

Me: When and where were you born

Mr. M: I was born on March 17, 1954 in Ishpeming

me: What were your parents names

Mr. M: My fathers name was Leonard and my mothers name is Joan Johnson from West Ishpeming

Me: What are the names of your Brothers and Sisters

Mr. M: my oldest Brother is Dave, I have a Brother Steve, I have a Sister Barb, and I had a Brother Gary he passed away

me: Were you married? If so where? Yes, I got married May 10, 1975 to Nancy Raisenen we have 2 kids right now Shannon and Lindsay

me: What is your Spouses name?

Mr. M: Nancy Raisenen

me: What did your parents do for a living

Mr. M: My father worked at the Powder Mill in National Mine for quite a few years then he went up to National Mine as a Bus Driver and Janitor and in 1969 he went to Bill Fisher Chevrolet and he retired last year

me: Where did you go to school?

Mr. M: National Mine School

me: What kinds of things did you and your friends do for entertainment when you were teenagers?

Mr. M: We played a lot of Basketball, Baseball, worked on cars lots, and just bummed around like kids do now



Me: Where did the kids like to hang out in town when you were a teenager

Mr. M: In town we used to hang around at the Congress

Me: How old were you when you found your first job and where did you work?

Mr. M: I was about 13 years old I worked at the Northwoods club South of Ishpeming

Me: What types of duties did you perform on your first job?

Mr. M: I was a caretaker for many camps

Me: What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Mr. M: I suppose it would be the long drive, I drove a 56 national truck out there to work every day.

Me: Were you ever in the military, if so please describe your experiences there.

Mr. M: No, I was not in the military

Me: ~~How~~ How many total years did you work in your lifetime

Mr. M: Okay, I'm still working, I got 20 years of Cleveland Cliffs, and another 5, 6 years on other jobs probably 25 years I worked.

Me: During your lifetime where you employed the longest?

Mr. M: Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company

Me: How or why did you choose this career?

Mr. M: Well, I wanted to stay in this area, raise my kids in this area, it's a beautiful place to live, and CCT offered the most at that time.



me: In as much detail as possible Please describe the main duties of this job

Mr. M: I am a heavy equipment mechanic at the Empire, and the main duties are to keep the Equipment running, lots of big stuff to Rebuild

me: Did this job require any special training, if so, please describe the training

Mr. M: Yes, I had 5 years of on the job training, and then we went to school 5 weeks every summer and we still have, once a year we have a 8 hour course on school + update.

me: What special equipment did this job require?

Mr. M: Really, no special equipment just steel toe Boots and hard hat, Safety glasses,

me: What was the most rewarding of your career?

Mr. M: I would have to say, when you can take a 20 cylinder engine and tear it down and Rebuild it and put it back in the truck and see that it runs good and keeps going.

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

Mr. M: Keeping up on the technology of the engines there all computerized and electronic fuel injected, trying to keep reading books and keeping up on the heavy equipment

me: How did the duties of your job change over the years?

Mr. M: Well, I first worked underground, and then I went into the open pits in 78 and the equipment was small at that time and now its getting big and harder to work on.

me: Did any other family members work for the same company?

Mr. M: No, they do not

me: Did your job put you in any dangerous situations, (If so please describe them)



mrm: When I worked underground at the mather B we had lots of dangerous places down there and I had my teeth knocked out and my ankle broke, toes broke back was messed up and we had mud slides and cave ins and everything else down there, In the open pits theres nothing really too dangerous.

me: at any time did you feel like changing careers (Why or why not?)

Mr m: When I worked underground, Yes, I was thinking about quitting and looking for a job at the garage, but I'm glad I stuck with it, I enjoy it right now.

me: What were your Biggest Responsibilities on the job?

Mr m: Biggest Responsibilities would be, Keep yourself educated on all the equipment, and just to keep them running, make sure we can make enough ore to make the pellets.

me: Did you receive any special awards from your Employer and were you recognized in anyway for your Job Performance?

Mr m: Only awards we get is a certificate after training on lots of the equipment, that's all

me: During ~~the~~ your days of employment and beyond what have been your favorite hobbies or leisure activities? (Do you have any special stories about them?)

Mr m: Well, I enjoy hunting and fishing and riding the 3-wheeler, snowmobiling, and me and my brothers have lots of fun, we go fishing take the bikes and spend a day out in the woods

me: Overall, what are the fondest memories of your working days and your career

Mr m: I spend a lot of time with a bunch of good guys out there, get along good, and we have lots of laughs.



me: Were you a member of a Union (If so which one)? (5)

mr m: Yes, I belong to the United Steelworkers of America local 4950

me: Please describe any interesting moments that occurred as a member of a Union

mr m: Well, when we go on strike we get a contract that comes up every 3 years, last ~~year~~ time we were out for 4 1/2 months, it gets interesting, trying to make ends meet and keep going.

me: If you had to do it all over again would you choose the same career? (Why or why not?)

mr m: Yes, I would, right now I enjoy my job it's a very interesting job, it keeps you going, Yes I would stay with it

me: In closing do you have anything else you would like to add?

mr m: The only thing I would like to add is that I appreciate Shannon asking me for the interview and I think it's a great thing, this Red Dust and I hope you keep up the good work.

me: THANKS