got to be done

46. What skills do young people today need to develop if they plan to work for C.C.I someday?

A. They have to have a High School education and probably when you get out of school it will probably require a associate degree in college but who knows

47. What advice do you give in general to the students of today?

A. Get an education.

~~48. Would you please describe what you enjoy doing in your spare time?~~

~~A. Well alot of times in the summer I go to alot of races I don't fish or hunt anymore so I visit my family and my sons and daughters.~~

49. If you could do it all over again would you make the same career choice?

A. If I could do it all over again I'd probably study border ~~in~~ college in school so I could go to college. ^{college}

50. Before we end the interview, is there anything else that you would like add?

A. No not really

And that concludes our interview with Stan M I would like to thank you for sharing this time with me interviewin you for Red Dust Thank you.

1. Safety Red

2. job duties Purple

3. unions ~~pink~~

~~school training~~ Green

4. machinery/equipment black

6. how much longer will the mines produce. light blue

7. funniest thing that happened. Dark blue

8. experiencing a strike. yellow

5. working conditions. orange